

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at the City of Green Council Chambers.

1a. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Moeglin at 8:32 a.m. in the presence of a quorum.

1b. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Marion, seconded by Mr. Judge, 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.

2. Consideration of the draft minutes of the regular meeting of the NEFCO General Policy Board on October 20, 2021

A motion was made by Ms. Foster, seconded by Mr. Regula, to accept the October meeting minutes. The motion carried.

3. Financial Status Report - month of October

Mr. Hadley said that \$10,001.80 was received as income during the month of October, receipts to date were \$154,026.18, disbursements to date were \$287,791.98, and cash on hand at the end of October was \$206,506.64.

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

3a. October Bank Reconciliations

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

A motion was made by Mr. Marion, seconded by Ms. Smith, to accept the October bank reconciliations. The motion carried.

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

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that the support letter for the City of Ravenna's EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance grant application was pulled from the agenda at Ravenna's request. He said that the City of Ravenna was able to secure the necessary funding to complete the project without having to apply for the EDA funding.

5. "NEFCO website demonstration"; Kevin Herman, COO, Founder, ProudCity

Ms. Sheridan introduced to the Board Mr. Kevin Herman, COO, Founder of ProudCity. She said that ProudCity is a technology for local governments and works with municipalities and governments throughout the United States. She said that NEFCO entered into a contract with ProudCity in the Summer of this year. She stated that, beginning in July, she and Ms. Morgan met with Mr. Herman via Zoom for web design training twice a week for 12 weeks. Mr. Herman said that ProudCity built the platform for government and the NEFCO team. He said that Ms. Sheridan and Ms. Morgan built the site and design with best practices. He provided some information on the process that NEFCO staff went through to create the new web design. He

said that the public meetings can be found easily with the meetings function. He showed that pdfs, minutes and agendas are imbedded and secured on the site. The search bar is a great way to quickly find certain information. He said that staff spent a lot of time going through ProudCity's coaching and best practices to structure and format items to make sure that they fit under formatting consistency best practices. He went through some of the web pages to show the Board that the creation of a new website was a great investment for NEFCO. He said that the new site is easier to use and is cell phone friendly.

Mr. Balogh asked how the interconnection of other entities works? Mr. Herman explained that when feedback is received from NEFCO or any municipality all the feedback is supplied to all of ProudCity's customers when the platforms are updated. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that having access to the updates will keep NEFCO's site up to date and modern for a long time. Mr. Balogh asked who is in charge of the housekeeping of the new website? Ms. Sheridan said that she and Ms. Morgan will be in charge of the housekeeping. She said that NEFCO is not charged extra for the platform updates. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff also has access to the how to guides. Mr. Herman said that being a part of a platform, the documentation is not just for each individual customer; the platform documents are for all of ProudCity's customers. Mr. Hadley said that the old site was pretty basic; staff didn't have the same depth as staff has with the new site. He said this is a great opportunity for the agency. Mr. Herman thanked the NEFCO Board and staff. If anyone has any questions please feel free to contact him or the NEFCO staff.

6. Consideration of a renewal of the 3-year agreement for the County of Summit Health Insurance Regionalization Program

Mr. Hadley said that this item was updated slightly from what was mailed out a week ago. He said that this is the continuation of the 3-year health insurance program that has always covered NEFCO staff (full time employees). In 2016, Summit County started a health insurance regionalization program that provided an opportunity for entities within and outside the county to join and benefit from the group purchasing benefits from Summit County. He said that NEFCO has five full time employees that are enrolled in the program. This program is only available to full time employees. The attached agreement is unchanged from the mailout. He stated that included was some detail information from Summit County's consultant. He said that the first year of the initial program there was a 5 percent increase over what the county was paying for insurance. Since the first year, NEFCO has received the same increase percentage as Summit County. In essence NEFCO is receiving the benefit of being a county department even though NEFCO is not a county department. The agreement that NEFCO is currently under expires at the end of 2021. The new agreement will begin January 1, 2022 and run for the three-year period. Mr. Hadley said that he is requesting authorization for either the Executive Director or Chairman to sign the three-year agreement for the County of Summit Health Insurance Regionalization Program.

Ms. Foster asked if NEFCO would pay the rate shown on page 7 under Section 6.3. Mr. Hadley said yes, that is the proposed rate.

A motion was made by Mr. Vinay, seconded by Mr. Millea, to authorize either the Chairman or Executive Director to sign the three-year agreement for the County of Summit Health Insurance Regionalization Program. The motion carried.

7. Proposed amendment to Article III. A.3 of NEFCO's Bylaws to update the population data used to determine General Policy Board representation

Mr. Hadley said that this is a proposed amendment to enable NEFCO to be consistent with the organization's Bylaws, which are based on the decennial Census. The 2020 decennial Census numbers were tied up in discussions, litigations, and deliberations. The basic 2020 community and county population information became available only recently. The agency was organized

as a four-county organization and the formula for representation is based off of that setup. The Bylaws state that if the largest municipality in each county has an interest in becoming a voting member of NEFCO and is willing to pay its portion of the dues amount, the municipality is allotted a certain number of representatives; based on the formula listed in the Bylaws. He stated that he is proposing to insert the 2020 Census results into the Bylaws. The results showed an increase by 660 people for the region, which is a modest increase of \$120 in dues. He asked the Board to table this proposed Bylaws amendment until the December Board meeting which will give the Board ample time to review the changes to the Bylaws. He stated that if this Bylaws amendment is approved to be tabled until the December Board meeting a notice will be sent to the Board members informing them of the proposed Bylaws change.

Mr. Moeglin asked if tabling the Bylaws amendment is a standard practice? Mr. Hadley said yes, this is the same process that was followed in the last two decennial Census updates.

A motion was made by Ms. Foster, seconded by Mr. Kohlmeier, to table this action until the December 15th Board meeting. The motion carried.

8. Consideration of adjustments to NEFCO's second half dues invoices based on the use of 2020 Census figures instead of the 2010 Census

Mr. Hadley said that the 2010 Census population figures were used for the first half of the dues notices. He stated that the Bylaws amendment (item number 7) to update the 2020 Census population figures is being reviewed by the Board. He asked the Board for authorization to send out the second half dues notices with the 2020 Census population figures.

Ms. Smith suggested tabling this item until the Bylaws amendment has been approved by the Board. Ms. Foster agreed with Ms. Smith. Mr. Hadley agreed.

A motion was made by Ms. Foster, seconded by Mr. Zizka, to table this action until the Bylaws Article III. A.3 is approved by the Board. The motion carried.

9. Nominating Committee to meet to prepare a slate of CY2022 General Policy Board officers

Mr. Moeglin said that a doodle poll went out to the Nominating Committee to schedule a meeting to discuss the 2022 slate of officers. He asked if anyone would like to join the Nominating Committee since it is an open committee? There were no volunteers.

10. NEFCO FY2022 Work Program – status

a. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that NEFCO's 208 Chapter 3 update and FPA amendments were certified by the Governor on September 21st and Ohio EPA submitted those on October 28th to US EPA for approval. He stated that staff provided a list of the four amendments, the Chapter 3 update and the corresponding resolutions signed by the Board. He mentioned that after approval by US EPA, NEFCO's state-certified 208 Plan, Chapter 3 update and amendments will become part of Ohio's Water Quality Management Plan.

Mr. LaPlante said that the health districts in Portage, Summit, and Wayne Counties have provided information on priority areas with failing septage systems and low-to moderate-income variants. He stated that Stark County is in the process of providing this information. He said that along with the information from the health districts, the Ohio EPA has provided the Areawides with latitude and longitude coordinates for mobile home parks which will be included in the mapping.

Mr. LaPlante gave a brief update on the Portage Lake Management Study (PLMS) – Phase 6. He said that the PLMS partners discussed the next steps of the study. An Ohio EPA representative suggested that the partners review the plan for another month before releasing the plan for public comment. The next PLMS partners meeting will be held on December 2, 2021.

Mr. LaPlante said that on November 5th, the owner's representative of the Canal Diversion Dam Removal project, dms water solutions, LLC, provided staff with a list of work that has been completed on the river water pump and pump station since the last Board meeting. He said that the contractor previously indicated that the project would be completed by the first week of December 2021. However, due to the pandemic, another delay has prevented work on this project and the pump arrival has been pushed back to the second week in December.

Mr. LaPlante provided an update on the HB 168 funding for the NEFCO region. He said that each of NEFCO's four counties will receive funding for one project.

Mr. LaPlante stated that Ohio EPA DEFA's 2022 Draft Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) Program Management Plan (PMP) has been released and the deadline for comments is December 2, 2021.

Mr. LaPlante mentioned that approximately \$10 million is available in Drinking Water Assistance Funds through Ohio EPA DEFA. The project deadline is January 31, 2022.

b. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff submitted NEFCO's 6-month Performance Progress and Financial Reports for the EDA Partnership Planning and CARES Act grants.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee will meet on November 18, 2021 to evaluate progress on the goals and objectives outlined in the CEDS Plan, provide an update on the Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan, and set goals for 2022. He said that input from the CEDS meeting will be incorporated into the 2022 Annual Performance Report (APR), which is due to the EDA by January 30, 2022.

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

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that with the passing of the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Congress is now focusing on the \$1.75T Build Back Better Infrastructure reconciliation bill. He said that the House version of the Build Back Better bill proposes \$5 billion in funding for the EDA. This would have a big impact on NEFCO's program and on the Region.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that the 2021 Vibrant NEO Regional Champion Awards will be announced on November 18, 2021.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the USDA ReConnect grant program provides loans and grants for the construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas; communities with less than 20,000 residents. This program will open on November 24, 2021.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the 2021 Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility pilot program provides funding for access to public transportation by building partnerships among health, transportation, and other service providers. The grant deadline is December 6, 2021.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Ohio Office of Budget and Management will host the second Ohio Grants Summit on December 7th. This year's summit includes sessions on Ohio broadband funding; emerging issues in federal funds; water and wastewater infrastructure; how to prepare for a single audit and accounting for COVID funds; federal procurement requirements; and compliance and legal considerations with fiscal recovery funds. He stated that the event is free for local governments and non-profits that apply for and receive grant funding from the State of Ohio.

11. Confirmation of CY2022 NEFCO General Policy Board meeting schedule; meetings to be held when allowed at the Summa Health Center at Green

Mr. Moeglin said that NEFCO will attempt to hold meetings at the Summa Health Center at Green in 2022. He said that Summa's guidelines for COVID are not allowing more than 15 people in a meeting room. He said that the meetings will continue to be held at the City of Green as long as the rooms are available. He noted that a list is provided of the 2022 Board meeting dates.

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

Mr. Hadley said that the infrastructure bill was passed and signed by the President. Concurrently, with that signing, the House is dealing with the budget reconciliation. The House now has to figure out how to put all the various programs together. The reconciliation budget started out at \$3.5 trillion and is now down to roughly \$2 trillion.

Mr. Hadley said that attached is a press release from Senators Brown and Portman regarding The Build America Buy America Act related to the upcoming infrastructure projects that will be coming out of that \$1.2 trillion bill. The Senators were able to tie this to the Infrastructure, Investment and JOBS Act so that it requires a more stringent adherence to buying American products related to the infrastructure. There have been certain situations in the past where exceptions to the Buy America Use America products have occurred and this bill tightens those loopholes.

Mr. Hadley stated that there has been a lot of attention to the proposed Build Back Better Act (BBBA). He said that the House could possibly pass the BBBA this week.

Mr. Hadley said that there is a push for greater flexibility by the Treasury Department on how the ARPA funds can be used. He stated that a letter was sent to the House by various national groups: the United States Conference of Mayors, National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments, International City/County Management Association, National Association of Counties, and National League of Cities emphasizing the need for that greater flexibility.

Mr. Hadley stated that in the Infrastructure Act there is an emphasis on EPA related programs. He said that he attached a fact sheet from EPA on drinking water, funding brownfields, and basic water and wastewater projects.

Mr. Hadley said that FEMA is seeking public comment on the National Flood Insurance program. He stated that the deadline for comments, on what has been published, is December 13th.

Mr. Hadley mentioned that there will be an orientation meeting regarding: PFAS and the Great Lakes on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 2 PM ET.

13. 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. Moeglin stated that the Hall of Fame Village in Stark County is under full-on construction; it's a great addition to the area.

14. Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
December 15, 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	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	A	
John Zizka							X	X	X	X	X	
CITY OF KENT												
Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel)	X	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	X	
Joe Mazzola	X	X		X	X	X		X	X			
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)	X	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	X	
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	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	X	
David Kohlmeier (Bill Dorman)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Olivia Helander (Bryan Herschel)	X	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	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	A	
Shammas Malik		X	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				X
Pete Wearstler (Rob Kastner)	X	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	A	
OHIO EPA-NEDO^b												
Kurt Princic (Rich Blasick/Patricia Vanah)	A				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 November 17, 2021 meeting
Darryl Kleinhenz, AMATS
Mark Potter, Summit County Council