

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at the City of Green Community Hall at Central Park.

1a. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Moeglin at 8:31 a.m. in the presence of a quorum.

1b. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Marion, 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 November 17, 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Marion, seconded by Mr. Tatum, to accept the November meeting minutes. The motion carried.

3. Financial Status Report - month of November

Mr. Hadley said that \$293,397.00 was received as income during the month of November, receipts to date were \$447,423.18, disbursements to date were \$340,276.36, and cash on hand at the end of November was \$447,419.26.

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

3a. November Bank Reconciliations

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

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

4. Proposed amendment to Article III. A.3 of NEFCO's Bylaws to update the population data used to determine General Policy Board representation (tabled from the November Board meeting)

Mr. Hadley stated that the procedures for amending the NEFCO Bylaws were followed. He said that this item was tabled last month. A copy of this item was mailed to all the Board members last month immediately following the Board meeting. The procedure is to seek approval of the attached Resolution No. FY2022-001. He said that approving this resolution would approve the 2020 population figures for use in NEFCO's Bylaws. He requested a motion for the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Vinay, to approve Article III. A.3 of NEFCO's Bylaws to update the population data used to determine General Policy Board representation. The motion carried.

5. Consideration of adjustments to NEFCO's FY2022 second half dues invoices based on the use of 2020 Census figures instead of the 2010 Census (tabled from the November Board meeting)

Mr. Hadley said that this item was also tabled from last month. He said that this will be implementing the 2020 Census population for use in NEFCO's dues. He stated that as explained last month, the first half dues were sent out based on the 2010 population figures. The second half dues notices would be prepared using the 2020 population figures. He said that there will be an adjustment from the first half figures based on the dues-paying members' increase or decrease in population. He explained that the last statement on the page is to clarify the footnote under the table. He said that the first and second half dues, although from different population bases, add up to the correct FY2022 dues figures. He requested authorization to send out the second half dues notices with the 2020 Census population figure.

A motion was made by Mr. Vinay, seconded by Ms. Foster, to approve the adjustments to NEFCO's FY2022 second half dues invoices based on the use of 2020 Census figures. The motion carried.

6. Election of CY2022 General Policy Board officers: Recommendation from the Nominating Committee

Mr. Moeglin said that the Nominating Committee met on December 9th to discuss the CY2022 slate of officers. He said listed below are the new CY2022 officers: He said that Richard Regula agreed to chair the 2022 Board meetings. He said that Mr. Tatum agreed to step up to First Vice-Chair, with Pete Wearstler as Second Vice-Chair. The rest of the officers will remain the same as last year. He thanked Mr. Regula for agreeing to Chair the 2022 Board meetings. He asked for a motion to approve the CY2022 General Policy Board officers.

Chair: Richard Regula, Commissioner, Stark County

First Vice-Chair: Thomas A. Tatum, Manager, Housing and Community Services Division, City of Akron

Second Vice-Chair: Pete Wearstler, Director, Wayne County Planning Department

Secretary: Todd Peetz, Director, Portage County Regional Planning Commission

Treasurer: Craig Stanley, Director of Administrative Services, Summit County

Immediate Past Chair: Dan Moeglin, City Engineer, City of Canton

A motion was made by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Bennett approving the CY2022 General Policy Board officers. The motion carried.

7. Consideration of salary adjustments for staff: Recommendation from the Personnel Committee

Mr. Moeglin said that the Personnel Committee met on December 9th and discussed a salary adjustment for the NEFCO staff. He stated that the Committee recommended a three-percent increase for the NEFCO staff, effective January 1, 2022. He said that there may be some additional adjustments to the staff's salary after receiving the consultant's results in a month or two.

A motion was made by Ms. Foster, seconded by Mr. Wheeler approving the salary adjustments for the NEFCO staff. The motion carried.

Mr. Hadley explained why a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those members present is required for passage. He stated that since the Committee meeting was held after the Board meeting mailout and the information was not transmitted to the Board at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting, the Bylaws require passage by a two-thirds majority vote of those members present.

8. NEFCO FY2022 Work Program – status

a. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee met on November 18, 2021. The Committee is advisory to the General Policy Board and is responsible for annually reviewing the progress and performance of obtaining the goals outlined in the 2018 CEDS Plan. The Committee reviewed the seven goals along with the two additional goals for 2021: to develop an Economic Recovery and Resiliency (ER&R) Plan, and support efforts to bring affordable, high-speed, reliable broadband to unserved and underserved areas of the NEFCO region. The Committee recommended adding a tenth goal for 2022: support efforts to address affordable housing and increase housing options. Input from the Regional CEDS Committee meeting will be incorporated into the 2022 Annual Performance Report, which is due to the EDA by January 30, 2022. A draft report will be sent to the CEDS Committee for review.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that there are three American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding opportunities available through the EDA: the Good Jobs Challenge (GJC) \$500 million is available; the Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation \$26.2 million is available; and the Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) \$82.7 million is available.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Phase 1 EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) grant awards were announced; and the Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network (MAGNET) will receive a \$500,000 grant. He said that there was a total of 529 applicants for the BBBRC grant. MAGNET was one of 60 Phase 1 awardees and the only recipient from Ohio. He mentioned that the Board submitted a letter of support for this project and NEFCO has been identified as a project partner. The coalition aims to grow smart manufacturing and advanced materials cluster in Northeast Ohio, which will be led by MAGNET. The cluster encompasses an estimated 700 firms, 45,000 workers, and \$12 billion Gross Regional Product.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) brownfields program rules and guidelines were released on December 7th for the brownfield remediation and building program; and the building demolition and site revitalization program. He stated that there is \$500 million available for these two programs. This funding will be available through HB110; which was signed by the Governor on June 30th. He said that \$350 million is available for the brownfield remediation program to remediate brownfield sites, with \$1 million for each of the 88 counties in Ohio. He stated that eligible applicants include local governments, counties, townships, municipal governments, port authorities, conservancy districts, park districts, and county land banks. Nonprofits and organizations are also eligible if working in collaboration with a local government. He said that the ODOD will administer this brownfield remediation program in three rounds. Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that there will be \$150 million available for the building demolition site revitalization program. This program will help demolish commercial and residential buildings statewide on non-brownfield properties addressing vacant and blighted structures and properties. He stated that each county will have to submit a letter stating that the “lead entity” will be the land bank. The county board of commissioners will be specified as the “lead entity” in counties without land banks.

Ms. Foster asked if the land bank must be the property owner in order to apply for demolition? Mr. Lautzenheiser said that he is still trying to process all this new information, but he doesn't think that the owner must be the land bank. He said that he will research this and get back to Ms. Foster; he also advised everyone to check out the ODOD guidelines. He mentioned that the Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) is hosting a webinar on December 17, 2021, to provide details on this funding program.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now accepting applications for its ReConnect Program for loans, grants, and loan-grant combinations to expand broadband deployment

in areas that are underserved. He stated that applicants may request up to \$25 million for 100-percent grants, up to \$50 million for 50-percent grant (\$25 million) and 50-percent loan (\$25 million) combinations, and up to \$50 million for 100-percent loans. He mentioned that eligible areas in the NEFCO region include all of Wayne County, with the exception of Wooster, Rittman, Doylestown, and portions of Chippewa Township; the unincorporated portions of Stark County, with the exception of portions of Plain, Jackson, Perry, Canton, and Lake Townships; portions of the following subdivisions in Summit County: Clinton, New Franklin, Richfield, Boston Heights, Richfield Township, Copley, Bath, Sagamore Hills, and Twinsburg Townships; and all of Portage County, with the exception of Kent and portions of Aurora, Ravenna, Streetsboro, Brimfield Township, Franklin Township, and Suffield Township.

Mr. Regula asked that once the broadband is installed who will own the lines? Mr. Lautzenheiser said that companies like Spectrum, AT&T etc. could apply for the grant and use the funds to deploy the infrastructure. Mr. Regula asked if the local governments would have to be a joint applicant? Mr. Lautzenheiser said that as he understood it, the local governments do not have to be a joint applicant. He said for the area in question, the company would have to have some sort of collaboration with the local government in that area. Mr. Regula requested additional information on the broadband program. Mr. Stanley said that Summit County is hiring design build professionals and build out and get partners for ownership of the fiber. Mr. Regula asked Mr. Lautzenheiser to put together a summary of who can apply, who to work with and distribute it to the Board. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that he can put together fact sheets for this program and the brownfields programs.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) includes \$65 billion in broadband funding for the next five plus years. He said that the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Agency (NTIA) will establish six broadband programs as directed by the IIJA. The majority of the funding will be provided through the states. He encouraged members to work closely with the state agencies as these programs are promulgated.

Mr. Hadley stated that with so much money being available in Ohio, the firms that are qualified to do the work and have certified professionals are going to be stretched thin. He encouraged members to identify their project priorities. Mr. Stanley said that there is a one-year back log on fiber optic firms.

b. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) water quality subcommittee met on December 13, 2021. He said that the Ohio EPA reported that USEPA has yet to approve the amendments and the Chapter 3 update. He stated that USEPA is missing some Board resolutions from some of the Areawides (not NEFCO). He said that the Ohio EPA is hopeful that USEPA approval will be received in the next couple of weeks. After approval by USEPA, NEFCO's state-certified 208 Plan, Chapter 3 update and amendments will be incorporated into Ohio's Water Quality Management Plan.

Mr. LaPlante said that at Ohio EPA's request staff submitted on November 30, 2021 the next round of Board-approved 208 Plan amendments. He said that Ohio EPA's timeline/goal is to submit all the Areawides' amendments and updates to the Ohio EPA director for review, release of the amendments and updates for public comment and hearing, prior to the director signing off on them. The next step will be state-certification by the Governor.

Mr. LaPlante stated that the Areawides/Ohio EPA sewer and unsewered areas data collection and mapping project is a collaborative project between the six Areawides and the Ohio EPA. He said that the Ohio EPA has requested that the Areawides provide data on priority areas that are needed for sewer connections in the unsewered areas that have the potential to impact the water quality. The Ohio EPA is going to prioritize using H2Ohio funding and other funding for those low- to moderate-income areas that are needing sewer connections. Ms. Rutledge asked why isn't the Ohio EPA using the 400 foot sewer

distance which is used for permits to install (PTIs)? Mr. LaPlante said that a sewer doesn't have to be connected if it is not needed and there is documentation that it is not financially feasible. He mentioned that the Areawides and the Ohio EPA met virtually on December 9th to continue discussing the sewer/unsewered project. He said that the discussion point was on mapping the mobile home park (MHP) data that Ohio EPA previously provided along with 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) Census data for areas with low-to moderate-income (LMI).

Mr. LaPlante said that the Portage Lakes Partners met virtually on December 2nd to discuss the release of the draft Portage Lakes Management Study (PLMS). He stated that the partners agreed to release the draft PLMS Management Plan to seek endorsement of the draft plan by the Portage Lakes communities, and to seek public comments. The draft plan rollout was suggested by the Ohio EPA to be modeled on the rollout of Watershed Action Plans.

Mr. LaPlante said that on December 8th staff received an update on the Canal Diversion Dam Removal project's river pump station installation. He stated that the electrical pad was poured, the 30-inch diameter outlet pipe was connected to the discharge box, the headwall was put in place for the 30-inch diameter outlet pipe, the rubble and flow path for discharge to the canal feeder was installed, and the bank stabilization was done along the Cuyahoga River just south of the pump station. He stated that the prefabricated Archimedes screw pump has arrived with plenty of time to complete the project before the USEPA grant's project period end date, which is March 31, 2022.

Mr. LaPlante said that on December 7th Governor DeWine announced an additional \$109 million in Round 3 Ohio BUILDS Water Infrastructure grants will be distributed throughout Ohio. He listed the areas in the NEFCO region that will be receiving funds. For the Drinking Water Infrastructure Projects: Portage County will receive a \$3 million grant; Norton (Summit County) will receive a \$3 million grant; Fredericksburg (Wayne County) will receive a \$500,000 grant. He stated that there were no Wastewater Infrastructure Projects funded in this round in the NEFCO region. The Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure project will provide Massillon (Stark County) with a \$618,914 grant.

Mr. LaPlante noted some upcoming ERTAC speakers/presentations: on January 5th "Rural Action's Water Quality Improvement and Protection Projects in the Muskingum River Watershed"; Marissa Lautzenheiser, Rural Action's Director of Northern Programs and on February 2nd "Ohio's Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Funding Prospects: Opportunities and Challenges"; Jerry Rouch, Ohio EPA's Deputy Director for Infrastructure Funding.

Mr. Regula said that there are billions out there for all kinds of projects. He suggested having speakers at the next three Board meetings to discuss broadband, brownfields, and infrastructure projects. He asked if the Portage Lakes area is sewerred? Mr. Wheeler said that only a portion of the area is sewerred. Mr. LaPlante said that the Summit County Health District included the Portage Lakes area as a priority area. Mr. Vinay stated that about five years ago Summit County DSSS did include portions of the Portage Lakes area for sewers. This will be a project where commercial areas would be sewerred first.

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

Mr. Hadley said that Congress is trying to complete a lot of work before Christmas recess. The President signed the continuing resolution to keep the government funded through February 18, 2022. He said that he has provided information on the possibility of bringing back earmarks. He said that Senators and Congressmen would designate a project that they thought was a priority. He stated that this time the projects being designated would go through several stages of review so that certain states/metropolitan areas don't receive major projects every round. There are some members of Congress that have an interest in earmarks.

Mr. Hadley said that he has included some information on the infrastructure act. He stated that prior to being named the EPA Administrator Mr. Regen was part of a group that spearheaded the need to address PFAS in his home state of North Carolina. Mr. Hadley stated that there is all this funding available and now the various agencies must develop the rules to follow so that the funding addresses the needs while limiting the misuse of the funding.

Mr. Hadley said that he has included information on the analysis of the House reconciliation package which is the President's Build Back Better Act.

Mr. Hadley mentioned that there is an interest in putting something in place that would allow more flexibility in the use of ARPA funds. He said there was a coalition of agencies that urged the House Speaker and the Minority Leader in the House to pass this Flexibility Act that would allow for further leeway and clarity in the use of these funds.

Mr. Hadley noted that he has included some information on the safe drinking water bill that has been introduced in the House of Representatives.

10. Awards to Board members

Mr. Moeglin presented Mr. Wearstler, Wayne County Planning Director with a perfect attendance certificate for CY2021. He thanked Mr. Wearstler for his dedication to the NEFCO Board. Mr. Moeglin stated that Mr. Marion will be leaving the City of Louisville; he has accepted a position with the City of Wooster. He thanked Mr. Marion for his many years of contributions to the NEFCO Board. He also stated that Mr. Underwood, Stark County Regional Planning Commission has retired. Mr. Hadley said that he will make sure Mr. Underwood receives his retirement gift.

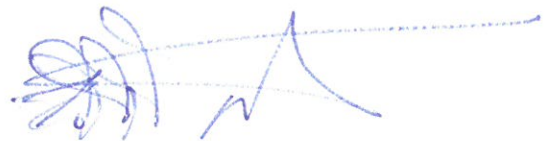
Mr. Regula presented Mr. Moeglin with an appreciation gift for his leadership and support to the Board for the last three years as NEFCO Board Chair. Mr. Moeglin stated he couldn't have done it for three years without the NEFCO staff. He said that the staff makes it easy chairing the Board meetings. He mentioned a couple projects that have been ongoing: 208 Plan update, Canal Diversion Dam Removal project, website redesign, and updating the staff's computers. He said that there has been a lot accomplished in the last couple years. There are some initiatives that have been started and are unfinished, one being updating the salary and positions descriptions. Hopefully, this will be completed soon. He stated that this was a recommendation from Ms. Foster.

11. 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. Regula congratulated Mr. Bennett for being elected President of the State County Engineers Association. He said that Mr. Bennett's father swore him in as President; his father held the Presidency position 20 years ago.

12. Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
January 19, 2022

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				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		X
John Vence (Tia Rutledge)	A	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	X
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett	X	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	X
Joe Mazzola	X	X		X	X	X		X	X			X
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)	X	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	X
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Alan Brubaker (Joe Paradise and Larry Fulton)	A		A	A	A	A			A	A		
Olivia Helander (Bryan Herschel)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
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	
Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley and Brian Clark)	A	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	X
Elizabeth Walters (Jerry Feeman/Mark Potter)		X	X			X	X	X		X		A
CITY OF AKRON												
Sharon Connor			X			X	X					
Daniel Horrigan (Sam DeShazor)												
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A	A	A	A	A		A			A	A	A
Shammas Malik		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Brad McKittrick												
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Helen Tomic (Abraham Wescott)	X		X	X	X	X				X		X
WAYNE COUNTY												
Becky Foster (Sue Smail)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Pete Wearstler (Rob Kastner)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Steven Wheeler (Kristin Endsley)		X	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 who attended meetings via MS Teams

^bex officio