MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, July 20, 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. Marion, 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 June 15, 2022

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

3. Financial Status Report - month of June

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that \$2.79 was received as income during the month of June, receipts to date were \$1,012,505.79, disbursements to date were \$995,721.00, and cash on hand at the end of June was \$357,057.23.

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

3a. June Bank Reconciliations

Mr. Lautzenheiser asked for acceptance of the June bank reconciliations.

A motion was made by Mr. Marion, seconded by Mr. Tatum, to accept the June bank reconciliations. The motion carried.

4. Approval of the Draft Economic Recovery & Resiliency Plan and authorization to submit Plan to the EDA

Mr. Lautzenheiser gave some details on the Draft Economic Recovery & Resiliency (ER&R) Plan that was created and written by the Environmental Design Group (EDG). He said that a copy of the plan is being circulated around for the Board to review. This document, he said, is a deliverable of the CARES Act grant that NEFCO received two years ago. He said that the CARES Act grant provided funding which staff used to create three subcommittees. The subcommittee members helped contribute data for the ER&R plan. He stated that this Plan will be incorporated into the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan (CEDS). Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the three subcommittees and the Regional CEDS Committee have reviewed the plan. He said that some edits and comments were received which will be incorporated into the final plan. He mentioned that former NEFCO Planner, Diane Sheridan, did a lot of the background work. He stated that Ms. Sheridan distributed the surveys and put together the results which were presented to EDG to help with the completion of the ER&R plan. Mr. Lautzenheiser introduced Mr. Ben McKeeman, Project Manager, Environmental Design Group who presented the ER&R plan to the Board.

Mr. McKeeman presented the ER&R Plan to the Board. He said that he worked with NEFCO staff and the three subcommittees on the completion and finalization of the ER&R Plan. He said that he worked with some subcommittee members to determine some of the challenges initially following the onset of the pandemic, and how some of those challenges have changed and progressed over time, how the recoveries are proceeding at the regional level affecting both the workforce, businesses, and the community. Workforce, Businesses, and Community were the main strategy areas for the plan. He stated that the Community Development section focuses on three key items: connecting our people, promote equitable housing and decrease the digital divide. He said that expanding transit service will improve workers' access to affordable housing and employment access for carless residents. Improving access and awareness of housing assistance programs and evaluating modifications to local ordinances, processes for market rate housing, will promote equitable housing. Decreasing the digital divide will help lowincome residents to be able to work from home as well as improving remote learning for kids. Mr. Regula asked who will implement this Plan? Mr. McKeeman said that tactic matrixes are listed in the Plan for all three of the focus areas. He said there are detailed tables within the Plan that outline the responsible parties for the different initiatives.

He said that the Regional Business section identifies how some of the smaller business owners don't have the capacity or knowledge to access the COVID recovery programs which resulted in the businesses not thriving or just hanging on. Enhancing financial and literacy training programs for small business owners will ensure that they are aware of the available resources. to implement business expansion. He stated that there are a lot of small businesses that need guidance and help in coordinating the correct resources, including small business development centers (SBDCs), commercial real estate and economic development entities. He said that broadband is not just for homeowners: a lot of businesses could take advantage of the fiber broadband to expand or relocate a business. He mentioned that there are some programs to help attract remote workers. Examples include, developing incentive programs that encourage individuals to move to the region for flexibility, and connecting individuals to more local resources and networking opportunities. He said that the Workforce Development and Entrepreneurship section identifies expanding and promoting childcare programs so workers are not forced to choose between working or childcare. Being able to work remotely with flexible schedules is something that parents need when childcare isn't available. Expanding training programs for high school and vocational school students will demonstrate the potential for highquality careers, and benefit the students who are not ready for college. In-demand jobs need workers. Being able to graduate and go into the workforce is an option for people who don't want to attend college. The Plan supports expanding entrepreneurial outreach efforts to nontraditional entrepreneur sources such as community organizations, religious institutions, and others. Mr. McKeeman stated that a lot of businesses are offering cash sign-on bonuses. These do not work for long term employment. He suggested engaging with businesses to stagger the retention sign-on bonuses over one or two years. Giving retention bonuses to existing employees may keep the workforce from taking advantage of the employee market. He said that there is a challenge for financing and making sure small businesses are 'loan-ready'. For example, if a business is working with Bounce to launch an idea and wants to move the idea from incubation to a functioning business; a lot of the challenges are with the financial literacy understanding or a lack of understanding with some of the up and coming businesses to be 'loan-ready' for additional capital investment that takes the business to the next level. He encouraged everyone to take a look at the ER&R Plan which shows the different matrixes and tactics.

Ms. DiFiore asked if there are plans to measure these strategies over time? Mr. McKeeman said yes, within the matrixes of the different sections of the report, there are recommended champions of those different tactic items and what those milestones include. Mr. Lautzenheiser thanked the members of the three subcommittees and the Regional CEDS Committee for the

participation and ideas that went into the completion of this document. Ms. Ebersole said that she thinks the plan is great. She stated that NEFCO should pick one main strategy that is working and use it around the region. Focus on one thing to get the implementation process started. She said that all four counties are doing wonderful things but not doing them collaboratively. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that his intention is to meet with each dues-paying member and discuss the final approved plan and find out each county's strengths in these main strategies. Ms. Ebersole said to start simple and take one strategy that is working and apply it throughout the region to see if this plan will work. Mr. Peetz said that he agrees with Ms. Ebersole to work collaboratively with all four counties. He said that NEFCO is a great regional board and could work together collaboratively. These lessons learned and successful stories would be great to bring to the group and share, so we can learn from that. This is the purpose of NEFCO. Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that this is also the purpose of the CEDS to work collaboratively. Mr. Peetz said that the CEDS is a disappointment to him from Portage County's perspective. He said that Portage County never qualifies for any of the EDA grants because the County makes too much money. He stated that NEFCO should use a different process for collaboration. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that listed in the plan is a semi-detailed matrix for each tactic which explains who will be the responsible party/champion. He stated that because NEFCO is regional in nature, staff can propose and recommend strategies. Staff can't enforce or make any local government do any certain thing; because each local government has a plan as well. He stated that staff would like to ensure that there isn't any duplication of other projects. Mr. Regula asked if there is funding available through the EDA to implement this ER&R Plan? Who will be out there talking to the people about housing, jobs, and transportation? Mr. McKeeman stated that it will be a combination of NEFCO staff working with the transit agencies, small business development agencies, workforce developments, and housing developments. Ms. Sumego suggested that the NEFCO staff meet with the counties/local governments as a group, not individually. She stated that when working with the individual counties and cities don't forget about the smaller companies. Ms. DiFiore asked if there is an available list of the participants on the subcommittees? Mr. McKeeman said that the list of subcommittee participants will be included in the final report. Mr. Lautzenheiser asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2023-001, the draft Economic Recovery & Resiliency Plan and authorization to submit the Plan to the EDA.

A motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Conrad, to approve the Draft Economic Recovery & Resiliency Plan and authorize staff to submit the Plan to the EDA, Resolution No. FY2023-001.

Mr. Regula asked once the document is submitted and approved by the EDA, what is the next step? Will there be a need for another resolution to be passed for implementation? Mr. Lautzenheiser said no. an additional resolution will not be needed, but the next step is implementation. Ms. Smith asked who will be signing off on the Plan once the comments are incorporated into the document? Mr. McKeeman replied that that was a good question and he and Mr. Lautzenheiser discussed the types of comments received to date. Ms. Sumego asked what is the submittal deadline? Mr. Lautzenheiser said that NEFCO received an extension from the EDA until December 31, 2022. He said that NEFCO's contract with EDG will expire in August, so staff would like to complete and submit the Plan before the contract expires. Ms. Sumego said that there have been a lot of comments on implementation. She suggested holding off approving the plan until the implementation process has been figured out. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that he is only asking for approval of the draft ER&R Plan. He stated that the implementation process can be a discussed as a separate item. He stated that he doesn't feel that the plan should be held up; implementation is the next step in the process which can be discussed at length at a later Board meeting. Ms. Sumego asked if the Plan can be updated once the document is submitted to the EDA? Mr. Lautzenheiser said yes, Plan revisions can be submitted to the EDA. Mr. Regula said once the ER&R Plan is approved by the EDA then the staff can start to meet with the region for implementation of the Plan. The motion carried.

5. Consideration of an Amendment to the Clean Water Plan to Modify the Akron Facilities Planning Area (FPA) and Fish Creek FPA Boundary in the Cities of Cuyahoga Falls and Stow for the Summit County Pump Station No. 19 Service Area

Mr. LaPlante said that the City of Akron requested an amendment to the Akron Facilities Planning Area (FPA) and Fish Creek FPA Boundary in the Cities of Cuyahoga Falls and Stow for the Summit County Pump Station No. 19 Service Area. He stated that the updated FPA boundary would shift the entire Pump Station No. 19 Service Area from the Akron FPA to the Fishcreek FPA. He stated that there is no wastewater prescription changes for this amendment. He said that Figure 3 shows the location of the proposed FPA boundary amendment. He said that request for comment letters were sent on January 6, 2022 and June 14, 2022 to all the affected local governments. He said that the local governments affected replied no comment or no objection. He stated that the legal notice was published in the Akron Beacon Journal on January 8, 2022. No comments were received by the City of Akron. He said that the ERTAC recommended approval of the amendment at its July 6, 2022 meeting. He asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2023-002.

Mr. Vinay said that the original letters were sent on January 6, 2022 requesting further review from the Cities of Cuyahoga Falls and Stow regarding the intergovernmental agreement for sanitary sewer at those communities. He said that staff met with Cuyahoga Falls and Stow to discuss the concerns regarding the movement of the FPA boundary that included the service area of Pump Station No. 19. His department indicated that this amendment won't affect the existing sewer service agreements with the municipalities. He stated that a second request letter was sent on June 14, 2022. Replies received after the discussions with the Cities of Cuyahoga Falls and Stow were no comments or no objections.

A motion was made by Ms. Sumego, seconded by Mr. Marion, to approve Resolution No. FY2023-002. The motion carried.

6. NEFCO FY2023 Work Program – status

a. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that the state and federal FY2023 Water Quality Management Planning (WQMP) contracts have been signed by NEFCO and submitted to Ohio EPA's Central Office for processing. The WQMP contracts amount to roughly \$125,000 for FY2023. This funding will cover the 208 Plan maintenance projects, continuation of the Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee (ERTAC) and starting an annual Chapter 3 208 update.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff completed the final draft map of the priority unsewered areas (PUAs) with the help of wastewater management agencies and the local health districts. He noted that the final draft map was submitted to Ohio EPA's Central Office as a requirement under our agency's FY2022 contract. He said that the ERTAC requested, as a future step for this project, that staff provide the map's GIS shapefiles to contributing members, once the information has been accepted/approved by Ohio EPA.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has hired Aqua Doc to conduct an inventory of aquatic plants in the Portage Lakes. He stated that the inventory was completed the week of July 11th. The findings of the inventory will help ODNR manage vegetation in a safe, effective, and balanced way, that supports aquatic uses and enjoyment while protecting the Lakes' health and habitats. He said that staff produced an article called "Rakes on the Lakes". He said that the article has been posted on the Portage Lakes Advisory Council and NEFCO's websites.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Canal Diversion Dam Removal fourth no-cost extension has been accepted by the USEPA.

Mr. LaPlante mentioned that a bus tour of five Akron Waterways Renewed projects will be given at the August 3rd ERTAC meeting starting at 9:30 a.m. He stated that Carter Bailey, PLMS partner and aquatic biologist with Aqua Doc will present on aquatic vegetation/harmful algal blooms management at the September 7, 2022 ERTAC meeting

b. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the EDA announced a grant opportunity available for the *Economic Recovery Corps and Equity Impact Investments Programs*. He said that the Economic Recovery Corps program will add staff resources to local organizations focused on improving economic resilience and competitiveness in distressed regions. He mentioned that the Equity Impact Investments grant will provide technical assistance to enable organizations serving underserved populations and communities to participate in economic development planning and projects. These grant applications are due August 5, 2022.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that Governor DeWine announced the 112 Brownfield Remediation projects for round 1. He said that seven projects were funded in the NEFCO region.

Mr. Lautzenheiser reminded the Board that the Ohio EPA brownfields grant-writing virtual workshop will be held on July 27-28; free registration is now open.

- Federal and State legislation or information of importance to local governments
 Mr. Regula said that the federal and state legislation is listed for information only.
- 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.

9. Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m. Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant

> Todd Peetz, Secretary NEFCO General Policy Board August 17, 2022

NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD 2022 ATTENDANCE SHEET

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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								<u> </u>
Daniel Blakely (Tia Rutledge)		Α	A	Α		Α						<u> </u>
Joseph Diorio (Mary Helen Smith)		Α	Α				Α					
Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford)	X	X	X		X	X	X					
Amos Sarfo (Eric Long) (4/30/2022)	Α	Α	A	Α	X							
John Zizka	X		X	X	X	X						
CITY OF KENT										-		
Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel)		X	X	X	X	X	X					
STARK COUNTY		•	•	•			•			•		
Keith Bennett				X	X		X					
Keri Burick (Rachel Hosler)	X	X	X		X							
Alfredo Carranza		X		X	X							
Kirt Conrad		X	X	X		X	X					
Athena Ebersole	X	X	X	X			X					
David Maley	X	- 11	X	X			X					
Joe Mazzola	21	X	21	X		X	21					
Dan Moeglin (6/8/2022)	_	-	_	-	_	Λ						
Bob Nau (Curtis Bungard)	_	X	X	X	-	X						-
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)	X	X	X	Λ	X	X	X					
Jim Troike (Scott Ellsworth and Tom Davis)	Λ	X	Λ	X	X	Λ	Λ					
Vacant		Λ		Λ	Λ							
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CITY OF CANTON	37	37	37	37	37	37	37					
Jim Benekos (4/14/22) (John Highman Jr.)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
COUNTY OF SUMMIT	1					T		ı	1	1	1	1
Jim Balogh	X	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	Α	A					
Olivia Marcis (Bryan Herschel)	X	X			X		X					
Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley and Brian Clark)	Α	Α		Α								
Dianne Sumego	X	X			X		X					
Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei)	X	X		X		X	X					
Elizabeth Walters (Mark Potter)	A	A	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α					
CITY OF AKRON										•		•
Ginger Baylor (4/4/22)	-	-	-									
Daniel Horrigan (Sam DeShazior)												
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	Α		Α		A	Α	Α					
Shammas Malik		X			X	X	X					
Linda F. R. Omobien (4/4/22)	-	-	-									
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	X	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)	Α	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					
OHIO EPA-NEDO ^a												
Kurt Princic (Patricia Vanah)	Α	X	Α	Α	Α							
CITIZENS COUNCIL	T	1	r	1	T	1	1	T	1			
Vacant (2)		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	<u>I</u>		Ь
X = member present $A =$ alternate present												

Guests in Attendance at t	he July 20,	2022 meeting
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Ben McKeeman, Environmental Design Group

David Keifer, Wayne County

Genny Hanna, City of Akron