

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at the City of Green Community Hall at Central Park.

1a. Call to Order

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

1b. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Judge, to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

1c. Pledge of Allegiance

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

1d. Audience Participation (members of the public)

Mr. Tatum 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 16, 2022

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

3. Financial Status Report - month of March

Mr. Hadley said that \$21,030.16 was received as income during the month of March, receipts to date were \$935,493.35, disbursements to date were \$843,177.52, and cash on hand at the end of March was \$432,588.27.

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

4. General Policy Board Second Vice-Chair vacancy

Mr. Hadley said that Pete Wearstler, Wayne County Planning Department, has resigned from the Director position; he was also the Second Vice-Chair of the NEFCO Board. Mr. Hadley said that he reached out to Wayne County Commissioner Foster who has agreed to serve as the Second Vice-Chair for the balance of CY2022. He stated that this was discussed with Chair Regula who endorsed this approach for filling the vacancy.

A motion was made by Mr. Marion, seconded by Mr. Conrad, to approve Commissioner Foster to serve as the Second Vice-Chair for the remainder of CY2022. The motion carried.

5. Consideration of amendments to NEFCO's FY2022 Budget

Mr. Hadley said that occasionally, during a fiscal year, NEFCO may have to make an adjustment to the approved budget. He stated that the budget is approved in June of each year. He said that last month the Board approved the hiring of a consultant for economic development planning services in the amount of \$50,000. Since there was no line item for the economic development planning services in the budget, a proposed adjustment was made to the attached

Table 2. He said that he reduced the salaries line item by \$50,000 and created a line item for economic development planning contract services in the amount of \$50,000. He stated that the total agency budget amount also reflects the increased dues amount, which was increased by \$244 as a result of the use of the 2020 Census of Population for the second half dues request.

A motion was made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, to approve the FY2022 budget amendments. The motion carried.

6. Appointment of CY2022 NEFCO Budget and Work Program Committee

Mr. Hadley said that each year a request for Board approval of the Budget Committee and Work Program Committee. He said that all of the members, with the exception of John Highman, City of Canton, are returning members. He said that the Committee meets once or twice a year to recommend a budget to the Board for approval at the June Board meeting. Mr. Hadley asked for approval of the proposed Budget and Work Program Committee listed below.

Andrei Dordea, Finance Director, City of Wooster - Committee Chair
Becky Foster, Commissioner, Wayne County
John Highman, Director of Public Service, 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. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Judge, to approve the CY2022 Budget and Work Program Committee. The motion carried.

7. NEFCO FY2022 Work Program – status

a. Environmental Development

Mr. LaPlante said that staff has been involved with the Portage Lakes Management Study for six years. The purpose of this project is to manage the invasive aquatic plants which are ‘taking over’ this nutrient-rich chain of lakes. He said that the aquatic plants provide a good source of nutrient removal and a good habitat. He stated that removing all the aquatic vegetation is not an option. He said that the Portage Lake Management Plan (PLMP) is a roadmap to that balanced approach. A link to the draft report was provided. Mr. LaPlante said that the Portage Lakes Management Study partners will meet on April 28th to discuss the rollout activities and materials that will be presented to the lakeside community. Staff believes it is important for the lakeside communities to have the opportunity to endorse the Plan and for the public to have the opportunity to provide input prior to Board approval.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff has received data for the Areawides/Ohio EPA collaborative sewer and unsewered areas data collection and mapping project on the priority unsewered areas from all four county health districts in the NEFCO region. He stated that to be included in this project the wastewater management agency (MA) needs to be in agreement that the health districts’ priorities are also the MAs priorities. He noted that staff has received concurrence from all the major MAs in the NEFCO region, except the City of Barberton, that the health districts’ identified priority areas are also the MAs’ priorities. He mentioned that the City of Barberton has a small area within the City of Norton that is not at this time considered a priority sewer area in its system.

Mr. LaPlante said that the last Board-approved 208 Plan amendment and Chapter 3 update took nearly four months for USEPA to approve these documents. He said that the Areawides learned at the March 21st Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) water quality

subcommittee quarterly meeting that Ohio EPA along with its head legal counsel, held a conference call with USEPA Region 5 to discuss ways to reduce the time needed to gain this federal approval. Part of the reason for the delay is that Ohio is the only state in Region 5 with a statute that requires a Permit-to-Install (PTI) to be consistent with the 208 Plan before a PTI can be issued. Therefore, it is USEPA Region 5's unfamiliarity with the federal approval process for state-certified 208 Plan amendments and updates that contributed to the recent delay. The Region 5 staff stated that the federal rules will be reviewed to determine if there is a different process or shorter process to achieve federal approval of state-certified 208 Plan amendments and updates submitted by Ohio EPA.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Canal Diversion Dam Removal project Archimedes screw pump has been installed and will begin running within the next week. He stated that the no-cost time extension was approved by USEPA Region 5 on April 4th with no lapse in the grant.

Mr. LaPlante mentioned that there will be a webinar on April 27, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. regarding Water and Wastewater Funding Updates on the Federal Infrastructure Bill.

Mr. LaPlante provide information on the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern Symposium which was held on March 22, 2022.

Mr. LaPlante said that the City of Cuyahoga Falls River-City Cleanup Series will be held on April 16th, May 21st, and June 25th.

b. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that on March 16th, the EDA approved NEFCO's CARES Act grant budget amendment which reflects the planning services consultant assisting staff with finishing the grant. After receiving approval of the budget amendment staff was able to execute the contract with Environmental Design Group (EDG) for economic recovery and resiliency (ER&R) planning services to finish the planning process and plan document. He stated that staff submitted a request to the EDA for a six-month, no-cost extension for the CARES Act grant. He said that the additional time would allow staff the ability to meet with communities and organizations around the region, and to discuss and pursue collaborative partnerships, strategies, and projects identified in the ER&R Plan.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff has begun its planning process for the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan. The CEDS submittal deadline to the EDA is January 31, 2023. He stated that between April 2022 and January 2023, staff will be working closely with the Regional CEDS Committee (RCC), the General Policy Board, and the public on the 2023 CEDS Plan development. He noted that staff will be sending out a series of information gathering surveys to collect data and input that will be used in developing the various components of the CEDS Plan. The Regional CEDS Committee met on April 14th to review the results of the first survey, and discussed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; regional goals; and target industries.

Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that the EDA has released the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the FY2022 Build to Scale (B2S) grant program. He said that the B2S program is designed to invest in regional economies through scalable business startups. The B2S program offers \$45 million nationally for projects that further technology-based economic development initiatives which accelerate high-quality job growth. He noted that there are two competitions—the Venture Challenge and the Capital Challenge. Each challenge has two funding tiers. He said that the Venture Challenge grant is available for projects up to \$750,000 to pilot or adapt new programs, and for scale proven programs, grants are available for up to \$2 million. He mentioned that Capital Challenge grants up to \$300,000 are available to educate and connect

investors. The application deadline is June 13, 2022. He stated that the EDA American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding opportunities closed on March 31, 2022. He said that the EDA will release a new NOFO for the Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance (PW/EAA) program. He stated that the PW/EAA program supports construction, non-construction, planning, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects.

Mr. Lautzenheiser noted that the federal government is transitioning from the DUNS to the Unique Entity ID (UEI) issued by SAM.gov for all entities applying for federal awards. He stated that all entities looking to apply for federal funds, including EDA grants, must have a UEI after April 1, 2022.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that on March 15th, President Biden signed into law the \$1.5 trillion omnibus spending bill (H.R. 2471) for the remainder of FFY2022. He stated that this bill includes \$373.5 million for the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration which is a \$27.5 million increase from the FY21 levels) and also includes a \$1 million increase for the Partnership Planning grants.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that President Biden proposed his FY23 Budget Request which includes a 46 percent increase in funding for the EDA. Although the President's budget proposal does not determine FY2023 appropriations levels, it does highlight priorities and catalyzes the FY2023 congressional appropriations process.

Mr. Lautzenheiser noted that three letters of support were sent out before the April Board meeting. He said that the attached letters were provided for the City of Canton's Tuscarawas St. West Corridor Safety Project, Phase 1 USDOT RAISE grant application; the City of Kent's Reimagining the Gateway East Main Corridor Project USDOT RAISE grant application; and the Walsh University Skilled Technical Workforce Program Congressional funding proposal. He asked the Board for ratification of these letters of support.

A motion was made by Mr. Nau, seconded by Mr. Conrad, to ratify the attached letters of support. The motion carried.

Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) released a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the Rural, INFRA, and Mega competitive grant programs. The application deadline is May 23, 2022.

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

Mr. Hadley said that details regarding President Biden's FY2023 budget have been included for transportation and environmental. He stated that no details were available for the US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program. He said that when a President introduces a budget, it is just the beginning of the budget process which indicates the priorities, but of course, Congress has its own appropriations process. Hopefully, the President and Congress can come to a mutual agreement before the beginning of the fiscal year, which is October 1st.

Mr. Hadley said that HUD released its first Every Equity Action Plan. He said that for additional details, to please contact the NEFCO staff.

Mr. Hadley said that he has included information on the Financial Lead Out of Water (FLOW) Act. This is a major priority for USEPA and there is also legislation in Congress to try to reduce the federal red tape in applying for these types of grants. He stated that Ohio EPA has its own program that is being used for infrastructure act funding.

Mr. Hadley said that there is some interest from the Department of Labor regarding revising the Davis-Bacon Act. He stated that Secretary Marty Walsh, former Boston Mayor, has experience in dealing with Davis-Bacon. Mr. Walsh will be looking at updating/revising various aspects of the Davis-Bacon and related acts law dealing with prevailing wages.

Mr. Hadley said that the state revolving fund (SRF) distributes federal moneys for wastewater projects. He said each year the same percentage is applied to whatever funds are appropriated. He said that members of Congress have interest in reviewing how the percentage was developed. It was determined that no one seems to know this answer. There is interest in looking at the percentage formula for USEPA's SRF for Clean Water. He mentioned a 2016 EPA report that found that "most states do not currently receive appropriated funds in proportion to their reported water quality needs or population". In fact, the way the federal dollars are distributed meets the water quality needs of only 17 states.

Mr. Hadley said that he has provided information on flood resiliency and flood insurance.

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.


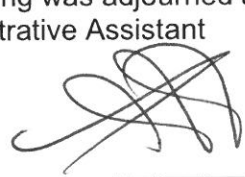
10. Other Business

Mr. Tatum welcomed to the Board meeting new members/alternates Anthony Badalamenti, Commissioner, Portage County; Jim Benekos, City Engineer, City of Canton; and John Highman Jr., Director of Public Service, City of Canton.

Mr. Hadley said that he will be reaching out to the new members/alternates to set up new member briefing meetings.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
May 18, 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)				X								
James Bierlair (Amos Sarfo) ^b	A	A	A	A								
Joseph Diorio (Mary Helen Smith)		A	A									
Vacant (Tia Rutledge)		A	A	A								
Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford)	X	X	X									
John Zizka	X		X	X								
CITY OF KENT												
Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel)		X	X	X								
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett				X								
Keri Burick (Rachel Hosler)	X	X	X									
Alfredo Carranza		X		X								
Kirt Conrad		X	X	X								
Athena Ebersole	X	X	X	X								
David Maley	X		X	X								
Joe Mazzola		X		X								
Bob Nau (Curtis Bungard)		X	X	X								
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)	X	X	X									
Jim Troike (Scott Ellsworth and Tom Davis)		X		X								
Vacant												
Vacant												
CITY OF CANTON												
Jim Benekos (John Highman Jr.)	X	X	X	X								
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	X	X	X								
Alan Brubaker (Joe Paradise and Larry Fulton)				A								
Olivia Helander (Bryan Herschel)	X	X										
William Judge (Trevor Hunt)			X	X								
David Kohlmeier (Zak Kaczor)	X	X	X	X								
Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley and Brian Clark)	A	A		A								
Dianne Sumego	X	X										
Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei)	X	X		X								
Elizabeth Walters (Mark Potter)	A	A	A	A								
CITY OF AKRON												
Ginger Baylor (4/4/22)	-	-	-									
Daniel Horrigan (Sam DeShazor)												
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A		A									
Shammas Malik		X										
Linda F. R. Omobien (4/4/22)	-	-	-									
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	X	X	X	X								
Helen Tomic (Kurt Mulhauser)			X									
WAYNE COUNTY												
Becky Foster (Sue Smail)	X	X	X	X								
Vacant (Rob Kastner)	A	X	X									
Steven Wheeler (Kristin Endsley)		X		X								
CITY OF WOOSTER												
Bob Breneman (Joel Montgomery, Jonathan Millea, and Vince Marion)			A	A								
OHIO EPA-NEDO^a												
Kurt Princic (Patricia Vanah)	A	X	A	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 April 20, 2022 meeting
Darryl Kleinhenz, AMATS
John Highman Jr, Director of Public Service, City of Canton (Alternate)