

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, June 15, 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. Judge, seconded by Mr. Fulton, 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 May 18, 2022

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

3. Financial Status Report - month of May

Mr. Hadley said that \$77,006.63 was received as income during the month of May, receipts to date were \$1,012,503.00, disbursements to date were \$942,794.93, and cash on hand at the end of May was \$409,980.51.

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

3a. May Bank Reconciliations

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

A motion was made by Mr. Zizka, seconded by Ms. Tomic, to accept the May bank reconciliations. The motion carried.

4. Adoption of the FY2023 Appropriations and Expenditures Budget, and Work Program; Recommendation of the Budget and Work Program Committee

Mr. Hadley thanked Andrei Dordea, Finance Director, City of Wooster, Chair of the NEFCO Budget Committee and Committee members for helping prepare NEFCO's FY2023 budget. He stated that the assumptions were updated from the version discussed at last month's meeting. Table 1 shows a \$5,000 carryover from the CARES Act grant and an additional \$25,000 cash carryover, which updates the FY2023 budget total to \$733,190. He said that the Committee recommended that the dues remain at 18 cents/capita based on the 2020 Census data. He said that the additional \$30,000 was put in the Contingency line item, Table 3. Mr. Hadley said that attached is the FY2023 Work Program; staff is in the process of finalizing the water quality work program portion. He asked for approval of the FY2023 budget and work program.

Ms. Tomic asked about the CARES Act grant extension date? Mr. Hadley said that the CARES Act grant was extended through December 31, 2022.

A motion was made by Ms. Tomic, seconded by Mr. Conrad, to approve the FY2023 Appropriations and Expenditures Budget, and Work Program. The motion carried.

5. Consideration of a preliminary NEFCO Disaster Policy

Mr. Regula stated that this item was withdrawn from the agenda.

6. NEFCO FY2022 Work Program – status

a. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff continues to work closely with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee on the development of the 2023-2028 CEDS Plan. He stated that this will be a full update of the CEDS, which is an EDA grant requirement every five years. The full CEDS Plan is due to the EDA by January 31, 2023. He said that the staff is working with the Economic Recovery and Resiliency (ER&R) planning consultant, Environmental Design Group, on the development of the ER&R Plan. He stated that staff and the consultant are also working with the three ER&R subcommittees. Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that the draft Action Plan has been completed. He said that a draft of the full ER&R Plan will be available for review by the General Policy Board on July 6th. He said that staff and the planning consultant will provide a presentation to the General Policy Board on July 20th.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that all of the ARPA funds have been exhausted and there are no current funding opportunities with the EDA. He said that the next notice of funding opportunity for the Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance (PW/EAA) program will not be announced until after October 1st.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is accepting applications for the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants. The Choice Neighborhoods Planning grants will help put together neighborhood revitalization plan. He stated that the focus of this program is on directing resources to housing, people, and neighborhoods. He said that there is \$10 million available nationwide for these planning grants; with the maximum grant award being \$500,000. The grant deadline is July 28th.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the infrastructure technical assistance guide and the Local Infrastructure Hub include resources on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. He provided a link for both documents.

Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that the Ohio EPA brownfields grant-writing workshop will be held on July 27-28. He stated that registration will be available soon at the following link: <https://www.ksutab.org/events/workshops>.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) and Vibrant NEO received a \$1 million USEPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) grant. He said that NEFCO staff participates as a member of the Vibrant NEO Board. He stated that the RLF will be available for site cleanups in Vibrant NEO's 12-county region. Mr. Hadley said that the coalition is reviewing and seeking site nominations. He stated that anyone with a potential site, to please contact NEFCO or NOACA.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that Summit County announced plans to build and operate a new broadband program called Summit Connects. This program is a 125-mile fiber optic cable ring connecting all of Summit County's communities. He stated that this may be the largest program in the County. This \$35 million Summit Connects project is largely funded by Summit County's

federal American Rescue Plan Act allocation. He stated that once construction begins, the County of Summit expects the fiber ring and data center to be operational by 2025.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the City of Barberton has requested a letter of support from the NEFCO General Policy Board for its Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant application. He stated that the South Van Buren Reconstruction Project includes full road reconstruction, upgraded storm sewer, and sidewalks. Mr. Judge said that this project will help with the flooding that the city has been dealing with for many years. Mr. Regula asked the cost of the project? Mr. Judge said that the total project cost, including engineering and construction is \$3.76 million. Mr. Lautzenheiser asked for approval of the attached letter of support for the City of Barberton's OPWC grant application.

A motion was made by Mr. Peetz, seconded by Mr. Vinay to approve a letter of support for the City of Barberton's OPWC grant application. The motion carried.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that last month the Board discussed statewide passenger rail and its implications for the region. He said that attached is a letter of support addressed to Governor DeWine for support of the rail lines and to also include the rail lines in the NEFCO region.

Mr. Regula asked if there is funding available through the infrastructure bill. Mr. Lautzenheiser said yes, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)", includes an unprecedented \$102 billion in total federal rail funding over the next five years, including \$66 billion from advanced appropriations, and \$36 billion in authorized funding. Mr. Lautzenheiser asked for approval of the attached letter of support for the statewide passenger rail.

A motion was made by Mr. Balogh, seconded by Mr. Malik to approve a letter of support for the statewide passenger rail. The motion carried.

b. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that staff continues to wrap up NEFCO's draft work program for the state and federal FY2023 Water Quality Management Planning (WQMP) contracts, which amount to a combined total of about \$125,000.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff is also finalizing the Areawides/Ohio EPA collaborative sewer and unsewered areas data collection and mapping project. He said that the interactive online map can quickly determine the distance between a priority unsewered areas (PUA) and an area that is currently served with sanitary sewer. This tool can help Ohio EPA prioritize the H2Ohio grant funds to extend sewers to underserved areas that contribute to water quality problems. He stated that staff gave the Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee (ERTAC) a demonstration of the draft interactive online map of PUAs at its June 1st meeting. He said that the GIS shapefiles will be shared with the wastewater management agencies (MAs) and the region's health districts. He noted that the GIS shapefiles will be submitted to Ohio EPA before the next quarterly OARC water quality subcommittee meeting on June 27th. Mr. LaPlante mentioned that staff will give a brief report at the subcommittee meeting on two of NEFCO's recent projects success stories and their value to the region and state: 1) Portage Lakes Management Study, and 2) *Stark County Failing Household Sewage Treatment System Prioritization Analysis (2016)*.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Canal Diversion Dam Removal project has been hammered by the pandemic. He said that the project partners were trying to wrap up the project by June 30, 2022. He stated that the project team had a successful pump start-up on May 12th and on May

23rd there was an unforeseen cave-in at the pump station. He stated that the site has been stabilized with several issues remaining unresolved. Mr. LaPlante said that the project team is waiting to receive a piece of electrical equipment for which a delivery date has yet to be established due to delays caused by the ongoing pandemic. He stated that on June 9th, the project owner's representative indicated to NEFCO that the end of the grant's project period and budget period would need to be extended from June 30, 2022 to October 31, 2022. He said that a request for a fourth extension was sent to the U.S. EPA on June 10th. On June 13th, the U.S. EPA project officer confirmed receipt of NEFCO's extension request.

Ms. DiFiore asked if the GIS shapefiles will be shared with the water and sewer watershed coordinators? Mr. LaPlante said yes, the shapefiles can be shared with the coordinators after the final project has been submitted to the Ohio EPA.

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

Mr. Hadley said that Congress is working through the FY2023 appropriations. He said that hearings in the House and Senate are extending into next week. The House and Senate have summer breaks approaching, so there are some concerns about getting these approved by the September 30th deadline.

Mr. Hadley said that he provided information on the *National and Regional Tactics to Strengthen the American Manufacturing Workforce*. He said if anyone would like additional information, to please contact him.

Mr. Hadley said if anyone would like additional information on the *Rural America's Tech Employment Landscape* report, to please contact him.

Mr. Hadley stated that the bipartisan infrastructure bill places an emphasis on lead pipe replacement. He said that the Northeast-Midwest Institute reviewed this bill and found the allocation formula that U.S. EPA uses to distribute funds disproportionately provides capital for a number of states; including Ohio. He stated that Ohio is not getting its fair share of the lead pipe service line replacement funds. He said that this formula is similar to the formula that U.S. EPA uses for the SRF wastewater funds. It will be challenging to say the formula needs to be re-evaluated, because as additional funding becomes available, there will be an urge to get the funding distributed as quickly as possible. The formula being used is not proportionately providing the funds to the areas that need the funding. He said if anyone would like additional information on this matter, to please contact him.

8. Executive Session

Mr. Regula asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss compensation for a public employee.

A motion was made by Mr. Vinay, seconded by Mr. Malik to go into Executive Session at 9:08 a.m. The motion carried.

Mr. Regula excused all guests and the NEFCO staff, except Mr. Hadley, from the Board meeting.

After the Executive Session discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Nau, seconded by Mr. Peetz to exit out of the Executive Session at 9:39 a.m. The motion carried.

Mr. Regula requested action on the following items:

Consideration of adding Extended Parental Leave provisions to the Employee Manual
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

Consideration of a NEFCO employee to use Extended Parental Leave

A motion was made by Mr. Malik, seconded by Mr. Marion to approve Nick Lautzenheiser's extended parental leave. The motion carried.

Addition of Juneteenth to the list of observed holidays for NEFCO employees

A motion was made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Judge to approve the addition of the Juneteenth (June 19th) holiday to the NEFCO employees observed holidays list. The motion carried.

Consideration of the continuation of the part-time employment position for: Watershed Planner/Geographic Information System Specialist

A motion was made by Mr. Zizka, seconded by Mr. Vinay to continue the Watershed Planner/Geographic Information System Specialist position. The motion carried.

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

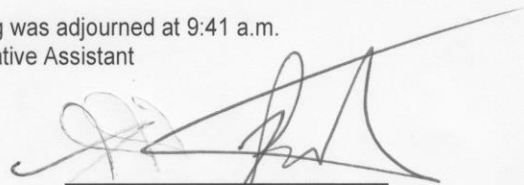
No one had anything to comment about for their community/county/agency.

10. Other Business

Mr. Regula welcomed to the Board meeting alternate Zac Kaczor, CTI Engineering. Mr. Hadley welcomed to the Board meeting Kurt Princic, District Chief, Ohio EPA – NEDO.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
July 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)				X								
Daniel Blakely (Tia Rutledge)		A	A	A		A						
Joseph Diorio (Mary Helen Smith)		A	A			A						
Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford)	X	X	X		X	X						
Amos Sarfo (Eric Long) (4/30/2022)	A	A	A	A	X							
John Zizka	X		X	X	X	X						
CITY OF KENT												
Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel)		X	X	X	X	X						
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett				X	X							
Keri Burick (Rachel Hosler)	X	X	X		X	X						
Alfredo Carranza		X		X	X							
Kirt Conrad		X	X	X		X						
Athena Ebersole	X	X	X	X								
David Maley	X		X	X		X						
Joe Mazzola		X		X		X						
Dan Moeglin (6/8/2022)	-	-	-	-	-							
Bob Nau (Curtis Bungard)		X	X	X		X						
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)	X	X	X		X	X						
Jim Troike (Scott Ellsworth and Tom Davis)		X		X	X							
Vacant												
CITY OF CANTON												
Jim Benekos (4/14/22) (John Highman Jr.)	X	X	X	X	X	X						
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Alan Brubaker (Joe Paradise and Larry Fulton)				A	A	A						
William Judge (Trevor Hunt)			X	X	X	X						
David Kohlmeier (Zak Kaczor)	X	X	X	X	X	A						
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		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	A						
Shammas Malik		X			X	X						
Linda F. R. Omobien (4/4/22)	-	-	-									
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	X	X	X	X	X							
Helen Tomic (Kurt Mulhauser)			X			X						
WAYNE COUNTY												
Becky Foster (Sue Smail)	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Vacant (Rob Kastner)	A	X	X		A	A						
Steven Wheeler (Kristin Endsley)		X		X								
CITY OF WOOSTER												
Bob Breneman (Joel Montgomery, Jonathan Millea, and Vince Marion)			A	A	A	A						
OHIO EPA-NEDO^a												
Kurt Princic (Patricia Vanah)	A	X	A	A	A	X						
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