

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at the City of Green Community Hall at Central Park.

1a. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marion at 8:30 a.m. in the presence of a quorum.

1b. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Bennett, 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 January 15, 2025

A motion was made by Ms. Kiper, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to accept the January meeting minutes. The motion carried.

3. Financial Status Report - month of January

Mr. Hadley said that \$1.15 was received as income during January, receipts to date were \$347,477.56, disbursements to date were \$337,284.29, and cash on hand at the end of January was \$152,260.29.

A motion was made by Mr. Kohlmeier, seconded by Mr. Eckenrode, to approve the financial status report subject to audit. The motion carried.

3a. January Bank Reconciliations

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

A motion was made by Ms. Christian-Bennett, seconded by Mr. Peetz, to accept the January bank reconciliations. The motion carried.

4. Authorization for NEFCO's designee to accept and sign a three-year U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration 2025-2028 Partnership Planning Grant award agreement; authorization to provide grant matching funds for the three-year period; and approval of the grant's Scope of Work

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that on January 21st NEFCO received an invitation from the EDA Chicago Regional Office to submit the next non-competitive three-year partnership planning grant application. He said that this grant helps fund NEFCO's economic development regional planning program which has funded NEFCO since 1978. He said that under this grant, EDA would provide NEFCO with \$70,000 each year, a total of \$210,000 in federal funds over the three-year period. The local match rate would be 40 percent of the \$350,000 total grant. NEFCO's previous three-year partnership planning grants match rate was 50 percent. He said that this new match rate reflects the recently approved reauthorization of EDA which called for a lower local share participation in the partnership planning grants. Through this grant program, NEFCO continues to provide regional planning services to its members and the communities in the region, including continuing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). In the next three years, NEFCO will be preparing the next five-year CEDS plan (2028-2033). Staff will continue to provide

technical support and assistance for members on funding applications, particularly EDA grant applications. Staff will continue to participate in various different economic development and community development committees and commissions to the region. He stated that the grant application deadline was Monday, February 17th; the application was submitted through the EDA EDGE portal. He said that after communicating with the Chicago Regional Office, staff were told that because the submittal deadline was before the February Board meeting, a draft resolution could be submitted until the resolution was approved and signed. He said that the board has to approve the local three-year share commitment for the application. He noted that the funding for this grant is still dependent and contingent on the federal government for appropriated funding for EDA. He said that the government is operating on a continuing resolution until March 14th. Mr. Lautzenheiser asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2025-004, which authorizes NEFCO to accept and sign the grant award agreement, approve the use of NEFCO funds to provide the required match, and approve the attached grant scope of work.

A motion was made by Mr. Peetz, seconded by Mr. Nau, to approve Resolution No. FY2025-004. The motion carried.

5. Request for Executive Director Joseph Hadley to continue to serve as the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) for NEFCO's EDA Partnership Planning Grant

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that NEFCO is required to designate an Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) who would be responsible for submitting and filing the online grant reports, particularly the financial reporting. In the past, the AOR has been Joe Hadley, Executive Director. Staff is recommending that Mr. Hadley continue to serve as AOR. Mr. Lautzenheiser asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2025-005, to designate Mr. Hadley, Executive Director, as the Authorized Organizational Representative for the US Department of Commerce EDA Partnership Planning grant.

A motion was made by Ms. Christian-Bennett, seconded by Mr. Eckenrode, to approve Resolution No. FY2025-005. The motion carried.

6. Consideration of an Amendment to the Clean Water (208) Plan to create the Peninsula Facilities Planning Area (FPA) and to establish wastewater prescriptions to serve the Village of Peninsula in Summit County

Mr. LaPlante said that the Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services (DSSS) requested an amendment to the Clean Water Plan to create the Peninsula Facilities Planning Area (FPA). He said that the Village of Peninsula has had water quality issues for close to two decades. He noted that the Cuyahoga Valley National Park surrounds the Village. He stated that the Summit County DSSS has been working with the village since 2015 to provide sanitary sewer infrastructure and a new wastewater treatment plant. Currently, the 208 plan has no facilities planning area for the Village of Peninsula. He stated the FPA boundary will coincide with the village's municipal boundary. A portion of the current 208 Plan's "white" wastewater prescription "Areas Without a Wastewater Treatment Planning Prescription" within the FPA will be changed to "orange": "Areas Expected to be Served with Sanitary Sewers within the Next 20 Years". The remaining white area in the newly created FPA will be changed to "green": "Areas that will be Served by a POTW or Household Sewage and Semi-Public Sewage Disposal Systems". He mentioned that the local agencies/governments affected were the Summit County Public Health, Village of Peninsula, and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, which all agreed with the proposed amendment. He noted that a public notice describing the proposed amendment was placed in the Akron Beacon Journal on January 11, and January 18, 2025. No comments were received by Summit County DSSS. He stated that the ERTAC recommended approval of the amendment. He asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2025-006.

A motion was made by Ms. Kiper, seconded by Mr. Eckenrode, to approve Resolution No. FY2025-006. The motion carried.

7. Consideration of an Amendment to the Clean Water (208) Plan for the Hudson-Streetsboro FPA to modify the FPA boundary and change the wastewater prescription for two parcels at the end of Kilbourne Drive in the City of Hudson

Mr. LaPlante said that the Summit County DSSS requested an amendment to the Clean Water Plan for the Hudson-Streetsboro FPA to modify the FPA boundary and change the wastewater prescription for two newly recorded parcels at the east end of Kilbourne Drive in Hudson. Board approval of the amendment was necessary to ensure that DSSS's proposed sanitary sewer extension, included in the pending PTI, was consistent with NEFCO's 208 Plan. Currently, the proposed sewer extension would need to cross the FPA boundary into the Cuyahoga Valley Interceptor (CVI) FPA and extend into the Hudson-Streetsboro FPA which would conflict with NEFCO's Clean Water Plan. What is being proposed by the DSSS is to expand the CVI FPA boundary eastward to include those two parcels. The wastewater treatment prescription would be changed from "green": "Areas that will be Served by a POTW or by Home Sewage and Semi-Public Sewage Disposal Systems" to "orange": "Areas Expected to be Served with Sanitary Sewers within the next 20 Years". He stated that the local agencies/governments affected are the Portage County Board of Commissioners, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Summit County Public Health, and the City of Hudson. All of the local agencies/governments have indicated that they have no objections to the amendment. A public notice was placed in the Akron Beacon Journal on August 30, 2024 and September 6, 2024. No comments were received by the Summit County DSSS. The specific proposed changes to the current FPA appendix in the Clean Water Plan only pertain to the FPA maps in Appendix 3-6 Hudson-Streetsboro FPA and Appendix 3-30 CVI FPA. He stated that the ERTAC recommended approval of the amendment. He asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2025-007.

A motion was made by Ms. Kiper, seconded by Mr. Eckenrode, to approve Resolution No. FY2025-007. The motion carried.

8. Consideration of an Amendment to the Clean Water (208) Plan to change the Wastewater Treatment Prescriptions for Identified Parcels Adjacent to, and in the Proximity of Timber Point Trail in the Mantua FPA in Mantua Township

Mr. LaPlante said that the Portage County Water Resources Department requested an amendment to the Mantua FPA to change the wastewater treatment prescriptions for 16 parcels along and in the proximity of Timber Point Trail. He said that the current wastewater treatment prescriptions for these 16 parcels are either "yellow": "Areas Currently Served with Sanitary Sewer" or "orange": "Areas Expected to be Served with Sanitary Sewers within the next 20 Years". He said that the issue is that sanitary sewer is not available and accessible in the area, i.e. it is more than 800 feet away. He said that there is currently a pending PTI at Ohio EPA and without approval of this amendment, the PTI would be in conflict with the 208 plan. This is an industrial subdivision that was created in the late 1980s, and parcels are not being developed because sewers are not available in the area. He said that this amendment would make the PTI consistent with the 208 Plan and allow for parcels that are shown in Figure 2 to be developed. He said that Figure 2 also shows the parcel index numbers. He noted that parcel #5 on Figure 3 is the parcel with the pending PTI. The PTI application proposes an on-site non discharging system. He stated that no FPA boundary change is proposed. The local agencies/governments affected are the Portage County Board of Commissioners, Portage County Health District, and Mantua Township Board of Trustees. He mentioned that a sample letter is attached. The public notice was placed in the Record Courier on January 22, 2025. He said that the Portage County Water Resources Department received no comments.

Mr. LaPlante said that at the February 5th ERTAC meeting staff recommended approval of the amendment contingent upon comment response forms being received from all three affected government entities prior to the NEFCO Board's February 19th meeting. He said that all response forms were received the day after the ERTAC meeting, with no objections to this amendment. He asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2025-008.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilder, seconded by Mr. Peetz, to approve Resolution No. FY2025-008. The motion carried.

9. Consideration of a renewal of authorization to provide meeting amenities to volunteer members or citizens who attend NEFCO meetings

Mr. Hadley said that the authorization to provide meeting amenities is an annual request. He said that the memo has not changed from what was mailed out. He said that from past state auditors' recommendations, if NEFCO, through board action, provides a level of local funding for amenities at NEFCO's meetings, that would be an acceptable expenditure. He stated that over the last year, NEFCO spent about \$525 on amenities. He recommended that the Board cap this expenditure for the current calendar year at \$850. He asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2025-009.

A motion was made by Mr. Eckenrode, seconded by Ms. Christian-Bennett, to approve Resolution No. FY2025-009. The motion carried.

10. NEFCO FY2025 Work Program – status

a. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff spent this past month preparing the EDA Partnership Planning grant application which was submitted on February 17, 2025. He said that the existing partnership planning grant expires at the end of March, with the new grant beginning on April 1st, provided that the funding is approved. He said that he will have more details about the funding around March 14th.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the staff is involved with monthly/semi-monthly meetings with the various project leaders of the Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub. He said that after some delay from the EDA in processing subgrantee award notices and grant agreements, all seven component projects of the Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub are officially up and running. The Greater Akron Chamber, which is leading the Governance Team, began its project. He stated that The University of Akron has also started working on its Workforce Initiative for a Sustainable Environment (WISE) program. Many of the five technology maturation projects have requested funding advances to start their projects. He said that, currently, the funding for Tech Hubs is still safe because it is part of the CHIPS and Science Act funding, which is not subject to the federal freeze. He said that he will be attending the regular meetings with the Tech Hub leaders.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that even though funding isn't available during this period, the EDA encourages applicants to continue to submit project applications to the FY2023 Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance and FY2021-2023 Planning and Local Technical Assistance grants.

Mr. Lautzenheiser discussed some upcoming funding opportunities of interest. He said that if anyone has any questions or requests, to please contact him.

Mr. Hadley said that he watched the Senate hearing where testimony was given by the nominee for Commerce Secretary, Howard Lutnick. Mr. Hadley said that he thought the hearing went very quickly. One Senator commented that it is partly because there weren't any problems with Mr. Lutnick and also, he was giving pretty direct answers. Mr. Hadley stated that several Senators mentioned, to the nominee, that there was interest in the Tech Hub programs, and those Senators

were hoping that there might be a second round. He said that one of the Senators is from around an area that had received a Tech Hub grant; while some of the other Senators were advocating to the nominee that there should be another round of Tech Hub grants. He said that he was pleased to hear the mention of Tech Hubs since the NEFCO Region has received some Tech Hub grants.

b. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that the Clean Water Plan 208 update process consists of boundary and prescription changes to the FPA when there is not a pending PTI. He said that it is contingency planning that involved considering and trying to project where development is going to occur, and making sure that the FPA boundaries and the wastewater treatment prescriptions are consistent with any proposed projects. Staff finished the second update (FY2025), which was approved by the NEFCO board on December 18, 2024. He mentioned that this update had more processed updates than the FY2024 update. To adjust for the expected large volume of changes submitted, staff developed a timeline that would be appropriate for the flow of the workload for both the wastewater management agencies (MAs) doing the mapping and for the NEFCO staff. He said that an MA subcommittee meeting was held after the February 5th ERTAC meeting to discuss submitting the data to NEFCO staff within the first two months of the submittal deadline, instead of having the data submitted to NEFCO at the end of the submittal period. The subcommittee agreed that it was more efficient for staff to have the data early. He stated that to make the process more manageable for all, there will be two deadlines: April 18, 2025 for submittal of all data to NEFCO; and July 18, 2025 for wastewater management agencies to submit the PDF maps of existing and proposed updates to the FPAs. The GIS shape files data, for only the proposed changes, will also be due by July 18, 2025.

Mr. LaPlante said that under the federal Clean Water Act and Ohio Revised Code, Ohio EPA should not issue a permit-to-install (PTI) when the PTI is in conflict with a 208 Plan. He stated that the 208 Planning process is a good process for the management agencies. It gives the MAs an opportunity when there is not a pending PTI to look ahead and make Plan changes that they anticipate will be needed in the future.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Governor had certified NEFCO's 208 Plan updates (March 2023 through December 2023). The next step is for the state certified updates to be submitted to US EPA for approval. Once the updates are approved by US EPA, Ohio EPA will incorporate NEFCO's and the other Areawides' updates into the state's water quality management plan.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Ohio EPA Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (DDAGW) announced that the DDAGW is seeking input from stakeholders on its draft rules under Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 3745-81 pertaining to the requirement to protect surface water sources from potential contaminants as outlined in the Safe Drinking Water Act. The interested party review comment period deadline is March 6, 2025.

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

Mr. Hadley said that Congress is looking towards a continuing resolution; the current agreement ends March 14th; which means that on March 15th there has to be a new budget or another continuing resolution to keep the government's doors open. He mentioned the work that Elon Musk is doing, under the president's direction. He said that many administrations have sought to be able to do line-item vetoes of various budget line items.

Mr. Hadley said that the next highway act is being discussed and how it will be structured. He said that he included some information on the reauthorization of the highway act. He stated that a lot of the existing grants that have been approved by Congress, funded, and signed by President Biden are still under litigation.

Mr. Hadley said that the President's list of cabinet nominees are going through their testimonies before the Senate Committee and then a vote is taken in the full Senate. He said that he provided a table that lists all of the cabinet nominees that have been confirmed by the Senate, what the vote was, and also a list of the six nominees whose vote has not been scheduled. These are top level positions; there are all sorts of 'lieutenants' under these positions that would need to be acted on by the Senate.

Mr. Hadley noted that there are several pages of proposed House and Senate General Assembly legislation.

Mr. Hadley asked if any members had any comments on the recent action by the Trump administration.

Mr. Regula warned everyone to be extremely cautious with those new officials. Who knows he asked, what kind of spending ideas, concepts, etc. will be required. He said that everyone should be prepared for the worst and hope for the best. He asked which department funds the EDA? Mr. Hadley said the Department of Commerce. Mr. Hadley stated that the testimony (hearing) was held, but a vote on Mr. Lutnick hasn't been scheduled.

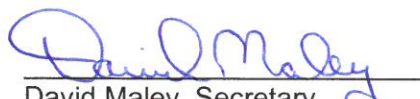
12. For the Good of the Order: an opportunity for members to share news about their community/county/agency/company, or to list a prominent issue affecting them

No one at the Board meeting had anything to comment about for their community/county/agency.

13. Other Business

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

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant


David Maley, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
March 19, 2025

NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD 2025 ATTENDANCE SHEET

Member (alternate)	1/15	2/19	3/19	4/16	5/21	6/18	7/16	8/20	9/17	10/15	11/19	12/17
PORTAGE COUNTY												
Sabrina Christian-Bennett (Jill Crawford)	X	X										
Daniel Blakely (Tia Rutledge)		A										
Rochelle Hartigan												
Becky Lehman (Justin Rechichar)	X	X										
Todd Peetz (Amy Reichlin)		X										
Amos Sarfo (Eric Long)	X	X										
CITY OF KENT												
Kailyn Cyrus (Bridget Susel)	X	X										
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett	X	X										
Alfredo Carranza												
Kirt Conrad												
Ted Herncane		X										
David Maley	X	X										
Dan Moeglin (Sarah Buell)												
Mike Naso (Helene Papczun)		A										
Bob Nau (Curtis Bungard)	X	X										
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)	X	X										
Jim Troike (Tom Davis and Jeff Lonzrick)	A											
Pete Wearstler		X										
Stephan Wilder (Jason Segedy & Ben Young)	X	X										
CITY OF CANTON												
Doug Harris (John Highman Jr. and Chris Barnes)	X	X										
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	X										
Alan Brubaker (Stephanie Diebel and Chuck Hauber)		A										
Caitlin Elrad	X											
David Kohlmeier (Zak Kaczor)		X										
Sam Scaffide	X											
Ilene Shapiro (Joseph Eckenrode)	A	A										
Dianne Sumego	X											
James Taylor	X	X										
Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei)	A											
CITY OF AKRON^a												
Tina Boyes		X										
Kyle Julien (Dylan Garritano)												
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A	A										
Shammas Malik (David Messner)	A	A										
Margo Sommerville (Joan Williams & Sara Biviano)												
Helen Tomic (Kurt Mulhauser)	A											
Vacant												
WAYNE COUNTY												
Matt Martin (Dave McMillen)	X	X										
Jennifer Kiper (Rob Kastner)	X	X										
Steven Wheeler (Kevin Givins)	A	A										
CITY OF WOOSTER												
Robert Reynolds (Vince Marion & Joel Montgomery)	A	A										
OHIO EPA-NEDO^b												
David Emerman (Allen Tyler)												
CITIZENS COUNCIL												
Vacant (2)												
X = member present A = alternate present												

^aappointments pending ^bex officio

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

Guests in Attendance at the February 19, 2025 meeting
Justin Rechichar, Environmental Health Director, Portage County Health District (alternate)
Jason Segedy, City of North Canton (alternate)
Julie Morris, City of Kent
Tracy Sayers, Village of Lakemore
Jacob Morrison, Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services
Ross Nicholson, Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services