

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at the City of Green Council Chambers.

1a. Call to Order

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

1b. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Judge, seconded by Mr. Tatum, to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

1c. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Moeglin led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1d. Audience Participation (members of the public)

Mr. Moeglin asked if there was anyone from the audience who had any comments.

Mr. Moeglin introduced a new member Dr. Rachel Hosler, Associate Dean of Experiential Learning and Director of the Renacci Center for Civic Engagement, she was not present.

2. Consideration of the draft minutes of the regular meeting of the NEFCO General Policy Board on September 15, 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Zizka, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, to accept the September meeting minutes. The motion carried.

3. Financial Status Report - month of September

Mr. Hadley said that \$2.21 was received as income during the month of September, receipts to date were \$144,024.38, disbursements to date were \$200,724.44, and cash on hand at the end of September was \$283,572.38.

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

3a. September Bank Reconciliations

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

A motion was made by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Tatum, to accept the September bank reconciliations. The motion carried.

4. City of Green requests a letter of support for its EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance grant application

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the City of Green has requested a letter of support from NEFCO for an Economic Adjustment Assistance grant application to the EDA. This is one of the American Rescue Plan Act programs being offered by the EDA. The project is the Town Park Boulevard Extension. The project is looking to extend roadway approximately 6,000 feet, water, sewer storm, and all the utilities. He said that this project will help retain 1,100 jobs and create 100 additional jobs. The project is also looking to make available 200 plus additional acres for development. He said that right now Park Blvd. is a dead-end road. This project would extend

Park Blvd. southwards to Greensburg Road. The total project cost will be \$13 to \$15 million. The City of Green is requesting \$5 million in EDA funding for the project. The City of Green will be matching the grant with about \$1 million of 629 funding from ODOT and JobsOhio. He stated that the City of Green will also be seeking an additional \$1 million from the ODOT Jobs and Commerce grant. The deadline for the Economic Adjustment Assistance Program is March 31, 2022. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the City of Green is very close to submitting the grant application. The project is aligned with three goals of NEFCO's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The City of Green will be working with public and private partners on this project. He said that the commercial realtors have worked and cooperated with the City to dedicate the right of way for the project. He asked the Board to authorize the Chair to sign the attached letter of support for the City of Green's EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance grant application.

A motion was made by Mr. Millea, seconded by Mr. Peetz, for the approval of the City of Green letter of support for its EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance grant application. The motion carried.

5. MAGNET requests a letter of support for its EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant application

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network (MAGNET) has requested a letter of support from NEFCO for EDA's Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant (BBBRC). He said that this grant will support the Ohio Advanced Manufacturing Cluster project. He stated that MAGNET is leading a coalition of Chambers of Commerce for five northeast Ohio cities, as well as TeamNEO, universities, and public and private organizations looking to advance manufacturing needs around the region. He mentioned that the BBBRC is a two-phase grant program. Phase 1 is to develop the strategy of the planning of the major economic development strategy of the project. Phase 2 is funding the implementation of this strategy that is developed for part of this planning process. The Phase 1 proposal is requesting \$500,000 from the EDA; which is 100 percent funding of the project. Mr. Lautzenheiser said if the Phase 1 is successful with this proposal, the EDA could invite MAGNET to submit a Phase 2 application. He said that MAGNET could request up to \$75 million for Phase 2. He stated that attached is a description of the project and some of the proposed implementation projects. He said that the project is consistent with the four goals of the NEFCO CEDS.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that last month the board approved a support letter for a BBBRC grant proposal from the Greater Akron Chamber (GAC) for a Polymer Cluster Project. Since the September Board meeting the GAC decided not to submit its BBBRC grant application so the two entities wouldn't be in competition for the grant. Instead, the GAC decided to partner with MAGNET on the submittal of a combined BBBRC grant application. The deadline for the BBBRC grant was October 19, 2021. He stated that for MAGNET to meet the submittal deadline, NEFCO's Executive Director signed the attached letter of support for submittal to MAGNET. He asked if there were any questions on the MAGNET letter of support?

Mr. Peetz said that he supports the project and signing the letter of support before the Board meeting. He asked if there was a way to add a policy about deadlines that are between Board meetings to accommodate this kind of request? Mr. Hadley said that the Board does not have a policy, but there is a practice that when a deadline for an applicant occurs before a Board meeting: if the Board has endorsed a similar letter for a program, staff would use its judgement in consultation with the Board Chair as to whether to move forward with the letter of support. He said that staff feels that whether it says the NEFCO Board or NEFCO staff, if an applicant receives something from NEFCO, the applicant will feel that NEFCO endorses the project/grant. But, he said that he feels strongly that staff shouldn't necessarily try to take the Board's

vote/opinion away on a particular application. He mentioned that Mr. Moeglin has an idea for any circumstances of this kind that may arise in the future. Mr. Moeglin suggested approving a “blanket authority” which would be approving authority for the NEFCO Executive Director to sign off on letters of support if the deadline falls between Board meetings. This “blanket authority” would be submitted to the Board each January for approval for that calendar year. Ms. Smith stated that she agrees with the “blanket authority”. She said that she thinks that anything that is signed before the Board meeting should be ratified at the next Board meeting, showing that the document was formally submitted and voted upon by the Board.

A motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Peetz, for ratification of the MAGNET letter of support. The motion carried.

Mr. Moeglin asked the Board about adopting a “blanket authority” at the beginning of the year, which allows NEFCO’s Executive Director to sign off on letters of support if the deadline falls between Board meetings. He stated that the letters of support would be ratified at the next scheduled Board meeting. The Board agreed.

Mr. Hadley said that when there is an opportunity to bring letters of support through the Board the project gets greater exposure for the applicant. He said there is value in the Board considering and approving the letters of support. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff does its best to inform the applicants of the Board’s deadlines. Mr. Millea said that these are opportunities to bring funds back into our communities and it would be horrible if an opportunity is missed.

6. NEFCO FY2022 Work Program – status

a. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that NEFCO launched its new updated website on October 7th. He said that the new site is secure, more functional, and reads well on a cell phone. He stated that the launch followed an intense 12-week onboarding process with web consultant, Proud City. He mentioned that a brief demonstration of the new website will be given next month by Proud City.

Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that there are several open American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding opportunities still available through the EDA: Statewide Planning, Research, and Networks program, Good Jobs Challenge (GJC) strengthens, Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program and the Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation program.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff continues to follow the budget reconciliation bill; \$9.5 billion is contained in the markup in the House by the EDA. He said that the final amounts for the reconciliation and infrastructure bills are uncertain.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that the national unemployment rate dropped 4 percent between August and September.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the U.S. EPA released its FY2022 guidelines for Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (MARC) Grants. He stated that the USEPA is not accepting coalition assessment grants in FY2022.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that US EPA in partnership with the Kansas State Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Program, the EPA Region 7 States, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD), and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will be hosting a free webinar on October 26, 28 and November 3, 2021.

The webinar will feature a grant writing virtual workshop series. Please contact him for registration information.

Mr. Hadley said that David Baker has resigned from the Hall of Fame. He said that Mr. Baker was the President and Executive Director of the Hall of Fame. He said that Mr. Baker presented to the Board, a couple years ago, the developments of the Hall of Fame. Mr. Baker was a very powerful speaker. Mr. Moeglin stated the Mr. Baker will be missed. He said that Jim Porter, former reporter for the Repository, will be the new Executive Director for the Hall of Fame.

b. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that at the September 20th Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) water quality subcommittee meeting the Ohio EPA staff indicated that the Areawides' 208 Plan updates and amendments, that were submitted, were signed by the Director of Ohio EPA. The updates and amendments are being forwarded to the Governor's office for certification.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Ohio EPA staff provided a general timeline for the Areawides' annual submission of the 208 Plan amendments and updates for 2021. He stated that this is just a general timeline. Last year the deadline for submittal was December 31st. He said that this year, Ohio EPA would like the Areawides to submit the updates and amendments by the end of November.

Mr. LaPlante thanked the health departments and stakeholders for submitting their priority lists to NEFCO. He said that this is a multi-year collaborative sewered and unsewered area data collection and mapping project that Ohio EPA has made a priority for use in distributing the H2Ohio funding to replace the sewers in the low-to-moderate income areas. An OARC Mapping Committee meeting was held on September 30th to discuss this project. He stated that the Ohio EPA seems to be shifting its focus to extending sewers to mobile home parks (MHPs) served by package plants, where a potentially larger number of households with low-to-moderate incomes could be connected to nearby sewer. The Ohio EPA has provided the Areawides with a statewide list that contains the latitude-longitude coordinates of MHPs with NPDES permits for this collaborative mapping project.

Ms. Smith asked if there was any explanation at the OARC meeting, on why mixed commercial and residential areas were taken off the list because Ohio EPA is not addressing commercial property? Mr. LaPlante said that this program is focusing on the under-served households. He said that the Ohio EPA feels that the for-profit businesses should be able to pay on their own to connect to the wastewater sewers. He said that these businesses may be reviewed in a future round of funding. Ms. Smith suggested having an Ohio EPA representative do a presentation to the Board regarding the H2Ohio funding. Mr. LaPlante said that he will contact Ohio EPA.

Mr. LaPlante said that the dms water solutions, LLC recently notified the project team that, as of October 4th, the contractor is working on the installation of the river water pump station. The contractor has indicated that the target date of completion of the project is the first week of December 2021.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners held its annual Creek LEAP (Litter Elimination, Awareness, and Prevention) cleanup on September 18th. He stated that over the past 15 years, NEFCO staff has participated in the Creek LEAP cleanups. He said that 53 volunteers attended this year's cleanup and filled garbage dumpsters with solid waste, including a bed, clothing, and car parts.

Mr. LaPlante stated that the City of Akron will be hosting a drive-up rain garden kit giveaway event for the citizens of Akron on Saturday, October 23rd, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event will be held at Patterson Park, 800 Patterson Avenue in Akron.

Mr. LaPlante mentioned that the Stark Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting a *Stormwater and Severe Weather* workshop to learn more about stormwater and how everyone can work together to reduce runoff and flooding. This workshop will be held via Zoom and in-person on October 26th, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Stark SWCD's USDA Service Center Conference Room, 2650 Richville Drive SE, in Massillon.

Mr. LaPlante noted that the Ohio EPA-DEFA webinar: "*NPDES Permitting—New and Proposed Rules and Policies*" will be held on October 21st

Mr. LaPlante said that on September 29th, NEFCO staff provided letters of support to the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD's) application for a Dominion Energy Environmental Education and Stewardship grant and a Dominion Energy Watershed mini-grant. These letters of support were provided at the request of Summit SWCD, since the grant application's due date was September 30, 2021, the attached letters were signed by NEFCO's Executive Director. Mr. LaPlante asked for ratification of the attached letters of support.

A motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Zizka, for ratification of the Summit SWCD letters of support. The motion carried.

Mr. Moeglin asked if the Summit SWCD's staff will maintain the wetlands? Mr. LaPlante said that his understanding is that the Summit SWCD is in the process of hiring a watershed coordinator who will work together with a contractor on the maintenance of the wetlands.

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

Mr. Hadley said that Congress passed a bill signed by the President to raise the debt ceiling, which will be raised until December 3rd. There is a pending issue that will be discussed by Congress next month. The issue is that since Congress didn't complete all the various appropriations; there was a need to pass a continuing resolution; which is not unusual. He stated that the continuing resolution will keep the government funded, but it does not solve the problem. Hopefully, at least most of the appropriations for the current FFY will be handled before December 3rd, otherwise another continuing resolution will need to be passed.

Mr. Hadley said that the President signed a 30-day extension of the Highway Trust Fund. This is tied to the infrastructure bill; so, things are rolling down the road for 30-days. He said that Congress also needs to handle the reconciliation bill which is \$3.5 trillion. Reports are that various committees are looking to reduce that figure with possible cuts to transit rail and climate change. He said that Congress is hoping to convince some of the moderates to go along with a smaller figure, but that is still a considerable amount of money. He said that all of these bills need to be handled so that the various federal agencies know how to proceed for the fiscal year.

Mr. Hadley said that Congress is also looking at cyber-attack report legislation. He said there are a lot of reports of companies and communities that are being hacked and held for ransom. But there isn't a comprehensive collection system for all the attacked entities. Some of the private companies would rather just keep that information to themselves. Even smaller communities and hospitals are having their computer systems attacked. He said that there is an interest in trying to mandate that any systems that are hacked need to be reported.

Mr. Hadley said that he has included information on USEPA announcing a plan to try to confront PFAS; including setting an enforceable drinking water limit under the Safe Drinking Water Act. He said that looking across the country, communities have had the ability to make drinking water limits more stringent. He said that when the tighter drinking water standards go through, some of the smaller communities will have a harder time finding other water sources. He noted that there is a pending bill in the General Assembly related to this in terms of having Ohio EPA set a tighter drinking water standard for PFAS but there are some considerations. Ms. Vanah said there are a lot of obstacles to overcome because PFAS is in everything. Mr. LaPlante stated that he heard that the USEPA Director say that drinking water standards will be set by 2023.

Mr. Hadley said that he has included some information on HB 168.

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

Mr. Millea said that the City of Wooster will be having a groundbreaking on the largest building ever being constructed in the City of Wooster. He stated that the Wooster Brush Company building will be a 608,400 square foot structure with another 400,000 square foot building planned in a neighboring area. He stated that it is great seeing jobs being created in northeast Ohio.

9. Other Business

Mr. Moeglin thanked Chris Hardesty, City of Green for hosting the NEFCO Board meeting.

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

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
November 17, 2021

NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD 2021 ATTENDANCE SHEET

Member (alternate)	1/20 ^a	2/17 ^a	3/17 ^a	4/21 ^a	5/19 ^a	6/16 ^a	7/21	8/18	9/15	10/20	11/17	12/15
PORTAGE COUNTY												
Tony Badalamenti (Sabrina Christian-Bennett)												
James Bierlair (Amos Sarfo)	A	A	A			A	A	A				
Joseph Diorio (Mary Helen Smith)	A	A	A		A	A	A		A	A		
Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford)		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		
John Vence (Tia Rutledge)	A	A	A	A	A	A		A	A	A		
John Zizka							X	X	X	X		
CITY OF KENT												
Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel)	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Rachel Hosler												
David Maley	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		
Vince Marion	X			X	X	X	X	X		X		
Joe Mazzola	X	X		X	X	X		X	X			
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Jim Troike (Scott Ellsworth and Tom Davis)					X							
Joe Underwood (Bob Nau)	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				
John Weedon												
Vacant												
Vacant												
Vacant												
CITY OF CANTON												
Dan Moeglin (John Highman Jr.)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X		
Alan Brubaker (Joe Paradise and Larry Fulton)	A		A	A	A	A			A	A		
William Judge (Trevor Hunt)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
David Kohlmeier (Bill Dorman)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Olivia Helander (Bryan Herschel)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley and Brian Clark)	A	A	A	A		A	A		A			
Dianne Sumego	X	X	X	X	X		X		X			
Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei)	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		
Elizabeth Walters (Jerry Feeman)		X	X			X	X	X		X		
CITY OF AKRON												
Sharon Connor			X			X	X					
Daniel Horrigan (Sam DeShazor)												
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A	A	A	A	A		A			A		
Shammas Malik		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Brad McKitrick												
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Helen Tomic (Abraham Wescott)	X		X	X	X	X				X		
WAYNE COUNTY												
Becky Foster (Sue Smail)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Pete Wearstler (Rob Kastner)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Steven Wheeler (Kristin Endsley)		X	X	X	X			X	X	X		
CITY OF WOOSTER												
Bob Breneman (Joel Montgomery and Jonathan Millea)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		
OHIO EPA-NEDO^b												
Kurt Princic (Rich Blasick/Patricia Vanah)	A				A	A	A			A		
CITIZENS COUNCIL												
Vacant (2)												

X = member present A = alternate present

^aDocumentation exists for those listed ^bex officio
See reverse side for a list of guests who attended last month's Board meeting

Guests in Attendance at the October 20, 2021 meeting

Darryl Kleinhenz, AMATS

Chris Hardesty, City of Green

Rodney Mackey, Village of Apple Creek

David Keifer, Wayne County Volunteer
