

**April 5, 2023**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Executive Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Attendance**

Rob Kastner	Wayne SWCD
Ynes Arocho	Ohio EPA
Wesley Carder	City of Canton
Tony Demasi	City of Cuyahoga Falls
Dominic Disalvo	City of Ravenna
Ron Etling	Portage County Board of Commissioners Appointee
Eric Gorczynski	City of Kent
Genny Hanna	City of Akron
Chuck Hauber	Summit County Engineer's Office
Dan Joseph	City of Akron
Ross Nicholson	Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services
John Rice	City of Wooster
Tia Rutledge	Portage County Water Resources
Pat Gsellman	Environmental Design Group
Mandy Razzano	Ohio EPA
Tom Zocolo	City of Akron
Kathy Richards	City of Akron
Rob Scarlatelli	City of Akron
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 March meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

**Discussion Item**

*“Biological and Water Quality Study of the Cuyahoga River Watershed, 2017 and 2018; an overview”*; speaker: Mandy Razzano, Environmental Specialist 2, Ohio EPA Northeast District Office, Division of Surface Water

Ms. Razzano's overview of the Ohio EPA's recently released Biological and Water Quality Study of the Cuyahoga River Watershed included a summary and slides of the agency's sampling efforts and each sampling location for the mainstem of the Cuyahoga River in 2017 and for the river's tributaries in 2018. She showed slides and went into detail on these topics:

- Beneficial Use Designations
  - Water Supply (OAC 3745-1-33)
    - Public Drinking Water, Agriculture, Industrial
  - Recreational Contact (OAC 3745-1-37)
    - Bathing Waters, Primary Contact, Secondary Contact
  - Aquatic Life (OAC 3745-1-07)
    - Coldwater Habitat (CWH), Exceptional Warmwater Habitat (EWH), Seasonal Salmonid Habitat, Warmwater Habitat (WWH), Modified Warmwater Habitat (MWH), Limited Resource Water (LRW)
- Attainment vs Non-Attainment of Beneficial Use Designations

- Water Quality Standards (OAC 3745-1)
  - Criteria Applicable to All Surface Waters
  - Beneficial Use Designations
  - Biocriteria
  - Numeric Criteria
    - Aquatic Life Use, Recreational, Agricultural, Water Supply, Human Healthy
- Ohio's Biocriteria for Fish and Macroinvertebrates

She compared Ohio EPA's 1996 and 2000 Cuyahoga River mainstem sampling results to the 2017 and mainstem sampling results. The 1996 and 2000 mainstem sampling results showed that only 19.2 percent was in full attainment; 42.3 percent was in partial attainment; and 38.5 percent of the mainstem was in non-attainment of the aquatic life beneficial use designation. The 2017 mainstem sampling results show extreme improvements: 80.8 percent was in full attainment; 19.2 percent was in partial attainment; and zero percent was in non-attainment of the aquatic life beneficial use designation. Water quality improvements were also seen for the Cuyahoga River tributaries when she compared the 1996 to 2000 sampling of the river's tributaries to the 2018 sampling of its tributaries.

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

### **NEFCO FY2023 Work Program**

#### *NEFCO Board approves the Clean Water (208) Plan Annual FPA Update Guidelines*

Mr. LaPlante reported that, with the ERTAC's recommendation of approval, the NEFCO General Policy Board approved the annual FPA update guidelines at its regular meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>. He added that with the Board's approval of the guidelines, staff will have the flexibility to adjust the guidelines as any Plan processing challenges are identified during the initial annual update. He further added that the ERTAC will be contacted for guidance as necessary and will be advised of any tweaking of the guidelines that becomes necessary.

#### *Annual FPA update notification sent to the region's MAs; next steps*

Mr. LaPlante reported that on March 17<sup>th</sup>, following the Board's approval of the guidelines, staff sent them to the region's 38 primary wastewater management agencies (MAs) by email and announced that the annual FPA update would start on March 21<sup>st</sup>. He added that this notification email also gave the MAs a deadline of June 19, 2023 to submit their proposed FPA updates to NEFCO.

#### *NEFCO Board approves 208 Plan update for the Wooster FPA*

Mr. LaPlante mentioned that, at its March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, with staff's and the ERTAC's recommendation of approval, the NEFCO Board approved the 208 Plan update for the Wooster FPA. He noted that there was no discussion by the Board regarding the update and there were no objections or abstentions.

#### *Portage Lakes Management Study (PLMS) – Phase 7; status*

Mr. LaPlante gave the status of the rollout of the Portage Lakes Management Plan. He discussed the Portage Lakes watershed public outreach display that the staffs from NEFCO and Summit SWCD recently set up at the Portage Lakes Branch of the Akron-Summit County Public Library on Manchester Road in the City of New Franklin.

#### *NEFCO FY2024 federal funding through Ohio EPA scheduled to increase*

Mr. LaPlante informed the ERTAC that for state fiscal year 2023, and for previous recent fiscal years, federal funding that NEFCO has received through its 604b contract with Ohio EPA has been about \$52,000 per year. He noted that this has been in addition to the \$75,000 annual

contract with Ohio EPA that utilizes state biennium funding. He further noted that NEFCO recently learned that because of additional BIL funding that Ohio EPA is receiving, the USEPA pass-thru will increase from \$52,000 to about \$98,000 per Areawide each year over the next 5 years, according to Ohio EPA. He added that the focus of NEFCO's FY2024 scope of services for both Ohio EPA contracts will be on 208 Plan maintenance and updating the Plan.

**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. Etling requested copies of items 5, 6, 9, 12, 18, 21, and 23.

**Ohio EPA Public Notices requested**

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

**Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced**

Mr. Hadley briefly went over SB 85, which was recently introduced to expand eligibility for county sewer discounted rates or charges.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**ERTAC Contact Hour Course List**

Chair Kastner drew the ERTAC's attention to the list. Mr. LaPlante added that the March meeting presentation by Stephanie Deibel, watershed coordinator at Summit SWCD, has been submitted to Ohio EPA for 0.5 contact hours consideration and is pending approval by the agency.

**Next Meeting**

Chair Kastner said that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m. on May 3, 2023, at The Natatorium (Hopewell Room) 2345 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.