

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, May 19, 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 April 21, 2021

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

3. Financial Status Report - month of April

Mr. Hadley said that \$8,833.96 was received as income during the month of April receipts to date were \$886,462.76, disbursements to date were \$872,076.56, and cash on hand at the end of April was \$293,752.20.

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

3a. April Bank Reconciliations

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

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

4. Consideration of the selection of Proud City as website consultant; authorization for the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Proud City for the redesign of the NEFCO website, including any additional options deemed important for NEFCO functions

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that this is the consideration of the selection of Proud City as a website consultant, authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Proud City for the redesign of the NEFCO website, including any additional options deemed important for NEFCO functions. Staff submitted the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the redesign of the organization's website on March 11. The submittal deadline was April 11th. The RFP was developed and issued in accordance with all legal federal procurement guidelines. He stated that NEFCO received five proposals. The RFP listed the budget for the redesign of \$15,000 which is contained in the FY21 budget. A portion of the cost of the project is being funded through the EDA Cares Act grant. One of the five vendors greatly exceeded the budgeted amount. The table listed in the Board packet shows the five RFP submissions. He said that several of the vendors included optional add-ons that would allow for additional website functionality. Most of the add-ons require additional costs. NEFCO may want to consider including some of these additional features, particularly those considered important for NEFCO

functions. He stated that staff reviewed the proposals and interviewed all the vendors except CivicPlus, since its proposal far exceeded the budget. NEFCO staff recommends the selection of Proud City. He asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2021-005. He asked if there were any questions? Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that Ms. Sheridan did all the work for this project. He said that she developed and issued the RFP, the development methodology, and she coordinated the interviews and evaluations. Ms. Sheridan also checked numerous references for the vendors.

A motion was made by Mr. Vinay, seconded by Mr. Tatum, to approve Proud City to redesign NEFCO's website and to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Proud City, as contained in Resolution No. FY2021-005. The motion carried.

5. Cleveland State University Center for Economic Development requests letter of support for EDA University Center program grant application

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Cleveland State University (CSU) Center for Economic Development has requested a letter of support from the NEFCO General Policy Board for its EDA University Center program grant application. CSU is an EDA designated University Center and is seeking additional EDA funding in the amount of \$80,000 over the next five years. This grant will continue providing research contextual assistance as a University Center in Northeast Ohio, including assisting the NEFCO four counties. He said that CSU and its partners will provide an additional \$80,000 in match. This project is consistent with NEFCO's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). He stated that CSU will provide important research and technical assistance to support entrepreneurial, innovative and technical development in Northeast Ohio, including the four-county region, to build a thriving competitive economy. He said that CSU is participating in NEFCO's Economic Recovery and Resiliency Planning Process and has committed to assisting NEFCO with research and technical assistance as part of the CEDS. NEFCO staff hopes to strengthen CSU's partnership over the next five years, working cooperatively on various economic development planning, workforce development and entrepreneurial planning initiatives. He asked for approval of the attached letter of support.

Dr. Lendel stated that CSU has been an EDA-designated University Center since 1985. She said recently CSU provided technical assistance to Wayne County. She mentioned that CSU also provided assistance to Summit County for a broadband project by conducting an initial prospective economic impact analysis. Mr. Moeglin stated that it was great that CSU assisted Summit and Wayne Counties. He asked if this type of program also exists at The University of Akron or Kent State University or any of the other higher education institutions? Dr. Lendel said that Ohio University also has a University Center grant. She said that there is nothing preventing anyone from working with Akron or Kent University centers. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the University Center grant application is open to any university or consortium of universities, and there isn't anything preventing a university from establishing a university center; which would be designated by the EDA.

A motion was made by Mr. Marion, seconded by Mr. Tatum, to approve the Cleveland State University letter of support for its EDA University Center program grant application. The motion carried.

6. Consideration of an Amendment to the Clean Water Plan for the Ravenna Facilities Planning Area (FPA) to change the wastewater treatment prescriptions at the parcel level in Rootstown Township, within the Portage County Water Resources Department's Jurisdiction

Mr. LaPlante said that the revised amendment was included with the Board packet that the Board members and alternates received yesterday. The revisions are shown in bold italicized text and highlighted in yellow. The revisions to the memo and the resolution were made to reflect that after the Board mail out on May 12th, NEFCO received the Rootstown Township Trustees' written "no objection" response to the amendment. The Portage County Water Resources Department is requesting an amendment to the Ravenna FPA to change the wastewater treatment prescription for three specific parcels in and near the adjacent State Route 44 road right of way in Rootstown Township. Figure 1 shows the amendment location. He said that Figures 2 and 3 show the existing and proposed wastewater treatment prescriptions. He stated that the requested amendment only involves correcting the map to the existing conditions and does not change anything from what already exists. There are no proposed FPA boundary changes. He said that the responses from the affected local governments and agencies are attached. The legal ad seeking public comment was published in the Record Courier on April 25th. The ERTAC recommended conditional approval of the amendment; these conditions have now been met. He asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2021-006.

Mr. Moeglin asked if this was a little bit of an oversight from when NEFCO did a global Plan reauthorization and the amendment is really just matching it (the amendment) to what exists in the real world? Mr. LaPlante said yes, that is correct.

A motion was made by Mr. Tatum, seconded by Mr. Marion, to approve Resolution No. FY2021-006. The motion carried.

7. Authorization to enter into contracts with the Ohio EPA for state and federally-funded water quality management planning, and for the Executive Director to sign for NEFCO

Mr. Hadley said that this item gives an overview of the two contracts that NEFCO receives each year from the Ohio EPA. He said that one contract is funded through state budget funds and the other is funded with pass-through monies from USEPA. He stated that it has been a practice in the last several years that Board approval is requested to have the Executive Director sign these contracts when they become available. He said that the scopes for both contracts have been submitted. The state contract is almost entirely 208 Plan maintenance or updates of chapters. The federally funded contract is primarily Portage Lakes watershed related activities that staff has been working on for several years. He asked if there were any questions on the Ohio EPA contracts? He said that the state contract funding is in the amount of \$75,000 and \$51,657 in federal income pass-through to the Ohio EPA.

A motion was made by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Judge, to authorize NEFCO to enter into a contract with the Ohio EPA for state and federally-funded water quality management planning, and for the Executive Director to sign for NEFCO. The motion carried.

8. Preliminary FY2022 Appropriations and Expenditures Budget: Report of the Budget and Work Program Committee; Draft FY2022 Work Program

Mr. Hadley said that no action is requested from the Board today for the attached budget tables and work program. He said that the Budget Committee met on May 14th. He said that Table 1 lists the funding sources for NEFCO. He stated that Table 2 lists the dues amounts. The Budget Committee is recommending a continuance of the \$0.18 per capita rate that is shown for the eight dues-paying members. He said that the total budget is based on revenues of

\$1,294,259 and was used to prepare the detailed proposed budget shown in Table 3. He said that the items listed are nothing out of the ordinary. He said that the Budget Committee did provide for a possible salary adjustments for the staff as would be determined specifically by the Personnel Committee and voted on by the Board. Also attached to the Board packet is the Preliminary FY2022 Work Program. He said that much of the work program are Ohio EPA's two contracts pending activities. He said that although the Budget Committee had recommended approval of this budget, he will seek approval of the budget and work program at the June meeting. He stated that delaying voting on the budget until June would give staff better data closer to the June board meeting. He said that he will make the Budget Committee aware of any changes to the budget.

Mr. Moeglin said that the one thing that he would like to mention specifically was that the NEFCO dues at the \$0.18 per capita has been the rate since 2010. He stated that Mr. Hadley and the rest of the staff should be commended for demonstrating good fiscal constraint and not asking for any increases from the dues-paying members.

9. NEFCO FY2021 Work Program – status

a. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante stated that the 208 Plan's Chapter 3, Policy 3-6a and 3-6b addresses how NEFCO should handle resolving wastewater planning disputes between adjacent management agencies. He said that by using the approach of introducing clear and concise transition paragraphs along with brief guidance sections to clarify any ambiguous phrases in the Policy's criteria and removing outdated information, staff has completed an initial draft of the revised Policy that addresses this problem. He said that the goal of the revised Policy is to make clearer how and when FPA boundaries can be modified when the affected MAs disagree with the proposed change. Staff spoke with some of the larger MAs in an effort to build, with their collective wisdom, some consensus on NEFCO's Policy revision approach. Staff spoke with three of the four county MAs and two of the city MAs that had not previously responded. Staff asked all five of these larger MAs six standardized questions about the Policy and staff's revision approach. He discussed the questions asked to the MAs and their responses. He stated that since staff was able to build a general consensus, with input from the larger MAs, on NEFCO's Policy revision approach, attached is a potential timeline for completion of the final draft revised Policy.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Areawides are developing their water quality work programs for the upcoming state fiscal year. A collaborative planning project is proposed involving the Areawides and the Ohio EPA. The proposed project would consist of data collection by the Areawides of their sewer and unsewered areas. As Ohio EPA decides how to allocate millions of dollars in state H2Ohio funding to provide sewer connections and household sewage treatment system (HSTS) upgrades in unsewered areas, data and information are needed from the Areawides to determine regional priorities for unsewered areas, at little to no cost to homeowners. The first phase is proposed to start on July 1st, with the start of SFY2022. He said that staff will contact the management agencies (sewer authorities) and county health districts for data. The management agencies (MAs) will be asked to provide NEFCO with currently available sewer line data. Staff will ask the health districts and local governments to identify and prioritize areas needed sewer connections or HSTS upgrades. The Ohio EPA will likely prioritize sewer connections and HSTS upgrades in low-to-moderate income areas, especially in areas with smaller parcels with unsuitable soils for on-site replacement systems.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Portage Lakes Management Study (PLMS) partners meeting has been rescheduled for May 27th; via Microsoft Teams. He stated that this meeting will provide a venue for the partners to provide comments on the edited draft of the Portage Lakes Management Plan. He stated that on May 10th, the edited draft of the Management Plan was sent to the PLMS partners to give them time to review the document and provide comments to NEFCO staff. He said that staff will incorporate the comments received from the PLMS partners

(during their May 27th meeting) into the draft Management Plan. The final edited draft will be sent to the partners in mid-June. The fourth and final PLMS partners meeting for FY2021 will be held in late June for the purpose of getting the partners to 'clear' the draft Management Plan.

Mr. LaPlante mentioned that Dan Bogoevski, Ohio EPA-NEDO, Division of Surface Water, *Storm Water Program Overview and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Permit Updates*; will present at the June 2nd ERTAC meeting. Mr. LaPlante stated that Richard Harrison, P.E., Executive Director of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), the water pollution control agency for the Ohio River and its tributaries, will present on ORSANCO's water quality programs at the July 7th ERTAC meeting.

Mr. LaPlante stated that on June 10th, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) will hold a free "*In Your Community*" webinar on "*Regulation and Funding of Household Sewage Treatment Systems in Ohio*". On June 17th, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Ohio EPA DEFA will hold a free "*In Your Community*" webinar on "*Managing Contaminated Sites in Your Community*".

Mr. Moeglin asked about the Canal Diversion Dam project pump installation. Ms. Sumego said that the materials have been received with installation planned in August. She said that there are some concerns about the geology in the area. She stated that a design change has been requested for the pump location foundation.

b. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the NEFCO Regional Business Survey closed at the end of April. The survey was distributed to over 1,000 private sector business contacts throughout the region, as part of NEFCO's Economic Recovery and Resiliency (ER&R) planning process. He said that a total of 121 completed surveys were received. This followed the first ER&R survey, that was completed in February. The top three impacts from the pandemic included a decline in sales and customers, change in business model/operation, and supply chain disruptions. He stated that the current concerns include staffing and employee as well as customer safety. He thanked all who participated in the survey.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the three Economic Recovery & Resiliency (ER&R) planning subcommittees met on May 11, 12, and 14. He said that the Workforce Development and Entrepreneurship, Regional Business, and Community Development subcommittees will take deeper dives into critical areas identified through community meetings and surveys. The three committees will work with staff, the Board and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee on the development of the ER&R Plan and the next CEDS Plan.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that staff submitted the six-month progress and financial reports for the Partnership Planning Grant (PPG) and the CARES Act grant. The PPG progress report details NEFCO's efforts in completing its economic development work and the CEDS. He said that the financial reports include project expenditures relative to each grant.

Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that applications for the EDA FY2021 University Center Economic Development Program (UC) are due June 4. This is the same grant to which Cleveland State University is applying. The purpose of the UC program is to enable institutions and consortia of institutions of higher education to establish and operate University Centers.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that per the EDA Chicago Regional Office, currently no funds are available for the FY2020 Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance (PW/EAA) or the FY2020 CARES Act programs. He said that additional PW/EAA funds will be available following the publication of the next NOFO in October. There are funds available for the FY2021-2023 Planning and Local Technical Assistance Program.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the EDA is still working out the administrative details on the deployment of the \$3 billion additional allocation through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). He said that additional funding will be made available through September 30, 2022.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that Alejandra Castillo has been nominated for Assistant Secretary for Economic Development. He said that if Ms. Castillo is confirmed for the Assistant Secretary role, she would become head of the EDA. He stated that the Senate is expected to hold her confirmation hearing this spring. If confirmed, Ms. Castillo would become the third female to head the EDA since its inception in 1965.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that on May 17th, Governor DeWine signed HB2, which creates the state's first ever residential broadband expansion program. He said that HB2 establishes a \$20 million grant program and the Broadband Program Expansion Authority to receive and review applications

Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) proposed an amendment to the FY2022-23 budget omnibus (HB 110) for the designation of Regional Broadband Councils across the state to coordinate broadband planning projects and provide oversight and technical assistance. He stated that this amendment was not included in the version approved by the House Finance Committee. The OARC is still interested in pursuing the designation of these Councils and establishing a separate broadband expansion grant program for local governments and nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Summit Brownfields Coalition assessment grant application, which was submitted by NEFCO last fall, was not selected for funding by the USEPA. He stated that only two applications in Ohio were approved for funding. The next round of funding will be announced in August.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that on May 10, 2021 the U.S. Department of the Treasury released new guidance relative to the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. He said that the ARPA provides more than \$350 billion in relief funding for state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to support the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impacts.

Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that the national employment increased by 266,000 in April, but the unemployment rate increased from 6.0 percent to 6.1 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the 2020 Census apportionment results were delivered to President Biden. He said that seven House seats will shift among 13 states. He stated that Ohio will lose one Congressional seat.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the U.S. Department of Transportation is hosting a webinar, "Preparing a RAISE 2021 Planning Grant Application," on May 20 at 3pm.

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.

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

Mr. Hadley said that he has included some information regarding President Biden's plans to release his full FFY22 budget on May 27th. There's information related to the Treasury Department releasing rules on the uses of the pandemic relief funds that were approved in March. He said that the Pew Charitable Trust has issued a three-page report that advises states and localities on the use of this massive amount of federal funds that are being placed into the coffers of states and local governments. Specifically, learning some lessons from the

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding under the Obama administration. He said this is focused on learning not to hire people with these funds and then realizing down the road when the funding is gone that they are not able to sustain those positions. Pew said that in many cases it may be better to spend a lot of the money on one big project that is more or less paid for rather than a series of other expenditures that folks are going to come to expect will continue into the distant future, when in-fact the funding for them is not assured.

Mr. Hadley said that there are increasing stories about earmarks being part of some of the major bills being considered by Congress. He stated that the House and the Senate have different accounts for these earmarked funds, and this year when there's a conference committee to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate on a particular spending bill, it's thought that there are going to be some problems reconciling the differences if the earmarks are different in each chamber. He mentioned that earmarks are becoming part of the upcoming highway bill.

Mr. Hadley said that also attached are the Ohio legislation signed by the Governor or introduced in the House and Senate. He said that House Bill 157, now substitute House Bill 157, which is a subset of the emergency withholding provision for folks that were working from home yet continuing to pay municipal taxes. He said that this would possibly require cities to issue refunds to employees for tax year 2020. There's another bill that would extend the emergency provision farther into the future.

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 stated that the RTIP submitted a TRAC application for the Trump Avenue to SR44 project. He said that the application was for \$12 million. He mentioned that the RTIP made a presentation to the TRAC committee last Thursday. He said he will keep the Board updated on the details.


12. Other Business

a. Rich Blasick, retiring at the end of May

Mr. Hadley said that he would like to acknowledge and thank Rich Blasick, an alternate to the Board from the Northeast District Office of the Ohio EPA. He thanked Rich for all of his assistance to the board and to the NEFCO staff. Mr. Hadley said that Mr. Blasick has also been the Northeast District's representative to the quarterly Ohio EPA meetings with the Areawides. He stated that Rich is very even-tempered person. He said that Mr. Blasick is also very supportive of the Areawides and Northeast Ohio. Mr. Blasick thanked Mr. Hadley for the kind words. He stated that he enjoyed working with everybody and it's really hard to believe that it has been 31 years with Ohio EPA. There have been a lot of challenges and he has learned a lot throughout the years. Mr. Blasick stated that Patricia Vanah will be his replacement; she will start in June learning the program. Mr. Moeglin thanked Rich and wished him best of luck in his retirement. Enjoy retirement and have a great time. He thanked Rich for all his contributions over the years to NEFCO.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
June 16, 2021

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	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									
Joseph Diorio (Mary Helen Smith)	A	A	A		A							
Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford)		X	X	X								
John Vence (Tia Rutledge)	A	A	A	A	A							
John Zizka												
CITY OF KENT												
Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel)	X	X	X	X	X							
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett	X	X	X	X	X							
David Maley	X	X	X	X	X							
Vince Marion	X			X	X							
Joe Mazzola	X	X		X	X							
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)	X	X	X	X	X							
Jim Troike (Scott Ellsworth and Tom Davis)					X							
Joe Underwood (Bob Nau)	X	X	X	X	X							
John Weedon												
Vacant												
Vacant												
Vacant												
Vacant												
CITY OF CANTON												
Dan Moeglin (John Highman Jr.)	X	X	X	X	X							
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	X	X		X							
Alan Brubaker (Joe Paradise and Larry Fulton)	A		A	A	A							
William Judge (Trevor Hunt)	X	X	X	X	X							
David Kohlmeier (Bill Dorman)		X	X	X	X							
Olivia Helander (Bryan Herschel)	X	X	X	X	X							
Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley and Brian Clark)	A	A	A	A								
Dianne Sumego	X	X	X	X	X							
Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei)	X	X		X	X							
Elizabeth Walters (Jerry Feeman)		X	X									
CITY OF AKRON												
Sharon Connor			X									
Daniel Horrigan (Sam DeShazor)												
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A	A	A	A	A							
Shammas Malik		X	X	X	X							
Brad McKittrick												
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	X	X		X	X							
Helen Tomic (Abraham Wescott)	X		X	X	X							
WAYNE COUNTY												
Becky Foster (Sue Smail)	X	X	X	X	X							
Pete Wearstler (Rob Kastner)	X	X	X	X	X							
Steven Wheeler (Kristin Endsley)		X	X	X	X							
CITY OF WOOSTER												
Bob Breneman (Joel Montgomery and Jonathan Milica)	A	A	A	A	A							
OHIO EPA-NEDO^b												
Kurt Princic (Rich Blasick)	A				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 May 19, 2021 meeting
Trevor Hunt, (Alternate), City of Barberton
Tim Ross, Congressman Gibb's office Rep.
Iryna Lendel, Cleveland State University
Darryl Kleinhenz, AMATS