

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at the City of Green Community Hall at Central Park.

1a. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marion at 8:31 a.m. in the presence of a quorum.

1b. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Kiper, seconded by Mr. Regula, 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.

2. Consideration of the draft minutes of the regular meeting of the NEFCO General Policy Board on August 21, 2024

A motion was made by Mr. Vinay, seconded by Mr. Eckenrode, to accept the August meeting minutes. The motion carried.

3. Financial Status Report - month of August

Mr. Hadley said that \$19,047.69 was received as income during August, receipts to date were \$53,994.47, disbursements to date were \$87,456.21, and cash on hand at the end of August was \$108,605.28.

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

3a. August Bank Reconciliations

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

A motion was made by Mr. Vinay, seconded by Ms. Graham Moore, to accept the August bank reconciliations. The motion carried.

4. SPEAKER: "Conference of Community Development's 60th Anniversary Celebration 2025"; Thomas A. Tatum, President and Chief Engagement Officer, Tatum Endeavor Group, LLC

Mr. Hadley provided the Board some background information on Mr. Thomas Tatum. He said that Mr. Tatum was a planner from 1989 to 2023 and last served as Director of Planning and Urban Development for the City of Akron. Prior to that, Mr. Tatum was the Division Manager for the Department of Neighborhood Services. Mr. Hadley said that Mr. Tatum also serves on many boards, principally Alpha Phi Alpha. He was Co-Executive Producer for the PBS Emmy winning documentary 'An Answer from Akron'. Mr. Tatum served as chair of NEFCO's board, as well as serving on many of the agency's committees and also was chair of the Intergovernmental Review Committee. Mr. Hadley said that Mr. Tatum started his own company in 2017. He introduced Mr. Thomas Tatum to the Board.

Mr. Tatum said that he is glad to be back at a NEFCO meeting and seeing so many familiar faces. He said that since he has retired in January 2024, he has been a mercenary for community development, working with different municipalities and community-based organizations. He stated that he is trying to teach how community development can be an asset for respective neighborhoods and how to work with, not against, the government. He said that right before retiring

he accepted an appointment to the Board of the Ohio Conference of Community Development, Inc. (OCCD). This year will be the OCCD's 60th anniversary. He said that the OCCD is a larger scale of NEFCO: they bring together different professionals, different communities, different municipalities, talking about community development activities in our respective communities. He stated that there are stories in our own environments that need to be told and that the outcomes are working. He said that the OCCD wants to amplify the stories for their 60th anniversary, just like NEFCO is celebrating its 50th year. He said that he is seeking input on how the OCCD's membership could be amplified. Currently, OCCD has about 170 plus members throughout the state of Ohio association of community and economic development professionals. He said that the OCCD started in 1965 and has been dedicated to making communities better places to work, live, and enjoy life. The OCCD is looking at what has worked in communities that could be shared with other members in other municipalities. He said that the OCCD has a membership committee, which is important to engage with many different levels of government, federal, state, and local. He noted that the OCCD holds quarterly meetings both hybrid and in person, provides virtual and personal training, produces a quarterly newsletter, learning resources and a member FORUM. He mentioned that his PowerPoint presentation will be shared with the Board members. The OCCD's benefits of membership have provided an opportunity to reconnect and connect with professionals who understand the unique challenges of the areas in community and economic development. He said that the OCCD is looking for success stories and to provide leadership development skills for committees and various boards. Mr. Tatum provided a link for a membership application. He said that he has had a couple of communities apply for membership in the past few months, and we are encouraging that because we are looking for stories. He provided several testimonials from members of OCCD that represent various organizations in the state of Ohio.

Mr. Tatum said that in his entire career with the City of Akron, going back into the early 1990s, just like NEFCO, he has been a part of OCCD in some way, shape or form. He said that these meetings or training sessions are to find out exactly how the community development block grant funds are being spent. He said that he has been able to use the information as the years went by to fortify his professional career. He stated that he also has made connections within the OCCD network of people who he has trusted and who has trusted him. He said that it makes sense to reason that Board members' organizations can definitely benefit from a membership with OCCD. He said that there are various levels of commitments, from the county level to private industry to municipalities and cities large and small that have benefited from joining the OCCD.

Mr. Regula said that being an elected official, what's the cost? Mr. Tatum said the cost is based upon the size of the community and organization. Mr. Regula asked if this would benefit a program for metropolitan housing? Mr. Tatum said that he is a strong proponent of public housing. He explained that housing authorities are already getting a lot of money to improve the communities. He said that university systems have been moving to shape community development throughout the country over the past five or ten years. Those organizations could be a part of the OCCD because they are changing the footprint of our communities. He said that it would be great recommendation, especially when talking about affordable housing. Mr. Hadley asked if there is a shared problem that cities have now that maybe didn't exist when Mr. Tatum started related to housing or community development? Mr. Tatum said that the short answer is yes. The long answer is no, because not every municipality has similar issues. He thanked the Board for having him present at this month's meeting. Mr. Marion thanked Mr. Tatum for his presentation.

5. Proposed new goal for the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Greater Akron Chamber (GAC) consortium was awarded a Phase 2 EDA Tech Hubs grant for \$51 million. He stated that this is a once in a lifetime award amount. It is the largest EDA grant that the Region has received since NEFCO became an economic development district in 1978. He noted that this EDA grant is greater than all the grants the region has received, combined. He said that with the letter of support that the General Policy Board

provided for the Phase 2 application, staff recalls that the board had pledged to make a larger commitment to being part of this Tech Hub Consortium, in the sense of making it a larger piece of the CEDS and offering support in any way that staff could to support the growth and development of the Tech Hub. On August 26th, the Regional CEDS Committee met to review the goals that are listed in the CEDS, evaluating the progress that has been made with the seven goals. He stated that one of the items that was discussed at the CEDS meeting was to consider adding another goal to the CEDS plan. He said that this eighth goal would have more of an impact and more of a role to advance the Tech Hub. He stated that the CEDS Committee recommended adding an eighth goal to the CEDS plan: Support the growth and development of the Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub with six subgoals. He said that the language in the subgoals was provided directly from Brian Anderson, Greater Akron Chamber, head of the polymer industry cluster. He said that this is recommended by the CEDS Committee. He noted that staff is recommending that the board adopt and add this additional goal to the CEDS plan. If approved the CEDS plan will be updated and sent to the EDA. The updated CEDS will also be posted on NEFCO's website. Mr. Lautzenheiser recommended approval of the addition of goal eight to the CEDS plan.

Ms. Graham Moore thanked the CEDS Committee and Board for considering the inclusion of the additional goal. She stated that on the research and development (R&D) front the City of Akron is very excited that in the beginning of September the state announced a grant of \$31.25 million to help specifically accelerate the R&D sections of this project.

A motion was made by Ms. Kiper, seconded by Ms. Elrad, to accept the additional goal into the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The motion carried.

6. Greater Akron Chamber (GAC) requests a letter of support for its EDA Good Jobs Challenge grant application

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that this item has been slightly revised since the mailout, the revisions are underlined and reflects the addition of the eighth goal in the CEDS; which the Board just approved. The Greater Akron Chamber and its consortium including partners ConxusNeo, Manufacturing Works, MAGNET, Stark State College, the University of Akron, community-based organizations and a number of regional employers are looking to apply for the EDA Good Jobs Challenge grant application. He said that the Good Jobs Challenge is all about supporting workforce training systems and establishing sectoral partnerships that meet existing and emerging skill needs of employers to train and place program participants in good jobs in those sectors. He noted that the application is still being developed. There is \$25 million available nationally for this program and the EDA anticipates awarding 5 to 8 grants around the country. He mentioned that those applications that are coming from designated Tech Hubs already have an advantage. He said that the project is proposing a two-pronged approach; which will focus on entry level positions in the advance manufacturing and polymer industry. The second piece is collaborating with incumbent workers in these sectors and to upskill the workers to provide the needed training to apply for higher, better positions with these industries. The goal of this initiative is to recruit up to 550 individuals and help at least 450 complete the training and then in turn have 320 or more graduates get placed into good jobs. He said that the total project cost is \$4.15 million. GAC is requesting 50 percent of the total cost. He stated that the project would advance four goals of the CEDS. He said that the application deadline is September 27th. Staff is recommending that the board approve the attached letter of support for the GAC Good Job Challenge grant request.

A motion was made by Mr. Eckenrode, seconded by Mr. Vinay, to approve the Greater Akron Chamber's letter of support for its EDA Good Jobs Challenge grant application. The motion carried.

7. A&J Urban Development (Canton) requests a letter of support for its All Ohio Future Fund loan application

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that this request for a letter of support was received after the board mailout. He said that the Canton based A&J Urban Development is requesting a letter of support for its loan

application through the All Ohio Future Fund program. This program is through the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD). The \$750 million fund supports local communities with site readiness and preparation for future economic development. The applicant is from the private sector and is in the process of working on an agreement with the City of Canton to come to terms with this project and to work collaboratively with the development of the site. He stated that the site is the former Ford property which closed in the 1980s. The property is located on Georgetown Road across from the shuttered Republic Steel plant. The Ford Plant was later donated to the City of Canton in 2004. Then in 2010 the property was transferred to Canton Community Improvement Corporation (CIC). It was then transferred back to the City of Canton in 2018. He said that the City of Canton sold the property to A&J Urban Development. The property is a Team NEO designated priority site. The property has 93 acres with some wetlands and there are 50 contiguous, developable acres. A Phase 1 assessment and wetland delineation have been completed. The land does have access to all the required utilities. The site development cost will be approximately \$4 million. The applicant is requesting \$1.97 million in loan funding for site clearance, wetland and stream mitigation, environmental services, and construction for road access to the site. This project is supported by two goals of the CEDS: encouraging the development of industries that support Northeast Ohio's economic cluster, and the project promotes the redevelopment of a blighted, underused, vacant, and environmentally challenged site. He said that this would bring an abandoned industrial site back into economic use. Staff is recommending approval of the attached letter of support for the Ford Farm project. He noted that supporting this project doesn't financially tie NEFCO or the board, in any way, to this project. He said that since this request was not transmitted to the Board at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those members present is required for passage.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilder, seconded by Mr. Troike, to approve A&J Urban Development's (Canton) letter of support for its All Ohio Future Fund loan application. The motion carried.

8. Consideration of a recommendation from the ERTAC to release the Draft FY2025 Clean Water (208) Plan FPA update for a 30-day public review and comment period

Mr. LaPlante said that staff is requesting that the Board release the Draft FY2025 Clean Water (208) Plan FPA update for a 30-day public review and comment period. All the projects had technical reviews from this month's ERTAC meeting. He mentioned that the ERTAC is recommending that the Board release this FPA update. Staff has been working on the update with the management agencies (MAs) since February. He stated that staff wants to make clear that the Board's release of the update doesn't mean the Board agrees with all the updates. He said that approval of the 30-day public review means that the maps are in a format that's adequate for public review and with the public being able to review the FPA maps on the online draft FPA update map. He explained that scale limitations of the page sized maps do not allow the reader to see all of the updates that were done for an area. A review of the online update map is necessary to see these small details. He asked for approval of the release of the Draft FY2025 Clean Water (208) Plan FPA update for a 30-day public review and comment period.

A motion was made by Ms. Kiper, seconded by Mr. Eckenrode, to approve the release of the Draft FY2025 Clean Water (208) Plan FPA update for a 30-day public review and comment period. The motion carried.

9. NEFCO FY2025 Work Program – status

a. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Polymer Industry Cluster led by the Greater Akron Chamber was awarded \$31.25 million in funding through the Ohio Innovation Hubs program. He said that this project has now received close to \$100 million in the last couple of years.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the CEDS Committee met on August 26th to discuss the Annual Performance Progress report. He said that this report will be considered at next month's Board

meeting. He stated that the Annual Performance Progress Report is a combination of the former semiannual progress reports and annual performance reports.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the FY2024 Good Jobs Challenge grant application is due September 27th. He said that applications for the FY2024 Build to Scale program are due October 28th.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the FY2025 Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (ARC) Grants address sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants and petroleum. He mentioned that there is funding available for this round of assessments by community-wide organizations and coalitions. This is also a good opportunity for revolving loan funds and clean ups. He said that there is \$46 million for community-wide assessments; \$35 million for assessment coalitions; \$15 million for RLFs; \$100 million available for cleanups. He said that no match is required for these grants. The submittal deadline is November 14th.

b. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that the Ohio EPA confirmed that January 16, 2025 will be the agency's deadline to submit all board approved 208 plan updates and amendments. He said that after state certification the agency will request US EPA approval so that the updates and amendments can be incorporated into the state's water quality management plan. He said that if anyone would like additional information on the status report to please contact NEFCO.

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

Mr. Hadley said that the big attention over the next couple of weeks will be whether Congress can work together to have a stopgap funding bill. He said that the Speaker of the House has a real challenge of pulling the various groups together. Some of those groups are fine with the government running out of money. He said that the pressure is to have something in place by September 30th.

Mr. Hadley said that Political Pro singled out two projects that are under the Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants. He mentioned that one of those being the need to extend the deadline for the US Route 30 project that Commissioner Regula talks about quite often. He said that if anyone would like additional information on the any item mentioned to please contact NEFCO.

11. 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.

12. Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
October 16, 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					
Daniel Blakely (Tia Rutledge)	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A			
Joseph Diorio (Justin Rechichar)		X	X	X	X	A	X	X				
Rochelle Hartigan (2/1/2024)					X	X		X				
Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford)	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				
Alfredo Carranza	X		X					X	X			
Kirt Conrad			X	X			X					
David Maley	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			
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			
Vacant												
CITY OF CANTON												
Jim Benekos (John Highman Jr. and Chris Barnes)	X		X	A	X	X		X				
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	X	X	X		X	X	X				
Alan Brubaker (Larry Fulton and Chuck Hauber)	A		A		A	A	A	A	A			
Caitlin Elrad	X	X		X			X		M			
David Kohlmeier (Zak Kaczor)		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			
Vacant												
CITY OF AKRON (3/25/2024)												
Tina Boyes				X				X				
Kyle Julien (Dylan Garritano)				X	A	A	X	A	A			
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A	A	A	A			A	A	A			
Shammas Malik (David Messner)				A	A	A	A	A	A			
Margo Sommerville (Joan Williams & Sara Biviano)					X							
Helen Tomic (Kurt Mulhauser)	A	A		X	X		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			
Steven Wheeler (Kevin Givins)	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			
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 September 18, 2024 meeting
Thomas A. Tatum, Tatum Endeavor Group, LLC.
Jeff King, Congressman Max Miller OH-7 representative