

NEFCO

NORTHEAST OHIO FOUR COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
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Richard Regula, Chair

Joseph Hadley, Jr., Executive Director

MEETING NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ERTAC)

Executive Committee

The Natatorium
Hopewell Room
2345 4th Street
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

Wednesday, September 6, 2023
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

A. Public comments

B. August meeting summary (attached)

C. Discussion Item

1. "The blue holes of north-central Ohio: Is there a connection with harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie?"; Ira D. Sasowsky, Professor of Geosciences, University of Akron

Talk abstract: Large springs in north-central Ohio such as Castalia Blue Hole discharge copious amounts of highly mineralized water to surface streams. This supports several private and state-owned fish hatcheries, and is a beautiful aspect of the landscape. But, could these waters be contributing to harmful algal blooms (HABs) in Lake Erie? The area is also within and adjacent to the Bellevue-Castalia Karst Plain, which has suffered severe water quality impacts from sewage disposal in the past. The talk will share recent findings from geochemical studies, as well as a surprising link to Ohio's glacial past.

D. Consideration by the ERTAC of a Recommendation to the NEFCO Board

1. Consideration of a recommendation to the NEFCO Board to release the draft FY2024 201/208 Facilities Planning Areas update for a 30-day public review and comment period (memo and draft FPA updates attached) **ACTION REQUESTED**

E. NEFCO FY2024 Work Program

1. Ongoing 201/208 Facilities Planning Areas update; challenges thus far and next steps
2. Examples of 208 Plan technical assistance provided by NEFCO staff to members
3. NEFCO Board-accepted Portage Lakes Management Plan posted on agency's website
4. Ohio Lake Management Society and Water Management Association of Ohio luncheon webinar: "*Connected by Water – Addressing Lake and Stream Problems at their Watershed Source*"; September 20, 2023, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.; Maia Peck, Watershed Planner, NEFCO; and Stephanie Deibel, Watershed Coordinator, Summit Soil and Water Conservation District; it's free to attend but registration is required through this link: https://wmao.org/content.aspx?page_id=4002&club_id=259593&item_id=2031379
5. City of Akron's proposed fourth amendment to the Consent Decree; status
6. NEFCO receives closeout letter from U.S. EPA for its Canal Diversion Dam grant

7. U.S. EPA to finalize proposed maximum contaminate levels for six PFAS compounds in drinking water by the end of the year; what are the potential impacts to public water system operators in the NEFCO region?

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

G. Information items (this list is provided for information only. Members can request a copy of any item) (Source: *Bloomberg Environment (BE)* or as otherwise noted)

Gorge Dam removal funding

1. Summit County Executive and County Council pass legislation August 21, 2023 to provide \$250K to support removal of the Gorge Dam (*Summit County Executive*)

Maumee TMDL: negative comments

2. The Environmental Law & Policy Center criticizes Ohio EPA plan (Maumee TMDL) as being woefully inadequate (*Cleveland Plain Dealer*)

Lead lines regulations

3. EPA dodges challenge to delays in lead contamination regulation

Proposed rules for gas pipelines

4. Millions of miles of US gas pipes to get new rules after blasts

PFAS

5. Why 'forever chemicals' are focus of US, EU crackdown
6. 3M, DuPont face 'formidable' lawyer in forever chemicals cases
7. 3M's win overturns Michigan 'forever chemicals' water rules
8. Brita products leave 'forever chemicals' in water, suit says
9. PFAS in Children's Place uniforms harmful, fraudulent, suit says
10. Small amount of a PFAS may weaken immune response, EPA finds

Climate change

11. Top environment enforcement cop aims to meet the climate moment
12. How satellites are helping farmers adapt to global warming
13. Heat is already a drag on economic productivity
14. US hit by record billion-dollar disasters even before Maui fire
15. Montana youth win historic case on harm from climate change

Flood insurance

16. Flood insurance needs bold reform, not stopgaps
17. Federal government beats takings lawsuit over flooding, for now

Maui wildfires

18. Maui wildfires show that risk is now 'ubiquitous' across US
19. Hawaii fires raise funding expectations ahead of tough September
20. Why Hawaii's power lines are suspect in Maui fire
21. White House seeks \$12 billion in disaster aid as Hawaii suffers
22. In search for Hawaii fires cause, lawyers probe power lines
23. Hawaii wildfires become more frequent as drought withers grass

Norfolk Southern spill derailment

24. Norfolk Southern, facing spill fallout, adds Tesla litigator

Wind farm approved by Ohio Supreme Court

25. Wind farm set for Lake Erie shores approved by Ohio high court

Jackson, MS sewer systems

26. Jackson sewer system given third-party management by judge

Steel and iron air toxic rules

27. Manufacturers blast changes to steel and iron air toxics rules

Miscellaneous

28. Suit challenging Klamath River Dam demolitions gets tossed out
29. US insurers had \$500 billion in fossil-fuel assets, study finds

H. Ohio EPA Public Notices (this list is provided for information only. Members can request a copy of any item)

1. Proposed Rules – Biocriteria narrative OAC Chapters 3745-1 and 3745-2; Water Quality Standards rule 3745-1-07 and WQS Implementation rule 3745-2-03; Div. of Surface Water; deadline for comments: October 16, 2023; public hearing: 10:30 a.m. October 16, 2023 (virtual and in-person)
2. Proposed Rules – Minimal Change Water Quality Standards rules package; Water Quality Standards Use Designations (OAC Chapter 3745-1); Div. of Surface Water; deadline for comments: September 28, 2023; public hearing: 10:30 a.m. September 28, 2023 (virtual and in-person)
3. Water Pollution Control Loan Program - Highlights and Tips for Nomination webinar; September 6, 2023 1:30 p.m. ET; Div. of Financial & Environmental Assistance; [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](https://gotowebinar.com)
4. Lead Service Line and Brownfields Funding Open House; September 7, 2023; 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Kent Free Library; hosted by Ohio EPA
5. 2023 Sustainability Conference; September 19-21, 2023; free and virtual; agenda available
6. U.S. EPA and State of Ohio remove Fish Tumors or Other Deformities Beneficial Use Impairment; August 10, 2023
7. Draft NPDES Permit Renewals
 - Portage County
 - a. Maple Del Manor MHP (Charlestown Twp.); unnamed trib. to Hinckley Creek
 - b. Circle Restaurant (Deerfield); Allen Moss Ditch
 - c. JL Excavating Services (Mogadore); unnamed trib. to Mogadore Reservoir
 - d. ODNR-Wingfoot Lake State Park (Mogadore); Wingfoot Lake
 - Stark County
 - a. Pine View Acres (Massillon); unnamed trib. to Fox Run
 - b. Sons and Daughters of Herman Schiller Lodge #2 (Massillon); West Sippo Lake
 - c. Northmark Inc. (Louisville); unnamed trib. to East Branch Nimishillen Creek
 - Summit County
 - a. Arrowhead Elementary School (Copley) unnamed trib. to Pigeon Creek
 - b. Mayfield Park MHP (Akron); unnamed trib. to Tuscarawas River
 - c. Nimisila Senior Estates (Green); unnamed trib. of Nimisila Reservoir
 - Wayne County
 - a. Church of the Savior (Wooster); unnamed trib. to Killbuck Creek

I. Ohio Environmental Legislation Recently Signed or Introduced (none)

J. Other Business

K. ERTAC Contact Hour Course List

Date/Approval Code	Approved Audience	Title of the Presentation	Training Provider	No. of Contact Hours
2/1/2023 S88857896-X	WW	"Lake Erie Volunteer Science Network: Engaging Communities in Credible Water Quality Monitoring"	NEFCO ERTAC	1.0
3/1/2023 S88869324-X	WW	"Managing watersheds in Summit County: a holistic approach"	NEFCO ERTAC	0.5
4/5/2023 B88874387-OM	DW & WW	"Biological and Water Quality Report for the Cuyahoga River Watershed, 2017 and 2018; an overview"	NEFCO ERTAC	1.0
5/3/2023 S88881911-OM	WW	"Mill Pond-Mud Brook Greenway/From Master Plan to Projects"	NEFCO ERTAC	1.0
6/7/2023 B88889038-OM	DW & WW	"Upper and Middle Cuyahoga River Watershed Hydrology Crowd Sourcing as a Tool for Watershed Education"	NEFCO ERTAC	1.0

L. Next meeting: October 4, 2023 at The Natatorium, Hopewell Room, 2345 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio