

**MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, April 21, 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. Judge, 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 March 17, 2021**

A motion was made by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Judge, to accept the March meeting minutes. The motion carried.

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

Mr. Hadley said that \$28,380.87 was received as income during the month of March receipts to date were \$877,629.20, disbursements to date were \$816,148.15, and cash on hand at the end of March was \$340,847.05.

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

**3a. March Bank Reconciliations**

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

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

**4. Appointment of CY2021 NEFCO Budget and Work Program Committee**

Mr. Moeglin stated that the Budget Committee is listed with the confirmed members except himself; so he agreed to be on the Budget Committee. He asked if there were any other members interested in joining the Budget Committee. Hearing none, Mr. Moeglin asked for approval of the proposed Budget and Work Program Committee.

Andrei Dordea, Finance Director, City of Wooster, Committee Chairman  
Becky Foster, Wayne County Commissioner  
Dan Moeglin, Engineer, City of Canton  
Dave Ruller, City Manager, City of Kent  
Tia Rutledge, Engineering Division Manager, Portage County Water Resources  
Craig Stanley, Director of Administrative Services, County of Summit  
Helen Tomic, Comprehensive Planning Administrator, City of Akron  
James Troike, Sanitary Engineer, Stark County

A motion was made by Mr. Marion, seconded by Mr. Judge, to approve the CY2021 NEFCO Budget Work Program Committee. The motion carried.

Mr. Moeglin thanked all the members listed for responding and agreeing to continue to be members of the CY2021 Budget and Work Program Committee.

## **5. NEFCO FY2021 Work Program – status**

### **a. Environmental Planning**

Mr. LaPlante stated that the 208 Plan's Chapter 3, Policy 36a and 36b addresses how NEFCO should handle resolving wastewater planning disputes between adjacent management agencies. Those are sewer authorities when one management agency desires to expand its sewer service into another MA's facilities planning area without the affected MA's consent. He said that as staff learned last fall, this policy in its current version, offers no solutions in a real FPA conflict situation. Therefore, this chapter is being revised to make it more useful. The problem with the current policy is that some of its criteria are ambiguous, which allows either MA involved in the FPA boundary dispute to argue that the policy defends its position. He stated that staff is revising the policy by removing outdated criteria then adding clear and concise transition paragraphs and brief guidance sections to clarify any of those ambiguous phrases in the criteria. This revised approach is based on NOACA's policy which was recently updated. On March 13<sup>th</sup>, staff sent a memo to the MAs regarding NEFCO's approach to the policy revisions. The memo explained the problem with the current policy and recommends solutions and asked for comments by March 31<sup>st</sup>. The City of Wooster and the Village of Doylestown in Wayne County are in favor of the policy revision approach. The goal of the policy revisions is to make clear how and when the FPA boundaries can be modified when the affected MAs disagree with the proposed change. Staff anticipates that the initial revisions will be completed within the next couple of weeks, at which time staff will speak directly with the larger MAs and incorporate what was gained from discussions into the policy revisions that have been written to date. He stated that policy revisions must be approved by the US EPA after approval by the state before the policy becomes official.

Mr. LaPlante said that the 208 Plan draft Chapter 4 addresses the management of household sewage treatment systems, semi-public sewage treatment systems, and small flow on-site sewage treatment systems. The work scope in NEFCO's FY2021 contract with Ohio EPA calls for staff to review the 2016 draft to determine if any revisions are needed to the document, which to date has been attained. Staff has performed a review of the 2016 edited draft that was written by an ERTAC subcommittee consisting mostly of county health department officials. It was determined that substantial revisions are needed to the document. For example, the subcommittee comments that are written in the margin of the 2016 draft, which still needs to be addressed, and there are additional subcommittee comments received this year that have resulted in the need for additional chapter sections to be written or modified. In addition to some of the subcommittee comments still needing to be addressed, staff has determined with Ohio EPA's help that there's an entire category of wastewater treatment systems that should be added to the chapter. He stated that staff will keep the Board updated on the draft Chapter 4 revisions.

Mr. LaPlante said that the next Portage Lakes Management Study (PLMS) Plan partners virtual meeting will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The partners will discuss and provide comments on the edited draft of the Portage Lakes Management Plan. The final PLMS partners meeting will be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss approval of the Plan.

Mr. LaPlante stated that there will be a roundtable discussion on Priority Water Quality Projects around the Region at the May 5<sup>th</sup> ERTAC meeting.

Mr. LaPlante mentioned two upcoming webinars including the Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance Free Technical Webinar on *Ohio EPA's Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) Year 2022 Updates and Highlights*.

**b. Economic Development**

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the County of Summit has been awarded a \$125,000 EDA grant for the FairlawnGIG Expansion Planning Project. This is a feasibility study on the expansion of the region's existing FairlawnGIG high speed fiber optic network to new opportunity zones and job hubs in the Cities of Akron and Barberton. The project is a collaboration between Summit County, the City of Akron, the City of Fairlawn, and the Greater Akron Chamber. It will analyze the viability of expanding fiber infrastructure to expand economic opportunities for job growth and foster private investment. He said that the total estimated project investment is \$268,200. He stated that staff provided technical support and a NEFCO Board letter of support for this project.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that MAGNET was awarded a \$703,000 EDA Sprint Challenge Grant for its resilient Northeast Ohio project. This will be an 18-month collaboration between MAGNET, Jumpstart, the Youngstown Business Incubator and Team NEO to enhance the overall innovation capacity of seven target counties in Northeast Ohio, including the NEFCO region. The resilient Team NEO will also facilitate more connections between industries, promoting innovation, and advancing smart manufacturing. Total estimated project investment for this project is \$879,000. NEFCO provided initial technical support as well as a letter of support to the EDA for this project.

Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that applications for the EDA Build to Scale grant program are due April 29<sup>th</sup>. There is \$38 million available in two funding challenges: \$32 million for the Venture Challenge and \$6 million for the Capital Challenge.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the FY2021 University Center Economic Development Program enables institutions of higher education to establish and operate University Centers. Specifically, focusing on using University assets to foster vibrant regional economic ecosystems, supporting innovation and high growth entrepreneurship. The application deadline for this program is June 4.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff will begin providing Board members with information monthly on current and available balances of the various EDA funding opportunities. He said that staff believes this will assist the NEFCO region in the development of projects and grant applications.

Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that there will be \$3 billion in additional funding allocated to the EDA through the American Rescue Plan Act. Details on the administration of these monies, per the legislation, include that 25 percent shall be used for assistance to States and communities that have suffered economic harm from the reductions in travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff continues to follow President Biden's proposed American Jobs Plan. The plan proposes \$2 trillion investment over 8 years to create millions of jobs. The plan also proposes a \$14 billion split between the EDA, the Department of Commerce, and HUD for investments in rural America's fiscal, social and civic infrastructure.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the EDA announced that its investment priorities were updated to include equity recovery and resilience, workforce development, manufacturing, technology based economic development, environmentally sustainable development in exports and foreign

direct investment. These priorities are considered during project evaluation and will affect funding decisions.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that NEFCO released a regional business survey. This is part of NEFCO's economic recovery and resiliency planning process. This survey will further assess the impacts of the pandemic, specifically, on businesses throughout the NEFCO Region.

Mr. Lautzenheiser reported that NEFCO received proposals from five consultants to update and redesign the organization's website. The budget for this project is \$15,000. He stated that NEFCO is utilizing the EDA CARES Act grant monies for a portion of the cost.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Ohio Association of Regional Councils continues to work with the General Assembly on the establishment of the Regional Broadband Councils proposed budget amendment to the FY2022-23 budget omnibus. He reminded Board members to please contact staff regarding local broadband priorities for a local community, which will be included in the priorities in NEFCO's ER&R and CEDS planning.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that the national employment increased by 916,000 in March and the unemployment rate decreased to 6.0 percent with the job growth being widespread. Ohio's unemployment rate dropped from 5.0 percent in February to 4.7 percent in March.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the US Department of Transportation has published a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. This grant program was formally known as BUILD or TIGER. The maximum grant award size is \$25 million; up to \$30 million will be awarded for planning grants. The application deadline July 12, 2021.

Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that JobsOhio is accepting applications for its 2021-22 Ohio Site Inventory Program (OSIP). OSIP offers grants and low interest loans to support speculative site and building development projects.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the US Small Business Administration is working to determine a reopening date for its Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) application Portal. This program provides over \$16 billion in grants to shuttered venues. Eligible entities must have been in operation as of February 29, 2020.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that Dominion Energy is offering \$1 million in grants through its critical community needs program. This program is open to eligible 501-c-3 nonprofits across Dominion's footprint. The application deadline is May 31.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Ohio EPA has scheduled a webinar titled "Preparing to Win in the Fall 2021 Brownfields Grant Competition". The webinar is scheduled for April 27, at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Regula said that the RTIP is thinking about applying for a RAISE grant. He asked about criteria to qualify for this grant. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that he will do some research for Mr. Regula. He said that the RTIP is definitely an eligible applicant for this grant. He said it would also be a good idea to contact ODOT to brief them on the project.

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.

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

Mr. Hadley said that the President Biden has released his skinny budget. As is typical with a new administration during this transition stage, the administration hasn't prepared a full budget for FFY2022. Some details have been released on the discretionary funds priorities. He said also attached is about 8 pages of details on some of the departments that members use most often, including: Department of Commerce, HUD, Transportation, EPA, and the Small Business Administration.

Mr. Hadley said that the White House released fact sheets regarding the American Jobs Plan, which is also being called the infrastructure plan. There is a fact sheet available for each of the 50 states. Attached is the fact sheet for Ohio. Mr. Hadley stated that he has included additional information on infrastructure. He said that the Republicans in the House and the Senate are also working on infrastructure legislation. The Senate, in particular, has details on infrastructure legislation that would be less than half of what the President's Jobs Plan would cost. Also in the House, Republicans are working on the BUILDER Act. He explained what that legislation focused on.

Mr. Hadley mentioned that the Ohio House Finance Committee, late yesterday, passed its omnibus state budget bill which is scheduled to be discussed on the House floor this afternoon.

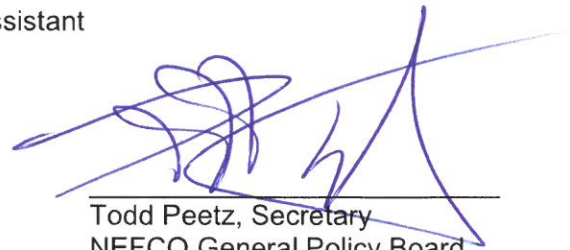
**7. For the Good of the Order: an opportunity for members to share news about their community/county/agency, or to list an important issue affecting them**

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

**8. Other Business**

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary  
NEFCO General Policy Board  
May 19, 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 <sup>a</sup>	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 Pectz (Gail Gifford)		X	X	X								
John Vence (Tia Rutledge)	A	A	A	A								
John Zizka												
<b>CITY OF KENT</b>												
Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel)	X	X	X	X								
<b>STARK COUNTY</b>												
Keith Bennett	X	X	X	X								
David Maley	X	X	X	X								
Vince Marion	X			X								
Joe Mazzola	X	X		X								
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)	X	X	X	X								
Jim Troike (Scott Ellsworth and Tom Davis)												
Joe Underwood (Bob Nau)	X	X	X	X								
John Weedon												
Vacant												
Vacant												
Vacant												
Vacant												
<b>CITY OF CANTON</b>												
Dan Moeglin (John Highman Jr.)	X	X	X	X								
<b>COUNTY OF SUMMIT</b>												
Jim Balogh	X	X	X									
Alan Brubaker (Joe Paradise and Larry Fulton)	A		A	A								
William Judge (Trevor Hunt)	X	X	X	X								
David Kohlmeier (Bill Dorman)		X	X	X								
Olivia Helander (Bryan Herschel)	X	X	X	X								
Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley and Brian Clark)	A	A	A	A								
Dianne Sumego	X	X	X	X								
Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei)	X	X		X								
Elizabeth Walters (Jerry Feeman)		X	X									
<b>CITY OF AKRON</b>												
Sharon Connor			X									
Daniel Horrigan (Sam DeShazior)												
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A	A	A	A								
Shammas Malik		X	X	X								
Brad McKitrick												
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	X	X		X								
Helen Tomic (Abraham Wescott)	X		X	X								
<b>WAYNE COUNTY</b>												
Becky Foster (Sue Smail)	X	X	X	X								
Pete Wearstler (Rob Kastner)	X	X	X	X								
Steven Wheeler (Kristin Endsley)		X	X	X								
<b>CITY OF WOOSTER</b>												
Bob Breneman (Joel Montgomery and Jonathan Millea)	A	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 April 21, 2021 meeting</b>
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Trevor Hunt, (Alternate), City of Barberton
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Tim Ross, Congressman Gibb's office Rep.
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Alicia Woods, Guest
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Mike Wheeler, Mayor, Village of Richfield
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