

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at the City of Green Community Hall at Central Park

1a. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Regula at 8:31 a.m. in the presence of a quorum.

1b. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Tatum, seconded by Mr. Eckenrode, 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. Lane said that he is glad to be attending the Board meeting again. He stated that he represents Congresswoman Sykes for Stark and Summit Counties. He said that the local office is located in downtown Akron.

2. Consideration of the draft minutes of the regular meeting of the NEFCO General Policy Board on February 15, 2023

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

3. Financial Status Report - month of February

Mr. Hadley said that \$40,174.12 was received as income during February, receipts to date were \$333,902.92, disbursements to date were \$395,831.61, and cash on hand at the end of February was \$295,128.54.

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

3a. February Bank Reconciliations

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

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

4. Compensation of a Public Employee – Recommendation of the Personnel Committee

Mr. Regula asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Ms. Kiper, seconded by Mr. Malik, to go into Executive Session at 8:34 a.m. The motion carried.

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

Mr. Regula declared the Board meeting back in session at 9:09 a.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Conrad, seconded by Mr. Hofstetter, to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation to promote Nick Lautzenheiser from Economic Development

Planner to Program Manager for Economic Development Planning; at an annual salary of \$80,000, effective March 15, 2023. The motion carried.

5. Consideration of an Update to the Clean Water (208) Plan for the Wooster Facilities Planning Area (FPA) to modify the southwestern section of the FPA boundary and update wastewater treatment prescriptions on various parcels within the existing Wooster FPA boundary and within the City of Wooster

Mr. LaPlante said that the City of Wooster requested an update to the Clean Water Plan's Wooster Facilities Planning Area (FPA), Appendix 3-51, to modify the southwestern segment of the Wooster FPA boundary and update the associated prescriptions to reflect current conditions; and update the wastewater treatment prescriptions for various parcels within the Wooster FPA to reflect current conditions and the city's long-term sewer plans over the next 20 years. He said that the proposed update locations are shown on Figure 1. He said that Figure 2 shows the proposed Wooster FPA boundary modifications and prescription changes in the southwest section and parts of Wayne and Wooster Townships. Figures 3A and 3B show the existing and proposed Wooster FPA boundary, and existing and proposed prescription changes associated with the proposed FPA boundary modification in the unincorporated area of Wooster Township.

Mr. LaPlante stated that this update request is part of the City of Wooster's long-term wastewater sewer facilities planning. He said that this request dates back to the 208 Plan's Chapter 3 update which was approved by the NEFCO Board on November 18, 2020. He stated that 208 Plan Chapter 3 update was tabled in October 2020, because the ERTAC didn't support a change to the Wooster FPA boundary: moving the FPA boundary to the east into the Smithville FPA.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff acknowledged that these are the same proposed Wooster-Smithville FPA boundary modifications and associated wastewater prescription updates that were proposed by the city for the 2020 Plan update. He stated that the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, which has wastewater management jurisdiction in the originally proposed Wooster-Smithville FPA boundary modification area (since it is in an unincorporated area), did not support that part of the city's proposed Wooster FPA update. He noted that at the March 1st ERTAC meeting, the City of Wooster decided to modify its requested Wooster FPA update to only include what was supported by the Wayne County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. LaPlante said that the only FPA boundary change is in the southwestern segment of the Wooster FPA. He stated that this update request includes the various parcel-level prescription changes internal to the Wooster FPA. Most of these parcels are within the City of Wooster corporation limits, and the majority of these changes were adjustments to get the correct wastewater prescription color to conform to the correct parcel boundaries.

Mr. LaPlante listed the local governments/agencies that were affected by this request. He stated that a public notice was published in the Wooster Daily Record on December 13 and 20, 2022.

Mr. LaPlante said that upon hearing the City of Wooster's decision to modify its requested update to the Clean Water Plan's Wooster Facilities Planning Area (FPA) and NEFCO staff's recommendation of approval of the modified update, the ERTAC recommended approval of it.

Mr. LaPlante stated the Joel Montgomery, City of Wooster was in attendance to answer any questions from the Board. Mr. LaPlante asked for approval of Resolution No. FY2023-010.

A motion was made by Mr. Benekos, seconded by Mr. Conrad, to approve Resolution No. FY2023-010. The motion carried.

Mr. Montgomery said that, for now, the City of Wooster has worked out an agreement with the Village of Smithville and the Wayne County Commissioners.

6. Consideration of approval of NEFCO's draft Clean Water (208) Plan Annual Facilities Planning Area (FPA) Update Guidelines; ERTAC recommendation

Mr. LaPlante said that under NEFCO's FY2023 contract with Ohio EPA, the scope of services includes the initiation of an annual Clean Water (208) Plan update process for the wastewater management agencies (MAs). He said that this will give the MAs an opportunity to update the boundaries and/or wastewater treatment prescriptions of their respective 201/208 facilities planning areas (FPAs).

Mr. LaPlante stated that the guidelines were considered at the March 1st ERTAC meeting. The ERTAC recommended that the NEFCO General Policy Board formally approve the draft guidelines and associated timeline. He noted that the ERTAC also acknowledged that with the Board's approval of the guidelines, staff will have the flexibility to adjust the guidelines as any Plan processing challenges are identified during the initial annual update.

Mr. LaPlante discussed some key points regarding the annual 208 Plan update that should be reiterated: some of NEFCO's members expressed interest in having the 208 Plan updated more frequently than every several years; there will be no change regarding the handling of 208 Plan amendments, i.e., these Plan requests will continue to receive top priority for processing; the 208 Plan update initiation process is voluntary; the draft plan update guidelines are NOT policies, they are intended to help guide staff and the MAs through the annual update process, but not act as steadfast rules or instructions; the draft annual FPA update guidelines have the support of the county MAs; the guidelines reflect what's been learned by NEFCO staff in conducting past Plan updates; and, the guidelines are designed to identify and address Plan processing challenges early in the update process.

Mr. LaPlante requested Board approval of the draft annual FPA update guidelines, including the flexibility discussed above.

A motion was made by Mr. Eckenrode, seconded by Mr. Hofstetter, to approve the Clean Water (208) Plan Annual Facilities Planning Area (FPA) Update Guidelines. The motion carried.

7. The City of Akron requests a support letter for its proposed Third Amendment to the Consent Decree (to abate combined sewer overflows in the typical year)

Mr. LaPlante said that this is the City of Akron's third support letter request for its consent decree regarding the abatement of combined sewer overflows. He noted the attached background about the Consent Decree. Mr. LaPlante said that the City of Akron keeps NEFCO informed of the city's progress in meeting the requirements of the Consent Decree, through its attendance in monthly ERTAC meetings, and through periodic meetings of Akron Waterways Renewed!, the city's stakeholder group, of which NEFCO is a member. Mr. LaPlante said that attached is a draft copy of the support letter. He stated that at the March 1st ERTAC meeting, the committee recommended that the Board send a support letter for the City of Akron's proposed Third Amendment to the Consent Decree.

A motion was made by Ms. Kiper, seconded by Mr. Marion, to approve the City of Akron's support letter. The motion carried.

Ms. Vanah asked, hadn't the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) already approved the Third Amendment to the Consent Decree? Mr. LaPlante said no, it was recently published in the Federal Register at the end of February with comments due by March 20, 2023. Mr. Malik said that the Third Amendment has the support of the DOJ and the USEPA.

8. NEFCO FY2023 Work Program – status

a. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Economic Recovery and Resiliency (ER&R) Implementation Committee continues to implement strategies that were included in the ER&R plan. He said that the committee will look at strategies for Community Development, Workforce Development and Entrepreneurship, and Regional Business. Staff is working on compiling the notes from the February 13th ER&R meeting. He stated that a follow-up survey will be sent to the committee to develop the implementation strategy for this group.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that no funding opportunities have been released for the FY2023 Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance program.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the EDA issued a request for information on the Recompete Pilot Program. He said that this program is part of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022. He stated that responses must be submitted by March 27, 2023 to Recompete@eda.gov. He said that the EDA is looking for input on developing this program which would focus on building capacity, creating jobs, and addressing challenges in communities struggling with persistent economic distress and high prime-age unemployment and other challenges.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that he has included some information on Tech Hubs and Broadband. Please contact him for additional information.

Ms. DiFiore asked if Mr. Lautzenheiser has been contacted by anyone interested, at a regional basis, in the Climate Pollution Reduction grant? Mr. Lautzenheiser said that he has not been contacted about this grant from other areas aside from the City of Akron.

Mr. Lautzenheiser discussed some upcoming funding opportunities that are available.

b. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante thanked the Board for its approval of the 208 Plan FPA annual update guidelines. He said that the next step would be to contact the management agencies (MAs) for any updates to the current 208 Plan. He said that the MAs will be polled for a virtual meeting to discuss mapping guidelines for the update.

Mr. LaPlante stated the Rob Kastner, Wayne SWCD, has agreed to become the ERTAC Chair, and Tia Rutledge, Portage County Water Resources, was nominated and agreed to become the ERTAC Vice Chair.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff is working with the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District's Watershed Coordinator to put together a Portage Lakes watershed public outreach display. He said that the display will be at the Akron Summit County Public Library Portage Lakes branch.

Mr. LaPlante noted that the City of Cuyahoga Falls requested a support letter for a Clean Ohio Trail fund grant application. He said that attached is a copy of the support letter that was provided to the City of Cuyahoga Falls.

9. 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.

10. 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

Mr. Regula welcomed to the Board meeting Sabrina Christian-Bennett, Portage County Commissioner, and Susan Riehm, Portage County Appointee.

11. Other Business

Ms. Vanah stated that the new Ohio EPA-NEDO Director, David Emerman, will try to attend the April Board meeting.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
April 19, 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												
Sabrina Christian-Bennett (Mike Tinlin)			X									
Daniel Blakely (Tia Rutledge)	A	A	A									
Joseph Diorio	A	X										
Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford)	X	X	X									
Susan Riehm (2-9-23)			X									
Amos Sarfo (Eric Long)		X	X									
CITY OF KENT												
Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel)	X	X	X									
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett	X	X										
Alfredo Carranza	X	X										
Kirt Conrad			X									
Athena Ebersole	X											
David Maley	X	X	X									
Joe Mazzola		X										
Dan Moeglin												
Bob Nau (Curtis Bungard)	X	X										
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)		X	X									
Jim Troike (Scott Ellsworth and Tom Davis)	A	A										
Vacant (Rachel Hosler)												
Vacant												
CITY OF CANTON												
Jim Benekos (John Highman Jr. and Chris Barnes)	X	X	X									
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	X	X									
Alan Brubaker (Joe Paradise and Larry Fulton)	A											
David Kohlmeier (Zak Kaczor)	X	X	X									
David Lukas	A	X	X									
Sam Scaffide	X	X										
Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley & Joe Eckenrode)		A	A									
Dianne Sumego	X											
Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei)	X	X										
Elizabeth Walters (Mark Potter)		A	A									
CITY OF AKRON^a												
Ginger Baylor												
Daniel Horrigan (Sam DeShazior)												
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A	A	A									
Shammas Malik	X	X	X									
Linda F. R. Omobien												
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	X	X	X									
Helen Tomic (Kurt Mulhauser)												
WAYNE COUNTY												
Jonathan Hofstetter (Sue Smail)	X	X	X									
Jenn Kiper (Rob Kastner)	X	X	X									
Steven Wheeler (Kevin Givins)	A	A	A									
CITY OF WOOSTER												
Bob Breneman (Jonathan Millea, and Vince Marion)	A	A	A									
OHIO EPA-NEDO^b												
David Emerman (Patricia Vanah)	A		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 March 15, 2023 meeting

Doug Lane, Congresswoman Sykes' Office
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Joel Montgomery, City of Wooster

Gerard Neugebauer, Mayor, City of Green

Charles Hauber, Summit County Engineer's Office

Jack Riehm, Portage County Resident
