

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at the City of Green Council Chambers.

1a. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by First Vice-Chair 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 October 18, 2023

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

3. Financial Status Report - month of October

Mr. Hadley said that \$1.51 was received as income during October, receipts to date were \$157,998.29, disbursements to date were \$174,553.35, and cash on hand at the end of October was \$192,971.26.

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

3a. October Bank Reconciliations

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

A motion was made by Ms. Kiper, seconded by Mr. Marion, to accept the October bank reconciliations. The motion carried.

4. Nominating Committee to meet to prepare a slate of CY2024 General Policy Board officers

Mr. Hadley stated that the Nominating Committee is currently being polled for available dates/times for a Nominating Committee meeting to discuss the CY2024 Board officers. He said that the product from the meeting will be discussed at the December Board meeting.

5. Discussion on the CY2024 NEFCO General Policy Board meeting schedule and location

Mr. Hadley said that he has included the proposed CY2024 meeting dates for the Board meetings. He said that the City of Green has been very generous with supplying a meeting location for the monthly Board meetings. The City of Green will again provide a meeting location for the CY2024 Board meetings. He said that there is a question regarding the June Board meeting since the meeting falls on a holiday, Juneteenth. He said that Chairman Regula was made aware of this conflict. Mr. Hadley said that there is a need to consider alternative dates for the June 2024 Board meeting. He said that the June Board meeting is an important meeting for the agency; this is when the Board adopts the agency's next fiscal year budget. Mr. Peetz suggested having the June Board meeting on June 26th. Mr. Tatum said that at this time, he recommends having the Executive

Committee discuss the options of when to hold the June Board meeting since the regular meeting day falls on a holiday. By consensus, the Board agreed with this approach.

6. NEFCO FY2024 Work Program – status

a. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser noted some great news: the Greater Akron Chamber (GAC) and its consortium were awarded an EDA Tech Hubs Designation and a \$400,000 Strategy Development Grant for the Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub project. He said that this is a major win for our region. This award was the only one in Ohio, one of 31 designations across the country, and the consortium was one of 11 to receive both the Tech Hubs Designation and the Strategy Development Grant. He said that staff was a consortium member and provided some technical assistance and support throughout the preparation of the Phase I application. The GAC was invited to apply for the Phase II round which is due at the end of February 2024. He stated that Phase II will be more competitive with only 5 to 10 awards being made for this phase in the amount of \$50 to \$75 million each.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that 60 Build to Scale (B2S) grant awards were awarded across the country. He stated that out of the grant applications from Northeast Ohio, only the JumpStart (Cleveland) application was awarded from Ohio. The Bounce Innovation Hub and the University of Akron Research Foundation were unsuccessful with their B2S Venture Challenge grant application.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the EDA announced that the Recompete Pilot Program received a record 565 applications from across the country. This is the most that the EDA has ever received for any sort of national competition. He stated that the Board provided support letters to the City of Akron and the Stark Economic Development Board for their Recomplete Plan applications. He said that the EDA will only approve 20 Recompete Plans and 30 Strategy Development grants. He said that he is hoping that one or both of those applications gets approved. The EDA expects to make the announcement later this year.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the NEFCO Regional CEDS Committee will be meeting on November 16th to discuss the annual evaluation of the CEDS. Each year, the Regional CEDS Committee evaluates how NEFCO has done as a region, to assess whether or not staff should change any of the seven goals included in the CEDS plan. He mentioned that the results of the CEDS meeting will go into the development of the Annual Performance Report, which is an annual deliverable of NEFCO's partnership planning grant.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that last month staff sent out two different surveys to vocational schools and high schools to gather information on some workforce development information from the NEFCO region. He said that he received seven responses from vocational schools showing that the top programs for enrollment included welding, cosmetology, and pre-nursing. These three programs tend to have the highest job placement in the region; which is over 50 percent. He said that the schools also provided data that showed that 50 percent or more of those graduates stayed in the region. He said that the vocational schools identified a need for additional funding and staffing resources, as well as internships and apprenticeships with regional employers. He said that the high school survey went out to more schools and only nine responses were received. He said that the high school surveys showed similar information as the vocational programs, however, the high schools didn't have as much data to support the graduates that stayed in the region. He said that the schools identified the need to increase employer visits and apprenticeship programs with employers and industries around the region. He said that staff will share the survey information with regional economic and workforce development partners.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Vibrant NEO Brownfields Steering Committee met on October 19th and recommended the approval of the first loan from the revolving loan fund. There were four applications submitted to NOACA and Vibrant NEO, with one being deemed eligible. The recommendation from the committee was to award a loan for \$500,000 to the City of Middleburg Heights, zero percent interest for 10 years. He said that the loan was approved by the Vibrant NEO Board of Directors on October 24th and will be considered by the NOACA Board in December. Please contact him for additional details.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that last week he attended the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Annual Training Conference, which was held this year in Cleveland. He said that it was really a good opportunity to interact with peers from across the country and learn different strategies and best practices. He stated that he also participated in several informational sessions.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Ohio Grant Summit is a free virtual webinar which will be held on November 29-30 between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. each day. This webinar will provide information on state and federal grants. He said that the link to the webinar was available in the status report.

Mr. Lautzenheiser discussed some upcoming funding opportunities with fast approaching deadlines.

b. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that the Draft FY2024 201/208 Facilities Planning Areas update 30-day public review and comment period ended on October 30th without receiving any comments from the public. He said that attached are the final update documents, which are identical to what was presented to the Board in October, except with DRAFT removed. The next steps would be to present the final FPA update to the Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee (ERTAC) for a technical review, then present the final update to the Board in December for final approval. The draft comment map is posted on NEFCO's website. Please contact him if you have any questions regarding the 208 Update.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff has been working on updating the Clean Water Plan Chapter 4. He said that Chapter 4 deals with Home Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS), Semi-Public Sewage Disposal Systems, and Small Flow On-site Sewage Treatment Systems. Semi-Public Sewage Disposal Systems are commercial systems that either discharge or treat, and don't discharge up to 25,000 gallons per day. He said that small flow on-site sewage treatment systems are designed to provide on-lot soil absorption for three dwellings or more and have a daily design flow of less than 1,000 gallons per day. He said that the goal is to present in February or March of 2024 an updated Chapter 4 to the ERTAC for a technical review. Finally, have the Board consider approval of Chapter 4 at the June 2024 Board meeting so that staff could meet the June 30th water quality work program deadline.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water solicited the public for input on the draft Section 401 Water Quality Certifications and Wetland Water Quality Standards rules. The comments are due by December 8, 2023.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Fight the Bite! Ohio EPA's mosquito control grant application overview webinar will be held on November 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Mr. LaPlante said that Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program webinar will be held on November 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Remediation and Reuse of Brownfields in Your Community webinar will be held on December 5th from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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

Mr. Hadley said that House Representatives passed a two-tiered continuing resolution (CR). The House wanted to avoid having an omnibus resolution right before Christmas. He said that the two-tiered approach is to try to extend certain Federal appropriations that are less controversial; therefore, allowing additional time for the more controversial appropriations measures to be handled later. The continuing resolution extends until January 19, 2024 for the military and veterans' programs, agricultural food agencies and the departments of transportation and HUD. Funding for the Departments of State, Defense, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services and others was extended to February 2, 2024. He said that with the House passing a version of the two-tiered continuing resolution, the CR will go to the Senate. Senators Schumer and McConnell are in agreement with it, so Mr. Hadley said that he expected that the CR will go to the President by November 17th to avoid the shutdown.

Mr. Hadley said that he has included some information regarding details on various appropriations bills. The Senate has been making progress, irrespective of everything going on in the House. He stated that the House is catching up on some lagging bills. He mentioned that the continuing resolution maintains funding at the FY2023 level.

Mr. Hadley said that the President submitted in a \$56 billion emergency funding request. The current continuing resolution doesn't address any of that funding or the request for it. Mr. Hadley mentioned that the ARPA funds will need to be obligated by December 31, 2024.

Mr. Hadley said that it was interesting that the legacy programs have stymied President Biden's effort to boost equity and infrastructure spending. He said that the Urban Institute looked at funds that the Biden administration have pushed through in its first year and how those efforts were stymied in some cases because the federal agencies are required to use a funding formula that is, in some cases, decades old.

Mr. Hadley said that he included some information on the Highway Trust Fund. Ohio is a donor state i.e. Ohio puts more money into the funding pot for highways than what is received by Ohio.

Mr. Hadley noted that FEMA and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) will hold a series of webinars. He listed the dates and times of the multiple webinars being held. He said that these webinars will discuss planning efforts in 2024 and how to stay ahead of the hackers.

8. 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 at the Board meeting had anything to comment about for their community/county/agency.

9. Other Business

- a. NEFCO holiday reception planned for immediately following the board meeting

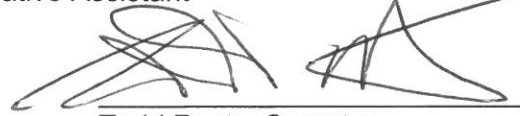
Mr. Hadley stated that a holiday reception was suggested by Board member Dianne Smego. He said that the reception was discussed with Chair Regula who suggested having the reception

following the December Board meeting. He said that this will not be a sit down breakfast but more like a meet and greet with fellow Board members.

Mr. Hadley mentioned that Kathy Petsko, City of Kent will be retiring in April 2024. He introduced Ms. Petsko's replacement Kailyn Cyrus, who will be replacing Ms. Petsko on NEFCO's Board in January 2024.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Peetz', written over a horizontal line.

Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
December 20, 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	A	X	X	A	X	X	X	X	
Daniel Blakely (Tia Rutledge)	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	
Joseph Diorio	A	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Susan Riehm (2-9-23)			X	X	X	X		X		X	X	
Amos Sarfo (Eric Long)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
CITY OF KENT												
Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett	X	X				X		X	X	X	X	
Alfredo Carranza	X	X							X			
Kirt Conrad			X	X	X			X		X	X	
David Maley	X	X	X		X		X		X	X		
Joe Mazzola		X		X		X	X	X	X	X		
Dan Moeglin				X	X							
Mike Naso (5-3-23)					X	X	X	X	X	X		
Bob Nau (Curtis Bungard)	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Jim Troike (Tom Davis)	A	A		X	X		X		A	A		
Vacant (Rachel Hosler)												
Vacant												
CITY OF CANTON												
Jim Benekos (John Highman Jr. and Chris Barnes)	X	X	X	A		X	X		X	A	A	
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Alan Brubaker (Joe Paradise and Larry Fulton)	A											
David Kohlmeier (Zak Kaczor)	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
David Lukas	A	X	X	X	X							
Sam Scaffide	X	X		X		X	X		X		X	
Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley & Joe Eckenrode)		A	A	A	A	A	A	A		A	A	
Dianne Sumego	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei)	X	X			X	X	A	X	X	X		
Elizabeth Walters (Mark Potter)		A	A	A	A		A	A	A		A	
CITY OF AKRON												
Ginger Baylor												
Daniel Horrigan (Sam DeShazor)												
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
Shammas Malik	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Linda F. R. Omobien												
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	
Helen Tomic (Kurt Mulhauser)					X	A	A	A	A	A	A	
WAYNE COUNTY												
Jonathan Hofstetter (Sue Smail)	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	
Jenn Kiper (Rob Kastner)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	
Steven Wheeler (Kevin Givins)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
CITY OF WOOSTER												
Bob Breneman (Jonathan Millea, and Vince Marion)	A	A	A		A	A	A		A	A	A	
OHIO EPA-NEDO^a												
David Emerman (Patricia Vanah)	A		A					X		X		
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

Guests in Attendance at the November 15, 2023 meeting
Meghan Adair, Summit/Medina Workforce Development Area
Alan Mavrides, Mayor, City Monroe Falls
Kailyn Cyrus, City of Kent