



**NOACA Water Quality Subcommittee**  
Meeting Minutes  
June 20, 2025  
NOACA Offices

**Present:** Please see the attached attendance record.

Mr. Jeremy Sinko, Vice Chair of the Water Quality Subcommittee, convened the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Nick Gorris made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 21, 2025. Mr. Alan Exley seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Public Comment**

No comment was made at this meeting.

**Executive Director's Report**

No report was presented at this meeting.

Director Grace Gallucci thanked members for coming to the meeting.

**Action Items**

**Geauga County Five-Year Facility Planning Area (FPA) Boundary and Prescriptions Update**

Ms. Sarah Stanzi stated that the Geauga County Department of Water Resources (GCDWR) began working on the update over a year ago, following NOACA's April 2024 DMA roundtable, where staff announced that the Geauga County FPA update would begin in early 2025. In January 2025, NOACA staff began collaborating with GCDWR and the DMAs of the largest FPAs in Geauga County. NOACA staff met with GCDWR weekly and reviewed spreadsheets outlining their proposed parcel-level updates. Once staff identified the major update areas, they held a kickoff meeting with the other DMAs in the county to present the five-year update, amendments, and goals. Staff then scheduled meetings with interested DMAs to gather input on the proposed or any additional updates. Afterward, staff prepared and distributed the FPAs for review. The DMAs reviewed the proposed updates and submitted feedback through map accuracy acknowledgment forms, which they signed to confirm agreement. The process is now nearing completion, with all updates combined and prepared for NOACA Board approval.

Ms. Stanzi presented information on the following:

- Geauga County FPA Update Process
- Geauga County – Seven (7) FPAs and 21 jurisdictions

- Primary and Secondary Designated Management Agencies (DMAs) for Facility Planning Areas (FPAs) in Geauga County
- Current FPA Boundary and Prescriptions for Wastewater Treatment in Geauga County
  - Geauga County FPA Current and Proposed Boundary and Prescriptions Examples
    - Bainbridge Township
    - Claridon Township
    - Munson Township
  - Aurora FPA Current and Proposed Boundary and Prescriptions Example
  - Burton FPA Current and Proposed Boundary and Prescriptions Example
  - Chagrin Falls FPA Current and Proposed Boundary and Prescriptions Examples
  - Chardon FPA Current and Proposed Boundary and Prescriptions Example
  - Middlefield FPA Current and Proposed Boundary and Prescriptions Example
  - Solon FPA Current and Proposed Boundary and Prescriptions Example
- Proposed FPA Boundary and Prescriptions for Wastewater Treatment in Geauga County

Ms. Stanzi reviewed lessons learned. She emphasized the importance of maintaining GCDWR parcel updates. She highlighted the need to hold both a kickoff meeting and a final report-out meeting with DMAs and affected jurisdictions. She recommended requesting updated sewer lines from all jurisdictions prior to the update. Additionally, she advised reviewing any available plans to assist with prescription updates.

Ms. Stanzi stated that pending NOACA Board approval, staff will submit the modification to the Ohio EPA for certification by the Governor and then transmit copies of the resolution to the appropriate agencies.

Mr. Bob Klaiber made a motion to recommend the Geauga County FPA updates to the Planning and Programming Committee for placement on the September 2025 Board of Directors agenda. Mr. Exley seconded the motion.

Mr. Gorris thanked Ms. Davis and Ms. Stanzi for their efforts, describing the process as collaborative and effective. He explained that Geauga County refined the boundaries—initially a rough circle—of the area to be included in the Designated Management Agency (DMA). He appreciated that Ms. Davis and Ms. Stanzi worked closely with the County throughout the back-and-forth on parcel adjustments, resulting in a strong final document.

In reference to the Solon FPA map, Mr. Eric Akin wondered why the FPA boundary wasn't changed in addition to the prescription if the area in question won't be served by sanitary sewers.

Ms. Stanzi redirected Mr. Akin's question to Mr. Gorris and noted that the area he referenced is Parkside Church.

Mr. Gorris stated that the referenced parcels are currently sewerage/future sewer and were part of an agreement. The specific parcel in question, now owned by Parkside Church, was purchased after the agreement and has no sewer infrastructure nearby. He indicated there is no issue with including it in the FPA.

Mr. Akin recommended that when the item goes before the NOACA Board, staff should include a list of parcels for Ohio EPA's review purposes. He noted that having a paper copy is helpful for Ohio EPA staff reviewing PTIs, even if the list is available online, especially when questions arise about specific parcels in the FPA or PTIs.

Mr. Joe MacDonald shared that in the original memo, Ms. Davis and Ms. Stanzi compiled a comprehensive list of all parcels, which resulted in a document over 100 pages long. While he acknowledged the importance of documentation, he preferred not to include the full list in the memo.

Mr. Akin responded that he understood and suggested that staff could reference the list in some way, such as by attaching it to the Board packet or including a note stating that the document is on file with staff, so that Ohio EPA can access it if needed.

Mr. MacDonald reminded Mr. Akin that during his time at NOACA, he also did not have a specific list, although the information was available. While it was not included in the memo, staff had summarized the details in a few pages.

The Water Quality Subcommittee voted and the motion passed by voice vote.

## **Presentation/Discussion Items**

### **NOACA Water Quality Program Update**

Ms. Pamela Davis reviewed NOACA's regional coordination work. She noted that on May 9, 2025, The NOACA Water Quality Planning (WQP) staff presented at the Ohio Stormwater Conference, where their session was well-received and sparked numerous questions about variances. The discussions emphasized the importance of ongoing education for zoning boards of appeals and planning commissions. As a result of the positive engagement, NOACA was invited to submit an abstract for the upcoming Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference (OTEC).

Ms. Davis reviewed the following:

- Regional Coordination Work
  - Regional Riparian Setback Legislation Review 2024
- Scope of 2024 Analysis
  - Percentage of Communities within the NOACA Region with Riparian Setbacks
  - Minimum Riparian Setback Width and Minimum Drainage Area
  - Maximum Riparian Setback Width and Maximum Drainage Area
  - Riparian Setbacks that Include the 100-Year Floodplain and Adjacent Wetlands
  - Riparian Setbacks with Variance Procedures
    - Variance Examples
  - Riparian Setbacks with Mitigation Requirements
    - Mitigation Language Example
  - Riparian Setbacks with Additional Distances for Steeper Slopes
    - Example of Codified Ordinance Text
- Wetland Setback Results
  - Scope of 2024 Analysis
    - Communities with Stand Alone Wetland Setbacks Regulations
  - Additional Setback Distances for Category 3 Wetlands
  - Additional Setback Distances for Category 2 Wetlands
- Leading Community Examples
  - City of North Royalton
    - Board of Zoning Appeals & Variance Requests
    - Mitigation for Loss of Functions
  - 2024 Community Examples

- Warrensville Heights, Painesville and Auburn, Bainbridge, and Russell Townships
  - Avon and Wadsworth
  - Sheffield Village, Perry Township, Leroy Township, and Madison Township
- Research Observations
  - Phase II Stormwater Regulations
    - MS4 NPDES
    - Stormwater Management Plans
    - Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWP3)
  - Adoption of riparian & wetland setback (land use regulations) or Performance standards for construction activities
- Performance Standards
  - Example of Regulatory Language
    - Purpose and Definition
    - Construction Activities and Bonds
    - Performance Standards
  - Research Observations
- Regional Coordination Work
  - Western Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Early Season Projection

Mr. Jeff Jowett asked Ms. Davis whether the 62% of communities that have not adopted riparian setbacks are opposed to them or have simply not yet implemented them.

Ms. Davis clarified that if a community did not have a standalone riparian setback but had performance standards, she counted it as a “no” for setback adoption. This explains why some communities fall under the performance standard category. Staff later refined the statistics to better understand the classification. She emphasized the need to discuss the relationship between Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) water quality requirements, suggesting there is greater opportunity for stormwater outreach moving forward.

Mr. Bartley inquired about the percentage of communities that have adopted riparian setbacks. He also asked whether NOACA staff are focusing solely on MS4 communities in their assessment.

Ms. Davis explained that she reviewed all 164 communities in the region and identified MS4 communities. Initially, in 2012, staff only examined a snapshot of MS4 communities. She mentioned that some communities had mixed approaches—e.g., North Royalton planned partial adoption, while others shifted to performance standards over time. Due to time constraints, NOACA staff could not complete comprehensive research on all communities.

Mr. Bartley observed that the initial wave of communities adopted performance standards in response to the early MS4 permits. He asked if NOACA reviewed the timing of more recently adopted community riparian setbacks.

Ms. Davis mentioned that some communities reverted back, while others added to their standards, though she preferred not to name those that reversed course, focusing instead on positive developments. She offered to share the current spreadsheet with Mr. Bartley, which includes the most recent adoption dates and details of the ordinances. She acknowledged that many communities face challenges with this issue. She also noted that ODOT is working to lead

stormwater management, and that Mr. Jon Prier from ODOT expressed interest in having NOACA engage local communities to raise awareness about available resources.

Ms. Davis continued with the presentation:

- Update Overall Work Program (OWP)
  - Support Water Quality Subcommittee (WQS) & provide quarterly updates
  - Black River AOC Advisory Committee
  - Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee
- DMA Roundtable Meeting
  - June 25, 2025, at 1:30-3:30 p.m.
  - Agenda Items
- Clean Water 2020 Work
  - FPA Consistency Review Maps
  - FY2026 Ohio EPA Grant Agreements signed

Ms. Davis stated that the work is funded by Ohio EPA contracts and NOACA's local water quality dues. She also noted that NOACA staff will provide quarterly updates on the Water Quality Planning Program to the Water Quality Subcommittee.

## **Reports/Updates**

### **Watershed Activities Updates (Roundtable Discussion)**

No updates were presented at this meeting.

### **Old Business**

Ms. Davis informed the Subcommittee that the NOACA Board adopted that following FPA modifications:

- Resolution 2025-035: Wadsworth FPA Prescriptions Modification Request in Sharon Township – Highlands of Sharon Phase 3
- Resolution 2025-036: LaGrange FPA and Lorain County & LORCO FPA Boundary & Prescriptions Modification Request in Village of LaGrange and LaGrange Township – North Pointe
- Resolution 2025-037: Medina County FPA Prescriptions Modification Request in Sharon Township – Windfall Road

Mr. Sinko pointed out two properties on the FPA map are owned by the same individual and have a private connection, therefore there are no other options for properties on the west side. To connect, the property would need access to Windfall Road.

Ms. Davis stated that staff took a holistic approach when reviewing the parcels to avoid a piecemeal process, which is why both areas on the FPA map are shown in green.

- Resolution 2025-038: Avon Lake – LORCO Phase I FPA and French Creek FPA Boundary & Prescriptions Modification Request in North Ridgeville – Burns Road

Ms. Davis stated that the property owner had negotiated an easement. It is prescribed as "Currently Sewered." The owner can think about splitting the lot and connecting to the force main. She explained that all parties agreed to the proposed modifications, and the Board raised no objections.

**New Business**

No new business was presented at this meeting.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Klaiber made a motion to adjourn the Water Quality Subcommittee meeting at 12:55 p.m. Mr. Gorris seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The next Water Quality Subcommittee meeting will be Friday, September 19, 2025, 12-1:30 p.m.

*Note: Additional information on the agenda items can be found on [NOACA's website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).*



## 2025 Water Quality Subcommittee Attendance Record

Meeting Dates	3/21/25	6/20/25	9/19/25	12/19/25
<b>ADAMS</b> , Mark (Ryan Tristano, Alternate)	A	A		
<b>CARNEY</b> , Ken P. (Robert C. Klaiber, Jr., Alternate)	A	A		
<b>DEVER</b> , Michael (David Ray, Alternate) (Laura A. Weber, Alternate on 3/21/25)	A	A		
<b>DREYFUSS-WELLS</b> , Kyle (Jeff Jowett, Alternate)	A	A		
<b>DVORAK</b> , James W. (Andy Haupt, Alternate)				
<b>EXLEY</b> , Alan (Kirk Dimmick, Alternate)	X	X		
<b>GORRIS</b> , Nick J. (Carmella Shale, Alternate)	X	X		
<b>HALL</b> , Kristin (Jared Bartley, Alternate)	X	A		
<b>LOPEZ</b> , Ryan (David G. Hearne, Alternate)				
<b>SINKO</b> , Jeremy (Ben Romine, Alternate)	X	X		
<b>WARNOCK</b> , George (Allen Fazenbaker, Alternate)	X			
<b>Non-voting Member</b>				
<b>VANAH</b> , Patricia K. (Eric Akin, Alternate)	A	A		

X = Member    A = Alternate