

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, January 20, 2021, via Microsoft Teams.

Mr. Moeglin welcomed the new Board members/alternates to the meeting: Jim Balogh, Twinsburg Township Trustee; Olivia Helander, Summit County Development of Economic and Community Department; Bryan Herschel, Summit County Development of Economic and Community Department (alternate for Ms. Helander); and Matt Calcei, Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services (alternate for Michael Vinay).

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. 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 December 16, 2020

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

3. Financial Status Report - month of December

Mr. Hadley said that \$13,931.52 was received as income during the month of December receipts to date were \$765,898.32, disbursements to date were \$619,179.50, and cash on hand at the end of December was \$426,084.82.

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

3a. December Bank Reconciliations

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

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

4. Adoption of the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2021 Annual Performance Report*

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff is requesting the Board's consideration of the draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2021 Annual Performance Report (APR). Preparation of the CEDS plan and its annual performance reports are required by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). He said that this report is part of NEFCO's Partnership Planning Grant which maintains the agency's status as an EDA-designated Economic Development District (EDD) and the region's eligibility for EDA grant funding. The APR must be submitted to the EDA by January 31, 2021. The CEDS is a locally based,

regionally driven economic development planning process and document which engages the region's communities and economic development partners to foster prosperity and resiliency. Each year the CEDS is reviewed by the Regional CEDS Committee which drives the development of the CEDS planning process; the updates are reported in the Annual Performance Report. He stated that every five years the CEDS plan is fully updated, the most recent being the 2018 CEDS. The 2021 APR provides an update on the Region's economic conditions and priorities, evaluates the region's progress on the goals and objectives contained in the 2018 CEDS, and it details the significant events and issues that have occurred since the publication of the 2020 APR. Attached are excerpts from the draft report, including an executive summary, an evaluation of progress on action planning goals, a schedule of goals for 2021 and a program of activities. He mentioned that the 2021 APR includes two new goals: developing an economic recovery and resiliency plan to help the region respond to the impacts of the pandemic, and supporting efforts to bring affordable and reliable high speed broadband to unserved and underserved areas of the NEFCO region. Finally, the APR includes a 2021 timeline for goals of these action items. The full draft is available on NEFCO's website. He stated that the draft report has been reviewed and commented on by the Regional CEDS Committee. He asked for approval of Resolution Number FY2021-002.

A motion was made by Mr. Tatum, seconded by Mr. Bennett, to adopt the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2021 Annual Performance Report*. The motion carried.

5. Appointment of CY2021 NEFCO Administrative and Functional Committees

Mr. Moeglin stated that the CY2021 NEFCO Administrative and Functional Committees are listed. He said that the Intergovernmental Review Committee is currently inactive. He asked for a motion to approved for the CY2021 appointees for these committees.

A motion was made by Ms. Sumego, seconded by Mr. Wearstler, to approve the CY2021 NEFCO Administrative and Functional Committees. The motion carried.

6. Consideration of NEFCO joining the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program

Mr. Hadley stated that NEFCO doesn't make major purchases very often. Office supply orders are low and there hasn't been a real advantage of going through a process like the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program. However, in this current fiscal year, NEFCO plans to make a major hardware computer equipment upgrade. Mr. Hadley said that he thought it would be prudent to investigate if the agency could get better pricing by joining the State's Cooperative Purchasing Program. It has been determined that NEFCO is an eligible entity. As part of the process, NEFCO is required to ask its governing Board for approval of a resolution allowing NEFCO to join this program. Since NEFCO is interested in the possible computer equipment aspects, there is a separate Information Technology (IT) branch within the Ohio Department of Administrative Services which administers the program. Mr. Hadley mentioned that he is waiting for a call back from IT to review how this process works. He asked for Board authorization to enter into the program, but with the understanding that he wants to ensure that it's useful for NEFCO to pay the \$235 annual expenditure. He asked if there were any questions?

A motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Ms. Kline, to approve NEFCO joining the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program. The motion carried.

Ms. Sumego asked if any Board member has any experience with this program? Mr. Moeglin stated that the City of Canton utilizes the program on a regular basis to purchase vehicles and other things. Generally speaking, it takes care of the big process of going out for individual bids. He stated that this program is very effective for the City of Canton because the city does a lot of

purchasing. Like Mr. Hadley said, NEFCO doesn't purchase a lot of large items, but it can't hurt to check into the program. Mr. Hadley said that he has also been talking with Summit County's IT Department, which is already in the program. The advantage would be to get the group pricing on the computer equipment. Mr. Moeglin said he doesn't think there is a sliding scale based on how much is purchased. He said that the program that the City uses is a set number.

7. NEFCO FY2021 Work Program – status

a. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that on December 14th, during the most recent Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) Water Quality Subcommittee meeting, the Ohio EPA gave the six Areawides a December 31st, 2020 deadline to submit their 208 updates for statewide certification. NEFCO submitted the Board approved 208 Plan Chapter 3 update text, appendices, and online map data to the Ohio EPA on December 30th, along with the signed Board resolution. The Ohio EPA's online Northeast Ohio 208 map has a somewhat different wastewater treatment prescription color scheme than NEFCO's 208 map. He stated that with the click and query feature viewers can easily access NEFCO's written prescriptions for a particular area of interest on Ohio EPA's online map. Staff will inform the Board once the 208 update receives state certification.

Mr. LaPlante mentioned that a memo was sent to management agencies and to local health departments notifying them that the 208 Plan update has been approved and is immediately ready for use by the management agencies, local health departments, and the Ohio EPA. He stated that a news release was sent to the major media outlets in the NEFCO region to inform the public that the 208 Plan update has been approved and with the approval it can immediately be used by the Ohio EPA when it considers the issuance of permits-to-install (PTIs) and the granting of facility improvement loans.

Mr. LaPlante said that the 208 Plan's Chapter 3, Policy 3-6a/3-6b is over 20 years old. He stated that this current version offers no solutions in a real FPA conflict situation. Therefore, staff is revising the policy to make it more useful. As a starting point for this policy revision, staff is reviewing similar 208 policies of the other Areawides and will discuss them at an upcoming virtual OARC water quality subcommittee roundtable. In reviewing similar 208 policies of other Areawides, staff thus far has observed that criteria are needed to perhaps sharpen how FPA boundaries can be modified in the NEFCO four county region. When an affected management agency (MA) agrees with another MA's proposed FPA boundary and wastewater treatment prescription changes, the policies in NEFCO's 208 Plan make it clear that an amendment to the Plan is possible with the ERTAC's recommendation and the Board's approval. However, when an affected MA disagrees with another MAs proposed changes, Policy 3-6a/3-6b offers no criteria for staff, the ERTAC and the Board to use as a guide to resolve the conflict. As a next step, staff will develop those criteria and solicit input from municipal and county MAs while it continues to review the similar 208 policies of the other Areawides.

Mr. LaPlante stated that Bill Zawiski, Ohio EPA NEDO's Division of Surface Water will provide a presentation at the February 3rd ERTAC meeting. At the March 3rd meeting, the speaker will be Jim Hoorman, a soil scientist fellow at the University of Akron Research Foundation and owner of Hoorman Soil Health Services in northwest Ohio.

Mr. LaPlante mentioned that the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental Financial Assistance has released its Final Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) Project Management Plan, which lists all projects that are eligible for Ohio EPA funding for the 2021 program year.

Mr. Moeglin asked if there were any updates on the Canal Diversion Dam project? Ms. Sumego said that the final revised 60% document was received which addressed some questions. The

comments were sent to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park; who are the owners and operators of the system. She stated that the electrical conduit has been installed. FirstEnergy still has to pull the wire to the screw pump and connect it for power. She said that hopefully everything will be installed in August. Mr. LaPlante said that the Friends of the Crooked River requested that NEFCO apply for a grant extension end date of October 31, 2021 with the USEPA. He stated that a verbal confirmation from USEPA has been received. Ms. Sumego asked if the October 31st deadline is for all payments to be made by that date? Mr. LaPlante said that he is still reviewing the grant to determine this answer.

Mr. Moeglin asked if other planning organizations have had any similar situations as the Board has with the Wooster/Smithville FPA disagreement? Mr. LaPlante said yes, other planning organizations have been faced with similar situations. This will be discussed at the next OARC roundtable meeting. Mr. Moeglin stated that it will be interesting to hear how the disagreements were resolved.

b. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the FY2021 omnibus spending bill became law on December 27th which includes \$346 million for the US EDA, which represents the \$13 million increase from the FY2020 funding level.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Department of Job and Family Services reported more than 37,000 initial jobless claims in the week ending January 9th with an increase of almost 8,000 from this previous week. He stated that Ohioans have filed 278,000 unemployment claims for that same period, 2.1 million claims over the last 43 weeks, which is more than the combined total of the last five years.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that the national employment dropped by 140,000 last month and the unemployment rate remained at 6.7%, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. He said that men gained 16,000 jobs in December, while women lost 156,000 jobs. Those job losses were experienced most by black and Latina women.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and Department of the Treasury announced the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) will re-open the week of January 11 for new borrowers and certain existing PPP borrowers.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Ohio Senate bill 259, which authorizes certain regional airport authorities, port authorities and municipalities to create airport development districts (ADD), was passed by the Ohio General Assembly. He said that the ADD can work with businesses to generate revenue for airport, infrastructure and other expenses, including operating incentives for airlines to provide service.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that after passing in the Ohio House of Representatives with overwhelming bipartisan support in June, House Bill 13, a bill to create the state's first ever Residential Broadband Expansion Program, died in the Ohio Senate. He stated that HB13 would have allocated \$20 million to internet providers across Ohio to improve high-speed internet service.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that the Local Initiatives Support Corporation is offering its Rural Relief Small Business grants between January 26th and February 2nd to provide relief to small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant program is open to small business owners in rural locations (communities with fewer than 50,000 residents). He mentioned that the grant awards will range from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the U.S. Department of Labor YouthBuild grant applications are due February 9th. He said that the YouthBuild program is open to public and private nonprofit organizations who provide pre-apprenticeship services supporting education, occupational skills training, and employment services to at-risk youth, ages 16 to 24. The minimum grant award is \$700,000; the award ceiling is \$1.5 million.

Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has opened its Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) grant program to support housing, community facilities and community and economic development projects in rural areas. He said that these grants may be used to provide training on home ownership and minority business entrepreneur education, strategic plan development, developing childcare facilities, creating training tools, and effective fundraising techniques. He said that rural is defined as any area other than a city or contiguous urbanized area with 50,000 inhabitants or greater. The grant application deadline is March 22nd.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has announced the availability of its Community Food Projects (CFP) competitive grant program. Eligible applicants include public food service providers and nonprofit organizations. He stated that the maximum grant amount is \$400,000 and a 50-percent match of the total project cost is required. The grant application deadline is May 4th.

Mr. Lautzenheiser highlighted some of the economic development activities that occurred since last month's meeting. He asked members to contact NEFCO if they would like any additional information.

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

Mr. Hadley said that Congress and the President worked out an agreement, which the President signed a very large Omnibus spending bill. He said that he listed some of the important aspects of that \$2.3 trillion bill. He stated that if there's a particular program that any member is interested in, please contact the NEFCO staff.

Mr. Hadley stated that he listed some details for the FY21 transportation appropriations. He said that with the administration transitioning there will be new leaders taking over. For example there is a new Secretary of Transportation. He said that many of the programs are going to continue.

Mr. Hadley mentioned that the President-elect Biden introduced his relief plan and details of that Plan are listed on Page 3. He said that for the most part the Plan will have to be approved by Congress.

Mr. Hadley said that the 2020 Census has been delayed and the final state figures were not available for President Trump to use. The internal deadline right now at the Census Bureau is March 6th for those state totals. He stated that the Census Bureau director resigned. He said that the state totals are critical to the delineation of congressional districts.

Mr. Hadley said that Ohio Senator Brown is going to be the chair of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, and recently he expressed a great interest in putting some focus on housing as part of his committee.

Mr. Hadley mentioned that the Center for Digital Government recently released a report entitled: "What Citizens Want". He said to contact NEFCO if you would like additional details on this report.

Mr. Regula asked if he could get information on the INFRA, BUILD and TIGER grants. He stated that the RTIP received an extension for its 2019 BUILD grant. Mr. Hadley said that the INFRA grants are being submitted now with a due date in March. He said that he will send him the information.

9. 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

No one had anything to comment about for their community/county/agency.

10. Other Business

- a. Remembering Board Chairman Don Jenkins; Carl Rose (Stark County) an original Board member

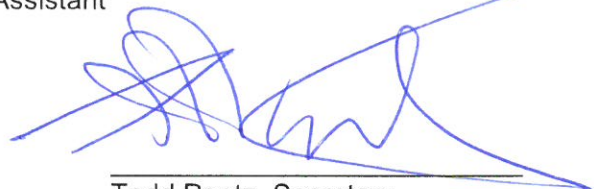
Mr. Hadley said that he would like to recognize the passing of Don Jenkins and Carl Rose. He stated that Mr. Jenkins was a Board member from 1998 to 2009, and Board Chairman in 2005. Mr. Jenkins was the third Bath Township Trustee to serve NEFCO as Chair. He said that Mr. Jenkins was also the former Dean of the University of Akron School of Law.

Mr. Hadley said that Mr. Rose was an original Board member from 1974 to 2000. He said that Mr. Rose was a faithful member of NEFCO's Board and the Stark County Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Hadley said that he used to joke with Mr. Rose about how many meetings Mr. Rose attended, which was in the hundreds throughout all his years of service. He said that both individuals attended NEFCO's 40th anniversary celebration.

Mr. Hadley said that a new member briefing packet is being prepared for the 2021 members.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



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

NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD 2021 ATTENDANCE SHEET

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

X = member present A = alternate present

^aDocumentation exists for those listed

^bex officio

^cAppointments Pending

Please note: the names listed are those received by NEFCO as of the meeting date; members' names received after this date will be reflected on next month's attendance sheet.

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

Guests in Attendance at the January 20, 2021 meeting

Steve Wilder, Citizen

Darryl Kleinhenz, AMATS

Doug Darrah, ATC Group Services, LLC

Trevor Hunt, City of Barberton (Alternate)
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