

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, February 17, 2021, via Microsoft Teams.

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. 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 welcomed the new Board members: Tony Badalamenti, Portage County Commissioner; Elizabeth Walters, Summit County Council President; and Shammias Malik, City of Akron Councilman.

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

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

3. Financial Status Report - month of January

Mr. Hadley said that \$47,105.25 was received as income during the month of January receipts to date were \$813,003.57, disbursements to date were \$717,709.46, and cash on hand at the end of January was \$374,660.11.

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

3a. January Bank Reconciliations

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

A motion was made by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Ms. Sumego, to accept the January bank reconciliations. The motion carried.

4. Bounce Innovation Hub requests letter of support for EDA grant application

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Bounce Innovation Hub has requested a letter of support from NEFCO for an EDA grant application. The Bounce Innovation Hub Expansion and Renovation project is a \$3.1 million collaboration project with the City of Akron that will activate over 20,000 square feet of unused space at the Bounce facility. The expansion will allow for additional offices for early-stage companies and additional common areas such as conference rooms, workshop space and classrooms. The project will expand the incubator space and augment Bounce's ability to provide additional entrepreneurial support and development for startups. The preliminary total project cost is a little over \$3.1 million; Bounce is requesting \$1.86 million in

EDA grant funding. He stated that the total project costs and EDA grant amount may change depending on the amount of match Bounce is able to secure. Bounce intends to submit the application to the EDA by the end of February or early March. The project is consistent with four goals of NEFCO's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). First, the project would diversify and strengthen the local and regional economy, build resilience and support recovery from the economic impact of the pandemic. The Innovation Hub supports entrepreneurial innovative technological development and fosters job creation and growth. Second, the project encourages development of industries that support the region's economic clusters and target industries. Bounce focuses on support and development of healthcare and IT startups. Third, the project furthers intergovernmental and public-private partnerships placing a high value on collaboration by working cooperatively to address the region's needs. The Bounce Innovation Hub enjoys a strong partnership with the City of Akron and Bounce's mission is consistent with the City's joint economic development plan. Lastly, the project supports existing programs that build human capital. This project will expand Bounce's entrepreneurial support structure and build on its successful platform. He said that staff provided technical assistance to the applicant for this project. He requested the Board's approval of the attached letter of support. He asked if there were any questions on this project?

Ms. Helander expressed Summit County's support for the EDA grant for Bounce. She stated that members of the County's staff have also worked closely with Bounce on this application.

A motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Vinay, to approve the Bounce Innovation Hub's letter of support for an EDA grant application. The motion carried.

5. Consideration of a renewal of authorization to provide meeting amenities to volunteer members or citizens who attend NEFCO meetings

Mr. Hadley said that essentially this is an affirmation by the Board that NEFCO can use a small amount of local funds for meeting amenities, which typically include coffee when the Board used to be able to meet on a monthly basis. He said that he always puts a cap on those expenditures, but never exceeds that cap. In calendar year 2020, because of COVID-19, the Board didn't meet that often from about March on; the expenditures were \$123. He stated that the cap for this year was changed to \$500; which probably will not be exceeded either. He asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2021-004.

A motion was made by Ms. Sumego, seconded by Mr. Judge, to approve Resolution No. FY2021-004. The motion carried.

6. NEFCO FY2021 Work Program – status

a. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that staff merged the Chapter 3 update website with the Clean Water Plan website. The link to the Clean Water Plan website was provided on the meeting agenda.

Mr. LaPlante said that the 208 Plan's Chapter 3, Policy 3-6a and 3-6b covers how staff, the ERTAC, and the NEFCO Board should handle resolving conflicts between adjacent management agencies when one management agency (MA) desires to expand its sewer service into another MA's facilities planning area (FPA) without the affected MA's consent. The current version of this Policy is being revised since it offers no solutions in a real FPA conflict situation. At the beginning of this policy revision, staff reviewed similar 208 policies of the other Areawides. Then on January 28th, all six Areawides held a virtual roundtable to discuss its similar policies and how each agency resolves adjacent conflicts between MAs. As next steps, staff is sharpening the existing criteria and will solicit input from the larger municipal and county MAs through a memo. The memo will explain the problem with the current policy and why there needs to be some clarification in the policy's consideration/use.

Mr. Moeglin asked if there was any entity at the roundtable that had kind of an ideal program that would be a good model for NEFCO in the future. Mr. LaPlante said not really. He stated that northeast Ohio's 208 Plans seem to be more detailed and he thinks that's largely due to all the input that Ohio EPA's Northeast District office had in developing the Lake Erie basin 208 update (2000) with NOACA and NEFCO. He said that it looks like Eastgate modeled its policies after NOACO and NEFCO. He stated that the policies in NOACA's plan are based on the federal and state 208 guidelines and policies. He stated that he will contact Ohio EPA to locate these federal and state 208 guidelines. He said that OKI and MVRPC stated that without written agreements between MAs no action will be brought before their Committees or Board. He stated that TMACOG doesn't have a policy for conflicts between MAs. Mr. Moeglin thanked Mr. LaPlante for the explanation.

Mr. LaPlante stated that the Portage Lakes Management Study (PLMS) partners met on January 21st to discuss the planned activities related to the Portage Lakes for this calendar year. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) reported on its plans to dredge sediment and chemically and physically remove aquatic plants this year, but only in the heavily used and navigated areas of the lakes and the beaches. NEFCO staff suggested that public outreach and educational materials regarding ODNR's plans would be helpful. The Summit SWCD reported that it will be supporting an Upper Tuscarawas River Watershed Coordinator to oversee some important roles with the Portage Lakes. The SWCD is also developing Memoranda of Understanding for Portage Lakes communities that have expressed interest in assistance with several watershed restoration, protection and education projects. Staff will submit the final draft management plan to the PLMS partners in mid-April.

Mr. LaPlante said that on January 26th the USEPA approved a no-cost extension for the Canal Diversion Dam project. The end date will be extended from April 30, 2021 to October 31, 2021. This extension was requested by the Friends of the Crooked River (FOCR). He mentioned that Dianne Sumego and Elaine Marsh will present the Dam project at next month's Board meeting. Ms. Sumego said that construction is moving forward on the pump station and is still on track for the August delivery date. She stated that First Energy should have power supplied to the pump station by mid-April.

Mr. LaPlante mentioned that the March 3rd ERTAC speaker will be Jim Hoorman, a soil scientist fellow at the University of Akron Research Foundation (UARF) and owner of Hoorman Soil Health Services in northwest Ohio.

Mr. LaPlante said that he has included some information on the Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water: Draft 401 Water Quality Certification for the 2021 Reissuance and Modification of the Nationwide Permits. He also mentioned that the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA): Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) program year 2022 deadline for nominations is March 3rd.

b. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the EDA has formally approved NEFCO's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2021 Annual Performance Report (APR), which was submitted in January. The preparation of the CEDS plan and the annual performance reports are required by the EDA. This is part of NEFCO's Partnership Planning Grant which maintains the agency's status as an EDA-designated Economic Development District and the region's eligibility for EDA grant funding.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that staff submitted the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) report for the EDA CARES Act grant. The EDA has instituted a new process for reporting metrics as part of the required GPRA. NEFCO is required to complete GPRA reports for both the Partnership Planning Grant and the CARES Act Supplemental Assistance grant.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that President Biden's American Rescue Plan is a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief proposal. Currently this proposal includes \$3 billion for the EDA. This would be double the amount that was included for the EDA as part of the CARES Act.

Ms. Sheridan said that staff prepared and distributed an economic recovery and resiliency (ER&R) survey to over 800 entities on February 11th. She said that the purpose of the survey is three-fold: regionally assess the impacts of the pandemic; help understand the extent of the economic damages caused by COVID-19; and establish some trends. She stated that the survey will be active on NEFCO's website until February 28th. She said that so far 56 responses have been received.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that NEFCO participated in the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) Broadband Working Group to develop regional strategies and help set legislative priorities addressing the digital divide and expanding affordable high-speed internet access to un- and underserved areas of Ohio. He said that Governor DeWine's biennial budget proposal includes \$250 million for broadband expansion. He stated that HB 2 and SB 8 are proposing \$20 million to establish an Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion grant program. The OARC is developing a \$38.1 million biennium budget proposal for a separate grant program to provide broadband expansion projects. The proposal includes \$30 million to local governments and nonprofit organizations for the broadband projects. Projects would be prioritized and generated through the state's regional councils (including NEFCO). Mr. Balogh asked if this will only target residential areas? Any thought to expand the broadband to commercial and industrial areas? Mr. Lautzenheiser said that from the OARC perspective the grants would be targeted not only to residential but to any areas in the respective regions that were important to local communities; which could include commercial and industrial areas. He stated that he will express this to the OARC members.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS) reported there were more than 140,000 initial jobless claims in the week ending February 6, 2021; however, the majority of these claims have been flagged as potentially fraudulent. He said that Ohioans filed 300,638 continued unemployment claims last week. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the national employment increased by 49,000 in January, and the unemployment rate decreased from 6.7% to 6.3%.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that the U.S. Census Bureau will not include information on citizenship or immigration status in its 2020 Census data products; which is in accordance with the Executive Order of President Biden. Non-citizens will be included in the congressional apportionment. Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that the Census Bureau announced it will deliver the redistricting data to all states by September 30, 2021, which is six months later than the original delivery date. Unlike previous censuses, the data will be delivered to all states and the public at one time.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that NADO has released its 2020 Annual Report, which provides an overview of the key priorities, goals, projects, and accomplishments of NADO and the NADO Research Foundation. Key accomplishments include the successful advocacy for supplemental funding for the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) via the passage of the CARES Act and the defederalization of the EDA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF).

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is requesting public comment on the recommendations it has received from the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards Review Committee for changes to OMB's metropolitan and micropolitan statistical area standards. The main changes would include that the minimum population threshold to be designated as a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) be increased

from 50,000 to 100,000. Micropolitan statistical areas would be expanded to include areas with a population greater than 10,000 and lower than 100,000. The proposed changes would affect eligibility of some areas for certain federal grant programs. These changes would not affect counties in the NEFCO region.

Mr. Lautzenheiser provided a brief overview of some 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 he has included some details regarding the Biden Administration - American Rescue Plan, which is moving forward through a rarely used, but has been used in the past, budget reconciliation process. The funding amounts that have been noticed are the \$3 billion line item for EDA as well as \$350 billion relief funding for state and local governments, which is certainly a big need.

Mr. Hadley stated that the Congressional polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Task Force has been re-established to draw attention by the federal government to certain priorities related to the importance of PFAS, also known as the forever chemicals. He said that if anyone would like a copy of the letter that was sent to the President, please contact NEFCO.

Mr. Hadley mentioned of importance to NEFCO was that the Governor had included funding of \$450,000 per year for the six Areawide Planning Agencies in his budget. He stated that having this funding in the Governor's budget is infinitely easier to get passed through the General Assembly than adding funds to the Governor's budget externally as it goes through the various committees of the General Assembly. He said that he has also included bills Signed by the Governor or Introduced in the in the House or Senate. If anyone would like a copy of any of these bills, please contact Rebecca.

Ms. Sumego stated that PFAS doesn't impact just water; it also impacts the wastewater industry, especially in the biosolids area. She said that there will be a National Task Force that will kick off on February 19th under the Water Environment Federation, a leading global organization tied to the wastewater industry, and also connected to the CDC for tracking of COVID-19.

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

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



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

NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD 2021 ATTENDANCE SHEET

Member (alternate)	1/20 ^a	2/17 ^a	3/17	4/21	5/19	6/16	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										
Joseph Diorio (Mary Helen Smith)	A	A										
Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford)		X										
John Vence (Tia Rutledge)	A	A										
John Zizka												
CITY OF KENT												
Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel)	X	X										
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett	X	X										
David Maley	X	X										
Vince Marion	X											
Joe Mazzola	X	X										
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)	X	X										
Jim Troike (Scott Ellsworth and Tom Davis)												
Joe Underwood (Bob Nau)	X	X										
John Weedon												
Vacant												
Vacant												
Vacant												
Vacant												
CITY OF CANTON												
Dan Moeglin (John Highman Jr.)	X	X										
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	X										
Alan Brubaker (Joe Paradise and Larry Fulton)	A											
William Judge (Trevor Hunt)	X	X										
David Kohlmeier (Bill Dorman)		X										
Olivia Helander (Bryan Herschel)	X	X										
Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley and Brian Clark)	A	A										
Dianne Sumego	X	X										
Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei)	X	X										
Elizabeth Walters (Jerry Feeman)		X										
CITY OF AKRON												
Sharon Connor												
Daniel Horrigan (Sam DeShazor)												
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A	A										
Shammas Malik		X										
Brad McKitrick												
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	X	X										
Helen Tomic (Abraham Wescott)	X											
WAYNE COUNTY												
Becky Foster (Sue Smail)	X	X										
Pete Wearstler (Rob Kastner)	X	X										
Steven Wheeler (Kristin Endsley)		X										
CITY OF WOOSTER												
Bob Breneman (Joel Montgomery and Jonathan Millea)	A	A										
OHIO EPA-NEDO^b												
Kurt Princic (Rich Blasick)	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 February 17, 2021 meeting
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David Hartman, TGC Engineering

Darryl Kleinhenz, AMATS

Jessica Sublett, Bounce Innovation Hub
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Chris Thomas, Citizen

Guest

Guest (330-499-8223)
