

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at the City of Green Community Hall at Central Park

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. Bennett, 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.

Mr. Hadley welcomed to the Board meeting Mayor Allen Mavrides, City of Munroe Falls.

2. Consideration of the draft minutes of the regular meeting of the NEFCO General Policy Board on August 17, 2022

A motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Vinay, to accept the August meeting minutes. The motion carried.

3. Financial Status Report - month of August

Mr. Hadley said that \$6,372.66 was received as income during the month of August, receipts to date were \$31,457.11, disbursements to date were \$117,573.30, and cash on hand at the end of August was \$270,941.04.

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

3a. August Bank Reconciliations

Mr. Hadley stated that the last account listed is the 604b grant; the title was inadvertently left off. He asked for acceptance of the August bank reconciliations.

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

4. SPEAKER: "Stark County Manufacturing Workforce Development Partnership – Update on Federal EDA Good Jobs Challenge Grant as a subawardee through the Ohio Manufacturers' Association"; Barbara H. Bennett, PE, LEED-AP; Vice President of Education/Workforce

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that it was announced last month that the Ohio Manufacturing Association (OMA) had been awarded a \$23.5 million EDA Good Jobs Challenge grant. This grant is for workforce development programming throughout Ohio. He stated that the OMA will be working in coordination with the subgrantees throughout Ohio to do various workforce development activities in different counties and areas of the state. He said that staff reached out to the three organizations that are subawardees in the NEFCO Region that will be providing some of these workforce development activities. He said that ConxusNEO will be working with Summit and Portage Counties; and was unable to attend today's Board meeting. He stated that the North Central Workforce Alliance of Ohio, who will be working in multiple counties as well,

including Wayne County; could not attend today's meeting. Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Board is fortunate today to have Barbara Bennett representing the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce (COC). He said that the COC will be providing some workforce development activities in Stark County through the Good Jobs Challenge grant.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that Barbara Bennett is a Stark County native. Ms. Bennett has been the Vice President of Education and Workforce for the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce since 2019. She is responsible for connecting businesses with education systems as part of the team and addressing one of the Chamber's goals: to expand the region's talent development. She graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. Ms. Bennett spent the next 28 years in the private engineering and surveying industry with her family's business, Hammontree & Associates. In 2014, she stepped away from private consulting and accepted a position as the Director of Administrative Services with the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District and was also the Manager of Special Projects. Throughout her career Ms. Bennett has always been very active in her community. She is a graduate of the third class of what was known as Leadership Canton and has served in leadership capacities as Chairman of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, General Chairman of the Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival, and Chairman of the Aultman Health Foundation. Current boards she serves on include the Aultman Health Foundation, the Pro Football Hall of Fame Museum, Stark Economic Development Board, Stark Education Partnership, Walsh Advisory Board, the Stream + Wetlands Foundation, Greater Akron-Canton ACE Mentoring Program, and the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Foundation. Ms. Bennett was recognized as a one of the 30 Leaders of 30 Years of Leadership Stark County, a 2018 Woman of Impact, and was inducted into the class of 2012 YWCA Woman's Hall of Fame. She is also known as a three-time cancer survivor. Ms. Bennett and her husband, Stark County Engineer Keith Bennett, live in North Canton with their two children.

Ms. Bennett said that \$23.5 million was awarded to the Ohio Manufacturers Association (OMA) through the EDA Good Jobs Challenge grant. She stated that there were 500 applications received from across the country and the Ohio Manufacturers Association was the only awardee in Ohio. So, this is a big deal; LET'S CELEBRATE! She said that Stark County and the state have been holding some small celebrations for receiving the grant. She gave some background information on the Stark County Manufacturing Workforce Development Partnership (SCMWDP). The organization was organized by four industry champions or founders: HP products, MK Morris, Barb Co., and Lindsay Precast. This organization was officially formed on June 18, 2021. The employers have used the same model as is used by the Mahoning Valley Manufacturing Coalition (MVMC) since MVMC has been around; about 10 years. She said that ConxusNEO in Summit County was also looked at as a model entity to see how ConxusNEO was pulling together its industry sector partnerships. She stated that the focus for the Stark County group is the immediate need to fill vacant jobs. Workforce is an issue with every business in Northeast Ohio, pretty much the whole country. She said that the SCMWDP recognized that working together with a group of employers increases the capacity of people getting into manufacturing jobs. The second mission or goal is to change the perception of manufacturing jobs. Most people vision manufacturing jobs as dirty, not safe, and working long hours. She said that this isn't the case anymore. With new technology a lot of these businesses are clean, employees work 40 hours a week, and have more opportunities to start at an entry level position and are able to move up fast. She said that some programs are starting with middle and high school students who aren't sure if going to college is a good career path for them. She stated that there are three intermediary organizations in the county that help organize functions and initiatives to help keep things moving forward. These organizations are: MAGNET, the Stark Economic Development Board, and the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce. She mentioned a game changer for the organization which was a grant that was

ordered through the state last year called the Spark Grant. She said that the SCMWDWP received \$100,000 from the Spark grant, which really helped the organization grow and become self-sustaining. She said that the organization grew very quickly with over 50 employers on the roster. The grant funding was able to help pay for middle school students to attend manufacturing camp, and the high school students will be able to take tours of the manufacturing companies on October 6, 2022. She stated that the Junior Achievement program will be holding a big career exploration fair. She said that the grant money is also being spent on grassroots outreach into the community. She noted that an organization from Columbus was hired to do some grassroots outreach, to help recruit new people into these manufacturing jobs, such as assistance with basic job training, technical training, placing the recruits, and to offer some wrap around services. She said that this group goes out to populated areas which are unemployed, underemployed, minorities, women, and veterans. Such as church services, door to door, barber shops, beauty salons etc. She noted that billboards are put up, television ads are advertised, mailers are sent out, and post cards are distributed for these manufacturing jobs. Since March 2022, thirty-eight people who were unemployed, underemployed, or incarcerated are now employed in the manufacturing industry. She stated that there is a group of companies that are open to these referrals and are willing to work with these individuals who may not have a very good background.

Ms. Bennett said that there are eleven endorsed industry sector partnerships (ISP) in the state of Ohio; which includes the three in the NEFCO Region: SCMWDWP, ConxusNEO, and the North Central Workforce Alliance of Ohio which covers Wayne County. She said that out of the \$23.5 million grant, \$970,000 will be allocated to each industry sector partnership. She stated that the main goal for the grant is to get 3,000 people into manufacturing jobs in the state of Ohio, who are unemployed or underemployed. Another goal of the grant is to work with entry level learn and earn to develop these programs so that those people that are in manufacturing can upskill and earn technical credentials. This helps the employer who knows what this credential means, and the employer also knows the training that is behind this credential. She said that half of the \$970,000 grant funding will be used for the entry level learn and earn program. There are several programs in Stark County, for example, Ohio Means Jobs. She stated that Kent State University put together an eight-week manufacturing skills credential where candidates attend classes for a couple days and then attend on the job training with the manufacturer for three days. The first eight-week class has concluded with six graduating; five of the graduates were placed in a job. These six graduates earned three recognized credentials: CPR, first aid, hazardous materials/OSHA. She said that earning these credentials was life changing for these graduates. Ms. Bennett stated that the SCMWDWP is also working on a franchise model that the Ohio Manufacturers Association is putting together called Work Advance.

The kickoff meeting for this federal (EDA) grant was held on Thursday, September 15th. She said that the SCMWDWP is still reviewing the grant details. She mentioned that Stark County doesn't have the technical training in the talent pipeline. She said that the Stark County does have the infrastructure to help provide the job placements and wrap around services, thanks to the efforts of Strengthening Stark. Ms. Bennett stated that SCMWDWP is also working with Alliance, North Canton, Massillon, Chambers of Commerce, and others around Stark County to help provide peer coaching. She said that peer coaching helps employers and employees work together on work schedules and work performance. She stated that the SCMWDWP is focusing on getting funded these wrap-around services and technical training. She has also been engaged with Summit County on how to help employers get funding for on-the-job training. She mentioned that a lot of the money will be used for project management, reporting, and metrics. Ms. Bennett asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Regula asked if SCMWDP would be reaching out to immigrants and refugees? Ms. Bennett said that to date they haven't reached out to these people. She said that it is a goal to reach out to the Latinos, but it is hard sometimes to contact them. Mr. Regula asked if individual companies have been contacted? Ms. Bennett said yes, some companies have been contacted directly. Mr. Hadley said in terms of training, are the employers allowed to use the grant money for incentives? Ms. Bennett said that she isn't sure about that. Mr. Hadley asked if the companies were receiving any of the funding? Ms. Bennett said that the funding is used for the training; no individual company will receive federal funding. Mr. Lautzenheiser asked if the 3,000 jobs goal for the state has data available for these available jobs? Ms. Bennett said that according to the SIC code there are 700 open positions in manufacturing for Stark County. Mr. Regula thanked Ms. Bennett for her presentation.

5. NEFCO FY2023 Work Program – status

a. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff continues to work on the development of the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document. This document is due January 31, 2023.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Economic Recovery and Resiliency (ER&R) Plan was submitted to the EDA. He stated that this plan is a deliverable of NEFCO's EDA CARES Act grant. He stated that staff will be meeting with individual counties to present the approved Plan and to discuss the future steps and implementation strategies.

Mr. Lautzenheiser noted that the USEPA released the FY2023 Brownfields grant solicitations for competitive and non-competitive grants. The deadline for these grants is November 22, 2022. He listed some upcoming free webinars that will discuss and address questions about the grant programs.

b. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that at the September 7th ERTAC meeting, the committee re-elected Mary Helen Smith (Portage County) to serve as its chair. The ERTAC also re-elected Rob Kastner (Wayne County) to serve as its vice chair.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff has completed the SFY2022 NEFCO Water Quality Management Planning Completion Report that contains a summary of activities and each work product from the organization's two SFY2022 contracts with the Ohio EPA. Staff provides the completion report to the Ohio EPA at the end of each state fiscal year to partially meet its obligations for the two contracts.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Portage Lakes Management Study (PLMS) partners will meet at 9:00 a.m. on September 22nd at the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District's offices in Akron. The partners will discuss the aquatic plan inventory, plant management strategies of aquatic vegetation, and the next steps of this study.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Friends of the Crooked River (FOCR) and the project owner's representative reported that the project team ran the screw pump on August 15th and 16th during work hours without the bar screen over the discharge pipe outlet and had no issues. He said that the team started the pump again on August 17th to run continuously, as it was designed to do. In the early hours of August 18th, the pump shut down. Several fuses in the electrical panel were blown. FOCR's contractor subsequently did some troubleshooting at the site to determine any electrical issues, which continue to persist. Coordinating with the electrical panel

manufacturer to get its electricians to the site to do continued troubleshooting has been slow due to the vacation season. The grant has been extended until October 31, 2022.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Ohio EPA-DEFA will hold a Virtual Compliance Assistance Conference on Sept. 26th - 29th and October 3rd - 6th. He said that the Ohio EPA Northeast District Office will be holding an open house on 2022 infrastructure funding on Wednesday, September 28th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

Mr. Hadley said that in the next federal fiscal year appropriation bills, funding has been increased by the Senate and House of Representatives for EDA including the Partnership Planning grants. A conference committee would have to select and agree on an amount of the increase. He stated that the EDA in the past has provided its Districts with supplemental funding when Congress has increased EDA's funding. But this latest increase isn't assured funding at this time.

Mr. Hadley said that a continuing resolution is looking likely before the end of the federal fiscal year.

Mr. Hadley said that he has included information regarding the CHIPS Act. He also included information regarding FEMA and climate change. He said that attached is some information on the cybersecurity grant program. He stated that these funds will not be distributed to local governments. The funding will be funneled through a state agency.

7. 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.

8. Other Business

Mr. Regula said that he will be sending the Mayor Neugebauer, City of Green a thank you letter for letting NEFCO hold its Board meetings in the City of Green buildings.

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
October 19, 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			
Joseph Diorio (Mary Helen Smith)		A	A				A		A			
Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford)	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			
Amos Sarfo (Eric Long) (4/30/2022)	A	A	A	A	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			
Keri Burick (Rachel Hosler)	X	X	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		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			
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			
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				
David Kohlmeier (Zak Kaczor)	X	X	X	X	X	A	A	X	X			
Olivia Marcis (Bryan Herschel)	X	X			X		X	X	X			
Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley & Joe Eckenrode)	A	A		A					A			
Dianne Sumego	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			
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			
Linda F. R. Omobien (4/4/22)	-	-	-									
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	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			
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

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 September 21, 2022 meeting
Barbara Bennett, Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce
Allen Mavrides, Mayor, City of Munroe Falls
Joe Eckenrode, Deputy Director, Summit County Administrative Services, Alternate for Ilene Shapiro