

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at the City of Green Council Chambers.

1a. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Regula at 8:31 a.m. in the presence of a quorum.

1b. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Tatum, 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.

2. Consideration of the draft minutes of the regular meeting of the NEFCO General Policy Board on April 20, 2022

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

3. Financial Status Report - month of April

Mr. Hadley said that \$3.02 was received as income during the month of April, receipts to date were \$935,496.37, disbursements to date were \$886,705.93, and cash on hand at the end of April was \$389,062.88.

A motion was made by Ms. Sumego, seconded by Mr. Marion, 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 Ms. Foster, seconded by Mr. Peetz, to accept the April bank reconciliations. The motion carried.

4. Consideration of an Amendment to the Clean Water Plan for the Wayne County Lincoln Way Facilities Planning Area (FPA) and the Orrville FPA to modify the FPA boundary and update the wastewater treatment prescriptions to enable the Wayne County Office of Environmental Services to provide sewer service to select unsewered parcels on the west side of Wadsworth Road (State Route 57), just north of U.S. Route 30

Mr. LaPlante said that the Wayne County Office of Environmental Services requested an amendment to the Wayne County Lincoln Way FPA. He mentioned that after this Board item was sent to members on May 11, 2022 as part of the board mailout, the third WHEREAS on page 2 of Resolution No. FY2022-012 (of item #4) was revised for clarity as shown in italics. The original WHEREAS from the transmitted resolution is shown with strikeouts. He stated that this revision will have no effect on the requested action. He stated that twelve parcels will be shifted from the Orrville FPA to the Wayne County Lincoln Way FPA. He said that three additional parcels that are currently split by the existing FPA boundary will be added to the Wayne County Lincoln Way FPA. All 15 parcels will be changed to "Areas Expected to be

Served with Sanitary Sewers within the next 20 Years” ‘orange’ prescription in the Wayne County Lincoln Way FPA. He stated that the Riceland Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in the Wayne County Lincoln Way FPA has the capacity to accept the additional flow. According to Wayne County Environmental Services, currently there is a pending PTI to double the capacity of the Riceland WWTP. He stated that the Riceland WWTP’s current capacity is 25,000 gallons per day (gpd). He said that the boundary and wastewater prescription changes are shown in Figures 2 and 3. He listed the local governments that were involved with this amendment. He stated that the attached responses from all seven of these affected local governmental entities indicated either “no concern” or “appears to be consistent with local plans” on the response sheet. He noted that the public notice was published in the Wooster Daily Record on January 24, 2022. The only changes to Appendix 3-54 resulting from this amendment are to the map on page 3-54-2. The ERTAC unanimously recommended approval of the amendment at the May 4th meeting. He asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2022-012.

A motion was made by Mr. Tatum, seconded by Mr. Fulton, to approve Resolution No. FY2022-012. The motion carried.

5. 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 request is made annually to authorize the Executive Director to sign the two contracts that are currently in development with the Ohio EPA for state and federally-funded water quality management planning. He stated that one grant is the second year of the biennium budget, \$75,000 per year. This grant involves 208 Plan maintenance. The second grant is USEPA pass-through money which is divided among the six Areawide agencies. These funds are used by NEFCO for nutrient management studies. At the request of the Ohio EPA-Northeast District Office (NEDO) staff has concentrated on the development of the Portage Lakes Management Plan as the major product from those funds. He said that the contracts and scopes of services are being compiled and will be reviewed with the Ohio EPA-NEDO. Once the scopes are approved by Ohio EPA-NEDO, the contracts are sent to the Ohio EPA Central Office for approval and the director’s signature. He asked for authorization for NEFCO 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.

A motion was made by Ms. Sumego, seconded by Mr. Bennett, to authorize NEFCO 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. The motion carried.

6. Preliminary FY2023 Appropriations and Expenditures Budget: Report of the Budget and Work Program Committee; Draft FY2023 Work Program

Mr. Hadley said that he is reporting the budget information for Andrei Dordea, Wooster’s Finance Director, NEFCO’s Budget Committee Chair. He said that no action is requested today by the Board. He said that the Budget Committee met and reviewed the attached tables and assumptions. He stated that the Committee is recommending continuing the dues at .18 cents per capita. The agency’s upcoming funds are consistent with past years, with the exception that the EDA CARES grant (\$400,000) is winding down. Also, the USEPA grant will be ending at the end of June. He said that there are no major expenses being considered for the next fiscal year. He said that Table 3 reflects what is known about the budget to date. The only new expense for FY2023 will be the two-year audit.

7. NEFCO FY2022 Work Program – status

a. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the City of Akron was awarded a \$2 million EDA grant for the renovation and expansion of the Bounce Innovation Hub. He noted that the project will greatly expand Bounce’s incubator space which will utilize over 20,000 square feet of unused space at the facility for start-up entrepreneurs. This project is expected to create 100 jobs, retain 42 jobs, and generate over \$2 million in private investment. NEFCO staff provided technical assistance and coordinated a site visit with staff from the EDA Chicago Regional Office. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that on May 17, NEFCO was awarded \$210,000 for its EDA 2022-2025 Partnership Planning Grant. He mentioned that the EDA will provide NEFCO with \$70,000 in federal funds during each of the next three years (or a total of \$210,000) to be matched with \$210,000 in local funds (cash), (50/50 federal/local match). He said that this grant will enable NEFCO to continue to provide maintenance for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS); the availability of NEFCO staff to be part of various county and multicounty economic development committees; and the availability of staff to provide EDA grant application technical assistance. He noted that the grant period began on April 1, 2022 and will run until March 31, 2025. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff has been working with the three subcommittees to finish up the Economic Recovery and Resiliency (ER&R) Plan. He said that staff is also working with Environmental Design Group to complete the ER&R document. He stated that he hopes to have a draft of the action plan in early June. The Regional CEDS Committee will meet to review the draft plan in the middle of June so that the draft plan can be presented at the July Board meeting.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that with the approval of NEFCO’s CARES Act six-month no-cost request, the grant was extended until December 31, 2022. He stated that the extension gives staff additional time to complete the ER&R planning process and the ability to present the finished ER&R Plan to communities and organizations around the region, and to discuss some of the strategies and recommendations in the ER&R Plan.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the only current EDA funding opportunity for FY2022 is the Build to Scale (B2S) grant program. He said that this grant is designed to invest in regional economies through scalable business startups. The FY2022 Build to Scale program is comprised of two competitions—the Venture Challenge and the Capital Challenge with two different funding levels. The application deadline is June 13, 2022. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff spoke to an EDA representative who mentioned that the next notice of funding opportunity will be announced after October 1st for the Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance (PW/EAA) program for FY2023. He stated that the PW/EAA program funds construction, non-construction, planning, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects. A non-federal match of 50-percent is required. He said that for more information to please contact him.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the EDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development released a resource guide to help rural communities access resources to boost economic development. He stated that the guide includes summaries on various funding programs, information on eligibility and deadlines, and helpful links for finding additional information.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Ohio Department of Development awarded \$60 million in the first round of brownfield remediation program grants. He said listed are the eight projects that were awarded in the NEFCO region, totaling over \$11.4 million in funding.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the BroadbandOhio Community Accelerator program is offering this opportunity to six teams of up to eight individuals to participate in a free virtual 15-week webinar

series. He stated that these webinars will educate communities on all things broadband. He said that these community teams will complete a broadband development curriculum to gain a better understanding of planning processes, technology options, and business and financial models that support successful community broadband development programs. These accelerator applications are due May 20th.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the U.S. Department of Transportation has announced the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program. He stated that the SS4A program is part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. He said that \$5 billion will be appropriated over the next five years. He said that in FY2022, up to \$1 billion is available nationwide to help communities improve roadway safety and make streets “complete”. There are two types of SS4A grants: action plan grants and implementation grants. The grant application deadline is September 15, 2022.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that Vibrant NEO is accepting nominations for the 2021 Vibrant NEO Individual Champion Award. He said that this award is not specific to a project; it is for a person who has best exemplified the themes of Vibrant NEO and worked over time and across projects, programs, and policies to create a vibrant, sustainable, and resilient region. He stated that the attached nomination forms are due June 9th. He mentioned that the recipient will be asked to be the keynote speaker at the Vibrant NEO annual awards ceremony on November 17, 2022.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Ohio statewide passenger rail of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)”, provided the availability for a significant amount of money for rail expansion and improvements for the country. He stated that the BIL includes \$102 billion in total rail funding over the next five years, including \$66 billion from advanced appropriations, and \$36 billion in authorized funding. He said that \$22 billion is appropriated for Amtrak, \$5 billion for consolidated rail infrastructure and safety improvements, \$3 billion for railroad crossing elimination. He noted that the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) is still discussing the final details of the program. He mentioned that states and other governments are encouraged to apply for portions of the BIL funding. He stated that this represents the largest expansion of funding of Amtrak’s history. The vision that Amtrak has published is called the *2021 Corridor Vision* plan for expansion and improvements of the current routes. He stated that the Cleveland-Columbus-Cincinnati-and-Dayton (3C+D) and Toledo-to-Detroit routes are still being discussed. Although details are not entirely clear at this point, it appears that Governor DeWine may have a role in pursuing rail development in Ohio. He noted that the Governor said that the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) is looking into the Amtrak proposals but is awaiting formal guidance from the FRA. He said that on May 16th, Governor DeWine stated that he wants the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) to work with Amtrak to study potential new routes. He said that staff is not aware of a specific date or deadline for the Governor to commit the state for accepting funding. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff has reached out to the two Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) in the NEFCO region, the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) and the Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS). He noted that AMATS and SCATS have indicated that they will wait to see what transpires, regarding the new routes, before submitting a support letter. He stated that the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) has drafted a letter urging the Governor’s support for improving and expanding passenger rail transportation in Ohio. He said that the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) in Cleveland is currently drafting a letter of support for passenger rail. NOACA’s top priority is the Cleveland-to-Chicago corridor. Secondly, NOACA is advocating for the 3C+D route.

Mr. Regula asked if this funding was only for Amtrak? He asked if the Cuyahoga Valley Railroad could apply for this funding to expand rail service back to Canton? Mr. Lautzenheiser

said that there is \$22 billion available for Amtrak. He said that he will find out if the Cuyahoga Valley Railroad is eligible to apply. He stated that NEFCO is not advocating one way or the other on submitting a letter of support to the Governor. However, staff does feel that this topic is worth discussing, especially since the 3C+D route could affect the NEFCO region; especially the western side of Wayne County. He asked the Board if the passenger rail topic would be worth discussing? Mr. Balogh said that he supports the new rail service. He said that the rail service from Cincinnati to Cleveland would be an amazing opportunity to be able to hop on a train and enjoy activities between these two cities. Mr. Hadley said that after a recent OARC Executive Directors meeting the Directors met with a gentleman who oversees the Amtrak projects. He stated that the Amtrak official was seeking input from the Ohio MPOs. He stated that this gentleman was referencing the infrastructure act and the tremendous amount of money that was being programmed from this act for Amtrak; including new engines, rail cars, and passenger cars that would be built in the U.S. He asked the Amtrak official if the trains will continue to use the tracks that are used by freight? Mr. Hadley said that the Amtrak official stated that the tracks will be used for both. Mr. Balogh said that he thinks that there is capital funding to build new tracks for the 3C+D dedicated line. Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that he thinks the 3C+D line will be new tracks, but some of the other routes will continue to use some freight lines. Mr. Balogh suggested having a letter of support or resolution from the Board sent to the Governor in support of the rail service funding. Mr. Shammass said that he supports the rail system to include Summit County. Mr. Hadley asked if there is a deadline for letters of support? Mr. Lautzenheiser said that he hasn't seen a deadline for submittal of a letter of support to the Governor for the rail service. Mr. LaPlante said that mass transit also has environmental advantages by removing tires from the roads which improves air quality and water quality.

b. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that the continuation of the Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee (ERTAC) and 208 Plan amendment will be included in the FY2023 water quality management planning contracts. He stated that these along with other projects will be discussed with Ohio EPA's Northeast District Office prior to sending NEFCO's draft FY2023 WQMP Work Program to Ohio EPA's Central Office in the coming weeks for its consideration.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff has completed a draft map of the priority unsewered areas (PUAs) and is currently performing an internal review of the map and its data. The draft map has GIS layers that can be shown and queried for data on NEFCO's interactive online 208 Plan map to quickly determine the distance between a PUA and an area that is currently served with sanitary sewer. He stated that the Areawides will be meeting with Ohio EPA on May 26th to discuss the wrap-up of this project. He noted that staff will be providing the Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee (ERTAC) at its June 1st meeting with a demonstration of NEFCO's draft map of PUAs.

Mr. LaPlante said that as previously reported, the installation and start-up of the screw pump marks the final phase of the project, which is expected to be completed by May 30th. The pump is needed to supply river water once again to the historic section of the Ohio & Erie Canal within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Ms. Sumego said that the goal is to get the lock up and running for use. She said that the pump will be started up at the end of May. She acknowledged the City of Akron, EPA, FOCR, CVNP, and all the other partners for the help to make this project successful. Mr. Balogh asked if the pump can be seen from the stream bank? Ms. Sumego said that the pump is enclosed and the site is still under construction. She stated that Mr. Balogh will be able to see the discharge that goes back into the river.

Mr. LaPlante said that that staff will solicit environmental/water quality projects suggestions from NEFCO members. He stated that staff and the other five Areawide Planning Agencies in the

state have been discussing ways to increase the state and federal funding that the Areawides receive through the state each year. To demonstrate that there is a need for additional state and federal funding, staff is soliciting additional environmental and water quality project suggestions from NEFCO members. He said that staff will compile the suggested projects and evaluate the feasibility of each one being completed with NEFCO's existing resources. He stated that the environmental and water quality project suggestions should be sent to him before the next quarterly OARC water quality subcommittee meeting with Ohio EPA on June 27th.

Mr. LaPlante said that the U.S. EPA issued a memo on April 5th regarding *Accelerating Nutrient Pollution Reductions in the Nation's Waters*, calls for states to complete and implement TMDLs for nutrient pollution. He stated that an in-person hearing on U.S. EPA's objection to Ohio EPA's renewal of the City of Euclid's NPDES permit will be held at Cleveland State University on June 7th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. A virtual hearing will be held on June 8th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please contact staff for the link to join the virtual hearing or for a copy of the memo.

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

Mr. Hadley said that in the interest of time, he asked members to contact staff if anyone would like additional information on any of the items listed.

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.

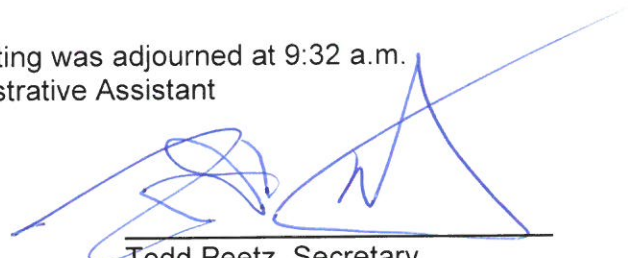
10. Other Business

Mr. Hadley mentioned the passing of Board alternates Jerry Feeman, Summit County Council, and Jim Greener, Portage County SWCD representative, who also served as the ERTAC Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Regula welcomed to the Board meeting Jeff King, Representative for Congressman Bill Johnson.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
June 15, 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								
Daniel Blakely (Tia Rutledge)		A	A	A								
Joseph Diorio (Mary Helen Smith)		A	A									
Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford)	X	X	X		X							
Amos Sarfo (Eric Long) (4/30/2022)	A	A	A	A	X							
John Zizka	X		X	X	X							
CITY OF KENT												
Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel)		X	X	X	X							
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett				X	X							
Keri Burick (Rachel Hosler)	X	X	X		X							
Alfredo Carranza		X		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		X							
Jim Troike (Scott Ellsworth and Tom Davis)		X		X	X							
Vacant												
Vacant												
CITY OF CANTON												
Jim Benekos (4/14/22) (John Highman Jr.)	X	X	X	X	X							
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	X	X	X	X							
Alan Brubaker (Joe Paradise and Larry Fulton)				A	A							
William Judge (Trevor Hunt)			X	X	X							
David Kohlmeier (Zak Kaczor)	X	X	X	X	X							
Olivia Marcis (Bryan Herschel)	X	X			X							
Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley and Brian Clark)	A	A		A								
Dianne Sumego	X	X			X							
Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei)	X	X		X								
Elizabeth Walters (Mark Potter)	A	A	A	A	A							
CITY OF AKRON												
Ginger Baylor (4/4/22)	-	-	-									
Daniel Horrigan (Sam DeShazor)												
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A		A		A							
Shammas Malik		X			X							
Linda F. R. Omobien (4/4/22)	-	-	-									
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	X	X	X	X	X							
Helen Tomic (Kurt Mulhauser)			X									
WAYNE COUNTY												
Becky Foster (Sue Smail)	X	X	X	X	X							
Vacant (Rob Kastner)	A	X	X		A							
Steven Wheeler (Kristin Endsley)		X		X								
CITY OF WOOSTER												
Bob Breneman (Joel Montgomery, Jonathan Millea, and Vince Marion)			A	A	A							
OHIO EPA-NEDO^a												
Kurt Princic (Patricia Vanah)	A	X	A	A	A							
CITIZENS COUNCIL												
Vacant (2)												

X = member present A = alternate present

^aex officio

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

Date shown for new members

Guests in Attendance at the May 18, 2022 meeting

Jeff King, Congressman Bill Johnson's office