

June 7, 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
John Michael Fritz	City of Wooster
Kevin Givins	City of Orrville
Genny Hanna	City of Akron
Chuck Hauber	Summit County Engineer's Office
Bob Hempel	Wayne County Health Department
Jenn Kiper	Wayne County Planning Department
Dan Joseph	City of Akron
Ross Nicholson	Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services
Ali Rogalski	Summit County Public Health
Tia Rutledge	Portage County Water Resources
Pat Gsellman	Environmental Design Group/City of Akron
Jessica Glowczewski	City of Akron
Catie Knapp	City of Akron
Monica Rowles	City of Akron
Rebecca Wilkerson	City of Akron
Noel Vargas	U.S. EPA Region 5, Great Lakes National Program Office
Tom LaPlante	NEFCO

Chair Kastner called the meeting to order and welcomed special guest Mr. Vargas and speaker Ms. Glowczewski.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting Summary

The May meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

Discussion Item

"Upper and Middle Cuyahoga River Watershed Hydrology Crowd Sourcing as a Tool for Watershed Education"; Jessica Glowczewski, Watershed Operations Superintendent, City of Akron Water Supply

Ms. Glowczewski gave an overview of the City of Akron's "Hydro Watch" program for the Middle and Upper Cuyahoga River, which is being funded by a grant through Ohio EPA's Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF). She explained that Akron Hydro Watch is a watershed protection tool that employs professional hydrologic flow rate surveys, crowd-sourced water level data, and public outreach and education. She showed slides illustrating the history of the Cuyahoga River, when it was so polluted that it caught fire several times, and she showed slides illustrating the river's water quality improvements to date and why stream hydrology matters in the watershed. She explained and showed slides that illustrated the major Akron Hydro Watch goals:

- to install three initial water level monitoring stations in the Cuyahoga River watershed;
- public engagement through signage at the three monitoring stations where the public can contribute to crowd sourced data by reading and texting current water levels shown on installed gages;

- to use the data collected to supplement other research and data on water quality and river hydrology in these locations; and
- to install other stations in the future.

She explained that the City of Akron Watershed Division already samples 34 sites in the Upper and Middle Cuyahoga River monthly. She showed slides of where these 38 sites are located in the Cuyahoga River watershed. Parameters tested at each of the 38 sites include total suspended solids, dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, E.coli, ortho phosphorus, and nitrate/nitrite. She noted that through Akron Hydro Watch, the city is now making its real-time crowd sourced water level data available online for the public to use at <https://www.crowdhydrology.com/>.

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

NEFCO FY2023 Work Program

*Ongoing voluntary 201/208 Facilities Planning Areas update; deadline for draft update submittals: **June 20, 2023**; status*

Mr. LaPlante provided the status of the ongoing FPA update. He noted that the project is progressing well, with seven wastewater management agencies showing an interest in participating in the update.

FY2024 Water Quality Management Planning contracts with Ohio EPA: status

Mr. LaPlante noted that NEFCO and the other 5 Areawide Planning Agencies received the same comments from Ohio EPA's financial program manager regarding the contract boilerplate language, which didn't require any changes; and she also had some minor comments regarding NEFCO's fringe costs, which Mr. Hadley addressed. Mr. LaPlante further noted that NEFCO hasn't received comments from Ohio EPA regarding the scope of services, and he noted that these contracts start July 1st.

Clean Water (208) Plan, Chapter 4 update; status

Mr. LaPlante reminded the ERTAC that Chapter 4 of the 208 Plan is titled, "*The Management of Home Sewage Treatment Systems, Semi-Public Sewage Disposal Systems, and Small Flow On-site Sewage Treatment Systems*". He reported that the scope of services for the two FY2024 water quality management planning contracts with Ohio EPA were developed to include completing the update to Chapter 4, which will include staff presenting the draft Chapter 4 update to the ERTAC for its review and consideration to recommend its release by the NEFCO Board for public review and comment. He noted that after the public comment period ends, staff will respond to comments and present the final draft to the ERTAC for its consideration to recommend Board approval of the Chapter 4 update.

Draft Portage Lakes Management Plan (PLMP); status and next steps

Partners met on May 25th; will hold fourth/final meeting of the fiscal year in June

Mr. LaPlante noted that the Portage Lakes Partners met on May 25th to discuss the next steps for the PLMP. He added that a fourth and final meeting of the fiscal year will be held later this month at a date to be determined.

Ohio EPA requests that the NEFCO Board accept the draft PLMP

Mr. LaPlante reported that at the May 25th Partners meeting, Ohio EPA requested that the NEFCO Board accept the draft PLMP as a final product under NEFCO's work program to allow the Management Plan's implementation to move forward in the Upper Tuscarawas River/Portage Lakes watershed. He reminded the ERTAC that NEFCO staff presented the draft Management Plan to the committee in April 2022, and it has been posted on NEFCO's

website since October 2021. He added that the ERTAC will be asked at its July 5th meeting to consider a recommendation to the Board to accept the draft PLMP.

Consideration by the ERTAC of moving the July 5th meeting to July 12th due to the current date being the day after the Independence Day holiday

The ERTAC discussed and considered moving the July meeting date to July 12th but decided to keep the originally scheduled July 5th meeting date due to multiple conflicts with the July 12th date.

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

Mr. Gsellman reported that the 9th annual Blue Heron Homecoming is Saturday, June 24th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the City of Akron WRF, 2460 Akron Peninsula Road. He also reported that on June 8th in Cleveland, the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and Ohio EPA will hold their first hearing on removing the Biological Use Impairment regarding fish tumors and other deformities in the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern.

Mr. Demasi reported the passing this week of Larry Valentine, former City of Cuyahoga Falls public drinking water superintendent and, prior to that career, former Ohio EPA staffer.

Information items requested

While no information items were requested, the ERTAC had an open discussion regarding item F-1, which was regarding a Bloomberg Environment article titled, "U.S. Supreme Court curbs Clean Water Act in blow to EPA power". At the end of the discussion, Mr. Gsellman noted that this ruling shouldn't affect the protection of wetlands in Ohio since Ohio EPA has its own rules pertaining to them.

Ohio EPA Public Notices requested

No Ohio EPA public notices were requested.

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 July 5, 2023, at The Natatorium (Hopewell Room) 2345 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.