



**NOACA Water Quality Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes**
December 19, 2025
NOACA Offices
1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

Present: Please see the attached attendance record.

Mr. Jeremy Sinko, Vice Chair of Water Quality Subcommittee, convened the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Bob Klaiber made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 19, 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

Director Grace Gallucci thanked the Subcommittee for its hard work in 2025. She noted that NOACA cannot move forward without the support of its committees, and NOACA is very appreciative of members' time. She expressed gratitude and looked forward to a successful 2026.

Action Items

No action items were presented at this meeting.

Presentation/Discussion Items

Medina County Five-Year Facility Planning Area (FPA) Boundaries and Prescriptions Update

Ms. Sarah Stanzi presented information on the following:

- Background on Five-Year Countywide FPA Updates
- Designated Management Agencies (DMA)
 - Primary DMAs
 - Secondary DMAs
 - Affected Jurisdictions
- Medina County FPA Update Process
- Table of Figure 4B-1: Primary and Secondary DMAs for FPAs in Medina County
- Medina County FPA Boundaries and Prescriptions for Wastewater Treatment Maps

Ms. Stanzi explained that during the five-year update process, staff held ongoing discussions with Mr. Sinko and Mr. Ben Romine that went beyond standard FPA boundary and prescription updates. These conversations explored ways to streamline prescription updates between plan cycles, particularly for areas transitioning to sewer service within 20 years, where Medina County may construct or assume ownership and maintenance, but the plan cannot be formally updated for several years. They also discussed the value of mapping secondary DMAs to clarify where sewer infrastructure is owned and operated by entities other than primary DMAs, and identified sewer area mapping as a best management practice.

Ms. Stanzi presented a map shared by Mr. Sinko showing existing sewers in green and potential sewer extensions in blue, which aided staff in updating prescriptions and understanding possible future sewer expansions.

Ms. Stanzi stated that the next steps include the NOACA staff meeting with the primary DMAs, finalizing the proposed FPA boundaries and prescription update maps, and emailing the maps to DMAs and affected jurisdictions for review. Staff will then request sign-off and agreement on the Acknowledgement of Map Accuracy Forms and present the update to NOACA's Water Quality Subcommittee in March 2026 for a recommendation, with Board approval anticipated in June 2026. She noted that, pending Board approval, staff will transmit copies of the modifications to the appropriate agencies and then submit to the Ohio EPA for certification by the Governor.

Ms. Stanzi thanked Mr. Sinko and Mr. Romine for their time and expertise during the five-year review, noting that staff learn a great deal from DMAs during each update and expressing appreciation for their continued collaboration.

Mr. Sinko commented that allowing DMAs to update prescriptions following development or when properties transition from limited sewer to full sewer service would help keep the 208 Plan maps as current as possible.

Mr. Eric Akin asked how NOACA would proceed if a Medina County DMA does not sign off on a map. Specifically, whether the existing FPA boundaries would be retained for that area while the rest are updated, and if a plan exists for such situations.

Ms. Stanzi explained that NOACA first facilitates discussions among DMAs. If agreement cannot be reached, NOACA defaults to the existing FPA boundaries, while remaining open to revisiting the issue in a future update period.

NOACA Water Quality Program Update

Ms. Pam Davis presented information on the following:

- Regional Coordination Work
 - Regional Riparian Setback Legislation Review 2024
 - County Sanitary Engineers Association of Ohio (CSEAO) Winter Conference
 - Western Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Seasonal Assessment
- Overall Work Program (OWP)
 - Support Water Quality Subcommittee (WQS) & provide quarterly updates
 - Black River AOC Advisory Committee
 - Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee
- Clean Water 2020 Work
 - *Clean Water 2020* Reformatting
 - FPA Consistency Reviews & Maps to date (FY)

Ms. Maiya Sack presented information on the following:

- 2023 Water Quality Strategic Plan (WQSP) Mission Statement
- 2023 WQSP Goals
 - Goal 1: ...Protect and restore Lake Erie...
 - Goal 4: “One Water” Philosophy Overview
- “One Water” Philosophy
 - Advancing the One Water Philosophy and Options being considered
 - Watershed Champions Story Map
- MS4 Phase II Public Education & Outreach Support
- MS4 Phase II Public Education & Outreach

Ms. Sack stated that the financial impacts are covered through Ohio EPA contracts and NOACA’s local water quality dues. She noted that NOACA staff will provide quarterly updates on the Water Quality Planning Program to the Water Quality Subcommittee.

Ms. Kristin Hall of the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) asked that NOACA staff coordinate with her office on messaging, noting their role in the NEO-PIPE group and the development of a 2026 outreach strategy. She emphasized the importance of incorporating consistent messaging early.

Ms. Sack agreed to coordinate with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Ms. Davis stated that staff attended a NEO-PIPE group meeting and shared that NOACA is exploring a “One Water” approach, with plans to return in the new year with additional updates.

Ms. Hall stated that Cuyahoga SWCD can share draft outreach strategies to help align and incorporate NOACA’s messaging.

Mr. Exley asked whether the reduced algae bloom this year was due to lower available phosphorus.

Ms. Davis confirmed that the reduction was largely due to low available phosphorus loading resulting from reduced spring rainfall.

Mr. Exley noted that members of the boating community had discussed whether low water levels and warmer water temperatures might have been expected to increase algae growth.

Ms. Davis explained that harmful algae blooms typically depend on early-season nutrient loading followed by warming, and the lack of significant spring rainfall prevented that process this year.

Mr. Exley asked whether information explaining the causes of the change in algae levels is distributed to the public.

Ms. Davis responded that NOAA and Heidelberg University manage a western Lake Erie basin tracking system that provides projections, weekly updates, and end-of-season assessments. She offered to share a link for Mr. Exley to sign up for these updates.

Mr. Exley thanked Ms. Davis in advance for providing the link.

Mr. Klaiber asked Ms. Davis whether there had been any efforts in the Western basin, through treatment plants or farming techniques, that may have reduced impacts, aside from simply getting lucky that pollutants were not washed into Maumee Bay.

Ms. Davis responded that there have been quantifiable improvements in agricultural practices and wastewater and industrial permitting. She noted the H2Ohio program, which directed significant funding to agricultural efforts to reduce phosphorus in the Maumee watershed, including the installation of two-stage ditches that use vegetation to filter phosphorus. She noted that weather conditions also played a role, limiting nutrient loading and contributing to a later, less severe bloom, and acknowledged that some of the outcome was due to favorable weather.

Ms. Hall stated that more than 20,000 acres have been enrolled in voluntary nutrient management programs and expressed hope that the improvement is not solely attributable to favorable weather. She noted that potential reductions in H2Ohio funding in the coming year warrant continued monitoring to assess impacts.

Ms. Davis stated that NOACA staff will track the impacts and include updates in the next season's projections and present them to the Subcommittee.

Ohio EPA: How FPAs Became Part of the 208 Plan & Updates on the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan

Mr. Akin presented information on the State Water Quality Management Plan & 208 Plan Background:

- 208 Plan: Background
- Areawide Planning Agencies
- Ohio EPA 208 Plan – Areawide 208 Plans
- 208 Plans: Implementation
- 08 Plan: Background
- How did FPAs become a 208 Plan - Key Component?
- Clean Water Act: 201 Facility Planning Maps & 208 Plans
 - 1972 – Mid 1980s
 - Mid 1980s – 1990
 - 1990 – Mid 2000s
 - Takeaways
- 208 Plans: Key Wastewater Components
- Permit-to-Install Application
- Ohio EPA 208 Plan Webpage & App - Google Search: "Ohio EPA 208 Plan"
 - State 208 Plan Webpage and 201/208 Facility Planning App
- State and Ohio EPA 208 Plan
 - State 208 Plan: 2025 Update
 - Ohio EPA 208 Plan: Modification Process and Approval
 - Ohio EPA 208 Plan and Facility Plans Questions
 - Ohio EPA 208 Plan: Facility Planning Guidance
 - Ohio EPA 208 Plan: Generic Prescriptions (GPs)
 - Ohio EPA 208 Plan: Big Darby Creek Water Quality Protections
 - MORPC & 208 Planning

Reports/Updates

Mr. Sinko thanked NOACA for allowing Ms. Davis and Ms. Stanzi to attend and present at the County Sanitary Engineers Association of Ohio (CSEAO) Winter Conference a couple of weeks ago.

Old Business

Resolution 2025-054: Medina County FPA Prescriptions Modification Request for the Villas at Hidden Lakes and Stonegate Subdivision in Medina Township

Ms. Stanzi informed the Subcommittee that staff presented Resolution 2025-054 to the NOACA Board on December 12, 2025. She then presented FPA maps illustrating the current and proposed prescription changes. The resolution modifies wastewater treatment prescriptions for 84 acres across two parcels in the Medina County Facility Planning Area (FPA):

- 50 acres were changed from “Areas Served by On-Site Systems” to “Sewers Expected Within 20 Years.”
- 34 acres were changed from “Areas Served by On-Site Systems” to “Currently Sewered.”

New Business

No new business was presented at this meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Klaiber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 p.m. Mr. Exley seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

The next Water Quality Subcommittee meeting will be on Friday, March 20, 2026, 12:00-1:30 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
ADAMS, Mark (Ryan Tristano, Alternate)	A	A	A	A
CARNEY, Ken P. (Robert C. Klaiber, Jr., Alternate)	A	A	A	A
DEVER, Michael (David Ray, Alternate) (Laura A. Weber, Alternate on 3/21/25 and 12/19/25)	A	A		A
DREYFUSS-WELLS, Kyle (Jeff Jowett, Alternate)	A	A	A	A
DVORAK, James W. (Andy Haupt, Alternate)				
EXLEY, Alan (Kirk Dimmick, Alternate)	X	X		X
GORRIS, Nick J. (Carmella Shale, Alternate)	X	X	X	
HALL, Kristin (Jared Bartley, Alternate)	X	A	X	X
LOPEZ, Ryan (David G. Hearne, Alternate)				
SINKO, Jeremy (Ben Romine, Alternate)	X	X	X	X
WARNOCK, George (Allen Fazenbaker, Alternate)	X		X	
Non-voting Member				
VANAH, Patricia K. (Eric Akin, Alternate)	A	A	A	A

X = Member present

A = Alternate present