

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: NEFCO General Policy Board

FROM: Eric Akin, Environmental Planner

DATE: April 10, 2013

SUBJECT: Consideration of an Update to the Clean Water Plan for Chapter 2:
Current Conditions and Projected Development

Chapter 2 Overview

Chapter 2 of NEFCO's Clean Water (208) Plan discusses the current water quality conditions in the NEFCO region. The Chapter also addresses population and employment changes that have occurred since 1980, and the expected impacts that these trends in population and employment may have over the next two decades.

Update Rationale

The information on water quality, population, and employment currently in Chapter 2 is dated. The most recent water quality information currently presented in this Chapter is nine years old and does not include most of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports completed in the NEFCO region. The update includes water quality information from seven (7) TMDL reports and three (3) Biological and Water Quality Studies completed by the Ohio EPA since the last Chapter 2 update in 2005.

The population and economic data currently found in Chapter 2 is from the 2000 U.S. Census. The update includes information from the 2010 American Community Survey that more accurately reflects the current socioeconomic conditions in the NEFCO region.

Update Summary

Water Quality Conditions:

A primary goal in updating Chapter 2 is to present the massive amounts of water quality data for the region in a manner that easily communicates the general health of our surface waters. This is accomplished through a series of tables and figures that provide essential water quality information by county for each watershed. The information includes a stream's designated use(s), attainment status, sources of impairment, and the recreational assessment score. The update also contains a list of all the TMDL and water quality studies prepared by the Ohio EPA for the NEFCO region.

Organizing water quality data by county allows users to quickly compare watersheds without having to locate and search multiple reports. The intent of the Chapter is not to provide comprehensive data on every stream in the NEFCO region. But rather to provide the reader with a quick snapshot of the water quality in an area and provide a reference or link to the more comprehensive water quality report if more details are needed. Lastly, having the water quality information presented primarily in tables and

figures allows NEFCO to more easily update the information as new information is released by the Ohio EPA.

Population and Economic Trends:

The population and economic trends data was updated with results from the Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey. The information for the NEFCO region includes population change since 1980, 2010 population, income, unemployment, patterns of in-county/out-of-county employment, educational attainment, and poverty estimates. The update also includes a narrative of the population changes, economic trends, and social trends for Portage, Stark, Summit, and Wayne Counties.

ERTAC Review

The updated Chapter 2 was initially presented at the February 6, 2013, NEFCO's Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee (ERTAC) meeting. Comments received on specific watersheds from the ERTAC members were addressed by staff after the February meeting. At the March 6, meeting, the ERTAC recommended that the General Policy Board approve the Chapter 2 update on the condition that the staff address additional questions from ERTAC members for specific watersheds. Those questions have been addressed and incorporated into the Chapter 2 update posted on NEFCO's website (<http://www.nefcoplanning.org/CWP.html>).

NEFCO General Policy Board Action:

Approved the amendment.

Attached is resolution FY2013-021. Thank you for your consideration.

General Policy Board Item No. 5
Resolution No. FY2013-021

**RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL POLICY BOARD OF THE NORTHEAST OHIO
FOUR COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
(NEFCO) AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF THE CLEAN WATER PLAN
CHAPTER 2 UPDATE TO THE OHIO EPA**

WHEREAS, NEFCO is the designated water quality management planning agency for Portage, Stark, Summit and Wayne Counties; and

WHEREAS, as part of that designation it is NEFCO's responsibility to coordinate the use and amending of its Clean Water Plan, also known as the 208 Plan; and

WHEREAS, NEFCO received funding from the Ohio EPA to maintain and update of the Clean Water Plan in Portage County, Stark County, Summit County, and Wayne County; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2 of the Clean Water Plan titled Current Conditions and Project Development has been updated to include the latest water quality and United States Census information; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) has requested NEFCO's approval of these updates for incorporation into the Ohio Water Quality Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the NEFCO Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee (ERTAC) discussed the various updates and comments at its February 6, 2013, and March 6, 2013, meetings and recommended NEFCO General Policy Board Approval of the update.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NEFCO General Policy Board authorizes the submittal of the Clean Water Plan Chapter 2 Update to the Ohio EPA for inclusion in the next update of the Ohio Water Quality Management Plan.

Certified as action taken by the
NEFCO General Policy Board at its
regular meeting held on April 17,
2013.


Bob Breneman, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board