

# NEFCO

## NORTHEAST OHIO FOUR COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

175 South Main Street, Suite 211  
Akron, Ohio 44308-1308

(330) 643-8514 • Fax (330) 643-5046  
www.nefcoplanning.org

*Richard Regula, Chair*

*Joseph Hadley, Jr., Executive Director*

### Regular Meeting of the General Policy Board

**Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

**City of Green**

**Community Hall at Central Park**

**1755 Town Park Blvd.**

**Uniontown, OH 44685**

**8:30 a.m.**

### Agenda

1. Call to Order
  - a. Determination of a Quorum
  - b. Approval of the Agenda for the October 18, 2023 NEFCO General Policy Board meeting  
**ACTION REQUESTED**
  - c. Pledge of Allegiance
  - d. Audience Participation (members of the public)  
Any individual or representative of a group may take three (3) minutes to address the General Policy Board on any topic on the agenda.
2. Consideration of the draft minutes of the regular meeting of the NEFCO General Policy Board on September 20, 2023 **ACTION REQUESTED**
3. Consideration of the Financial Status Report: Income and Expenditures through September 30, 2023 **ACTION REQUESTED**
  - a. September bank reconciliations
4. **Guest: Elaine Marsh, President, Friends of the Crooked River (FOCR) regarding FOCR's partnership with NEFCO and the successful completion of the Canal Diversion Dam Removal Project**
5. NEFCO FY2024 Work Program
  - a. Economic Development Planning
    - 1) Economic Development Administration (EDA) Updates
      - a. Current EDA funding opportunities
        1. FY2023 Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance (PW/EAA)
      - b. ER&R Implementation Committee update
      - c. EDA designates a new Economic Development District in Ohio
      - d. Vibrant NEO Brownfields Steering Committee; update
    - 2) Economic Development Planning Information
      - a. September unemployment rate remains at 3.8 percent (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
      - b. U.S. EPA announces *FY2024 Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant Guidelines*; application submission deadline: Nov. 13

Cooperation and Coordination in Development Planning  
Among the Units of Government in Portage, Stark, Summit and Wayne Counties

- c. Ohio EPA provides instructions on how to obtain the required Ohio EPA letter of support for U.S. EPA Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grants
  - d. Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program Round 2 to begin Nov. 6
  - e. US Housing Crisis Fuels Hope for a Bipartisan Tax Bill (*Bloomberg CityLab*)
  - f. Concerns rise as aid to help low-income families afford broadband nears end (*Route Fifty*)
  - g. Do opportunity zones work? (*Route Fifty*)
  - h. Summit County Land Bank accepting submissions for demolition projects
  - i. Manufacturing faces potential labor shortage due to skills gap (U.S. Census Bureau)
  - j. New NADO Research Foundation resources on transportation and regional development (NADO)
  - k. NADO Annual Training Conference, Nov. 7-10, Cleveland
- 3) Funding Opportunities (upcoming deadlines contained in status report)
- 4) Regional Economic Development News (contained in status report)
- b. Environmental Planning
  - 1) Staff notifies the public of the release of the draft FY2024 201/208 Facilities Planning Areas update for a 30-day public review and comment period
  - 2) Ongoing FY2024 201/208 FPA update; revised timetable and next steps
  - 3) U.S. EPA approves state certified 208 Plan amendments approved by the NEFCO Board from June 2020 to January 2023
  - 4) Ohio EPA discusses with the Areawides U.S. EPA's proposed maximum contaminant levels for PFAS in drinking water, which are expected to be finalized at the end of 2023
  - 5) Ohio EPA NEDO discusses with the ERTAC PFAS sampling procedures that public water systems will need to implement once the proposed MCLs for PFAS become effective
  - 6) City of Akron's proposed fourth amendment to the Consent Decree; status
  - 7) Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water announces Section 319 [Request for Proposals](#); due November 9, 2023
- 6. Federal and State legislation or information of importance to local governments
  - a. Federal
  - b. State
- 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
- 8. Other Business

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023, is the date for the next meeting of the NEFCO General Policy Board at the **City of Green Council Chambers**, 1755 Town Park Blvd., Uniontown OH 44685