

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, September 17, 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 8:31 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 August 20, 2025

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

3. Financial Status Report - month of August

Mr. Hadley said that \$36,746.22 was received as income during August, fiscal year receipts to date were \$150,952.67, disbursements to date were \$87,305.13, and cash on hand at the end of August was \$118,016.41.

A motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Peetz, 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 Ms. Sumego, seconded by Ms. Kiper, to accept the August bank reconciliations. The motion carried.

4. SPEAKER: "Akron at 200: A Bicentennial Celebration"; Mark Greer, Executive Director, Akron Bicentennial

Mr. Hadley provided some background information to the Board on today's speaker. Mr. Hadley said that Mark Greer is an Akron native and is an economic and community development professional. He currently serves as the Executive Director of the Akron Bicentennial. Mr. Greer is the Founder and Principal of Ulysses McNeal Consulting, a full-service consultant firm in economic and community development, neighborhood planning, urban renewal, and strategic planning. Mr. Hadley said that Mr. Greer has done multiple speaking engagements including the Akron Cleveland Association of Realtors *Home for All Podcast*, Leadership Ohio, Leadership Akron, Roetzel & Andress Annual Associates Retreat, and All-Akron Student Engineering Program. Mr. Hadley stated that Mark has co-authored an article published by the Brookings Institution, "How Akron, Ohio is expanding economic opportunity by investing in Neighborhood Business Districts." Mr. Greer's recent documentary, *Beyond the Innerbelt*, chronicles the history of urban renewal and the Akron Innerbelt, which razed several predominantly Black neighborhoods and displaced over a thousand families during the 1970s and 1980s. Mr. Hadley stated that Mr. Greer earned his Bachelor of Music from Bowling Green State University, and Master of Music from Kent State University in piano. He is an accomplished pianist and composer, making his Carnegie Hall debut

at Weill Recital Hall. Mr. Hadley welcomed and introduced to the Board meeting Mark Greer, Executive Director, Akron Bicentennial.

Mr. Greer said that the Akron Bicentennial is excited to celebrate Akron's 200th anniversary. He asked if anyone knew Akron's actual anniversary date? He noted that December 6, 1825 is when General Simon Perkins and Paul Williams actually filed the plat. He said that this year Akron staff will be having the closing ceremony on Saturday, December 6, 2025. He noted that in 1925, the City of Akron celebrated its centennial one full week in July. He said that Akron Bicentennial decided to have events throughout 2025 to celebrate 200 years. Akron has held 281 'Akron 200' co-sponsored events, 87 'Akron 200' signatory events including 46 concerts. The vision for the bicentennial was to make this an intergenerational celebration, to include every age group. He mentioned that events will be held in all of Akron's 24 neighborhoods. He stated that he provided the Board with a copy of the official Bicentennial magazine. He said that a neighborhood profile has been done for all of Akron's neighborhoods. The articles describe what makes that neighborhood distinctive. Each neighborhood ambassador was interviewed to highlight the history and culture of these areas. He said that he worked with the Summit County Historical Society to profile the legacy neighborhoods. He noted that last year on December 11, 2024, an opening ceremony kicked off at the Civic Theater. He said that the leading edge of the bicentennial starts with the Akron History Center which is really a 40-year vision that was first thought of by Akron History Center President David Lieberth.

Mr. Greer stated that the Akron History Center opened in May 2025; which finally gave Akron a permanent place to house and display its history. He noted that the first big business of Akron was whiskey. He said like most great cities, it starts with alcohol. Akron went from alcohol, of course, to its early days as a canal town. He said that John Brown was one of the country's finest purveyors of wool. Mr. Greer said that one of Akron's big projects, which was recently released, is a book entitled: "Akron at 200: A Bicentennial History". He mentioned that the book can be purchased on the Akron200.org website. He said that in 1925 Akron also published a book on its history. He provided a pamphlet with upcoming events for the remainder of the year. He said that Akron will be partnering with the International Soapbox Derby to do a history forum discussing the legacy of the Soap Box Derby race held in Akron. He mentioned Butch Reynolds, who was a track and field Olympic gold medalist, did a forum with Akron for a screened documentary on his life. He said that for those members who aren't aware, Butch Reynolds was falsely found to be doping in the Olympics: it was a false positive. Mr. Greer said that Mr. Reynolds was also the Grand Marshall in the bicentennial parade. He said that Akron partnered with Habitat for Humanity, Keep Akron Beautiful, Progress Through Preservation and many neighborhood block clubs to help beautify every corner of the City of Akron. There were 16,000 bulbs planted last fall. He stated that neighborhood cleanups will be coordinated in all 24 of Akron's neighborhoods. An Akron 200 mural was created on a retaining wall of a senior housing facility in the Middlebury neighborhood.

Mr. Greer said that Akron partnered with the Akron Symphony Orchestra, who not only played at the Akron 200 opening ceremony, but will be performing a huge concert on December 3rd called 'A Concert for Akron by Akron'. He said that the concert participants will be all Akron composers or performers. It will take place at EJ Thomas Hall. He stated that all 281 events for the Akron 200 were free except for the pickleball tournament. He said that the John Brown monument will be rededicated in late September. He said that the City of Akron and other partners like the Akron Zoo, and Summit Metroparks will be establishing a new pathway to the monument. He said that in early June the City of Akron celebrated the centennial of the Goodyear blimp with having three blimps flying together for the celebration.

Mr. Greer said that there is a great history series called the Forgotten History Forums, which Akron partnered with PBS Western Reserve to broadcast. There are twelve forums of this broadcast so far, six more forums will be added later this year. Some topics that will be discussed will be the

history of the Akron Health Department, which is now the Summit County Health Department; the history of the Akron Water Department; Akron's Jewish history; Akron's Immigrant history, and the history of the African American church. Mr. Greer presented slides from some of the previously recorded forums. He said that the premier of the bicentennial fanfare which Akron co-commissioned with the Tuesday Musical Association and members of the Cleveland Orchestra, both performed and recorded the premier by Peter Boyer. Akron has been recognized as an official America 250 Ohio city. Mr. Greer said that he, Mayor Malik, and Dave Lieberth hosted the most recent meeting of the America 250 Ohio Commission in Akron. He presented a slide of the City of Akron's time capsule which is a huge nuclear waste container; that he almost fell into. The bicentennial parade was the biggest parade that Akron has held in the last 50 years. He mentioned that before Dearest Enemy, Rodger's and Hart's 1925 American Musical Comedy show hit Broadway, the first performance was held in Akron in 1925. The musical was shown at the Goodyear Theater celebrating 100 years. He noted that a great fireworks display was one of the highlights of the summer for the Akron bicentennial. He invited everyone to attend the remainder of the Akron 200 Bicentennial events listed in the brochure he provided. He mentioned that on December 6, 2025 the Akron 200 Bicentennial closing ceremony will be unveiling a lot of Akron's first wave of historically significant people, places and events that happened throughout Akron. He thanked the Board for having him present the Akron 200 Bicentennial to the NEFCO General Policy Board. Mr. Greer presented Mr. Hadley with an Akron 200 Bicentennial hat and t-shirt, as a thank you gift. Mr. Hadley thanked Mr. Greer for his presentation and gifts.

5. Consideration of an Amendment to the Clean Water (208) Plan to modify the Fish Creek facilities planning area (FPA) boundary to allow the Fish Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) to serve a portion of Boston Township presently in the Akron FPA in Summit County

Mr. LaPlante said that the Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services requested an amendment to the Fish Creek FPA to modify the FPA boundary to allow the Fish Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) to serve the area in Boston Township that's presently in the Akron FPA. He said that sewers connected to the City of Akron's WRF for this area aren't readily available at this time. However, Summit County has determined that the Fish Creek plant has the capacity to accept the flow and loading from this area in Boston Township without any problems. He said that the Fish Creek FPA boundary is currently located along the north-south boundary between the City of Hudson and Boston Township. He stated that this boundary will be moved westward to absorb the amendment location in Boston Township (Figure 1). He noted that the boundary changes are shown in Figure 2. He said that the areas in the amendment location are currently "Areas Expected to be Served by Sanitary Sewer within the next 20 years" (orange) and "Areas that will be Served by a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) or by Household Sewage and Semi-Public Sewage Disposal Systems" (green). These will remain the same. He explained that there will be a change in Chapter 3, Appendix 3-31, Fish Creek FPA to show written prescriptions for the 'orange' and 'green' areas in Boston Township. Currently, these areas have no written prescriptions for the Fish Creek FPA.

Mr. LaPlante listed the local governments or agencies that were affected by the Fish Creek FPA amendment. All the affected local governments were either in agreement with the proposed amendment, didn't object to it or replied with no comment. A public notice was placed in the Akron Beacon Journal on August 2, 2025. No comments were received by the Summit County Department Sanitary Sewer Services. He described the changes (updates) to the attached appendices. Mr. LaPlante said that in the attached Fish Creek FPA Appendix 3-31-5 the City of Hudson was crossed out of the "Areas Expected to be Served by Sanitary Sewers within the next 20 years" (orange) section. This deletion is shown with a note in red text and a strikethrough for the "City of Hudson". This is because due to an oversight, the City of Hudson was not contacted as an entity that was "affected" by the amendment. As part of the Plan update, Hudson will be contacted by staff regarding this amendment.

Mr. LaPlante said that the ERTAC recommended approval of the amendment at its September 3rd, meeting. He noted that this amendment is needed due to a pending PTI application at Ohio EPA. He said that without this amendment the PTI cannot be approved after Ohio EPA completes its engineering review. He asked for Board approval of Resolution No, FY2026-001. He said that Jacob Morrison, Summit County DSSS Engineer, is in attendance to answer questions regarding the update.

A motion was made by Ms. Christian-Bennett, seconded by Mr. Wearstler, to adopt Resolution No. FY2026-001. The motion carried.

6. Consideration of a recommendation from the ERTAC to release the Draft FY2026 Clean Water (208) Plan facilities planning area (FPA) update for a 30-day public review and comment period

Mr. LaPlante said that since there were too many maps to print and include in the Board packet, ten copies of the maps were printed and placed on tables to share. He said that this is the third consecutive year that NEFCO offered the region's management agencies (MAs) an opportunity to update the FPAs under their wastewater treatment jurisdiction. Staff have worked closely with the Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee (ERTAC) and with member agencies and departments on this important update. He said that this year's FPA update began on February 18th. He said that four MAs submitted proposed update application packages on or before the July 28th submittal deadline. He said that staff completed the reviews of the updates by August 8th. He stated that the MAs are proposing FPA boundary modifications and/or wastewater prescription changes to the FPA maps for Portage, Stark, and Summit Counties. He said that in addition to the maps, the MAs are proposing prescription text only changes to Chapter 3 Appendices 3-11 Windham FPA, 3-30 Cuyahoga Valley Interceptor FPA, 3-31 Fish Creek FPA, 3-33 Springfield FPA and 3-35 Summit County Metropolitan Sewer District Jurisdiction Areas not part of an FPA. He noted that a summary page for each county's FPA update has been included.

Mr. LaPlante asked the Board for approval to release the draft FY2026 FPA update for a 30-day review and comment period. He stated that the board's release of this update doesn't mean that the Board agrees with these updates; it means that the updates are in a format that can be viewed and commented on by the public, ERTAC, and the Board members during that 30-day comment period. He said that the ERTAC performed a technical review of the updates and recommended that this update be released.

Mr. Hadley said that for members who are still learning about the 208 Plan update, it is a voluntary process. He said that this process allows the wastewater management agencies to delineate and update certain areas that may be developed in the near future related to a permit to install; or a development that will probably need a discharge permit. He said that the advantage of taking this voluntary aspect to heart is that once staff completes this process, input from the public is received. Staff would then bring the results to the Board and seek approval of these updated maps. Once Ohio EPA receives the NEFCO board approved update when there is a proposed permit for a discharge, Ohio EPA will look at NEFCO's 208 Plan to determine if the proposed permit is consistent or in conflict with the Plan. He said that if the Plan and permit are consistent, then Ohio EPA can move forward with the project review. He said that NEFCO receives funding to prepare the 208 Plan. It is part of Ohio EPA's permit process. He said that if the management agencies have time to update certain parts of their authority area, NEFCO staff can facilitate the update which can save the developer permit review time in the future.

A motion was made by Ms. Kiper, seconded by Ms. Christian-Bennett, to approve the release of the Draft FY2026 Clean Water (208) Plan facilities planning area (FPA) update for a 30-day public review and comment period. The motion carried.

7. Consideration of an amendment to NEFCO's FY2026 budget to accept supplemental water quality planning funds from Ohio EPA; and make other budget adjustments

Mr. Hadley said that the attached tables are unchanged from what was mailed out a week ago. He said that NEFCO had an opportunity to receive some additional funding for work that staff completed in FY2025, which ended in June. He said that Ohio EPA made this opportunity available to the six Areawide planning agencies, which includes NEFCO. He stated that three Areawide agencies were interested in receiving these additional funds. This is a fairly rare occurrence in which one and more of the Areawides were unable to spend their allotted federal pass-through funds from Ohio EPA during the last fiscal year. The aspect of this budget amendment is to first accept the additional \$5,844 that is being offered to NEFCO. He stated that this additional funding provided an opportunity to make small changes to the revenues and expenses shown on Tables 1 and 2. Most likely, if this additional revenue didn't come along, Mr. Hadley said that he probably would not be amending the FY2026 budget. He said that Ohio EPA has the recipients on a pretty tight schedule to accept these funds because Ohio EPA has to report to US EPA how these funds were spent. Mr. Hadley asked the Board for approval of an amendment to NEFCO's FY2026 budget to accept supplemental water quality planning funds from Ohio EPA and make minor adjustments to selected line items.

A motion was made by Mr. Regula, seconded by Mr. Martin, to accept an amendment to the NEFCO FY2026 budget. The motion carried.

Mr. Marion welcomed to the Board meeting a new member, Joe Race, Building Industry Association of Stark County; and Mayor Rocco Yeargin, City of Green.

Mr. Regula thanked Joe Race for accepting his appointment to join the NEFCO Board. He said that when he came back as a commissioner in 2012, the Commissioners hired nine out of thirteen department heads and the one most important department head hired was the Chief Building Official. He stated that Joe Race attended the meetings with the Commissioners representing the builders and it was a collaborative effort. He said that Stark County has the finest building department in the State of Ohio, in his opinion.

8. NEFCO FY2026 Work Program – status

a. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff will continue to keep a close eye on appropriations through Congress, particularly for EDA and the budget that is being proposed. Yesterday staff learned that the House introduced a continuing resolution that could maintain funding levels at the FY2025 levels through November 21st. He stated that he doesn't believe that the Senate has matched the funding level at this point. He said that the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have both proposed bills for the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies bill, which includes EDA. The House version includes \$256 million for programs which is 40 percent less than last year's allocation for the EDA. He said that notably in the breakdown of the programs, there is no inclusion of partnership planning grants; which is a bit concerning for NEFCO and the other 400 economic development districts (EDD) that rely on this funding. He said that the Senate Appropriations Committee is proposing \$360 million, which is only 10 percent less; but it does include \$35.5 million for partnership planning grants, \$100 million for public works and \$51 million for economic justice assistance.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Regional CEDS Committee met last week to review a draft of the 2025 Benchmarking Report. He said that this is a goal of the CEDS plan. Staff will have a draft report for the Board's review and approval at the October Board meeting.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Ohio Economic Development Association is holding its annual summit in Akron this year on October 15-17 at the John S. Knight Center.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said the Ohio Conference on Community Development is holding its annual training and networking conference November 5-6 in Lewis Center, Ohio.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the T-Mobile Hometown grant program is available for small towns with populations less than 50,000. He stated that the entire NEFCO region would be eligible except the Cities of Akron, Canton, and maybe Cuyahoga Falls. These grants are to help connect and revitalize small towns, rebuilding, refreshing community gathering places, adaptive reuse of older or historic buildings, park and trail improvements, and technology projects for libraries. Applications are accepted year-round, but only 25 small towns will receive these grants each quarter. The next deadline is September 30th.

b. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that at the request of a Board member, staff is arranging for a speaker to present in November regarding the status of the Portage Lakes water quality, the aquatic vegetation management, and dredging operations. He mentioned that the grand opening of the new Portage Lakes Visitor Center will be held, with a ribbon cutting ceremony, on October 10th at 1:30 p.m.

Members were asked to please contact Mr. LaPlante if they have any questions or requests.

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

Mr. Hadley said that Congress has two weeks to pass the appropriations for the twelve various committees or funding programs. He stated that the House Appropriations Committee has introduced a clean continuing resolution, which is what the President had asked for, to keep the government open through November 21st. He said that he has seen that the House leadership is hoping to vote by Friday, September 19th. He noted that the Senate still has work to do.

Mr. Hadley said that Ohio House Bill 445 was introduced which proposes changes to the Ohio Revised Code regarding the Councils of Government, section 167 in the revised code. He said that this bill was introduced this week and targets councils of government that are also metropolitan planning organizations.

Please contact NEFCO for additional information on any of the items in this memo.

10. 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

Mr. Regula mentioned that the Molly Stark Hospital will finally be torn down with funding provided by the Stark County Land Bank, Stark Parks, and the Stark County Commissioners.

11. Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant


David Maley, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
October 15, 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	X	X		A	A	X	X			
Daniel Blakely (Tia Rutledge)		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A			
Rochelle Hartigan												
Becky Lehman (Justin Rechichar)	X	X	A	X	A	X	X	A	A			
Todd Peetz (Amy Reichlin)		X	X	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			
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett	X	X	X			X						
Alfredo Carranza				X	X		X		X			
Kirt Conrad												
Ted Herncane		X	X	X	X		X		X			
David Maley	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
Dan Moeglin (Sarah Buell)									X			
Mike Naso (Helene Papczun)		A	A	A		A	A	X				
Bob Nau (Curtis Bungard)	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Joe Race (Emily Breeze) (September 10, 2025)									X			
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			
Jim Troike (Tom Davis and Jeff Lonzrick)	A			A	X	A	X	A				
Pete Wearstler		X	X		X	X	X	X	X			
CITY OF CANTON												
Doug Harris (John Highman Jr. and Chris Barnes)	X	X	X	X		X		X	X			
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			
Alan Brubaker (Stephanie Diebel and Chuck Hauber)		A	A		A	A	A	A	A			
Caitlin Elrad	X		X		X							
David Kohlmeier (Zak Kaczor)		X	X	X	X	X	X		X			
Sam Scaffide	X		X			X		X				
Ilene Shapiro (Joseph Eckenrode)	A	A	A	A	A							
Dianne Sumego	X		X	X		X			X			
James Taylor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei)	A		X	X		X	X	X	A			
CITY OF AKRON												
Tina Boyes		X	X									
Jan Davis (May 5, 2025)												
Kyle Julien (Dylan Garritano)			A	A	A	A	A	A	A			
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A			
Shammas Malik (David Messner)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A				
Margo Sommerville (Joan Williams & Sara Biviano)												
Helen Tomic (Kurt Mulhauser)	A			A	A	X	X	A	X			
WAYNE COUNTY												
Matt Martin (Dave McMillen)	X	X		X		X	X	X	X			
Jennifer Kiper (Rob Kastner)	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			
Steven Wheeler (Kevin Givins)	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)												
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 17, 2025 meeting	
Tracy Sayers, Village of Lakemore	
Richard Cole, Mayor, Village of Lakemore	
Mark Greer, Akron Bicentennial	
Julie Morris, City of Kent	
Rocco Yeargin, Mayor, City of Green	
Jacob Morrison, Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services	
Christina Mambourg, Village of Doylestown	