

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at the City of Green Community Hall at Central Park.

1a. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Regula at 8:33 a.m. in the presence of a quorum.

1b. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Tatum, seconded by Ms. Foster, to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

1c. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Regula led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1d. Audience Participation (members of the public)

Mr. Regula asked if there was anyone from the audience who had any comments.

Mr. Regula welcomed to the Board meeting Kirt Conrad, CEO/Executive Director, SARTA; Al Carranza, Building Contractor, Stark County Appointee; and Brad McKitrick, Councilman, City of Akron.

2. Consideration of the draft minutes of the regular meeting of the NEFCO General Policy Board on January 16, 2022

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

3. Financial Status Report - month of January

Mr. Hadley stated that the date at the top of page 1 "For Month Ending 12/31/21" should read "1/31/22". Mr. Hadley said that \$106,864.08 was received as income during the month of January, receipts to date were \$684,201.41, disbursements to date were \$598,617.89, and cash on hand at the end of January was \$425,855.96.

A motion was made by Mr. Tatum, seconded by Mr. Peetz, 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. Tatum, seconded by Mr. Moeglin, to accept the January bank reconciliations. The motion carried.

4. Consideration of an Amendment to the Clean Water Plan to change the Mantua Facilities Planning Area (FPA) boundary and wastewater treatment prescriptions to the parcel level in Shalersville Township in the Mantua FPA

Mr. LaPlante said that Portage County Water Resources (PCWR) has requested an amendment to the Clean Water Plan to change the Mantua Facilities Planning Area (FPA) boundary and wastewater treatment prescriptions to the parcel level in Shalersville Township in the Mantua FPA. He said that the amendment would expand the Mantua FPA boundary to include parcels along State Route 44 (SR 44). The PCWR anticipates there will be development in the future as PCWR delivers public water in this area. He said that the amendment request will also define the FPA boundary to the parcel level along the southern municipal boundary for the Village of Mantua. He stated that there is a pending permit-to-install for a commercial development that will span five parcels in Shalersville Township. The wastewater treatment plant in the Village of Mantua has capacity to accept the flow. He said attached are three maps which show the current FPA boundary and the proposed FPA boundary change. He mentioned that the proposed amendment was advertised on January 18th in the Record Courier. He stated that no comments were received. He stated that at the February 2, 2022 ERTAC meeting the ERTAC recommended

conditional approval of the amendment, contingent upon PCWR receiving no comments by the close-of-business hours on February 2, 2022 in opposition to the amendment, which was the 15th day of publication of the legal ad. He said that the condition was met since no comments were received on February 2nd. He asked for adoption of Resolution No. FY2022-007.

A motion was made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Peetz, to adopt Resolution No. FY2022-007.

Mr. Moeglin asked why does the proposed area have a large area that is green that is not intended to be served? Why is this area being changed to the green prescription if it isn't going to be connected to sewers? Ms. Rutledge said that along SR 44 there is potential for housing subdivisions so the PCWR would like to address this as one amendment in case there are adjacent parcels that become subdivisions and need to connect to sewers. There are some parcels in Shalersville Township that will remain rural areas. It will stay green unless it is a subdivision. The PCWR doesn't want any other connections to the force main. Mr. Vinay asked if the southern portions will be certified pumps stations and a force main along SR 44? Ms. Rutledge said yes, there is a force main along SR 44, as parcels come along there will be regional pump stations along the way. Ms. Smith said that this amendment was discussed at the February ERTAC meeting. She stated that Shalersville Township wanted to object to the expansion if the property owners that were adjacent to the parcels were going to be ordered to tie into the sewers. She stated that the sewage treatment regulations require if sewer becomes available and accessible the health districts must order the property owners to tie into sewers. She said there was a lot of discussion about this and because it is a force main, the PCWR prefers that residential housing not tie into the force main because of the grinder pump, and so it remains with the green prescription. She said that if a homeowner has a failing septic system and the on-lot soil base system isn't an option then another FPA amendment may be necessary to have the homeowner tie into the force main, but only if all other options are exhausted. Ms. Rutledge stated that there is a policy that if all other options are exhausted for the parcel the homeowner is allowed to connect to the regional force main, but the homeowner must know the risks and that PCWR is not responsible for any malfunctions with the system. Mr. Peetz said that amendment location is at the interchange of the turnpike which has now no gas stations, restaurants, or other businesses but in the near future will begin adding over 1,000 of employees over the next 10 years. He said that Shalersville is very sensitive to change in the community and the township doesn't realize how much is going to change within the next couple years. Mr. Regula asked about the businesses that will be established on these parcels? Ms. Rutledge said that she doesn't know right now because it keeps changing. Mr. Peetz said that there will be a combination of ten buildings (A to J) mostly warehousing with a combined total of 7.3 million square feet. It is supposed to break ground in the Spring. Ms. Smith said that originally it was supposed to be an Amazon or Dollar General warehouse. Mr. Hadley said that the 208 process is a catalyst for different types of discussions. The township is protected by being able to comment on this proposal and get the clarification that is needed from the health department and the PCWR.

The motion carried.

5. Authorization for NEFCO's Executive Committee to consider and select an economic recovery and resiliency planning services consultant

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that this is a request for authorization for NEFCO's Executive Committee to consider and select an economic recovery and resiliency planning services consultant. This memo has been updated from what was emailed last week. He stated that the General Policy Board on January 19, 2022, authorized staff to publish a request for proposals (RFP) to secure a consultant to assist staff with economic recovery and resiliency (ER&R) planning services and to help in preparing and developing the ER&R Plan document as well as satisfying the requirements of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) CARES Act grant. He stated that the RFP was published on January 25th and the deadline for proposals was February 14th. He noted that NEFCO received four proposals from consultants. Normally, staff would review the proposals and provide a recommendation to the General Policy Board. He said that generally there is time to review the proposals before the next Board meeting,

unfortunately the deadline was only two days before the Board meeting. He recommended that the selection of the qualified consultant be made prior to the March 16th Board meeting. He said that NEFCO is required to complete all activities and grant deliverables by June 30, 2022. Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that NEFCO and the other Economic Development Districts recently learned that the districts could apply for a no-cost, extension of up to six months, or even up to 12 months to complete grant activities and deliverables. He said that staff is considering the extension, but he doesn't want the extension to impact the timeline for the consultant's June 30, 2022 deadline. He stated that NEFCO intends to adhere to the June 30th date for the completion of the draft ER&R Plan and consultant contract. He said that if the EDA approves the extension staff would like to utilize the time to implement the plan and work with communities and organizations around the region on strategies that are identified in the final approved ER&R plan. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the NEFCO Executive Committee has been used in past situations to make decisions that are significant to the organization. He said that Mr. Hadley has contacted NEFCO's Board Chair and has tentatively scheduled a Special Executive Committee meeting for February 24, 2022, to select a consultant to finish the ER&R plan. He asked for authorization to utilize the Executive Committee to consider and select a consultant for the ER&R planning services, adoption of Resolution No. FY2022-008.

A motion was made by Mr. Moeglin, seconded by Mr. Peetz, to adopt Resolution No. FY2022-008. The motion carried.

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

Mr. Hadley said that each year staff requests from the Board the use of local funds for meeting refreshments. He stated that with some of Board meetings being held virtual in 2021 the amenities expenses were low, only \$102. He stated that assuming that meetings will continue to be held in person and possibly holding some work sessions over lunch, he is requesting an increase in the amenities to \$850 for the year. He asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2022-009.

A motion was made by Mr. Moeglin, seconded by Mr. Conrad, to adopt Resolution No. FY2022-009.

Ms. Foster asked if the Governor signs House Bill 51 to hold virtual meetings will the meetings continue to be in person or will they go to virtual meetings? Mr. Hadley said that House Bill 51 has not yet been signed by the Governor. Mr. Regula said that he would like to continue with in-person meetings. He stated that the Board could vote on the preference of virtual or in-person if/when the bill is signed by the Governor.

The motion carried.

7. NEFCO FY2022 Work Program – status

a. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante thanked Wayne County for providing its parcel data to the NEFCO staff. He stated that online parcel data is now available (on the interactive 208 Plan) for all four counties in the NEFCO Region.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff has received the listings of priority areas from all four counties in the region. He said that the data of homeowners who have septic issues have been supplied by the county health districts to NEFCO. He said that this information was requested by the Ohio EPA-DEFA to help rank projects for funding from H2Ohio for sewer extensions and improvements in connecting to low- to moderate-income households and mobile home parks with package plants with sewers.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Canal Diversion Dam Removal project owner's representative, dms water solutions, LLC, recently reported to NEFCO staff that on January 25th the prefabricated Archimedes screw pump was set in place at the construction site. He stated that the process reportedly went well. The start-up of the pump will be held on April 28th.

Mr. LaPlante stated that he will send the link to Board members, via email, for the Building a Better America: A Guidebook to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments, and Other Partners. He said he will also send a link for the Ohio EPA DEFA *Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Funding Opportunities* webinar recording. Please contact staff if you have any questions regarding this information.

b. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff submitted the 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Performance Report to EDA on January 28th. He said that the full CEDS update is done every five years but evaluated annually through the Annual Performance Report. The 2022 Annual Performance Report assesses the current economic conditions and priorities in 2021, evaluates the NEFCO region's progress on the goals and objectives that are included in the 2018 CEDS document. He said that the annual performance report is available on NEFCO's website.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff submitted the 2022-2025 EDA Partnership Planning Grant application on February 7th to continue the economic development planning work plan. He said that the new grant would start on April 1, 2022 and end on March 31, 2025. He stated that the grant would provide NEFCO with \$70,000 each year for the next three years or a total of \$210,000 in federal funds which NEFCO will provide a 50/50 local match.

Mr. Lautzenheiser noted that on January 28th, the Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) requested a letter of support from the NEFCO General Policy Board for its U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant application. He said that the OMA applied for an EDA Good Jobs Challenge (GJC) grant to build and enhance manufacturing sector partnerships across Ohio. He said that the OMA will partner with various workforce development organizations across the state, including ConxusNEO in the NEFCO region. He stated that the EDA Good Jobs Challenge grant application deadline was February 10th. The letter of support request was received after the January Board meeting. He said the Mr. Hadley did seek authorization from Chairman Regula before submitting the letter of support to OMA. Staff recommends formal ratification by the General Policy Board for this letter of support.

A motion was made by Ms. Sumego, seconded by Ms. Smith, to ratify the letter of support for the Ohio Manufacturers' Association's EDA Good Jobs Challenge grant application

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program through the American Rescue Plan Act supports projects that plan, build, and innovate, through construction or non-construction projects designed to meet local needs. The project deadline is March 15th. He stated that there is \$82.7 million available for the EAA program for EDA's Chicago Region. He said that grant awards are available for up to 80-percent of eligible project costs. All areas of the U.S. are eligible. He said that a non-federal match of 50-percent is required. Please contact him if you have questions regarding the funding opportunities or would like to discuss any eligible projects.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that now available is the AARP Community Challenge grant application. The grants provide small funding (generally between \$10,000 and \$50,000) for projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages. He stated that the application deadline is March 22, 2022. He stated that attached is a factsheet for additional information. He noted that an informational webinar will be held February 17th at 2pm.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the U.S. Department of Transportation has published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for \$1.5 billion in grant funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure. He said that the application deadline is April 14, 2022. He said that these grants may be awarded up to 80-percent, and awards may range between \$5 million and \$25 million. He mentioned that the projects must address climate change impacts and environmental justice. Mr. Regula said that this is a perfect example

of all the available grants that are out there. He said that the Route 30 project needs additional funding to keep the project going. He asked how do you explain environmental justice? Mr. Lautzenheiser said that it would include projects that will not destroy communities. Ms. Petsko said that the project would have to demonstrate how it will have no negative impacts on low income or less desirable areas.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that he has attached a Build Back Better document that includes information on 25 competitive infrastructure funding opportunities for local governments. There are ten highlighted transportation grant programs; nine climate, energy, and environmental grant programs; and six other grant programs for broadband, cyber, and other projects. Ms. Sumego asked if this includes wastewater? Mr. Vinay said that the Build Back Better program does not include wastewater.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that the 2022 National Brownfields Training Conference will be held August 16-19, 2022 in Oklahoma City. He said that the U.S. Census Bureau will release the 2016–2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates on March 17th.

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

Mr. Hadley said that the matter facing the Federal government is the need for another continuing resolution to keep the government open past February 18th. The House passed a continuing resolution to extend funding through March 11th. The reason for such a short turnaround is that both the House and Senate believe to be close to having a deal for all the FY2022 appropriations, so the pressure is on to complete this as an omnibus spending bill before March 11th. He said that he has included details about the appropriation bills.

Mr. Hadley said that he has also included information on the need for cyber security awareness. He said that the examples given were at the federal level. He noted that there have been cyber-attacks on small villages, a regional council, and hospitals.

Mr. Hadley said that HB 51, which provides for remote meeting capabilities through June 30th, was sent to the Governor on February 9th. There is an emergency clause meaning that upon the Governor's signature the bill is effective. He said that he hasn't heard if the Governor has signed the bill.

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

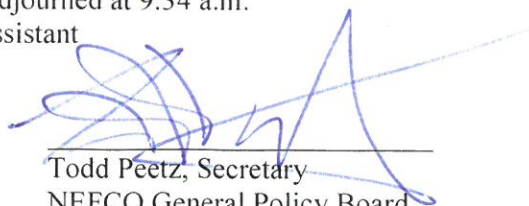
At Chair Regula's urging, Mr. Conrad said that the clean hydrogen hub is in the infrastructure bill. He stated that SARTA along with Dominion Energy belongs to a 70-member coalition which will be applying for this grant. He said that a study was developed, the results of which indicated that the amount of hydrogen needed in Ohio will increase by four times. He said this is a good opportunity to get into the production and storage of hydrogen.

Mr. Regula congratulated the City of Alliance, Mr. Mazzola, for receiving Strengthening Stark (Stark Economic Development Board) 2021 Quality Places Recognition for the City of Alliance Gateway Enhancements – North, East, South, and West. Mr. Mazzola expressed his thanks.

10. Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
March 16, 2022

NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD 2022 ATTENDANCE SHEET

Member (alternate)	1/19	2/16	3/16	4/20	5/18	6/15	7/20	8/17	9/21	10/19	11/16	12/21
PORTAGE COUNTY												
Tony Badalamenti (Sabrina Christian-Bennett)												
James Bierlair (Amos Sarfo) ^b	A	A										
Joseph Diorio (Mary Helen Smith)		A										
Allen Fathi (Tia Rutledge)		A										
Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford)	X	X										
John Zizka	X											
CITY OF KENT												
Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel)		X										
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett												
Keri Burick (Rachel Hosler)	X	X										
Alfredo Carranza		X										
Kirt Conrad		X										
Athena Ebersole	X	X										
David Maley	X											
Joe Mazzola		X										
Bob Nau (Curtis Bungard)		X										
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)	X	X										
Jim Troike (Scott Ellsworth and Tom Davis)		X										
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)												
Olivia Helander (Bryan Herschel)	X	X										
William Judge (Trevor Hunt)												
David Kohlmeier (Zak Kaczor)	X	X										
Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley and Brian Clark)	A	A										
Dianne Sumego	X	X										
Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei)	X	X										
Elizabeth Walters (Mark Potter)	A	A										
CITY OF AKRON^b												
Sharon Connor												
Daniel Horrigan (Sam DeShazor)												
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A											
Shammas Malik		X										
Brad McKitrick		X										
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	X	X										
Helen Tomic (Abraham Wescott)												
WAYNE COUNTY												
Becky Foster (Sue Smail)	X	X										
Pete Wearstler (Rob Kastner)	A	X										
Steven Wheeler (Kristin Endsley)		X										
CITY OF WOOSTER												
Bob Breneman (Joel Montgomery and Jonathan Millea)												
OHIO EPA-NEDO^a												
Kurt Princic (Patricia Vanah)	A	X										
CITIZENS COUNCIL												
Vacant (2)												

X = member present A = alternate present

^aex officio ^bappointments pending

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

Guests in Attendance at the February 16, 2022 meeting
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Darryl Kleinhenz, AMATS
