

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at the City of Green Council Chambers.

1a. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marion at 8:33 a.m. in the presence of a quorum.

1b. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Bennett, to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

1c. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Marion led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1d. Audience Participation (members of the public)

Mr. Marion asked if there was anyone from the audience who had any comments.

Mr. Marion congratulated Mr. Diorio, Portage County Health Commissioner, on his retirement. He presented Mr. Diorio with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service on the NEFCO Board. Mr. Diorio thanked the Board. Mr. Hadley stated that Mr. Diorio has been very supportive of the Board and the Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee (ERTAC). He welcomed Becky Lehman to the Board meeting. Mr. Diorio said that Ms. Lehman will become the Health Commissioner once he retires.

2. Consideration of the draft minutes of the regular meeting of the NEFCO General Policy Board on September 18, 2024

A motion was made by Ms. Kiper, seconded by Ms. Elrad, to accept the September meeting minutes. The motion carried.

3. Financial Status Report - month of September

Mr. Hadley said that \$20,807.17 was received as income during September, receipts to date were \$74,801.64, disbursements to date were \$142,209.29, and cash on hand at the end of September was \$74,659.37.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilder, seconded by Ms. Kiper, to approve the financial status report subject to audit. The motion carried.

3a. September Bank Reconciliations

Mr. Hadley asked for acceptance of the September bank reconciliations.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilder, seconded by Mr. Bennett, to accept the September bank reconciliations. The motion carried.

4. Adoption of the 2024 Annual Performance Progress Report

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff is requesting adoption of the *2024 Annual Performance Progress Report*. He said that this is a new report requirement that the EDA has made as part of NEFCO's partnership planning grant. He stated that staff previously was required to submit an Annual Performance Report and two semi-annual progress reports. EDA has since changed this to combine all the reports into a single Annual Performance Progress Report. Since the Board approved an *Annual Performance Report* in January, this draft report only has results for the first nine months of this year. This report is due on October 30th. He said that attached are some

excerpts from the full draft report, which is posted on the NEFCO website. He asked for approval to submit the *2024 Annual Performance Progress Report* to the EDA.

Mr. Wilder asked how long did it take to complete this report? Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Regional CEDS Committee met at the end of August and the report includes the Committee's input. He stated it took some time to put the document together.

A motion was made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Diorio, to adopt the *2024 Annual Performance Progress Report*; Resolution Number FY2025-001. The motion carried.

5. Bounce Innovation Hub to request a letter of support for its EDA Build to Scale grant application

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Bounce Innovation Hub requested a letter of support from the board to support its EDA Built to Scale grant application entitled: Synthe6 Accelerator. Bounce is seeking funding to receive programmatic support to help grow and accelerate sustainable polymers startups. He said that this proposal is based on an earlier original piece of the EDA Tech Hubs grant proposal that was submitted by the Greater Akron Chamber (GAC). This application is one of the component projects that was included in the GAC Phase 2 application, but this specific component project was not funded as part of that \$51 million grant from EDA. The EDA staff advised Bounce that it would be beneficial to submit the application through the Build to Scale program instead of through the Tech Hubs program. The Synthe6 Accelerator project is a yearlong acceleration program for sustainable polymer startups and includes training modules, workshops, mentorship programs; and targets technology validation, market expansion, fundraising and operational scaling. Bounce estimates that the program will serve at least 50 polymer startup companies, catalyze \$20 million in public and private investment, and generate over 400 new jobs. The total project cost is estimated to be about \$10 million. Bounce is seeking the maximum funding for the Build to Scale program, which is \$5 million with a 50 percent match requirement. The deadline for the Build to Scale project is October 28th. He mentioned that this project advances four goals of the NEFCO CEDS. He stated that NEFCO provided technical support for numerous proposals from Bounce or projects that included Bounce. He said that the City of Akron was awarded a \$2 million EDA grant through the American Rescue Plan Act's Economic Adjustment Assistance program for the renovation and expansion of the Bounce Innovation Hub. He said that the Build to Scale project will complement previous EDA investments; augment the entrepreneurial support, programming, and resources that Bounce currently offers; and advance the Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub. He asked for approval of the attached letter of support.

Mr. Regula asked how does Bounce advertise its services? Mr. Lautzenheiser said that it is a very robust operation with well-known resources available to start-up companies and entrepreneurs that are looking for or have a product or ideas. Mr. Messner said that this is a very successful program helping start-up companies. He said that he isn't exactly sure how Bounce advertises its services. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that Bounce has been highly successful with minority and women owned businesses. Mr. Balogh asked if there were any additional sources of matches? Mr. Lautzenheiser said that he isn't aware of the internal sources of matches but will try to find out.

A motion was made by Ms. Elrad, seconded by Mr. Conrad, to approve the Bounce Innovation Hub's letter of support for its EDA Build to Scale grant application. The motion carried.

6. NEFCO FY2025 Work Program – status

a. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that although there isn't any funding at the moment for the Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance grant, the EDA is still accepting applications for this grant. The EDA likes to have applications readily available to review when funding becomes available. He stated that the Planning and Local Technical Assistance program has funding available for the

Chicago region for project planning, feasibility studies, and impact analysis. Those sorts of things that could help move a project forward. He stated that there is not a distressed requirement for this particular program.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Communities. He said that the funding will support a range of high-impact projects to increase recycling, reduce contamination, and promote a circular economy for materials by making much-needed investments in solid waste management infrastructure. He stated that \$58 million will be awarded with a cap of \$5 million. There is no local match required. The application deadline is December 20, 2024, and a Notice of Intent to apply is due by November 15, 2024. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a Consumer Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program. He said that funding will be used for developing and implementing a national wasted food reduction campaign, expanding the market for and sales of compost, and increasing education and outreach to households on composting. He stated that \$39 million is available, no local match required. The application deadline is December 20, 2024. Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that applications for the FY2025 Brownfields Assessment, RLF, and Cleanup (ARC) grants are due November 14, 2024.

b. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that after the board released the draft FY2025 FPA update for public review a copy of the press release that was sent to the four major newspapers in the Region announcing the start of the draft FY2025 facilities planning areas update. The public review started on September 30th and will end on October 29th. The press release was also sent to all the primary wastewater management agencies. The press release contained a link to NEFCO's website to view all the updates, the maps, PDF maps and also the interactive online draft map. He stated that one comment was received related to an FPA update that was posted on the website. He said that staff will continue to collect comments and respond to those comments, document them, and present them at the November ERTAC meeting. If there is any controversy or conflicts between management agencies regarding a comment, staff will seek guidance from the ERTAC. He noted that the goal is to have the ERTAC recommend NEFCO Board approval at the December ERTAC meeting and seek Board approval at the December Board meeting. He said that this will allow staff to submit the update for state certification by Ohio EPA's January 16th deadline.

Mr. LaPlante said that Ohio EPA's public comment period has ended for 208 Plan updates from 2023 submitted by the Areawides. Ohio EPA received no comments. He said that once the Ohio EPA Director approves these updates, the materials will be sent to the Governor's office for certification. He noted that this is anticipated in November 2024.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff will soon start updating Clean Water Plan Chapter 5 (Management of Nonpoint Source Pollution and Storm Water Runoff). He stated that the update will take a regional approach. The most recent update to this chapter was done in December 2011. He said that staff will be contacting the region's county engineers, county soil and water conservation districts, Ohio EPA and other entities to understand how nonpoint source (NPS) pollution via stormwater transport is managed at the local, regional, and state levels. He stated that at the end of this fiscal year, a progress report on the chapter's update will be submitted to Ohio EPA.

Mr. LaPlante said that a Newsweek article mentioned that COVID-19 is starting to really increase in the United States, but mostly in the Western states. He said that the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) had a wastewater monitoring network that he reported on to the board in 2020. He said that a map on the ODH website showed that four wastewater plants in the NEFCO region that are still doing COVID-19 monitoring. He said that the COVID levels reported for the Kent, Canton, Akron and Wooster wastewater plants were steady. He stated that some levels are decreasing at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's Southerly plant. Mr. Diorio said that some levels

increased when the Kent State University students returned to school. He said that he has seen the levels drop a bit, but he expects the levels to rise during the holiday season. He said that the actual month-to-month data can be viewed on the Portage County Health District website.

7. Federal and State legislation or information of importance to local governments

Mr. Hadley said that Congress avoided a government shutdown and pushed off some of the tough decisions into late December/January. He said that he has included some information on energy related articles. Please let him know if anyone has any questions or requests on any of these items.

Mr. Hadley said that there was a recent announcement that the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was awarded \$248 million. The LWCF funding is largely operated by the National Park Service (NPS). He noted that there was also an announcement that Cleveland received a \$1.7 million grant and Toledo received a \$1.66 million grant.

Mr. Hadley said that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) made a \$1 billion investment available to support passenger rail. He said that he will continue to keep an eye on the FRA.

Mr. Hadley said that a meeting was held where the EPA Inspector General was asked questions about how certain funds were being used or proposed to be used.

Mr. Hadley said that the Biden-Harris Administration announced a final rule on lead and copper rule improvements. He mentioned that the Beacon Journal recently published a story regarding the City of Akron's leadership on lead pipe elimination.

Mr. Hadley said that \$30 million is being made available for small and rural communities to protect health, drinking water, and local waterways.

Mr. Hadley said that it has been reported that FEMA had spent nearly half of its new fiscal year disaster funds budget. He said that a few months ago a few Congressional representatives were trying to get a more designated fund for disasters. He said that when the government runs out of money for disaster relief a special funding designation must go through Congress to approve FEMA to receive those additional funds.


Mr. Hadley said that the State Capital Improvements Program (Issue 1) is a program that creates funds for the Ohio Public Works Commission to distribute throughout its various districts. He stated that there are two single county districts in the NEFCO region. He said that local Representative Scott Oelslager, North Canton; and Representative Dan Troy, Willowick have told reporters that they intend to introduce legislation to renew the program with increased funding, with a similar effort going on in the Senate. The state has bonds to cover the 10-year program. He said that the state has until February 2025 to qualify to have this legislative matter voted on so that it can be put on the May election ballot. The program expires July 1, 2025, and some districts are in program year 49, so it shows how successful the program has been.

Mr. Messner replied to Mr. Regula's earlier question. He stated that in 2023, Bounce had 197 program participants, rented 55 patents, created 107 new jobs, had a revenue of \$59 million, and raised \$15 million in investments. He said that 55 percent of new businesses were female owned, and 75 percent were minority. Mr. Regula thanked him for his information.

8. For the Good of the Order: an opportunity for members to share news about their community/county/agency/company, or to list a prominent issue affecting them
No one at the Board meeting had anything to comment about for their community/county/agency.

9. Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.
Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
November 20, 2024

NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD

2024 ATTENDANCE SHEET

Member (alternate)	1/17	2/21	3/20	4/17	5/15	6/26	7/17	8/21	9/18	10/16	11/20	12/18
PORTAGE COUNTY												
Sabrina Christian-Bennett (Mike Tinlin)	X	X			X	X	X			X		
Daniel Blakely (Tia Rutledge)	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A		
Joseph Diorio (Justin Rechichar)		X	X	X	X	A	X	X		X		
Rochelle Hartigan (2/1/2024)					X	X		X				
Todd Peetz	X	X			X	X	X	X				
Amos Sarfo (Eric Long)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
CITY OF KENT												
Kailyn Cyrus (Bridget Susel)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett	X	X	X		X	X		X		X		
Alfredo Carranza	X		X					X	X			
Kirt Conrad			X	X			X			X		
David Maley	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		
Dan Moeglin (Sarah Buell)		A	X		X			X				
Mike Naso (Helene Papczun)		A	X		X	X	X	X				
Bob Nau (Curtis Bungard)	X	X	X		X		X	X				
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)	X				X	X	X	X	X	X		
Jim Troike (Tom Davis and Jeff Lonzrick)	X	A	X		X	X	A		X			
Pete Wearstler (7/24/2024)								X	X			
Stephan Wilder (Ben Young)	X			X		X		X	X	X		
Vacant												
CITY OF CANTON												
Jim Benekos (John Highman Jr. and Chris Barnes)	X		X	A	X	X		X		X		
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		
Alan Brubaker (Larry Fulton and Chuck Hauber)	A		A		A	A	A	A	A	A		
Caitlin Elrad	X	X		X			X		X	X		
David Kohlmeier (Zak Kaczor)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Sam Scaffide	X	X		X		X			X			
Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley & Joe Eckenrode)		A		A	A		A	A	A			
Dianne Sumego			X	X	X	X	X	X				
Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei)	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	A		
Vacant												
CITY OF AKRON (3/25/2024)												
Tina Boyes				X				X		X		
Kyle Julien (Dylan Garritano)				X	A	A	X	A	A	A		
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A	A	A	A			A	A	A			
Shammas Malik (David Messner)				A	A	A	A	A	A	A		
Margo Sommerville (Joan Williams & Sara Biviano)					X							
Helen Tomic (Kurt Mulhauser)	A	A		X	X		A		A	A		
Vacant												
WAYNE COUNTY												
Jonathan Hofstetter (Dave McMillen)	X	X		X	X	X	X					
Jennifer Kiper (Rob Kastner)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Steven Wheeler (Kevin Givins)	A	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A		
CITY OF WOOSTER												
Robert Reynolds (Vince Marion & Joel Montgomery)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		
OHIO EPA-NEDO^a												
David Emerman (Allen Tyler)	A		A		A		A					
CITIZENS COUNCIL												
Vacant (2)												
X = member present A = alternate present												

^aex officio

See reverse side for a list of guests who attended last month's Board meeting

Guests in Attendance at the October 16, 2024 meeting

Becky Lehman, Portage County Health District
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