

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

Attendance

Rob Kastner	Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District
Wesley Carder	City of Canton
Stephanie Deibel	Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
Tony Demasi	City of Cuyahoga Falls
Dominic DiSalvo	City of Ravenna
Kevin Givins	City of Orrville
Eric Gorczynski	City of Kent
Genny Hanna	City of Akron
Bob Hempel	Wayne County Health Department
Patrick Jeffers	City of Twinsburg
Dan Joseph	City of Akron
Jenn Kiper	Wayne County Planning Department
Ross Nicholson	Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services
Ali Rogalski	Summit County Public Health
Patricia Vanah	Ohio EPA
Gordon A. Cromley	Portage County Water Resources
Laura DeYoung	Summit County Resident
Pat Gsellman	Environmental Design Group (Akron Waterways Renewed!)
Alex Pitts	City of Massillon
Cara Hardesty	Ohio EPA
Rick Wilson	Ohio EPA
Joe Hadley	NEFCO
Tom LaPlante	NEFCO

Chair Kastner called the meeting to order.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting Summary

The October meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

Discussion Item

“Brief Overview of Ohio EPA’s Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program and Near-Term Section 319 Grant Opportunities”; Rick Wilson, Environmental Specialist 3, Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Nonpoint Source Program

Mr. Wilson began his presentation by discussing the background of Ohio EPA’s Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Control Program and introducing another Ohio EPA staffer from the program, Cara Hardesty, who joined him for this presentation. Mr. Wilson then gave a brief overview of the agency’s Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) studies and processes and showed a connection between TMDLs and available project implementation funding through Section 319 grants, with matching funds being provided by the state’s H2Ohio program. He noted that the state prioritizes the funding of projects developed in accordance with TMDL recommendations where strategic watershed planning is involved in ‘HUC-12’ watersheds. He provided details on Ohio’s 9-Element Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategies (NPS-IS) and how to develop a NPS-IS, which summarizes impairments and establishes water quality goals in a HUC-12 watershed, and describes specific projects for funding. He discussed various projects in the NEFCO region where Ohio EPA’s NPS Program funds have been spent to improve water

quality. As an example of strategic watershed planning relative to TMDLs, he then discussed Ohio EPA's Maumee River Nutrient TMDL to address Lake Erie impairments and how the implementation of projects in the Maumee River watershed needs to be widespread to address NPS pollution, especially nutrient runoff from agricultural sources, which the Maumee River TMDL identifies as the primary cause of impairment.

Mr. Wilson's presentation concluded with him fielding many questions from the ERTAC.

NEFCO FY2024 Work Program

Ongoing 30-day public review of the draft FY2024 201/208 facilities planning areas update; summary of comments received thus far, and next steps

Mr. LaPlante announced that the 30-day public review of the draft FPA update ended on October 30th, with no public comments received. He added that the next steps include NEFCO staff preparing the final draft update maps and text-only wastewater prescription updates for the ERTAC's December 6th consideration of a recommendation to the NEFCO Board to approve the FY2024 FPA update.

Ongoing Clean Water (208) Plan, Chapter 4 update; status, and next steps

Mr. LaPlante indicated that, from now through December, he will continue updating Chapter 4 of the 208 Plan, which covers *The Management of Home Sewage Treatment Systems, Semi-Public Sewage Disposal Systems, and Small Flow On-site Sewage Treatment Systems*. He noted that during that period he will be reaching out to previous draft Chapter 4 subcommittee members to see if they will be available to review in January 2024 the second draft that incorporates their comments on the first draft in 2016 and 2021 and incorporates changes in the General NPDES permit for household sewage treatment systems and other needed changes since the first draft was written. He added that the next steps would also include asking the ERTAC to consider in February or March 2024 a recommendation to the NEFCO Board to release the draft Chapter 4 update for public review and comments, with the goal of having board approval of the Chapter 4 update no later than the board's June 2024 meeting.

List of U.S. EPA-approved/state certified 208 Plan amendments approved by the NEFCO Board from June 2020 to January 2023; available upon request

Mr. LaPlante noted that he brought copies of this list to the meeting to share with members upon request. None were requested.

City of Akron's proposed third and fourth amendments to the Consent Decree; status

Mr. LaPlante handed out copies of Mr. Gsellman's recent email to staff that summarized the status of these proposed amendments to the Consent Decree. Mr. Gsellman gave a summary of their status, noting that they are both in the hands of the federal court.

Canal Diversion Dam Removal Project: National Park Service/Cuyahoga Valley National Park accepts ownership of now functioning river water (screw) pump station

Mr. LaPlante reminded the newer ERTAC members that in June 2020 both the Canal Diversion Dam and the adjacent Pinery Dam were completely removed from the Cuyahoga River, just upstream from the State Route 82 bridge that connects Sagamore Hills Township in Summit County with the City of Brecksville in Cuyahoga County. He also reminded them that in August 2023, NEFCO received the closeout letter from U.S. EPA for our agency's \$800,000 grant to help remove the dams, which officially ended NEFCO's involvement with the project. He noted that completion of the project seemed elusive for our grant's subrecipient, Friends of the Crooked River (FOCR), as the second phase of the project, the installation of the screw pump to return the flow of river water to the Ohio and Erie Canal, was delayed by the pandemic and

repeated malfunctions after its installation. He said that he was happy to report that, this fall, the river water pump station is finally operational, which allowed FOCR to donate it to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and allowed the National Park Service to accept ownership of it.

Gorge Dam Removal Project; status as provided at the public meeting on October 25th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Akron-Summit County Public Library Main Branch, 60 S. High St., Akron

Mr. LaPlante noted that Summit Metro Parks hosted and recorded this in-person and virtual public meeting. He added that he attended it virtually and learned that the project partners are still on track to remove the Gorge Dam in 2026. He offered to send the link to the recorded meeting to anyone requesting it.

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

No information items were requested.

Ohio EPA Public Notices requested

Chair Kastner briefly went over these.

Mr. Hadly mentioned that, after the ERTAC mailout last week, he received Ohio EPA's early stakeholder outreach notice regarding the agency's 5-year rule review of the state's sewage sludge/biosolids rules. Mr. Wilson added that the deadline for early stakeholder comments pertaining to this 5-year rule review is November 29, 2023.

Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced

While no Ohio Environmental legislation was recently signed or introduced, Mr. Hadley mentioned that HB 257, which would authorize certain public bodies to meet virtually, is currently in the Government Oversight Committee.

Other Business

There was no other business.

ERTAC Contact Hour Course List

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

Next Meeting

Chair Kastner said that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m. on December 6, 2023, at The Natatorium (Hopewell Room) 2345 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.