

**MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, March 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. Judge 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 February 17, 2021**

A motion was made by Ms. Sumego, seconded by Ms. Foster, to accept the February meeting minutes. The motion carried.

**3. Financial Status Report - month of February**

Mr. Hadley said that \$36,244.76 was received as income during the month of February receipts to date were \$849,248.33, disbursements to date were \$765,431.98, and cash on hand at the end of February was \$363,182.35.

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

**3a. February Bank Reconciliations**

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

A motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Judge, to accept the February bank reconciliations. The motion carried.

**4. NEFCO FY2021 Work Program – status**

**a. Environmental Planning**

Mr. LaPlante stated that in the interest of time any member who would like additional information on any topic from the status report, to please contact him.

Mr. Moeglin asked about the progress on the 208 Plan Chapter 3 policy 3-6a/6b. Mr. LaPlante reported that progress is being made on the Chapter 3 policy 3-6a/6b. He stated that after staff reviewed NEFCO's policy 3-6a/6b, staff also reviewed similar policies of the other Northeast Ohio Areawide planning agencies. He said that the three areawide planning agencies; NEFCO, NOACA and Eastgate have some of the same ambiguous policy criteria. He stated that in its most recent 208 Plan update NOACA removed much of the Plan's ambiguity. NOACA removed some outdated criteria and added some clear and concise transition paragraphs as well as some brief guidance sections for those ambiguous phrases in the criteria. He stated that staff is using the same approach and has completed about half of the needed revisions. Mr. Moeglin thanked Mr. LaPlante for the update. Mr. LaPlante mentioned that staff sent a memo on March

13<sup>th</sup> to the management agencies as part of this process to get feedback on this matter. The deadline for comments is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**b. Economic Development**

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the NEFCO Economic Recovery and Resiliency (ER&R) Survey, which closed at the end of last month, generated 109 total response. This will help staff assess the impacts of the pandemic on the region and also help with NEFCO's ER&R planning efforts.

Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that last week NEFCO published a request for proposals (RFP) to update and redesign the agency's website. The RFP has been posted on NEFCO's website and is being distributed to some web consultants. The submittal deadline is April 11<sup>th</sup>. Staff will review the results of the proposals and recommend approval of the most responsive RFP at the May 19<sup>th</sup> General Policy Board meeting.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that the American Rescue Plan includes \$3 billion in additional funding for the EDA. Details on the administration of these dollars are not fully known. He said that 25 percent of these monies shall be used for assistance to states and communities that have suffered economic injury as a result of job and gross domestic product losses in the travel, tourism and outdoor recreation.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC), of which NEFCO is a member, continues to develop a state budget proposal for broadband expansion. NEFCO sent letters to the Region's 11 state representative and four state senators requesting support of the OARC budget amendment to designate and fund the 20 Ohio-based members of OARC as "Regional Broadband Councils" (RBCs). These RBCs would work with BroadbandOhio to coordinate broadband deployment, communicate local areas of need to the state, and provide technical support at the regional level to local entities. He stated that a sample letter has been included in the Board packet.

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

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

Mr. Hadley said that the American Rescue Plan details are just beginning to be released. He said that staff will take a deeper view into some of the federal agency programs that NEFCO deals with most often. He stated that if any member has any questions about a specific plan or program, to please let him know.

**6. "A 'Dam' Good Story" (Canal Diversion Dam Removal Project); Speakers: Ms. Elaine Marsh; President, Friends of the Crooked River (FOCR) and Facilitator of the Canal Diversion Dam Project; and Ms. Dianne Sumego, PE; President, dms water solutions and Owner's Representative for the Canal Diversion Dam Project**

Mr. Moeglin introduced Ms. Elaine Marsh, President, Friends of the Crooked River and Ms. Dianne Sumego, PE, President, dms water solutions.

Ms. Marsh gave a narrative on the history of the Cuyahoga River. The slide topics presented were:

- How the River was abused for 200 years before the Clean Water Act
- Clean Water Act of 1972
- Investments made to restore the Cuyahoga River
- Water quality attainment survey done by the Ohio EPA – Division of Surface Water

- History of the Canal Diversion Dam
- How water affects the infrastructure on the river
- Many different uses on the river
- Causes and sources of pollution in the Middle Cuyahoga River
- Other dams removed on the Cuyahoga River
- Safety issues at the Canal Diversion dam
- List of the partners who were involved
- Funding details on the removal of the dam

Ms. Sumego described the removal of the Pinery and Canal Diversion dams project. The topics discussed were:

- Property challenges (who owned what?)
- Permits needed
- How the deconstruction of dams went down (Pinery and Canal Diversion)
- Project delays
- How important are signs posted?
- Safety before the removal
- The actual removal of the dam
- Water flow after the removal
- Recordation of the dams
- Restoration of the embankment
- Back to the natural habitat
- Construction challenges
- Next step: Phase II (installation of the river water pump station)

Ms. Marsh said that wildlife in and around the stream is thriving. She stated that paddlers will be able to travel 43 miles downstream. Ms. Sumego asked if there were any questions about the removal of the dam project? Mr. Moeglin asked about the bank stabilization after the dam pool was reduced upstream? Ms. Sumego said that the partners got approval from ODOT to put in the stabilization by the piers. She said that a difference can definitely be seen upstream where the river draws in. She mentioned that the Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) is working with the U.S. Corps of Engineers to return and do some repairs and stabilization work on the embankments. Ms. Marsh mentioned that the concerns have been met about the look and safety of the bridge reinforcement and stabilization. She stated that a geological study will take care of any stabilization needed for the pump station. Mr. Moeglin asked about the timeline on the pump station. Ms. Sumego said that the pump station is still on track for construction in August and to be operational in October 2021. Mr. Balogh asked about the activity to address the degradation of the riverbanks at the Akron-Peninsula Road; which is closed. He also asked if the Gorge dam had been removed or if it is still in process? Ms. Marsh replied that she is the facilitator of the local group on the Gorge dam. She said that the Gorge Dam is a very complicated project and right now the sediment management portion is being studied. There have been several issues with this project which have been more complicated than expected. She stated that the study and design portion will be done by the end of 2021 or beginning of 2022. Once the study is completed then funding can be applied for to implement the sediment management and deconstruction of the dam. Ms. Marsh said that the Brandywine golf course is in the process of being sold. She said to not expect to see any solution of the Akron-Peninsula Road situation until the property is sold. Mr. Regula stated that on behalf of his father, former Congressman Ralph Regula, he thanked everyone for all the work that has been done. Mr. Regula said that his dad's greatest accomplishment was the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Towpath Trail. Mr. Hadley stated on behalf of NEFCO he thanked Ms.

Sumego, a board member, who has kept the Board up-to-date on the various stages of the Canal Diversion Dam project. He also thanked Ms. Marsh for all of her help on this project.

**7. 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.

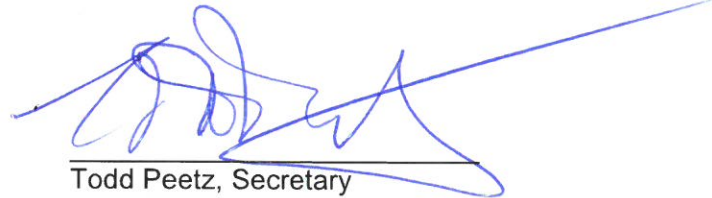
**8. Other Business**

**a. Remembering former Board Chairman John Dougherty**

Mr. Hadley said that former Stark County Commissioner John Dougherty was a Board member from 1995-2002. Mr. Dougherty volunteered to be chairman from 2000-2002. Mr. Hadley stated that John would joke that he was the reason the City of Canton rejoined NEFCO as a Board member and dues-paying member was because Mr. Dougherty talked with then Mayor Richard Watkins' mom and convinced her to speak to her son about the City rejoining NEFCO. He said he doesn't know how much of that story is true, but Mr. Dougherty was great about looking out for the organization. He is sorry for his recent passing.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary  
NEFCO General Policy Board  
April 21, 2021

## NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD 2021 ATTENDANCE SHEET

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

X = member present      A = alternate present

<sup>a</sup>Documentation exists for those listed      <sup>b</sup>ex officio

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

<b>Guests in Attendance at the March 17, 2021 meeting</b>
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David Hartman, TGC Engineering
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Darryl Kleinhenz, AMATS
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Bryan Herschel (Alternate)
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Chris Thomas, Charter Communications
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David Keifer
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Eliane Marsh, Friends of the Crooked River
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Mike Wheeler, Mayor, Village of Richfield
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Guest
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