

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at the Raintree Golf and Event Center.

1a. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Moeglin at 8:34 a.m. in the presence of a quorum.

1b. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Sumego, 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 June 16, 2021

A motion was made by Ms. Sumego, seconded by Mr. Judge, to accept the June meeting minutes. The motion carried.

3. Financial Status Report - month of June

Mr. Hadley said that \$129,644.64 was received as income during the month of June, receipts to date were \$279,366.00, disbursements to date were \$1,028,609.35, and cash on hand at the end of June was \$340,272.44.

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

3a. June Bank Reconciliations

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

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

4. Consideration of the selection of Brown Enterprise Solutions as the awardee from NEFCO's recent computer equipment bid request

Mr. Hadley said that he noticed and corrected a couple typos or omissions in the equipment listing that was sent last week to the Board. He stated that staff is experiencing problems on a daily basis with the current computers. He said that all of the computers are pretty old. He said in January, NEFCO joined the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program, of which most or probably all the government members attending today are members. He stated that the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (ODAS) has a separate department for computer equipment purchases. He said that he asked many questions, and the contact person was very accommodating. Mr. Hadley said that the ODAS contact was well aware of the procedures when working with government agencies and helping them with large equipment orders. He said that he received some figures in April/May from the Dell Technology's Public Sector representative for Ohio and was able to structure NEFCO's agency budget and bid request accordingly. The bid document was finalized in July with bid requests sent to four vendors that were suggested by ODAS. He stated that three quotes are listed and he recommended Brown Enterprise Solutions be awarded this bid. All three bids were very close with all based on the same equipment. He said that the bids came in slightly higher than he anticipated because of

computer price increases between April and July. This caused the bids to be higher than the April draft quotes. He said that he recommended Brown Enterprise Solutions' bid for \$33,957.30.

Ms. Foster asked about the difference in the laptops? Mr. Hadley said that four of the laptops are more powerful which will be used by the professional staff, who have GIS experience. Ms. Sumego said that the smaller laptops have less processing capacity and staff will outgrow the capacity at a faster rate. Mr. Hadley assured her that the laptops have adequate capacity for the present and future. She asked why are there so many computers being ordered for seven employees. Mr. Hadley said that ordering this many computers was a recommendation from the Summit County IT Department, in case of a disaster. For example, if there was a fire in the office staff would be able to work without interruption. Mr. Zizka asked if the new computers would replace all the existing office computers? Mr. Hadley said yes. The laptops will enable staff to work from home or office by transporting the laptops. Mr. Moeglin asked if the estimate was over what was budgeted? Mr. Hadley said that the estimate was less than \$2,000 over what the agency budgeted for technology/computers. NEFCO's budget can easily absorb this increase. Ms. Sumego asked how will the data be secured when working from home? Mr. Hadley stated that the Summit County IT Department will provide virtual private network (VPN) connection for the NEFCO staff. Mr. Stanley said that this proposal is similar to what he's noticed Summit County is currently doing with other departments so that staff may continue to work from home. Mr. Hadley asked for approval of the selection of Brown Enterprise Solutions.

A motion was made by Mr. Vinay, seconded by Mr. Judge, for the selection of Brown Enterprise Solutions as the awardee from NEFCO's recent computer equipment bid request. The motion carried.

5. NEFCO FY2022 Work Program – status

a. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante stated that with input from some of the MAs and the ERTAC subcommittee, staff completed a draft of the revised wastewater dispute planning policy. He said that a subcommittee meeting was held directly after the July 7th ERTAC meeting to discuss any additional suggested edits and to consider the subcommittee's possible endorsement of the draft Policy. He stated that the Policy subcommittee unanimously endorsed the draft Policy so that it could be brought before the full ERTAC on August 4th for public notification consideration. He mentioned that staff will distribute the draft to the ERTAC ahead of time as part of the agenda mailout on July 28th.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff has been tracking the status of the Chapter 3 update since the Board's approval of it in November 2020. He said that the update was submitted to Ohio EPA on December 30, 2020. He stated that the Ohio EPA reported that the comment period ended on May 27th, and there were no comments from the public hearing that needed to be addressed by the Areawides. The Areawides' 208 Plan updates are in the process of being submitted to the Governor's office for certification into the state's water quality management plan. After certification by the Governor, Ohio EPA will submit all the Areawides' 208 Plan updates to US EPA for approval.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff continues to incorporate the comments received on June 24th into the draft Portage Lakes Management Study (PLMS). Staff is also compiling existing, limited, limnological data to provide information and a framework for an upcoming sampling program. He stated that the on-going activities include discussing the draft Plan rollout, and the partners setting up an online discussion board for the partners to share information about the Portage Lakes and updates. He mentioned that staff will research efforts by other lake management organizations to help the partners establish a Portage Lakes management program. Staff will

also participate in the development of a curated online website map for submission of photos and observations which will monitor the Lakes. The next PLMS partners meeting will be held on August 26th.

Mr. LaPlante said that at the last couple of Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) meetings Ohio EPA made it clear that it is a priority to use some of the H2Ohio funding to provide sewer connections and HSTS upgrades in unsewered areas. He said that data and information are needed from the Areawides to determine regional priorities for unsewered areas. He said that staff will be contacting all the management agencies (the sewer authorities) and county health districts for data that is needed for the project. At the July 7th ERTAC meeting, staff requested that the management agencies (MAs) in attendance begin the process of providing NEFCO staff with currently available sewer line data. The sewer line data should identify any sewer lines that are force mains or private sewers, which are typically inaccessible for new connections. He mentioned that the health districts are being asked to roughly delineate priority areas on maps, then provide the maps to NEFCO staff. The Ohio EPA will likely prioritize sewer connections and septic system upgrades in low-to-moderate income areas, especially in areas with smaller parcels and unsuitable soils for on-site replacement systems. He said that staff will be sending the MAs and the health districts a memo to formally request their assistance in providing the needed sewer and unsewered areas data to NEFCO for this collaborative project.

Mr. Regula asked if Stark County would be eligible to apply for the H2Ohio funds? Mr. LaPlante stated that he will have to find out who is eligible at the next OARC meeting. He said that he will keep the Board up to date on the details of the H2Ohio funding. Ms. DiFiore asked if NEFCO will be working with watershed managers in the City of Akron? Mr. LaPlante said that he thinks that would be a great idea to reach out to the watershed managers. Ms. Smith suggested showing an attainment and nonattainment map to take advantage of the H2Ohio funding. Ms. Vanah said that the Ohio EPA is still working on how the funds will be distributed. Ms. Smith stated that there are also HABs notifications in Portage County. Mr. LaPlante said that the Ohio EPA probably would like to see projects that are shovel ready. Mr. Sarfo said that the stormwater permit requires that the minimum control measure number 3 requires identification and detection of all illicit discharges. There is not enough money to fix all these hot spots that have been identified, Mr. Sarfo asked how do we know that this will not cause problems for the communities once the hot spots are identified? The Ohio EPA will require, at some point, that the hot spots be fixed and the communities don't have the money to fix the hot spots? Mr. LaPlante said that the project is too early to answer directly on this topic. He stated that staff is in the data collection phase. Ms. Sumego asked if the funding will be focused only on unsewered or failing sewer systems? Ms. Smith said no, additional details are listed on the Governor's website. Ms. Sumego asked if the sanitary engineers will be involved with this project? Mr. LaPlante stated that the management agencies will be supplying staff with the sewer information. He stated that he will also contact the sanitary engineers for information. Mr. Balogh said since it is unknown when the funds for this project will be available, he asked if there was a timeline for use of the funds? Mr. LaPlante said that he isn't sure about the timeline. Mr. Hadley said that the funding is tied to the state budget and has to be used within a two-year cycle. He said that this is one of the Governor's priorities from the prior budget. The Areawides have been communicating with the Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water for quite a while, as to all or most of the H2Ohio funding has been going to the northwest basin. He stated that the NEFCO region has HABs problems at a smaller scale in some of our area lakes and ponds. He said that it is encouraging that Ohio EPA is looking for rational data to start to make some of those decisions for funding outside the northwest basin. Mr. LaPlante said that some H2Ohio funds had been carried over from the previous year. Mr. Moeglin said that there is \$250M, for water and sewer projects, going to the County Engineer's Association to be distributed through a priority system. He said he wasn't sure if its H2Ohio funding. Ms. Sumego

recommended creating a task force group of people who already have most of this data and leverage in making these kinds of decisions; don't just exclude them. Mr. LaPlante said that this specific project is for sewerage the unsewered areas.

Mr. LaPlante stated that at the August 4th ERTAC in-person meeting, Ms. Marsh and Ms. Sumego will be presenting "A Dam Good Tale". He said that the ERTAC is an audience that would appreciate a technical overview of the project, which has a project period end date of October 31, 2021.

Mr. LaPlante stated that Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) will hold a free webinar on "*Environmental Regulations of Businesses in Your Community*" on August 12th, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

b. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that there are currently no funds available for the FFY2020 Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance (PW/EAA) or the FFY2020 CARES Act programs. It is anticipated that EDA will announce in the coming weeks how it will administer the \$3 billion allocation through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The ARPA funds will be available to the entire country, not just the distressed areas.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that NEFCO executed the contract with Proud City to redesign the organization's website. Staff began the 12-week onboarding process on July 12th. Staff will complete the onboarding training and will work closely with Proud City on the website redevelopment process. The new, redesigned website is expected to go live in early October.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff, on behalf of the Summit Brownfields Coalition, is assisting the Ohio EPA in identifying a site for use of up to \$225,000 in brownfields assessment funding. The Ohio EPA contacted NEFCO in late June and indicated there were bankruptcy monies available for Summit County. The Ohio EPA identified the sites for these funds by using the list of Brownfield Priority Sites from the NEFCO led Summit Brownfields Coalition USEPA grant application which was submitted last fall. The site identified is located at 182 Beaver Street in Akron.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff submitted a letter to its 15 state legislators on June 17, as was approved by the Board last month. The letter requested funding for the Residential Broadband Expansion Program, which was included in the version of the state budget passed by the Ohio House but removed the Senate's budget version.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said the unemployment rate increased a tenth of a percent, from 5.8 percent to 5.9 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. He stated that Ohio's unemployment rate increased from 4.7 percent in April to 5.0 percent in May, per the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said the new state budget includes \$500 million funding for brownfields. Each of Ohio's 88 counties will receive \$1 million for the remediation of brownfields, and another \$500,000 for the demolition of commercial and residential buildings and the revitalization of surrounding properties on sites that are not necessarily brownfields.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the U.S. Census Bureau will release detailed demographic statistics from the 2020 Census by August 16th. The initial release in April included national and state population totals, which were used in determining state congressional apportionment. The August data release will be the first release of demographic data down to the census block level criteria.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has decided to maintain the current population threshold of 50,000 for delineating Metropolitan Statistical Areas. This will not affect the NEFCO Region, but it would have affected a number of small metropolitan areas across the country.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the National Endowment for the Arts Our Placemaking grant supports projects that integrate arts, culture, and design into community planning initiatives. These grant awards range from \$25,000 to \$150,000 and require a minimum fifty-percent local, nonfederal match. The grant applications deadline is August 5.

Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that the Ohio EPA in partnership with the Technical Assistance to Brownfields Program at Kansas State University is offering a free brownfields virtual workshop series August 24-25.

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 in the interest of time, he will limit his comments. He said that Senator Schumer from the Senate is potentially holding a procedural vote today on the infrastructure package. He said that for this program and the state grant programs, there is a priority for all our communities and counties to have their project lists ready to go.

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

Mr. Tatum mentioned the documentary that he was featured in won an Emmy award.

Mr. Moeglin stated that the Canton Hall of Fame will be holding a double enshrinement this year.

Mr. Balogh mentioned that the City of Twinsburg Twins Day will be held in August.

8. Other Business

a. Discussion on the location of near future Board meetings

Mr. Hadley stated that the Summa Health Center isn't allowing gatherings of 15 or more people in the facility. He said that the Raintree Golf and Event Center is available in August but not in September for the Board meetings. Mr. Moeglin suggested the City of Green Council Chambers. Mr. Hadley said that he will check the City of Green's availability for the September Board meeting.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
August 18, 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 ^a	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			A	A					
Joseph Diorio (Mary Helen Smith)	A	A	A		A	A	A					
Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford)		X	X	X		X	X					
John Vence (Tia Rutledge)	A	A	A	A	A	A						
John Zizka							X					
CITY OF KENT												
Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel)	X	X	X	X	X		X					
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett	X	X	X	X	X	X						
David Maley	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Vince Marion	X			X	X	X	X					
Joe Mazzola	X	X		X	X	X						
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Jim Troike (Scott Ellsworth and Tom Davis)					X							
Joe Underwood (Bob Nau)	X	X	X	X	X		X					
John Weedon												
Vacant												
Vacant												
Vacant												
Vacant												
CITY OF CANTON												
Dan Moeglin (John Highman Jr.)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	X	X		X		X					
Alan Brubaker (Joe Paradise and Larry Fulton)	A		A	A	A	A						
William Judge (Trevor Hunt)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
David Kohlmeier (Bill Dorman)		X	X	X	X	X	X					
Olivia Helander (Bryan Herschel)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley and Brian Clark)	A	A	A	A		A	A					
Dianne Sumego	X	X	X	X	X		X					
Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei)	X	X		X	X	X	X					
Elizabeth Walters (Jerry Feeman)		X	X			X	X					
CITY OF AKRON												
Sharon Connor			X			X	X					
Daniel Horrigan (Sam DeShazior)												
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A	A	A	A	A		A					
Shammas Malik		X	X	X	X		X					
Brad McKittrick												
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	X	X		X	X	X	X					
Helen Tomic (Abraham Wescott)	X		X	X	X	X						
WAYNE COUNTY												
Becky Foster (Sue Smail)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Pete Wearstler (Rob Kastner)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Steven Wheeler (Kristin Endsley)		X	X	X	X							
CITY OF WOOSTER												
Bob Breneman (Joel Montgomery and Jonathan Millea)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
OHIO EPA-NEDO^b												
Kurt Princic (Rich Blasick/Patricia Vanah)	A				A	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 July 21, 2021 meeting
Chris Papp, Village of Richfield