

# 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, November 15, 2023**

**City of Green**

**Council Chambers**

**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 November 15, 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 October 18, 2023 **ACTION REQUESTED**
3. Consideration of the Financial Status Report: Income and Expenditures through October 31, 2023  
**ACTION REQUESTED**
  - a. October bank reconciliations
4. Nominating Committee to meet to prepare a slate of CY2024 General Policy Board officers
5. Discussion on the CY2024 NEFCO General Policy Board meeting schedule and location
6. NEFCO FY2024 Work Program
  - a. Economic Development Planning
    - 1) Economic Development Administration (EDA) Updates
      - a. Greater Akron Chamber awarded EDA Tech Hub Designation and \$400,000 Strategy Development Grant for Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub project!
      - b. EDA awards 60 Build to Scale grants
      - c. Recompete Pilot Program receives 565 applications
      - d. NEFCO submits Performance Progress Report, Financial Report, and Semiannual Program Outputs Questionnaire for Partnership Planning Grant
      - e. Regional CEDS Committee to meet November 16<sup>th</sup>
      - f. Economic Recovery and Resiliency (ER&R) Plan Implementation update
      - g. Vibrant NEO Brownfields Steering Committee update

- h. Current EDA funding opportunities
  - 1. Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program (Tech Hubs) – Phase 2 (**NEW**)
  - 2. FY2023 Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance (PW/EAA)
- i. Highlights from the NADO Annual Training Conference; November 7-10
- 2) Economic Development Planning Information
  - a. October unemployment rate increases slightly to 3.9 percent (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
  - b. What's driving post-pandemic downtown recoveries? (*Route Fifty*)
  - c. What kind of transportation future do we want? (*Route Fifty*)
  - d. Feds ease capital requirement for broadband funding (*Route Fifty*)
  - e. A New White House Plan to Create Affordable Housing: Convert Empty Office Buildings (Bloomberg CityLab)
  - f. 31 communities tapped as innovation hub finalists (*Route Fifty*)
  - g. Ohio Grants Summit, Nov. 29-30
- 3) Funding Opportunities (upcoming deadlines contained in status report)
- 4) Regional Economic Development News (contained in status report)
  
- b. Environmental Planning
  - 1) Draft FY2024 201/208 [Facilities Planning Areas update](#): 30-day public review and comment period ended on October 30<sup>th</sup> with no comments received; next steps
  - 2) Ongoing [Clean Water \(208\) Plan, Chapter 4](#) update; status; and next steps
  - 3) Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water solicits public input on [draft Section 401 Water Quality Certifications and Wetland Water Quality Standards rules](#); deadline for comments: December 8, 2023
  - 4) Upcoming Ohio EPA webinars:
    - a. [Fight the Bite! Ohio EPA's Mosquito Control Grant Application Overview](#); **November 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**
    - b. [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program](#); **November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
    - c. [Remediation and Reuse of Brownfields in Your Community](#); December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
  
- 7. Federal and State legislation or information of importance to local governments
  - a. Federal
  - b. State
  
- 8. 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
  
- 9. Other Business
  - a. NEFCO holiday reception planned for immediately following the December board meeting

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Wednesday, December 20, 2023, is the date for the next meeting of the NEFCO General Policy Board at the **City of Green Community Hall at Central Park**, 1755 Town Park Blvd., Uniontown OH 44685