

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 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 8:30 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 December 21, 2022

A motion was made by Mr. Marion, seconded by Mr. Malik, to accept the December meeting minutes. The motion carried.

3. Financial Status Report - month of December

Mr. Hadley said that \$113,914.33 was received as income during December, receipts to date were \$293,726.48, disbursements to date were \$312,743.94, and cash on hand at the end of December was \$338,039.77.

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

3a. December Bank Reconciliations

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

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

Ms. Sumego asked if there were still funds available for the Canal Diversion Dam Removal Project? Mr. Hadley said that all the funds listed are local funds; the federal portion of the grant has been disbursed.

4. SPEAKER: "Economic Development Administration (EDA) Update"; Ms. Ellen Heinz, Economic Development Representative, U.S. EDA

Mr. Lautzenheiser introduced to the Board Ms. Ellen Heinz, Economic Development Representative (EDR) for Ohio, U.S. EDA.

Ms. Heinz said that she has resided in Ohio for 20 years and loves Ohio. She mentioned that all of the EDRs are located in their represented state. She said that the EDA works directly with communities and regions to help build economic development capacity by targeting competitive, merit-based investments. EDA's Chicago Region represents six states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. She noted that this year's first fiscal funded construction project is located in Mahoning County, Ohio. The grant cycle runs from October 1

through September 30. She stated that an EDR works closely with the community, has expertise in the programs, provides technical assistance from start to finish of the project, and is the project pitch person. She described EDA's investment priorities which include equity, recovery and resilience, technology-based economic development, environmentally-sustainable development, workforce development, manufacturing, and exports and foreign direct investment. EDA's three major sources of funding are public works assistance, economic adjustment assistance, and additional programs that include coal communities and nuclear closure communities. She discussed the important items to consider when submitting a grant application, such as the type of project (non-construction project, construction projects), it needs to be complete and competitive; and it has a local share. She said that when submitting a project to the EDA the project application must be 100 percent complete. All of the local share funding must be in place in order to proceed with the application. She stressed the importance of explaining the "Why" on the application, the economic justification for the project. She stated that eligible applicants include state, county, city, tribal, local government, and special purpose units; institutions of higher education; and non-profit organizations or associations. An application must be registered in DUNS, sam.gov and Grants.gov, and must use its legal name. The eligible areas include high unemployment, low per capita income, or special needs. She presented a map showing which counties have a completed and approved CEDS. She stated that there are six economic development districts in Ohio. She said that over the last couple years the EDA has funded a number of regional CEDS in Ohio. She noted that there are only eight Ohio counties that are not part of a regional CEDS. Ms. Heinz stated that a competitive applicant must have a confirmed match i.e. cash vs. in-kind, geographic distribution, economic distress, show a clear return on investment, regional partnerships, the project must be a part of a regional strategy, and the project has to meet EDA's investment priorities. She noted that the EDA cannot fund: a for-profit organization; infrastructure owned by a for-profit organization; infrastructure on land acquired through eminent domain; or non-profits to be used to purchase equity stakes in for-profit entities. She provided a list of resources for anyone wanting to submit an application to the EDA. Ms. Heinz asked if there were any questions?

Mr. Hadley asked if the EDA would fund a portion of a brownfield cleanup assessment? Ms. Heinz said no, there are other funding sources available for brownfield sites. Mr. Messner asked about funding for an eminent domain property. Ms. Heinz said that it depends on the situation of the property. She asked Mr. Messner to send her some additional information. Ms. Smith asked about the rolling project process. Ms. Heinz said that this is a rolling project process and there is some funding left for this fiscal year. She said that the application process is very simple to complete. Mr. Hadley asked if there is a different designation for the areas that were recently funded for a regional CEDS? Ms. Heinz said that the areas without a regional CEDS have to go through a lot of scrutiny in order to apply for EDA funds. Mr. Lautzenheiser thanked Ms. Heinz for her presentation and being supportive of NEFCO.

5. Adoption of the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that staff has completed the *2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)* document. He said that attached to the status report is a copy of the Action Plan from the CEDS. He stated that the Action Plan contains the strategies and goals. He said that NEFCO was established as an Economic Development District (EDD) in 1978 by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. He said that as an EDD, NEFCO has the responsibility of maintaining a CEDS for the region. Because of this it maintains NEFCO's eligibility for an EDA planning grant. The CEDS is required to be updated every five years, in between an Annual Performance Report (APR) is completed. He stated that the submittal deadline is January 31, 2023. He asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2023-005.

A motion was made by Mr. Vinay, seconded by Mr. Bennett, to adopt Resolution No. FY2023-005. The motion carried.

6. Consideration of an Amendment to the Clean Water Plan for the Canton-Nimishillen Basin Facilities Planning Area (FPA) and the Massillon FPA to modify the FPA boundary to provide for the construction of Jackson Township's Schuring Park via a sanitary sewer connection on Belden Greens Circle NW, which is tributary to the Canton Water Reclamation Facility

Mr. LaPlante said that the Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District (SCMSD) requested an amendment to the Canton-Nimishillen Basin Facilities Planning Area (FPA) and Massillon FPA, Clean Water Plan Appendices 3-19 and 3-22, respectively, to expand the Canton-Nimishillen Basin FPA boundary to include Schuring Park parcels 10011822 and 10011820, which are owned by Jackson Township, and to include approximately the northern one-half of parcel 10011778, which is owned by Stark Parks; and redefine the Massillon FPA boundary to exclude Schuring Park parcels 10011822, and 10011820, and approximately the northern one-half of parcel 10011778; which is owned by Stark Parks. He stated that the proposed amendment area is shown in Figure 1. He said that the location of the amendment is on Belden Greens Circle NW in Jackson Township, Stark County, within the Canton-Nimishillen Basin FPA and Massillon FPA. He stated that the project site is located across two FPAs; the site needs to be located in the FPA where the wastewater will be transmitted and treated. In late 2019, Jackson Township and Stark Parks purchased the former Tam O'Shanter golf course to develop the land into two separate parks. He said that Jackson Township is in the process of completing construction drawings for the development of Schuring Park into a soccer/lacrosse complex to allow for restroom facilities on its own parcels (10011822, and 10011820), and on Stark Parks' adjoining parcel 10011778. He stated that the Schuring Park parcel 10011822 is located in both the Canton-Nimishillen Basin FPA and the Massillon FPA (Figure 2). The Schuring Park parcel 10011820 and Stark Parks parcel 10011778 are in the Massillon FPA. He said that the proposed FPA boundary modification will place Schuring Park parcels 10011822 and 10011820, and approximately the northern one-half of Stark Parks' parcel 10011778 completely within the Canton-Nimishillen Basin FPA, allowing an economical means of wastewater transmission and treatment at the Canton Water Reclamation Facility. He said that this facility has the capacity to accept the additional flow and loading. Mr. LaPlante said that there is no wastewater prescription change. The current prescription for the amendment area is 'yellow', meaning, "Areas Currently Served with Sanitary Sewer", which would not change with the amendment. He listed the local governments/agencies that are affected by this amendment. He noted that a legal notice describing the proposed amendment was published in the Canton Repository on November 28, 2022. No comments were received by the SCMSD. He said that changes to this amendment only pertain to the FPA maps, reflecting the change in the FPA boundary. He stated that at the ERTAC meeting on January 4, 2023, staff recommended approval of the amendment. He asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2023-006.

A motion was made by Mr. Marion, seconded by Mr. Benekos, to adopt Resolution No. FY2023-006. The motion carried.

7. Authorization for the continuation in CY2023 of a policy for the Chair or the Executive Director to provide, without the NEFCO board's prior approval, requested letters of support for projects and grant applications that are consistent with NEFCO's work program, or past board actions or positions, and for the handling of other support letter requests as determined by the board

Mr. Hadley said that this is setting forth a policy that was initiated a year ago by the Board. He said that a situation the staff has come across in the past is when a support letter is needed

immediately, in between Board meetings. He said that this policy was started last January. If a request is received and is something that the Board has approved in the past, and is not controversial, either the Executive Director or Chair would have the ability to act as the Board in transmitting a support letter. He stated that a copy of the support letter would be provided to the Board at the next scheduled meeting. He said that if NEFCO is asked to take a position that staff has not done before or something that is very controversial which would require Board approval, a letter would not be transmitted until the Board has approved it. He stated that all support letters distributed by NEFCO are prepared by staff then signed by the Executive Director or Chair. He asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2023-007.

A motion was made by Ms. Sumego, seconded by Ms. Smith, to adopt Resolution No. FY2023-007. The motion carried.

Mr. Messner asked if these support letters were only for support of a project and not for any financial commitment? Mr. Hadley said that is correct: any financial decisions or commitments would need Board approval.

8. Appointment of CY2023 NEFCO Administrative and Functional Committees

Mr. Hadley said that listed are the CY2023 NEFCO Administrative and Functional Committees. He asked for approval of the CY2023 Committees.

A motion was made by Mr. Malik, seconded by Mr. Hofstetter, to approve the CY2023 NEFCO Administrative and Functional Committees. The motion carried.

9. NEFCO FY2023 Work Program – status

a. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the updated funding opportunities information has been added to NEFCO's website. He said that in future status reports he will only provide information for grants with upcoming deadlines.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that Vibrant NEO and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) have approved the structure of a Brownfields Revolving Loan Steering Committee. He said that the structure includes representation from the three councils of government, (NEFCO, NOACA, and EASTGATE). He said that there are 29 steering committee members, NOACA will have fifteen members, NEFCO will have nine members, and EASTGATE will have five members. He said that NEFCO needs to determine its committee composition before March 1st. He stated that at the February Board meeting he will present for Board approval a proposed slate of the nine NEFCO Brownfields Revolving Loan Steering Committee members.

b. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that the procedures for the voluntary annual 208 Plan Facilities Planning Areas (FPA) updates are being developed under NEFCO's SFY2023 Water Quality Management Planning contract with Ohio EPA. He stated that these procedures have been discussed at the last couple of Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee (ERTAC) meetings. He said that the procedures are being developed mainly because some of the larger management agencies (MAs) had requested that NEFCO provide more frequent Plan updates. He said that this is because under the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio EPA cannot issue a Permit-to-Install (PTI) or grant an infrastructure loan when either conflict with the 208 Plan (thus, it is advantageous for MAs to anticipate areas under their wastewater jurisdiction which may not currently be consistent with the 208 Plan, and to recommend a 208 Plan update to make an area(s) compliant with the Plan's wastewater options). He said that listed in the status report

are the purposes of NEFCO having an annual FPA update process. He stated that the ERTAC continues to discuss the process and procedures and staff has nearly completed the third draft. He said that the staff wishes to give the Board early notice that the ERTAC will consider at its February meeting a possible recommendation to the NEFCO Board to approve the annual Plan update process and procedures.

Mr. LaPlante gave an update on the status of the Canal Diversion Dam Removal project. He said that staff completed a final draft report which was submitted for comments to the Friends of the Crooked River, the grant's subrecipient and implementor of the project, and dms water solutions, the project owner's representative. He stated that he is waiting for the approved budget amendment from the USEPA Region 5 Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) to include in the final plan. He stated that the next step is to submit the draft final report to Ohio EPA for comment. He noted that the final report is due January 31, 2023. He said that once USEPA approves the final report, the report will be available to the Board and ERTAC members. The report will also be posted on NEFCO's website.

Mr. LaPlante said that Ohio EPA's 2023 Draft Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) Program Management Plan (PMP) is now available for review and comment. He said that the revised Drinking Water Assistance Fund 2023 PMP has been finalized and is also available for review. Mr. LaPlante said that the USEPA finalized the rule that repeals the Trump-era "Waters of the U.S." (WOTUS) rule. He stated that if any member would like additional information, to please contact him.

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

Mr. Hadley asked that in the interest of time, members should contact him if they have any questions or requests.

Mr. Tatum welcomed to the Board meeting new members Mayor Sam Scaffide, City of Twinsburg and Jonathan Hofstetter, Wayne County Commissioner.

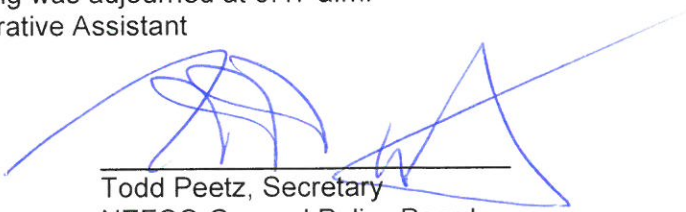
11. For the Good of the Order: an opportunity for members to share news about their community/county/agency/company, or to list a prominent issue affecting them

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

12. Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
February 15, 2023

NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD 2023 ATTENDANCE SHEET

Member (alternate)	1/18	2/15	3/15	4/19	5/17	6/21	7/19	8/16	9/20	10/18	11/15	12/20
PORTAGE COUNTY^a												
Tony Badalamenti (Sabrina Christian-Bennett)												
Daniel Blakely (Tia Rutledge)	A											
Joseph Diorio (Mary Helen Smith)	A											
Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford)	X											
Amos Sarfo (Eric Long)												
John Zizka												
CITY OF KENT												
Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel)	X											
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett	X											
Alfredo Carranza	X											
Kirt Conrad												
Athena Ebersole	X											
David Maley	X											
Joe Mazzola												
Dan Moeglin												
Bob Nau (Curtis Bungard)	X											
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)												
Jim Troike (Scott Ellsworth and Tom Davis)	A											
Vacant (Rachel Hosler)												
Vacant												
CITY OF CANTON												
Jim Benekos (John Highman Jr. and Chris Barnes)	X											
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X											
Alan Brubaker (Joe Paradise and Larry Fulton)	A											
David Kohlmeier (Zak Kaczor)	X											
David Lukas	A											
Sam Scaffide	X											
Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley & Joe Eckenrode)												
Dianne Sumego	X											
Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei)	X											
Elizabeth Walters (Mark Potter)												
CITY OF AKRON^a												
Ginger Baylor												
Daniel Horrigan (Sam DeShazior)												
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A											
Shammas Malik	X											
Linda F. R. Omobien												
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	X											
Helen Tomic (Kurt Mulhauser)												
WAYNE COUNTY												
Jonathan Hofstetter (Sue Smail)	X											
Jenn Kiper (Rob Kastner)	X											
Steven Wheeler (Kevin Givins)	A											
CITY OF WOOSTER												
Bob Breneman (Jonathan Millea, and Vince Marion)	A											
OHIO EPA-NEDO^{a,b}												
Vacant (Patricia Vanah)	A											
CITIZENS COUNCIL												
Vacant (2)												
X = member present A = alternate present												

^aappointments pending

^bex officio

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

Guests in Attendance at the January 18, 2023 meeting
Ellen Heinz, Economic Development Administration, Ohio Representative
David Rapp, City of Hudson