

**MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, April 16, 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 Ms. Sumego, seconded by Ms. Kiper, 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 March 19, 2025**

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

**3. Financial Status Report - month of March**

Mr. Hadley said that \$1.26 was received as income during March, receipts to date were \$455,373.84, disbursements to date were \$423,904.69, and cash on hand at the end of March was \$173,536.17.

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

**3a. March Bank Reconciliations**

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

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

**4. Consideration of an Amendment to the Clean Water (208) Plan for the Marshallville Facilities Planning Area to modify the wastewater treatment prescription (option) for the "Areas Currently Served with Sanitary Sewer"**

Mr. LaPlante said that the Village of Marshallville requested an amendment to the Clean Water Plan, Chapter 3, Appendix 3-44, for the Marshallville facilities planning area (FPA) to modify the written wastewater treatment prescription for "Areas Currently Served with Sanitary Sewer". He said that there are two types of mapped and written wastewater treatment prescriptions. The only change that will be made to the map is the location of the publicly owned treatment works (POTW) plant, shown on the colored map that was distributed at today's meeting. The POTW location dot will be moved to within the FPA boundary; the FPA boundary (the red line) matches the municipal boundary. He said that on the east side of this map, there is a bike trail which used to be an old railroad bed. Everything east of that has no access to sewer. He stated that the 208 Plan prescription states that the yellow area is currently served by sanitary sewer. As mentioned, the area east of the bike trail has no access to sewer. The Village of Marshallville has verified that there are ten septic systems in that area. He noted that the current wastewater treatment prescription states that all failing septic systems shall connect to sewer. He said that attached is

the updated version of that prescription. He said that there is a public health nuisance problem which is located at 54 E Market St., Marshallville. He stated that the village is working with the Wayne County Health Department to abate this public health nuisance as quickly and efficiently as possible. He noted that there is no FPA boundary change. He said that the Wayne County Health Department agrees with this proposed amendment. A public notice regarding the proposed amendment was published in the Wooster Daily Record on March 16<sup>th</sup>. He stated that at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> ERTAC meeting staff recommended approval of this amendment. The ERTAC also recommended approval of the amendment. Mr. LaPlante requested board approval of Resolution No. FY2025-010. He stated that Mr. Bob Brooker, Service Director, Village of Marshallville, is available to answer questions about this amendment.

A motion was made by Mr. Eckenrode, seconded by Mr. Messner, to approve Resolution No. FY2025-010. The motion carried.

#### **5. Appointment of CY2025 NEFCO Budget and Work Program Committee**

Mr. Marion said that the Budget and Work Program Committee members have been provided in the memo. He asked for a motion to approve the CY2025 NEFCO Budget and Work Program Committee. Below is a list of the Budget Committee members:

Andrei Dordea, Finance Director, City of Wooster  
Joseph Eckenrode, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, County of Summit  
Doug Harris, Assistant City Engineer, City of Canton  
Matt Martin, Commissioner, Wayne County  
Dave Ruller, City Manager, City of Kent  
Tia Rutledge, Planning Manager, Portage County Water Resources  
Helen Tomic, Comprehensive Planning Administrator, City of Akron  
James Troike, Sanitary Engineer, Stark County

A motion was made by Ms. Sumego, seconded by Ms. Kiper, to approve the CY2025 NEFCO Budget and Work Program Committee. The motion carried.

#### **6. Authorization to enter into contracts with the Ohio EPA for state and federally funded water quality management planning; authorization for the Executive Director to sign for NEFCO**

Mr. Hadley said that this memo is unchanged from last week's board mailout. He said that the memo requests the Board's authorization for NEFCO to enter into two contracts with Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water. He said that one contract is for state funding, which is part of the governor's budget. The budget is proceeding through the state's process and is on target to be signed by the governor no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>. He said that the second contract is a federal contract which is for pass-through monies from US EPA to Ohio EPA that is divided equally among the six Areawide planning agencies. Mr. Hadley said that he is requesting the Board's authorization for NEFCO to enter into these two contracts with Ohio EPA and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the contracts.

A motion was made by Ms. Christian-Bennett, seconded by Mr. Eckenrode, to authorize NEFCO to enter into contracts with the Ohio EPA for state and federally funded water quality management planning, and for the Executive Director to sign the contracts for NEFCO. The motion carried.

#### **7. NEFCO FY2025 Work Program – status**

##### **a. Economic Development**

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the partnership planning grant application was submitted on February 14<sup>th</sup> for a three-year partnership planning grant with EDA. The EDA will provide NEFCO with \$210,000 over a three-year period to be matched with \$140,000 of local funds. He stated that the

last partnership planning grant expired on March 31<sup>st</sup>; so as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, staff has not been operating under an approved EDA partnership planning grant. He mentioned that the grant is still under review by the EDA and the Department of Commerce to make sure that it is in compliance with executive orders.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff has begun assembling data for a benchmarking report, which is one of the goals of the CEDS plan. He said that benchmarking is an effective tool for planning in the sense that benchmarking assesses where a location or region is in relation to other regions across the country or state. Staff will be looking at different data indicators, including housing and population data; health and safety; workforce and economy; innovation; talent; and productivity. This report will assess NEFCO as a region and assess each of the counties in the region in comparison to other regions across the state and country. He said that for comparative purposes, the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) provided staff with eleven similarly sized by population regions across the country. He stated that he will keep the Board updated on the report's progress.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the EDA funding opportunities are on hold. No new grants are being awarded at this time, but the EDA is still accepting applications. He said that the public works and economic adjustment assistance is available. He stated that the FY2023 notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) indicates a 50 percent grant with a 50 percent match. This is expected to change to 60 percent EDA grant with a 40 percent local match. That will be consistent with the reauthorization that was approved in January 2025. He said that the local technical assistance program is available for planning and economic feasibility studies.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Greater Ohio Policy Center, in partnership with the Ohio Realtors, published Housing Ohio: Tools for Development. This will be used by Ohio communities. He stated that this tool is an interesting publication because it provides three ways of improving and promoting housing development, particularly with infill development through zoning adjustments, and free building plans.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Ohio Active Transportation Conference hosted by ODOT will be held on April 29-30 at The Ohio State University. He stated that the Greater Ohio Policy Center, in partnership with the Ohio EPA, will hold the 2025 Ohio Brownfields Conference on May 8, 2025, in Westerville, Ohio.

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

#### **b. Environmental Planning**

Mr. LaPlante said that staff have been working with the management agencies (MAs) who will be submitting GIS data for proposed FY2026 updates. He said that this process began on February 18<sup>th</sup>. A timeline for the MAs was created so that the updates can stay on track for Board approval in December. The MAs were given two months (deadline April 18<sup>th</sup>) to put together GIS data for proposed wastewater treatment prescription changes or FPA boundary changes. He said that staff would like to have the data early so that staff could group together the update areas to make it more efficient. Templates will be provided to the MAs to be able to quickly and efficiently put together the existing and proposed FPA update maps. Staff would like to have the draft online maps prepared and published for public comment and review in October 2025. He stated that it is important to have the comment period in October so that staff can submit the updates to the ERTAC and Board in December for approval. He noted that since staff haven't received GIS data from all the MAs who had expressed interest in updating their areas, staff will be extending the deadline to April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff submitted the CY2023 Clean Water Plan 208 updates in December 2023. He said that Governor DeWine certified the updates on January 30, 2025, and the US EPA approved the update on March 18, 2025, pursuant to Section 208 of the Clean Water Act. He said that with US EPA's approval of the updates, the updates were added to Ohio's Water Quality Management (208) Plan, effective immediately.

Mr. LaPlante mentioned that Anne Vogel was named Region 5 Administrator for US EPA under the Trump administration. He said that Ms. Vogel had served as Director of Ohio EPA since 2022 and will now serve in her federal post under US EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Division of Surface Water (DSW) extended its Draft Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Rules Interested Party Review until April 30, 2025.

Mr. LaPlante said that the 2025 statewide H2Ohio Wetland Grant webinar on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. via Teams, to provide an overview of funding for SFY2026/27.

#### **8. Federal and State legislation or information of importance to local governments**

Mr. Hadley said that the House and Senate have come to an agreement on the budget blueprint. The budget blueprint is a 10-year framework for how funds will be authorized or appropriated. House Budget Committee Republicans are trying to figure out where the money will come from for the tax cuts. One of the items the Committee was looking at was eliminating tax-exempt municipal bonds which are critical for funding all sorts of projects at the municipal level.

Mr. Hadley said that he has included some information about a shift by the federal government in terms of disaster and cybersecurity preparedness. He stated that this is a pretty common theme of this administration i.e. turning a lot of decisions over to the states, or at least the goal for doing so. Not necessarily accompanying the goal is a commitment by the federal government to fund those programs. He said that he hasn't heard anything in the proposed Ohio state budget whereby funding has been increased for disaster preparedness.

Mr. Hadley said that funding is ending for the Building Resistant Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. The BRIC program is trying to get communities to plan before the disaster occurs and to prepare accordingly. He mentioned that he is very concerned about President Trump's goal of moving programs to the state/local level, and that the locals are not going to be prepared for the disasters that will come inevitably.

Mr. Hadley said that the HOME investment program representatives are collecting information on the Home Investment Partnership Program and the Community Development Block Grants program. He noted that his report includes three examples of questions that are being asked of applicants seeking funding for this program.


Mr. Hadley said that the Crowdsourced website is a funding tracking site that tracks the funding cuts that are occurring. He said that the Urban Institute has prepared a map that shows the location of the FY2022/23 infrastructure funding projects. He stated that the whole nation can be viewed or just one state at a time.

Mr. Hadley said that the American Society of Civil Engineers has released a quadrennial report card for each state as well as for the nation. He said that the nation was given an overall C- grade on the report card. He said that the report says that the nation invested \$500 billion in infrastructure projects and the grade went from a C- in 2021 to a flat C in 2025. He noted that he included an infrastructure fact sheet for Ohio.

**9. 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.

**10. Other Business**

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.  
Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant

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

X = member present    A = alternate present

<sup>a</sup>appointments pending    <sup>b</sup>ex officio

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

<b>Guests in Attendance at the April 16, 2025 meeting</b>
Justin Rechichar, Portage County Health District (Alternate)
Jason Segedy, City of North Canton (Alternate)
Robert Brooker, Village of Marshallville
Riley Eggeman, Village of Marshallville