

NEFCO

NORTHEAST OHIO FOUR COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

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Vincent A. Marion, Chair

Joseph Hadley, Jr., Executive Director

Regular Meeting of the General Policy Board

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

City of Green

Council Chambers

1755 Town Park Blvd.

Uniontown, OH 44685

8:30 a.m.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
 - a. Determination of a Quorum
 - b. Approval of the Agenda for the March 20, 2024 NEFCO General Policy Board meeting
ACTION REQUESTED
 - c. Pledge of Allegiance
 - d. Audience Participation (members of the public)
Any individual or representative of a group may take three (3) minutes to address the General Policy Board on any topic on the agenda.
2. Consideration of the draft minutes of the regular meeting of the NEFCO General Policy Board on February 21, 2024 **ACTION REQUESTED**
3. Consideration of the Financial Status Report: Income and Expenditures through February 29, 2024
ACTION REQUESTED
 - a. February bank reconciliations
4. Authorization for NEFCO's Chair and Executive Director to sign a lease agreement extension to provide space for NEFCO's offices for a period from August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2029
ACTION REQUESTED
5. Consideration of submitting a letter to Senators Brown and Vance requesting support for Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024 **ACTION REQUESTED**
6. NEFCO FY2024 Work Program
 - a. Economic Development Planning
 - 1) Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Work Program Updates
 - a. Greater Akron Chamber submits Tech Hubs Phase 2 application
 - b. EDA reauthorization legislation introduced
 - c. New EDA Economic Development Representative for Ohio
 - d. Current EDA funding opportunities
 1. Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program (Recompete) Phase 2
 2. FY2023 Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance (PW/EAA)
 - e. NEFCO provides letter of support for City of Canton's RAISE grant application

- 2) Economic Development Planning Information
 - a. February unemployment rate increases to 3.9 percent (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
 - b. Census Bureau launches new Annual Integrated Economic Survey (U.S. Census Bureau)
 - c. “Why is it so hard to build housing near transit stops?” (*Route Fifty*)
 - d. “Housing gets big boost in Biden budget” (*Route Fifty*)
 - e. “Downtowns need a makeover. Resident, commercial engagement could help.” (*Route Fifty*)
 - f. 2024 Ohio Brownfields Conference: May 7th in Dublin
- 3) Funding Opportunities (upcoming deadlines contained in status report)
- 4) Regional Economic Development News (contained in status report)

- b. Environmental Planning
 - 1) Mapping webinar held on March 13th with wastewater management agencies (MAs) regarding NEFCO’s FY2025 facilities planning areas (FPA) update
 - 2) Clean Water (208) Plan’s draft Chapter 4 update completed; under internal review
 - 3) Draft scopes of services for NEFCO’s FY2025 water quality management planning contracts submitted to Ohio EPA for review
 - 4) Speakers/presentations at the April 3rd ERTAC meeting:
 - a. Ohio EPA to give an update on the agency’s most recent water quality survey work for the Tuscarawas River and Sugar Creek and select tributaries
 - b. Eastgate Regional Council of Governments to discuss its nonpoint source implementation strategy (NPS-IS) development for the Fish Creek-Mahoning River watershed in Mahoning and Columbiana Counties and a small area in northeast Stark County, including the City of Alliance
 - 5) Federal judge denies City of Akron’s requested 4th amendment to its consent decree
 - 6) Ohio EPA outreach announcement: Division of Drinking and Ground Waters seeks comments on the agency’s *PFAS Treatment Guidance*; found [here](#); submit comments to ddagw_ppg@epa.ohio.gov by March 21, 2024

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

8. For the Good of the Order: an opportunity for members to share news about their community/county/agency, or to list an important issue affecting them

9. Other Business

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Wednesday, April 17, 2024, is the date for the next meeting of the NEFCO General Policy Board at the **City of Green Community Hall at Central Park**, 1755 Town Park Blvd., Uniontown OH 44685