

March 1, 2023
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Executive Committee
Meeting Summary

Attendance

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| Rob Kastner | Wayne SWCD |
| Wesley Carder | City of Canton |
| Stephanie Deibel | Summit SWCD |
| Tony Demasi | City of Cuyahoga Falls |
| Kevin Givins | City of Orrville |
| Eric Gorczynski | City of Kent |
| Patrick Jeffers | City of Twinsburg |
| Dan Joseph | City of Akron |
| Jennifer Kiper | Wayne County Planning Department |
| Roger Kobilarcsik | City of Wooster |
| Joel Montgomery | City of Wooster |
| Ali Rogalski | Summit County Public Health |
| Tia Rutledge | Portage County Water Resources |
| Pat Gsellman | Environmental Design Group |
| Joe Hadley | NEFCO |
| Tom LaPlante | NEFCO |

Vice Chair Kastner called the meeting to order.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting Summary

Vice Chair Kastner noted that the date of the next meeting was misstated as February 1, 2023, instead of correctly stating it as March 1, 2023 in the February meeting summary. Mr. LaPlante acknowledged that this has been corrected, as was the spelling of Patricia Vanah's name, which was misspelled in several places in the meeting summary, as she noted to NEFCO staff before this meeting. The rest of the February meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

Discussion Item

"Managing watersheds in Summit County: a holistic approach"; Stephanie Deibel, Watershed Coordinator, Summit Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Ms. Deibel gave an overview of managing the Cuyahoga River watershed and five of its subwatersheds in northern Summit County and managing the Upper Tuscarawas River watershed in southern Summit County. She presented details on the Summit County Surface Water Management District, which is under the jurisdiction of the Summit County Engineer's Office and is a stormwater improvement program that functions as a local stormwater utility to improve water quality and to mitigate flooding. She presented additional details on Summit SWCD's program of developing NPS-IS plans for each of these watersheds and subwatersheds for the Summit County Surface Water Management District. She also provided details on Summit SWCD's planned water quality monitoring this year in the Cuyahoga River watershed in partnership with Cleveland Water Alliance (CWA) and its Lake Erie Volunteer Science (Water Quality Monitoring) Network, which was a presentation topic at the ERTAC meeting on February 1, 2023. Other topics covered by Ms. Deibel included:

- What is a watershed?
- Developing a comprehensive watershed GIS database

- Volunteer water quality monitoring in the Cuyahoga River watershed in collaboration with CWA
- Assisting Summit County communities with implementation of BMPs for water quality
- Providing public outreach and education for water quality management

Ms. Deibel described in detail how Summit SWCD is collaborating with CWA and its Lake Erie Volunteer Science Network to achieve more widespread monitoring of water quality parameters, including dissolved oxygen, specific conductivity, water temperature, and pH. She provided additional details on Summit SWCD's plans to expand this water quality monitoring program to the Upper Tuscarawas River/Portage Lakes watershed.

Ms. Deibel's presentation concluded with her fielding many questions from the ERTAC.

Consideration by the ERTAC of a Recommendation to the NEFCO Board

*Consideration of an Update to the Clean Water (208) Plan for the Wooster Facilities Planning Area (FPA) and Smithville FPA to modify the FPA boundary and change the wastewater treatment prescriptions within the proposed FPA boundary modification area; and to update the southwestern section of the Wooster FPA boundary and the wastewater treatment prescriptions on various parcels within the existing Wooster FPA **ACTION REQUESTED** (transmitted with agenda mailout)*

Mr. LaPlante went through the specifics of this update request from the City of Wooster. He showed a slide of Update Figure 1, which is a map of update locations overlaid on a map of the existing Wooster FPA boundary and wastewater prescriptions, and he explained that the requested update is being driven by the City of Wooster's long-term facilities planning and that a PTI is not pending approval of the update. He showed slides of Update Figure 2, which is a map of update locations overlaid on a map of the proposed Wooster FPA boundary and wastewater prescriptions. He also showed a slide of Update Figures 3A and 3B, which are detailed maps of update locations overlaid on maps of the existing and proposed Wooster-Smithville FPA boundary modification and associated wastewater prescriptions, respectively. He also showed a slide of Update Figures 3C and 3D, which are detailed maps of update locations overlaid on maps of the existing and proposed Wooster FPA boundary modification and associated wastewater prescriptions in the southwestern section of the Wooster FPA, respectively. He further explained that the City of Wooster's proposed Wooster-Smithville FPA boundary modification and associated wastewater prescriptions dates back to the 208 Plan's Chapter 3 update which was approved by the NEFCO Board on November 18, 2020. He noted that this was not supported by the ERTAC at its November 4, 2020 meeting when it recommended Board approval of the 2020 Plan update, and, therefore, it was not included in the 2020 update.

He went over the six local governments/agencies that would be affected by the update and explained that the City of Wooster sent a request-for-comment letter to them on December 13, 2022. He noted that the Wayne County Health Department and Wooster Township said no objection to the update, and the Wayne County Office of Environmental Services and Wayne Township did not respond to the City of Wooster's letter within the 45-day response period allotted by the 208 Plan's Chapter 3 guidelines. He also noted that the Village of Smithville objected to the proposed Wooster-Smithville FPA boundary/prescription changes; and he further noted that the Wayne County Board of Commissioners responded that they are in favor of all proposed changes, other than the proposed Wooster-Smithville FPA boundary modification and prescription changes; but the Commissioners indicated that could not support the proposed expansion of the Wooster FPA boundary into the Smithville FPA, which is in the unincorporated area of Wayne Township. He added that the legal notice was published in the Wooster Daily Record on December 13 and 20, 2022, and no inquiries or comments were received by the City of Wooster during the required 15-day public comment period or to date.

Mr. LaPlante explained that in accordance with the 208 Plan's Chapter 3 Policy 3-6, the Wayne County Board of Commissioners has wastewater planning authority in all unincorporated areas, including those within established FPAs. He noted that because of this, NEFCO staff could only recommend approval of all proposed changes, other than the proposed Wooster-Smithville FPA boundary modification and associated prescription changes, as the Commissioners support. After further discussion by the ERTAC, Mr. Montgomery decided to withdraw the City of Wooster's original update request and modify it to only include all proposed changes, other than the proposed Wooster-Smithville FPA boundary modification and associated prescription changes. After the City of Wooster decided to withdraw its originally requested Wooster FPA update and to only include in its update request what the Commissioners support, Mr. LaPlante said NEFCO staff recommends approval of this update. Vice Chair Kastner asked the ERTAC if there was a motion to recommend approval of the update by the NEFCO Board, other than the originally proposed Wooster-Smithville FPA boundary modification and associated prescription changes. Ms. Rutledge made that motion. Mr. Demasi seconded it. There were no objections or abstentions from the ERTAC. The motion carried.

*Consideration of a recommendation to the NEFCO Board to approve the revised draft Clean Water (208) Plan Annual FPA Update Guidelines **ACTION REQUESTED** (transmitted with agenda mailout)*

Mr. LaPlante explained that the fourth draft of the annual FPA update guidelines was transmitted with the agenda mailout and it includes the ERTAC's input from its February meeting. Mr. Kastner indicated that he appreciated having the extra month to review the guidelines. Mr. Hadley explained that the guidelines are not binding for NEFCO staff; they're guidelines. Mr. LaPlante said NEFCO staff recommends approval of the draft annual FPA update guidelines and asked the ERTAC to recommend approval of them to the NEFCO Board. Mr. Kastner asked if there was any further discussion regarding the draft guidelines from the committee. Hearing none, he asked the ERTAC if there was a motion to recommend NEFCO Board approval of the Clean Water (208) Plan Annual FPA Update Guidelines. Ms. Kiper made that motion. Mr. Givins seconded it. There were no objections or abstentions from the ERTAC. The motion carried.

*Consideration of a recommendation to the NEFCO Board to send a support letter for the City of Akron's Third Amendment to the Consent Decree **ACTION REQUESTED** (letter transmitted with agenda mailout)*

Mr. Gsellman gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the City of Akron's Third Amendment to the Consent Decree regarding the city's combined sewer overflows (CSOs) abatement. Afterward, Mr. Gsellman and NEFCO staff asked the ERTAC to consider a recommendation to the NEFCO Board to send a letter in support of the Third Amendment to the U.S. Department of Justice. After some discussion by the committee, Mr. Kastner asked if there was a motion to recommend that the NEFCO Board send a letter of support for the City of Akron's Third Amendment to the Consent Decree. Mr. Demasi made that motion. Mr. Jeffers seconded it. There were no objections or abstentions from the ERTAC. The motion carried.

NEFCO FY2023 Work Program

Election of ERTAC officers

Mr. Hadley noted that he hoped the ERTAC's outgoing chair, Mary Helen Smith, was enjoying her retirement. He indicated that Vice Chair Kastner has agreed to serve as the ERTAC's new chair. He asked if there were other nominations for chair. Hearing none, he asked if there was a motion to elect Rob Kastner to serve as the ERTAC's chair. Ms. Kiper made that motion. Ms.

Rutledge seconded it. There were no objections or abstentions from the ERTAC. The motion carried.

Mr. Hadley then asked if there was a nomination of a member to serve as the ERTAC's new vice chair, replacing newly elected Chair Kastner. Mr. Givins nominated Tia Rutledge to serve as the committee's vice chair. Ms. Rutledge accepted the nomination. Mr. Hadley asked if there were other nominations for vice chair. Hearing none, he asked if there was a motion to elect Tia Rutledge to serve as the ERTAC's vice chair. Mr. Kastner made that motion. Ms. Rogalski seconded it. There were no objections or abstentions from the ERTAC. The motion carried.

Reports from ERTAC members (a chance for members to report on activities or problems affecting their communities)

There were no reports from ERTAC members.

Information items requested

Mr. Hadley briefly went over the information items listed. None were requested.

Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of Health Public Notices requested

Mr. Hadley briefly went over these public notices. None were requested.

Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced

There was no Ohio Environmental legislation recently signed or introduced.

Other Business

On behalf of NEFCO, Mr. Hadley thanked the City of Cuyahoga Falls for hosting the ERTAC meetings.

ERTAC Contact Hour Course List

Vice Chair Kastner drew the ERTAC's attention to the list.

Next Meeting

Vice Chair Kastner said that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m. on April 5, 2023, at The Natatorium (Hopewell Room) 2345 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.