

Chapter 13

Management Agency and Community Involvement

This chapter discusses the involvement of local jurisdictions and the general public in development of this plan. It addresses the role of the joint task force established by NOACA and NEFCO to participate in and oversee plan development, and the formation of work groups formed to address various aspects of the plan. It summarizes the two rounds of public meetings held to discuss with the general public the plan's development. Finally it summarizes the public review and comment period held during March to May, 2000 to review the draft Clean Water 2000 Plan. Involvement of local jurisdictions and the general public have been crucial elements in the plan development process.

Northeast Ohio 208 Plan Update Task Force

NOACA and NEFCO formed the Northeast Ohio 208 Plan Update Task Force in September 1996 to assist in plan development. The Task Force included local management agency representatives from the seven counties involved in the plan update. The Task Force was co-chaired by Erwin Odeal, Executive Director of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and a member of the NOACA Board and David Crandell, Manager of the City of Akron's Public Utilities Bureau. Various kinds of local governments and agencies were represented on the Task Force, including mayors, county commissioners, sewer agencies, county health departments, planning agencies, park districts, and soil and water conservation agencies. The Task Force also included representatives from state and federal environmental agencies and local watershed groups.

The charge given to the Task Force was to:

- a) advise NOACA and NEFCO staff on the plan update development;
- b) review and comment on all reports prepared during the planning process;
- c) serve as co-convenor of public meetings held during the planning process; and
- d) recommend actions to be considered by the NOACA and NEFCO Boards on the draft Plan.

The Task Force met every three months beginning in November 1996 and throughout 1997 and 1998, and more frequently in 1999. During this time, members discussed and debated plan development issues, participated on several work groups formed to formulate strategies for incorporation in the plan, reviewed and commented on draft documents and reports, and assisted in public meetings held. In December 1998, the Task Force approved an outline for the plan update document and subsequently began the review of draft chapters. Table 13-1 contains a current roster of Task Force members. Appendix 13-1 provides documentation of Task Force activities.

Work Groups

The Task Force established three work groups to assist in plan development. It formed a home sewage management strategies work group consisting of county health department officials from the seven counties involved in the plan update, Ohio EPA and the Ohio Department of Health. This group met a number of times over an eighteen month period to and formulate the recommendations and strategies that form the core of Chapter 5. The reports of this work group are included in Appendix 13-2.

Also formed was a critical areas identification work group which was charged with identifying water resources in the region warranting enhanced protection under the 208 Plan. This work group also met several times early in the planning process, and produced a series of reports and maps which became the foundation for the resources identified for protection in Chapter 7. Appendix 13-3 documents the work of the group.

Finally, the Task Force formed a protective mechanisms work group to assist in the identification of management tools and strategies to enhance the protection of critical water resources in the region. This work group met a number of times over a twelve month period and produced a report which formed the basis for recommendations in Chapters 6 and 7. The report of the protective mechanisms work group is provided in Appendix 13-4.

Public Meetings During Plan Development Phase

NOACA and NEFCO held two rounds of public meetings during the development of this document. In the summer of 1997 seven meetings were held, one in each of the seven counties involved in the plan update to introduce the project to the community, discuss goals of the planning process, present information on existing water quality conditions, and discuss the public's comments and concerns about the planning process.

A second round of public meetings was held in the summer of 1999. Five meetings were held in watersheds throughout the planning area. The purpose of these meetings was to report progress on the plan's development before plan alternatives were completed. Presentations were given in four areas of the plan's development: wastewater planning, home sewage management, nonpoint source control, and the protection of critical resources. The public was given the opportunity to comment on issues presented. The results of both rounds of public meetings were shared with the Task Force and have informed the development of this plan. Appendix 13-5 documents the public meetings. In addition, during the course of plan development, NOACA and NEFCO staff attended a number of meetings with groups in the area to discuss the Plan.

Public Review of Draft Plan

In March 2000, the NOACA Board, by Resolution 2000—020, launched a 60 day public review and comment period on the draft Clean Water 2000 Plan. The 60-day period was from March 13, 2000 to May 17, 2000.

During this period, NOACA staff convened eight public meetings and participated in seven other meetings at the invitation of a host organization in the spring of 2000 to present the draft Clean Water 2000 plan and provide an opportunity for discussion and comment on it. At least one meeting was held in each NOACA area county. Over 300 people attended at least one of the meetings.

A special effort was made to contact affected local governments and management agencies concerning the plan and invite their participation in the public meetings. Copies of the Executive Summary were mailed to all municipalities, townships and county officials in the region prior to the public meetings along with a meeting invitation. A six-page bulletin summarizing the 208 Plan for Medina County, "Talking Points for Local Officials." Was adapted for each of the remaining four counties and circulated it to each community in the region with a schedule of the public meetings. The full plan document was made available at city and county libraries throughout the region and the text was directly accessible on line at www.noaca.org

NOACA also distributed a press release to print and broadcast media announcing the public meetings and the availability of the plan on the web and at area libraries.

Public meetings were held in Lorain County on **April 7, 2000**, in downtown Cleveland at the NOACA Offices on **April 20, 2000**, at Lakeland Community College, on **April 24, 2000**, in Lake County, on **April 26, 2000** in Medina County, on **April 27, 2000** at the Brecksville Community Center, on **May 1, 2000** at Munson Township Hall in Geauga County, on **May 3, 2000** at the Strongsville Recreation and Senior Center, and on **May 4, 2000** at the South Euclid Community Center

NOACA staff also presented the plan to the following groups: Cuyahoga River RAP Coordinating Committee on **March 30, 2000**; Black River RAP Coordinating Committee on **March 13, 2000**; Sierra Club of Northeast Ohio Conservation Committee on **April 5, 2000**; Home Builders Association on **April 11, 2000**; Geauga County Commissioners on **April 18, 2000**; Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. on **May 11, 2000**; Lorain County Association of Township Trustees and Clerks on **May 18, 2000**.

NOACA also received written comments during the public comment period.

Attachment 13-6 documents this process and includes a responsiveness summary.

Table 13-1
Northeast Ohio 208 Water Quality Management Plan
Development Task Force Roster
(as of November, 1999)

Voting Members:

Cuyahoga County: Hunter Morrison, City of Cleveland Planning Director
Paul Alsenas, Cuyahoga County Planning Director
Tim Horgan, Cuyahoga County Board of Health
Erwin Odeal, NEORS
Hon. Jerry Hruby, Cuyahoga County Mayor

Geauga County: Neil Hofstetter, Geauga County Commissioner
Dave Dietrich, Geauga County Planning Director
Bob Weisdack, Geauga County Board of Health

Lake County: Hon. Mildred Teuscher, Lake County Commissioner
Darrell Webster, Lake County Planning Director
Frank Kellogg, Lake County General Health District
Hon. Daniel DiLiberto, Lake County Mayor

Lorain County: Hon. Betty Blair, Lorain County Commissioner
James Boddy, Lorain County General Health District
Hon. Joseph Koziura, Lorain County Mayor
Hon. Vincent Urbin, Lorain County Mayor

Medina County: Hon. Steve Hambley, Medina County Commissioner
Bruce Freeman, Medina County Planning Director
Ken Hotz, Medina County Sanitary Engineer

Portage County: Hon. Christopher Smeiles, Portage County Commissioner
Harold Huff, Portage County Water Resources Department
Lynne Erickson, Portage County Regional Planning Director
DuWayne Porter, Portage County Health Department

Summit County: Warren Woolford, City of Akron
David Crandell, City of Akron
Robert Corlett, Department of Development, Summit County
Boyd Marsh, Health Commissioner, Summit County
Ed Shondel, Environmental Services, Summit County
Susan Truby, City of Cuyahoga Falls

Non-Voting Ex-Officio Members:

Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan	Ed Rybka, RAP Chair
Black River Remedial Action Plan	Ken Pearce, RAP Chair
Chagrin River Watershed Partners	Tom Denbow, Director
Grand River Partners	Charles Ashcroft
Cleveland Metro Parks	Steve Coles
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	Bill Skowronski
Ohio Department of Natural Resources	Steve Roloson
United State Environmental Protection Agency	Rich Winklehofer
USDA/Natural Resource Conservation Service	Jim Storer

Appendix 13

- 13-1 Northeast Ohio 208 Task Force
- 13-2 Home Sewage Management Strategies Work Group
 - a. Recommended BRMPS for Individual Sewage Disposal Systems
 - b. Septage Management & Disposal Strategies
 - c. Prior to Permit-to-Install (PTI)
 - d. Survey of Management Practices
- 13-3 Critical Areas Identification Work Group
- 13-4 Protective Mechanisms Work Group
- 13-5 Public Meetings Summary during Plan Development
- 13-6 Public Review of Draft Plan and Responsiveness Summary

NOTE: Contents of Appendix 13 are not included in this document.