

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

Attendance

Tia Rutledge	Portage County Water Resources
Wesley Carder	City of Canton
Tony Demasi	City of Cuyahoga Falls
Stephanie Deibel	Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
Dominic DiSalvo	City of Ravenna
John Michael Fritz	City of Wooster
Kevin Givins	City of Orrville
Chuck Hauber	Summit County Engineer's Office
Bob Hempel	Wayne County Health Department
Ross Nicholson	Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services
Ali Rogalski	Summit County Public Health
Patricia Vanah	Ohio EPA
Eric Gorczynski	City of Kent
Joe Hadley	NEFCO
Maia Peck	NEFCO
Tom LaPlante	NEFCO

Vice Chair Rutledge called the meeting to order.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting Summary

The June meeting summary was accepted as transmitted.

Consideration by the ERTAC of a Recommendation to the NEFCO Board

Consideration of a recommendation to the NEFCO Board to accept the draft Portage Lakes Management Plan (memo and summary were transmitted with the agenda packet mailout)

Ms. Peck gave the ERTAC a PowerPoint presentation on the draft Portage Lakes Management Plan (PLMP). She reminded the committee that, as the lead author, she presented an overview of the draft PLMP at its April 2022 meeting, and that the draft Plan has been posted on NEFCO's website since 2021 for public review. She discussed the background of the draft Plan, which she indicated was requested by Ohio EPA NEDO seven years ago when NEFCO asked NEDO for nutrient reduction planning work suggestions and the agency requested a holistic approach to managing the Lakes' over-abundant aquatic vegetation. She went over the draft PLMP's recommendations, which she indicated are already being implemented by the Portage Lakes Partners (previously known as the Portage Lakes Technical Advisory Committee). She thanked the ERTAC for its support and input over the seven-year Portage Lakes Management Study (PLMS), which she indicated helped shape this important management effort. After fielding many questions from the ERTAC and engaging the committee in a discussion on the draft Plan, Ms. Peck requested a recommendation from the ERTAC that the NEFCO Board accept the PLMP as a final document, for public review and discussion by the Portage Lakes Partners as part of seeking community support. After hearing no further discussion, Vice Chair Rutledge asked if there was a motion from the ERTAC to recommend that the NEFCO Board accept the PLMP as a final document. Ms. Rogalski made that motion. Mr. Givins seconded it. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion carried.

NEFCO FY2023 Work Program

Ongoing voluntary 201/208 Facilities Planning Areas update; deadline for draft update submittals extended to June 30, 2023; status

Mr. LaPlante provided the status of the ongoing FPA update. He noted that the project is progressing well, with all seven interested wastewater management agencies submitting their update packages to NEFCO on or before the June 30th extended deadline.

NEFCO's FY2024 Water Quality Management Planning contracts with Ohio EPA: status

Mr. Hadley gave the status of these contracts and noted that there were no changes to the scope of services required by Ohio EPA. He reiterated that Ohio EPA's emphasis has been for NEFCO to use the funds from both contracts for core 208 planning work before any local funds are used for that work.

208 Plan amendments approved by the NEFCO Board from February 2022 through January 2023; status of state certification and federal approval

Mr. LaPlante summarized the list of 208 Plan amendments from February 2022 through January 2023 and reported that these were certified by Governor Dewine on June 16, 2023. He added that Ohio EPA submitted them to U.S. EPA on June 21, 2023 for approval consideration.

NEFCO staff, other partners meet with U.S. EPA Region 5 Canal Diversion Dam grant project officer to discuss the project, other removed Cuyahoga River dams, and progress on the Gorge Dam removal project

Mr. LaPlante reminded the ERTAC that the U.S. EPA project officer attended the committee's June meeting. He added that directly after that meeting, staff and the project officer joined Bill Zawiski from Ohio EPA NEDO for a tour and discussion of two removed dams in Cuyahoga Falls, the Gorge Dam removal project, and the removed Canal Diversion Dam and Pinery Dam. He noted that the project officer was pleased to see the Cuyahoga River flowing freely where the dams once impounded it. Mr. Hempel asked if the screw pump at the former Canal Diversion Dam site is now operating. Mr. LaPlante explained that it is not, due to the newly replaced variable frequency drive failing again.

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

While no Ohio EPA public notices were requested, Mr. Hadley discussed item G-1: the City of Ravenna will be receiving \$488,230 in H2Ohio funding to provide sewer to 10 homes with failing HSTSS in Foxwood Estates; Summit County will be receiving \$500,000 in H2Ohio funding for the planning and engineering design of wastewater and drinking water infrastructure in the Village of Peninsula; and the health districts in Portage, Stark, and Wayne Counties will receive funding to address failing HSTSS.

Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced

Mr. Hadley briefly discussed legislation that was recently introduced to establish procedures and requirements for governing biosolid lagoons and biodigestion facilities.

Other Business

There was no other business.

ERTAC Contact Hour Course List

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

Next Meeting

Vice Chair Rutledge said that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m. on August 2, 2023, at The Natatorium (Hopewell Room) 2345 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.