

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, October 19, 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 8:32 a.m. in the presence of a quorum.

1b. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Marion, 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 September 21, 2022

A motion was made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Peetz, to accept the September meeting minutes. The motion carried.

3. Financial Status Report - month of September

Mr. Hadley said that \$25,012.93 was received as income during the month of September, receipts to date were \$56,470.04, disbursements to date were \$162,762.25, and cash on hand at the end of September was \$250,765.02.

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

Mr. Hadley stated that NEFCO's two-year audit has been started by the Ohio Auditor of State's office.

3a. September Bank Reconciliations

He asked for acceptance of the September bank reconciliations.

A motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Peetz, to accept the September bank reconciliations. The motion carried.

4. NEFCO FY2023 Work Program – status

a. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff continues developing the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). He stated that the CEDS document is due to the EDA by January 31, 2023. He said that a draft document will be presented at the December Board meeting.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff has started assembling the Economic Recovery and Resiliency (ER&R) Implementation Committee. He stated that this committee will include members from the three ER&R subcommittees, the CEDS Committee and the Board. He asked if anyone would like to participate on the ER&R Implementation Committee, to please contact him.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that the Cleveland Water Alliance (CWA) was awarded an EDA Build to Scale Capital Challenge grant in the amount of \$299,302. This grant will support the creation and launch of the Freshwater Economy Seed Fund. He said that the Seed Fund expands on the CWA's Blue Economy Innovation Initiative which developed a set of freshwater accelerator testbeds within two environments and expanded the CWA's Open Innovation Challenge programming to convene customers and entrepreneurs around key challenges and opportunities in the freshwater sector. He mentioned that the CWA service area extends into the northern part of the NEFCO region, which has partnered with the University of Akron and Kent State University; along with others.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that the EDA currently does not have any open funding opportunities. He said that the Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance (PW/EAA) program is expected to be announced soon for FFY2023. A non-federal match of 50-percent is required. He stated that if anyone has any questions regarding the PW/EAA program or would like to discuss any potential projects, to please contact him.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that EDA's role in disaster recovery is to support long-term community economic development recovery planning and project implementation, redevelopment, and resistance. He said that the EDA partners with Economic Development Districts, University Centers, and other stakeholders in disaster areas. He said that the EDA serves as the coordinating agency for the Economic Recovery Support Function on behalf of the Department of Commerce. In this role, the EDA provides leadership, coordination, and oversight, as well as grants, loans, training, and other forms of technical assistance to support these disaster-impacted areas recover.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grants program is through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He said that this grant supports the implementation of neighborhood revitalization plans. The grant deadline is January 11, 2023. He stated that eligible applicants include local governments and public housing authorities.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the USDA ReConnect Program will expand high speed internet access to rural areas with a population of 20,000 or less. He stated that eligible areas in the NEFCO region include all of Wayne County except Wooster, Doylestown, and Rittman; areas in southern and eastern Stark County; much of Portage County, outside of Kent, Ravenna, Streetsboro, and Aurora; and a small portion of Summit County, including parts of Boston, Bath, and Richfield Townships and New Franklin. The application deadline is November 2, 2022.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that the U.S. Department of Transportation has launched its Thriving Communities Program to help communities that are interested in receiving support with capacity building, technical support, and planning. He stated that interested communities must provide a letter of interest by December 6th. He said that the Cooperative Agreements grant awards will be between \$3.5 and \$6 million. These grants will be awarded to up to six capacity building teams. The deadline for applicants wishing to become capacity builders is November 22, 2022.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the USEPA Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (MARC) grants deadline is November 22, 2022. He said that there are guidelines available for each of these grants on the grants.gov website.

Mr. Lautzenheiser mentioned that a free webinar will be held on October 20, 2022, hosted by Kansas State University Technical Assistance to Brownfields, discussing What You Need to Know to be Competitive in the FY23 EPA MARC Grant Competition.

b. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that staff and the Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee (ERTAC) members have been discussing the voluntary submittals of Clean Water Plan (CWP) annual facilities plan updates since the last update of the CWP. He said that staff has written a draft white paper that addresses how NEFCO will initiate an annual update of the facilities planning areas (FPA) for those management agencies (MAs) that wish to update their FPAs. These updates are voluntary. The draft white paper lays out the steps in the process for the annual update. He said that a draft timeline has also been created, which will sync with the 30-day public notice and the NEFCO Board approval with the next Ohio EPA annual update. This would typically occur annually in December. He stated that drafts of the white paper and timeline are currently under internal review and are expected to be presented to NEFCO's ERTAC for its review before the end of the year.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Ohio EPA is permitting NEFCO to distribute the priority unsewered areas map. He said that data was collected for the priority unsewered areas (PUA) as a collaborative project with Ohio EPA and the other five Areawide planning agencies. He stated that the GIS shapefiles for the priority unsewered areas were submitted to the Ohio EPA. He said that the PUAs were overlayed on NEFCO's 208 Plan so it would be easier to see where the unsewered areas were with respect to the areas that are currently served with sanitary sewer. Some ERTAC members, i.e. health districts, and MAs have requested these shapefiles. Last month staff contacted Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water to see if staff could release the data to the MAs and the health districts. He stated that Ohio EPA agreed that NEFCO could distribute the map with a disclaimer indicating the purpose of the map, and that it is to be considered a working map for planning purposes only, and that the data could be changed by Ohio EPA or others. Staff is currently determining the best way to share the map with those MAs and health districts. He noted that he will inform the Board when the map is available.

Mr. LaPlante said that, to date, Friends of the Crooked River (FOCR) and its contractor have completed 95 percent of the project. He said that the river water pump station is about 90 percent complete. This pump returns the flow of river water to the nearby historic section of the Ohio and Erie Canal. He said that the river water pump station's variable frequency drive (VFD) allows the pump's discharge rate to be reduced from its maximum discharge rate of 20 cubic feet per second to a lower discharge rate. He stated that the FOCR recently reported to NEFCO that the VFD failed and needs to be replaced under the manufacturer's warranty. He said that due to the pandemic the manufacturer will not be able to get a new or refurbished VFD installed until well after the grant's current project/budget period end date, which is October 31, 2022. He said that the project partners and staff discussed the next steps for the grant with the USEPA Region 5 Great Lakes National Program Office's (GLNPO) project officer. The GLNPO project officer has provided NEFCO with an option of ending the grant on October 31, 2022, after GLNPO processes an amendment to the grant's budget. He noted that for NEFCO to exercise that option, GLNPO is requiring that the National Park Service (NPS) agree to it since the river water pump station is within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. He said that the NPS is considering whether to agree to allow the grant to end on October 31, 2022 with GLNPO's budget amendment.

Mr. LaPlante said that every four years the USEPA conducts a Clean Watershed Needs Survey and uses the responses to determine how much funding would be needed for the state revolving funds for wastewater. He said that the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

amended the CWA to direct USEPA to conduct and complete an assessment of capital improvement needs for all projects that are eligible for BIL funding. The responses are due by October 28, 2022.

Mr. LaPlante said that the 2023 Final Drinking Water Assistance Fund (DWAF) Program Management Plan (PMP) has been approved by the Ohio EPA. The Ohio EPA has announced the approval of the final DWAF PMP for Program Year 2023. A link was provided for additional information.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Ohio EPA finalized and posted on its website the 2019 Sewer and Water Rate Survey. A link was provided for additional information.

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

Mr. Hadley said that at the last minute on September 30th Congress and the President agreed to a continuing resolution (CR). This CR keeps the government funded through December 16th, but anyone who is depending on funding from the federal government, should know that funding levels for the grants or programs will be frozen in place at the FY2022 level through December 16th.

Mr. Hadley said that the Clean Water Act (CWA) celebrated its 50th anniversary of becoming law. He stated that Administrator Regan (USEPA) was in Cleveland yesterday celebrating the anniversary of the CWA. He said that the USEPA has been going to different federal regions and recognizing the CWA's anniversary. He mentioned that years ago NEFCO received the CWA Section 208 designation upon a request to USEPA by the Governor's office which in part included review and approval of USEPA Step 1 grants. He said that the NEFCO Board had to approve a municipality's or county's Step 1 grant and all its various components (before it could be submitted to USEPA for funding). Step 1 grants oftentimes had seven or eight different alternatives for addressing wastewater needs. He said that, at that time, NEFCO had employees with adequate backgrounds to review the alternatives, and staff would recommend to the Board which alternative should be funded by USEPA. He stated that NEFCO also prepared a set of Board approved population projections which were required to be used by the consultants that were working for the cities and counties with wastewater management responsibilities. The NEFCO staff disaggregated the county projections to the local community level. He said that the original focus on the Clean Water Act was concerning point sources. It was easier for Congress to say, "clean up the rivers", and for USEPA to measure progress by sampling from the end of a pipe. Point source pollution is easier to regulate than nonpoint source pollution which was coming from a variety of sources.

Mr. Hadley said that the other thing that may occur during Congress' lame duck session after the mid-terms, which is significant in the NEFCO region and elsewhere; is passage of the Water Resources Development Act. There is some finalizing of language that is needed regarding the Army Corps of Engineers, he said. This is a significant piece of legislation that he will be tracking for the Board.

Mr. Hadley said that FEMA has issued a new flood insurance manual which is available online. The manual is about 418 pages.

Mr. Hadley said that he has included information on another example of a community resisting cyber-crime and was being held hostage. He stated that this happened in White Ridge, Colorado. He noted that White Ridge had adequate backups to turn back any ransom demands last month. He said that last month Senator Brown's office distributed a notification of funding which is available for cyber security.

Mr. Conrad wanted to know what PFAS stood for? Mr. Hadley said that PFAS stands for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

7. For the Good of the Order: an opportunity for members to share news about their community/county/agency/company, or to list an important issue affecting them

There was no discussion.

8. Other Business

Mr. Tatum welcomed to the Board meeting Chris McCreight, Village of Hiram.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
November 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) | | | | X | | | | X | | | | |
| Daniel Blakely (Tia Rutledge) | | A | A | A | | A | | A | A | A | | |
| Joseph Diorio (Mary Helen Smith) | | A | A | | | | A | | A | | | |
| Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford) | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | |
| Amos Sarfo (Eric Long) (4/30/2022) | A | A | A | A | X | | | X | X | X | | |
| John Zizka | X | | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | | |
| CITY OF KENT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel) | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | |
| STARK COUNTY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Keith Bennett | | | | X | X | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Keri Burick (Rachel Hosler) | X | X | X | | X | | | X | X | | | |
| Alfredo Carranza | | X | | X | X | | | | | X | | |
| Kirt Conrad | | X | X | X | | X | X | | | X | | |
| Athena Ebersole | X | X | X | X | | | X | | | X | | |
| David Maley | X | | X | X | | | X | | X | | | |
| Joe Mazzola | | X | | X | | X | | | X | | | |
| Dan Moeglin (6/8/2022) | - | - | - | - | - | | | X | | | | |
| Bob Nau (Curtis Bungard) | | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | | |
| Richard Regula (Bill Smith) | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | | |
| Jim Troike (Scott Ellsworth and Tom Davis) | | X | | X | X | | | X | | | | |
| Vacant | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CITY OF CANTON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jim Benekos (4/14/22) (John Highman Jr.) | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | A | X | X | | |
| COUNTY OF SUMMIT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jim Balogh | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | |
| Alan Brubaker (Joe Paradise and Larry Fulton) | | | | A | A | | A | A | A | | | |
| William Judge (Trevor Hunt) | | | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | | |
| David Kohlmeier (Zak Kaczor) | X | X | X | X | X | A | A | X | X | X | | |
| Olivia Marcis (Bryan Herschel) | X | X | | | X | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley & Joe Eckenrode) | A | A | | A | | | | | A | A | | |
| Dianne Sumego | X | X | | | X | | X | | X | X | | |
| Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei) | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | | | |
| Elizabeth Walters (Mark Potter) | A | A | A | A | A | 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 | A | A | A | | | |
| Shammas Malik | | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | |
| Linda F. R. Omobien (4/4/22) | - | - | - | | | | | | | | | |
| Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley) | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Helen Tomic (Kurt Mulhauser) | | | X | | | X | | | | | | |
| WAYNE COUNTY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Becky Foster (Sue Smail) | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | | |
| Jenn Kiper (9/21/22) (Rob Kastner) | A | X | X | | A | | | | | | | |
| Steven Wheeler (Kristin Endsley) | | X | | X | | | X | | | | | |
| CITY OF WOOSTER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bob Breneman (Joel Montgomery, Jonathan Millea, and Vince Marion) | | | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | | |
| OHIO EPA-NEDO^a | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kurt Princic (Patricia Vanah) | A | X | A | A | A | | | A | A | | | |
| CITIZENS COUNCIL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vacant (2) | | | | | | | | | | | | |

X = member present A = alternate present

^aex officio

Date shown for new members

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

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| Guests in Attendance at the October 19, 2022 meeting |
| Chris McCreight, Village of Hiram |