

**May 3, 2023**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Executive Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Attendance**

Rob Kastner	Wayne SWCD
Wesley Carder	City of Canton
Tony Demasi	City of Cuyahoga Falls
Dominic Disalvo	City of Ravenna
Mike Fritz	City of Wooster
Kevin Givins	City of Orrville
Chuck Hauber	Summit County Engineer's Office
Jenn Kiper	Wayne County Planning Department
Dan Joseph	City of Akron
Ross Nicholson	Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services
Tia Rutledge	Portage County Water Resources
Patricia Vanah	Ohio EPA
Katherine Holmok	Environmental Design Group
Jim Irvin	City of Cuyahoga Falls
Julie Reis	Summit County Public Health
Mary Helen Smith	Strategic Public Health Consulting, LLC
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 April meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

**Discussion Item**

*"Mill Pond-Mud Brook Greenway/From Master Plan to Projects"*; speaker: Katherine Holmok, Director of Green and Blue Infrastructure, Environmental Design Group

Ms. Holmok gave an overview of the City of Cuyahoga Falls' Mill Pond-Mud Brook Greenway master plan and projects, which she and her team planned, designed, and implemented. She explained and showed slides illustrating that the Mill Pond-Mud Brook watershed, where the project is located, is a subwatershed of the Cuyahoga River watershed and drains about 25 square miles of the Cuyahoga River watershed's 812 square miles. She presented details on the purpose of the project, which is to restore and preserve wetlands and other natural resources, mitigate flooding, and provide passive recreational opportunities with walking/hiking trails in the City of Cuyahoga Falls' urban setting. She presented additional details on the benefits that this green infrastructure project has had on improving water quality flowing from Mill Pond-Mud Brook to the Cuyahoga River, then to Lake Erie. She also provided details on the water quality benefits of the project's wetland restoration/preservation and public outreach components, such as educating property owners on the importance of maintaining a vegetative buffer between their properties and the Mill Pond-Mud Brook streambank to help reduce runoff, erosion and sediment transport, and phosphorus loading in the watershed.

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

## **NEFCO FY2023 Work Program**

### *Clean Water (208) Plan annual FPA update; status*

Mr. LaPlante reported that so far, the annual FPA update has been a 'soft rollout', with only four of the roughly 38 wastewater management agencies indicating that they are interested in participating in the update.

### *Staff holds virtual annual FPA update mapping meeting with the region's MAs; next steps:*

#### *Link to meeting recording to be posted on NEFCO's website*

Mr. LaPlante reported that the four interested wastewater management agencies attended the virtual meeting that NEFCO staff held on April 21<sup>st</sup> to go over the mapping requirements for the update. He added that a link to the meeting recording will be posted on NEFCO's 208 Plan website by the end of the week. Chair Kastner added that he attended the meeting and liked the idea of a link to a recording of it being available as a resource for this and future annual FPA updates.

#### *Staff to send NEFCO's GIS shapefiles to MAs in attendance/any others interested*

Mr. LaPlante reported that NEFCO's GIS specialist expects to send the shapefiles from the agency's interactive 208 Plan map to the MAs who attended the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting by the end of the week. He added that any other MAs interested in receiving these should contact NEFCO staff. Ms. Rutledge indicated that she would like to receive them.

### *FY2024 Water Quality Management Planning contracts with Ohio EPA: status*

#### *Ohio EPA emphasizes the use of these funds for Section 208 planning*

Mr. Hadley reported that while in the past the federal pass-through funds that NEFCO has received from Ohio EPA were used for local nitrification and watershed studies, the Chief of Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water (DSW) has emphasized that the six Areawides, including NEFCO, use all the funds for core Section 208 planning. As a side note, Ms. Vanah announced that Tiffani Kavalec is no longer the DSW Chief, as of April 10<sup>th</sup>, as she was promoted to Policy Director at Ohio EPA. She added that the DSW Chief position is still vacant.

#### *Scope of services being developed by staff for review by Ohio EPA*

Mr. Hadley reported that he submitted the scope of services to Ohio EPA's Central Office on April 28<sup>th</sup> and will be getting the scope to Ohio EPA Northeast District Office for its review and comments. He noted that he's shooting for July 1<sup>st</sup> to start the work.

### *Website maintenance and updating for the 208 Plan; status of Chapter 3 Appendices*

Mr. LaPlante demonstrated NEFCO's Clean Water (208) Plan website to show the ERTAC where to find the newly added FPA amendments/updates and Chapter 3 Appendices that have been approved by the NEFCO Board since the 2020 Chapter 3 update was approved.

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

Mr. Demasi reported that on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, the City of Cuyahoga Falls hosted an electronic recycling event and about 160 people brought in their electronics waste to recycle. He added that the city will host a Cuyahoga River clean-up event on May 18<sup>th</sup> for students; and noted for details on this and other river clean-up events hosted by the city go to <https://www.cityofcf.com/events/river-city-cleanup-series>.

## **Information items requested**

No information items were requested.

## **Ohio EPA Public Notices requested**

Mr. Hadley briefly discussed the first public notice listed regarding Ohio EPA DEFA's Construction Stormwater General Permit Renewals webinar to be held on May 17<sup>th</sup>. No Ohio EPA public notices

were requested. Ms. Vanah noted that Ohio EPA now requires anyone requesting Ohio EPA staff to be speakers at meetings and conferences to complete an online form at <https://epa.ohio.gov/help-center/contact-us/forms/request-a-speaker>.

**Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced**

None was recently signed or introduced.

**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 June 7, 2023, at The Natatorium (Erie Room) 2345 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.