

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at the City of Green Council Chambers.

1a. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Regula at 8:30 a.m. in the presence of a quorum.

1b. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Tatum, seconded by Mr. Judge, 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. Moeglin stated that he will be leaving the City of Canton Engineer's office at the end of March. He said that his new position will be Stark County Park District's Executive Director. He introduced a couple people from the City of Canton that he said could possibly be appointed to the Board; Eugene Norris, Economic Development Director, City of Canton; and Deborah Houdeshell, Superintendent, City of Canton Water Reclamation Facility. Mr. Regula said that since Mr. Moeglin will be joining the Stark County Park District, maybe Mr. Moeglin will be able to stay on the Board through Stark Parks.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Zizka, seconded by Mr. Marion, to accept the February meeting minutes. The motion carried.

3. Financial Status Report - month of February

Mr. Hadley said that \$230,261.78 was received as income during the month of February, receipts to date were \$914,463.19, disbursements to date were \$789,722.55, and cash on hand at the end of February was \$465,003.08.

A motion was made by Mr. Marion, seconded by Mr. Zizka, 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 Ms. Foster, seconded by Mr. Moeglin, to accept the February bank reconciliations. The motion carried.

4. Consideration of an Amendment to the Clean Water Plan for the Aurora Facilities Planning Area (FPA) to change the wastewater treatment prescriptions to the parcel level for nineteen (19) specific lots in the 500 and 600 blocks of East Pioneer Trail and to provide for a sanitary sewer extension and sewer service to five (5) of those lots

Mr. LaPlante said that the City of Aurora has requested an amendment to the Aurora Facilities Planning Area (FPA) Clean Water Plan Appendix 3-4 to change the wastewater treatment prescriptions for nineteen (19) specific parcels in the 500 and 600 blocks of East Pioneer Trail. The main reason for the amendment is that there is a pending Permit-to-Install (PTI) with Ohio EPA. He stated that a developer, who wants to extend sewer to five parcels, contacted Ohio EPA in May 2021 with an application for a PTI. He stated that NEFCO staff determined that the PTI was not consistent with NEFCO's Clean Water Plan. He said that the five parcels have a 208 prescription of "*Areas to be Served by Home Sewage and*

Semi-Public Sewage Disposal Systems” (cream). The amendment would change the five parcels to “*Areas Expected to be Served with Sanitary Sewer within the Next 20 Years*” (orange). The remaining 14 parcels within the amendment area are a mixture of ‘cream’ and ‘orange’ prescriptions and these remaining prescription boundaries are not aligned with the parcel boundaries. The remaining parcel prescriptions will be changed to *Areas Currently Served with Sanitary Sewer* (yellow) and the boundaries will be aligned with the parcel lines. He stated that the Portage County Health District was contacted and responded with “no objection” to the amendment. The public notice was published in the Record Courier on February 11, 2022. He said that no comments on the proposed amendment were received by the City of Aurora during the required 15-day comment period. He said that the specific wastewater treatment prescription changes to the Aurora FPA map on Page 3-4-2 is the only change for Appendix 3-4. Staff recommended approval of the amendment at the March 2, 2022 ERTAC meeting. He said that the ERTAC unanimously recommended approval of the amendment. Mr. LaPlante introduced Ethan Neff, City of Aurora, to answer any questions regarding the amendment. Mr. LaPlante asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2022-011.

A motion was made by Mr. Marion, seconded by Mr. Conrad, to adopt Resolution No. FY2022-011. The motion carried.

5. Results of February 24th Special Executive Committee meeting: selected ER&R planning services consultant; status of contract and EDA budget amendment; draft minutes from Special Executive Committee meeting

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Special Executive Committee meeting was held to review the economic recovery and resiliency (ER&R) planning services contract. He stated that at the March 16th Board meeting the Board authorized NEFCO’s Executive Committee to consider and select a consultant for ER&R planning services through Resolution No. FY2022-008. He said it was determined that in the interest of expediency, the Executive Committee meeting would be important to hire a consultant prior to the April Board meeting. He said that the need to hire a consultant came about because of the resignation of NEFCO’s ER&R coordinator. The EDA approved NEFCO’s concept of hiring a consultant to provide ER&R planning services for the balance of the project. He stated that staff will submit a budget amendment request to the EDA reflecting the reduction of the personnel cost and the addition of the consultant cost. Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that the request for proposals listed \$50,000 to \$60,000 as the recommended budget for the consultant. He said that staff did a more intensive review of the budget and determined that \$50,000 would be more appropriate. Staff wanted to make sure there were enough resources to be able to use staff time following the completion of the consultant’s contract to complete the grant and deliverables. He mentioned that listed are the four vendors that submitted a request for proposals (RFP). He said that the top two vendors’ scores (ms consultants and Environmental Design Group) were very close; both submitted very good proposals, which were very responsive to the RFP. He stated that the Environmental Design Group was recommended by staff to be selected because the proposal was a little more detailed in the project scope and the project approach. He said that NEFCO staff recommended approving the proposal at a not-to-exceed budget of \$50,000. Since this not-to-exceed amount was less than the proposal bid, it is recommended that EDG have a week to determine or whether or not to accept the lower budget amount and have an opportunity to submit a revised project scope to reflect the reduced budget amount. He stated that Resolution No. FY2022-010 includes the selection of EDG for this contract, with a not-to-exceed budget of \$50,000; and with four conditions. He said that the EDG accepted the contract with the not-to-exceed budget of \$50,000 and with a revised project scope. Staff has reviewed the revised project scope and agrees with those revisions.

Mr. Lautzenheiser asked for approval of the attached Special Executive Committee meeting draft minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Moeglin, seconded by Mr. Judge, to approve the Special Executive Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried.

6. NEFCO FY2022 Work Program – status

a. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff will be applying for a six-month extension for NEFCO's CARES Act grant agreement. He stated that the extension will not impact the work of the planning consultant.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the American Rescue Plan Act Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program still has available funds. The application deadline is March 31, 2022. He said that when the federal appropriations are approved and signed, the EDA will have the ability to publish the FY2022 Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance (PW/EAA) notice of funding opportunity.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Senate and House passed the \$1.5 trillion omnibus spending bill which includes \$373.5 million for EDA. He stated that this is an increase of \$27.5 million above the FY2021 levels. The next step will be reconciliation of the Senate and House spending bills, and then the President's signature.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that there is a new mapping resource available from BroadbandOhio. He said that the attached maps for NEFCO's four counties show the different methodologies and are coded to the census block level. They are developed with real-world data and on-the-ground speed test information from internet customers, to determine the locations gaps in coverage.

Ms. Tomic asked what percentage of the CARES Act grant funding is left, and will staff be able to spend the grant down to zero? Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the goal is to spend all of the grant money. Mr. Hadley said roughly \$79,000 is remaining, as of December 2021, from the CARES Act grant. Staff is confident the agency will spend all of the funding. Mr. Regula asked who will be the lead on the Broadband project? Mr. Lautzenheiser said that a lot of the funding will be directed to the carriers. There is a relationship with the carriers to identify areas that are served with broadband connection versus underserved areas. He said there are state and federal agencies involved with this project.

b. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that USEPA Region 5 has approved the last round of NEFCO's 208 Plan amendments and the Chapter 3 update that was approved on November 18, 2020 by the Board. He stated that five amendments were approved and are now part of the State's Water Quality Management Plan.

Mr. LaPlante said that Ohio EPA is moving forward with the next round of 208 Plan amendments and updates. He noted that the Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water (DSW) staff will begin preparing the 208 Plan amendments and updates the agency received at the end of 2021 to send to the Director for approval. Once the Director approves the amendments and updates, the public notification for the next update will begin.

Mr. LaPlante said that priority sewer and unsewered areas have been received from all four county health districts in the region. He stated that management agency (senior authorities) questions were answered regarding this project.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Friends of the Crooked River (FOCR) requested an extension for the Canal Diversion Dam project period end date from March 31, 2022, to June 30, 2022. Staff submitted a no-cost time extension request to the USEPA.

Mr. LaPlante mentioned that the H2Ohio – Grant Program: Identification, Inventory, and Mapping of Lead Service Lines; Ohio EPA Division of Drinking and Ground Waters; webinar will be held on March 17, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. LaPlante noted that the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern Symposium will be held on March 22, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Brecksville Community Center.

Mr. LaPlante stated that the Friends of Wooster Memorial Park (FWMP) requested a letter of support from NEFCO for a Clean Ohio grant application to help preserve land and to help provide riparian zone protection on the Little Killbuck Creek. The grant deadline is March 25th. He said that the letter of support is attached.

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

Mr. Hadley said that President Biden is expected to sign the \$1.5 trillion appropriations bill next week. He stated that EPA announced that \$20 million will be available to help reduce lead exposure in drinking water. He said that this program will be consistent with the Biden Administration's Justice40 Initiative which is a requirement or goal to have forty percent of the benefits coming from the federal investments to be directed to underserved communities. He said to please contact NEFCO if anyone would like additional information on any of the items.

8. GUEST SPEAKER: Ellen Heinz, Economic Development Representative (EDR) - Ohio, U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Mr. Lautzenheiser introduced Ellen Heinz, EDR – Ohio, U.S. EDA – Chicago Regional Office. He said that with the amount of funding that has been available Ms. Heinz has been very busy with the different available CARES Act and ARPA grants.

Ms. Heinz said that she has been with the EDA for about a year and a half. Her background of 25 years of experience breaks down to about one-third of those years each from work force development; local community and economic development; and manufacturing. She helped launch a couple new sites and has worked in the private sector for many years.

Ms. Heinz stated that there are only five economic development districts in Ohio. She said that for EDA everything starts with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). There is only so much public funding available, and it is extremely critical that it is aligned with the road map of where communities want to head. Ohio is part of the Chicago Regional Office which also includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. She said that her role as the EDR is to work closely with communities and applicants in Ohio, provide technical assistance throughout the whole grant process, help determine if a project is eligible or competitive, and to present the project to the CRO leadership board for consideration. She listed and explained the EDA's investment priorities for a project. The different types of EDA programs include public works assistance, economic adjustment assistance, assistance to coal communities and nuclear closure communities, and disaster recovery. With the extra CARES Act and ARPA funds the application submittal increased dramatically. She said that job creation from investments is a top priority for an EDA grant application. Incubators or accelerators are also funded by the EDA but are harder to get funded, so strong documentation and justification are needed for these kinds of grants. If advance manufacturing is identified for a workforce development center with job creation, the EDA will fund this program if the demand is there. Construction projects must have a 20-year life cycle to receive funding from the EDA. She stated to be eligible for an EDA grant the application must be consistent with a regional CEDS, receive an EDD letter of consistency, and letters of support from local supporters of the project. She mentioned how the EDA can help fund some communities when businesses close: these communities can apply for redevelopment and strategic plan funding. She said that the EDA programs that are available for planning assistance are the short-term and partnership planning grants; and for local technical assistance: industry cluster strategies, implementation of targeted strategies, pilot programming and the rolling review process. Eligible applicants are state, county, city, tribal, local government, institutions of higher education, non-profit organization or associations. Applicants must be registered in DUNS, SAM.gov and Grants.gov, and use their legal name. The EDA does not fund private companies whatsoever. She discussed the eligibility of EDA grants: the area must have a high unemployment rate, low per capita income, or special needs such as a sudden unemployment or natural disaster. The project must also be consistent with a Regional CEDS to be eligible for EDA funding. To have a competitive application the applicant must have a confirmed

match, a geographic area that doesn't have any competitive active grants, it must be in an economically distressed area, job creation, regional partnerships in place, the project must be part of the CEDS, and the project must meet EDA's investment priorities. Ms. Heinz suggested visiting the EDA.gov website for help with resources and additional information. She said the easiest way to get notifications of new grants being released is by signing up for the EDA newsletters. She discussed the ARPA funds that are still available. She stressed to everyone to contact NEFCO staff with any questions about eligibility for EDA grants. She provided her contact information for the Board. She asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Lautzenheiser asked with the next notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) in the works; did she have any feel for whether or not the special need or the national disaster component of the pandemic will continue? Ms. Heinz said that this is being considered. Mr. LaPlante gave an example of a business district that is prone to flooding, he asked if EDA funding be used for stormwater infrastructure to abate that flooding? Ms. Heinz said that this could be a project to be reviewed. She said that this project would have to be presented to the leadership. Mr. Moeglin asked Ms. Heinz to explain the Justice40 concept. Ms. Heinz said that if there is a top investment priority it is equity and the project should target underserved populations, whether it is from distress or geographical representation. Mr. Hadley asked if it is better to have a smaller ask in terms of federal money and a tighter project under \$300,000 versus a million-dollar project that would serve a larger area with broader goals, i.e. which project would get awarded faster? Ms. Heinz said that there is some flexibility, she has seen some smaller projects get funded. She said that each project is reviewed case by case. Ms. Ebersole asked with the Intel announcement, how will the EDA build up infrastructure around those areas and technology? Is this something that the EDA is trying to drive in Ohio to help secure funding? Ms. Heinz said that the EDA is like a silent partner. She said that the EDA will not tell you what the region needs, the applicant needs to tell the EDA what is needed in the region. Mr. Balogh asked if land could be purchased with EDA funding? Ms. Heinz said no, federal money can't be used to purchase land. She stated that it would be better to have a co-applicant when submitting a project for infrastructure. Mr. Regula asked how long will the ARPA funding last? Ms. Heinz said that most of the ARPA funding is almost gone; she isn't sure if there will be any additional funding for ARPA, soon. Mr. Regula thanked Ms. Heinz for her presentation.

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

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

10. Other Business

a. Results of poll regarding in person or virtual NEFCO Board meetings

Mr. Regula stated that the Board meetings will remain as in-person meetings, since HB 51 will expire July 1, 2022.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
April 20, 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	A									
Joseph Diorio (Mary Helen Smith)		A	A									
Allen Fathi (Tia Rutledge)		A	A									
Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford)	X	X	X									
John Zizka	X		X									
CITY OF KENT												
Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel)		X	X									
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett												
Keri Burick (Rachel Hosler)	X	X	X									
Alfredo Carranza		X										
Kirt Conrad		X	X									
Athena Ebersole	X	X	X									
David Maley	X		X									
Joe Mazzola		X										
Bob Nau (Curtis Bungard)		X	X									
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)	X	X	X									
Jim Troike (Scott Ellsworth and Tom Davis)		X										
Vacant												
Vacant												
CITY OF CANTON												
Dan Moeglin (John Highman Jr.)	X	X	X									
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	X	X									
Alan Brubaker (Joe Paradise and Larry Fulton)												
Olivia Helander (Bryan Herschel)	X	X										
William Judge (Trevor Hunt)			X									
David Kohlmeier (Zak Kaczor)	X	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	A									
CITY OF AKRON^b												
Sharon Connor												
Daniel Horrigan (Sam DeShazior)												
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A		A									
Shammas Malik		X										
Brad McKitrick		X	X									
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	X	X	X									
Helen Tomic (Abraham Wescott)			X									
WAYNE COUNTY												
Becky Foster (Sue Smail)	X	X	X									
Pete Wearstler (Rob Kastner)	A	X	X									
Steven Wheeler (Kristin Endsley)		X										
CITY OF WOOSTER												
Bob Breneman (Joel Montgomery, Jonathan Millea, and Vince Marion)			A									
OHIO EPA-NEDO^a												
Kurt Princic (Patricia Vanah)	A	X	A									
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 March 16, 2022 meeting

Eugene Norris, City of Canton

Deborah Houdeshell, City of Canton

Ellen Heinz, Economic Development Administration
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Ethan Neff, City of Aurora
