

MINUTES--NEFCO GENERAL POLICY BOARD MEETING held Wednesday, May 17, 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. Conrad, 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. Regula welcomed to the Board meeting Mike Naso, Stark Economic Development Board. Mr. Regula also congratulated Shammias Malik, Akron Mayor-elect and Thomas Tatum, new Director of Planning and Urban Development, City of Akron.

2. Consideration of the draft minutes of the regular meeting of the NEFCO General Policy Board on April 19, 2023

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

3. Financial Status Report - month of April

Mr. Hadley said that \$1.86 was received as income during April, receipts to date were \$371,140.33, disbursements to date were \$480,027.50, and cash on hand at the end of April was \$248,170.06.

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

3a. April Bank Reconciliations

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

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

4. Authorization to enter into contracts with the Ohio EPA for state and federally-funded water quality management planning, and for the Executive Director to sign for NEFCO

Mr. Hadley said that this is a request for the Board to have NEFCO accept the annual water quality contracts from the Ohio EPA. These are the biennium budget of \$75,000 per year and the \$98,457 in passthrough funding from USEPA through Ohio EPA. This request is also to authorize the Executive Director to sign these contracts. He stated that the contracts are going through review by the Central Office in Columbus as well as the Northeast District Office. He asked for a motion to authorize NEFCO to enter into contracts with the Ohio EPA and for the Executive Director to sign the contracts when they are available.

A motion was made by Ms. Sumego, seconded by Mr. Hofstetter, to authorize NEFCO to enter into contracts with the Ohio EPA for state and federally-funded water quality management planning, and for the Executive Director to sign for NEFCO. The motion carried.

5. Support for the Portage County 2050 Comprehensive Plan

Presentation: Todd Peetz, Director, Portage County Regional Planning Commission

Mr. Peetz, Director Portage County Regional Planning Commission presented the Portage County 2050 Comprehensive Plan. He said that this is Portage County's very first comprehensive plan. He said that in the Plan the data is only good as the data that was collected. There was great community participation for the Plan. He noted that the Plan was started in June 2021, with two planners, and it was done all in-house. The Plan includes the standard goals, objectives, and policies. The Commissioners wanted a more proactive plan with stricter deadlines. He stated that a lot of times these types of plans are created for communities who don't have time or staff to prepare a plan of its own. He said that he would like to have a yearly update prior to the budgeting year, which would provide the Commissioners with information on what is going on in the communities. He mentioned using story maps, one of which was created for Brimfield Township. He stated that with the interactive story map he basically turned the comprehensive plan into a mini marketing document for the fast-growing Brimfield Township. The Brimfield story map shows the zoning outline, the codes online, ODOT's construction time, the project timeline and cost. He noted that the County Plan doesn't quite have the same information on the interactive site. The County Plan is at the "50,000-foot level", with townships being at the "5,000-to-10,000-foot level". He demonstrated how to navigate through the interactive site. He stated that a final draft will be adopted soon. He displayed some maps that showed Portage County's watersheds, surface water, land use, agriculture, community services, and other important information for the county and townships. There are links imbedded in the plan to other agencies that may be serving the other townships. The vision plan was the big idea of where to start, what to do and how it should be done. The comprehensive plan is the tool to implement the vision plan. He asked other counties and cities for the costs of their comprehensive plan, to compare it with the cost of Portage County's Comprehensive Plan. He noted that the Portage County Plan cost about \$90,000, which was about consistent with other county plans.

Mr. Balogh asked if Mr. Peetz could provide the Board with a link to the Plan? Mr. Peetz said yes, he will distribute the link to the Board. Ms. Tomic asked Mr. Peetz about his outreach efforts. Mr. Peetz said that his staff did a community-wide survey, which was left open for about four months. He said that committees were formed, mostly elected officials, from the villages, townships, and cities in Portage County. On April 20, 2023, an outreach celebration was held to demonstrate the Plan. Staff also worked with the local communities, outside agencies, and the county departments gathering information for the Plan. He said that he met with all the department heads to get input for this Plan. Once the project was wrapping up, the Plan was sent to all the local governments for review. Ms. DiFiore asked when was the Plan started? Mr. Peetz said that he started the Plan in June 2021. He stated that he had three planners at the beginning of the project but lost a planner, so he and another planner finished the document. For the most part, he only had two planners working on the Plan, which caused some delays. He also experienced some delays with the public notices for meetings. Mr. Nau commended Mr. Peetz for taking on this big task of creating a Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Kiper said that moving forward, this is a plan that if one doesn't follow the implementation, it will sit on the shelf. She said that this is not the last step, it is just the beginning. She congratulated Mr. Peetz on creating the Plan. Mr. Peetz said that with the Plan being interactive it will be easier to update and could be used as a marketing tool. He said that he has a couple communities already that would like to have a plan developed for them. Ms. Sumego asked why is the letter of support needed for this Plan? Mr. Peetz said that a letter of support

wouldn't hurt the Plan, it just shows that NEFCO is in support of the Plan. Mr. Hadley said that this is more of an endorsement of the concept for a comprehensive plan at the County level so that any individual community can detail the plan with its own priorities. Ms. Sumego said that 'support' sounds better than saying 'endorse'.

A motion was made by Ms. Kiper, seconded by Mr. Hofstetter, to approve the letter of support for the Portage County 2050 Comprehensive Plan. The motion carried.

6. Preliminary FY2024 Appropriations and Expenditures Budget: Report of the Budget and Work Program Committee; Draft FY2024 Work Program

Mr. Hadley said that the Budget Committee met on May 12th to review the attached assumptions and budget tables. He said that Table 1 shows the funding sources. He said that a couple current fiscal year grants have been completed, so they are no longer listed on Table 1. He said that the agency is in its second year of the three-year Economic Development Planning Partnership grant from the EDA. He stated that the Ohio EPA contracts are not assured until the Governor signs the state budget. He said that NEFCO is likely to receive \$75,000/per year in the biennium budget, as long as, there are no deletions by the Governor. He said that as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure law, the 604b funding was increased from about \$52,000 up to about \$98,000. There is a small carryover in funding from the current work program.

Mr. Hadley stated that the Budget Committee recommended that the dues remain at 18¢ per capita. He said that at the Budget Committee meeting, Ms. Rutledge asked about the last dues change. Mr. Hadley said that in 2010 the dues were decreased from 20¢ to 18¢ per capita.

Mr. Hadley said that Table 3 shows the budget roughly at \$764,000. He said that at the June Board meeting he will have more details on Table 3. He said that the attached economic development work program is in the second year of its three-year grant, so that work program is approved. The draft water quality planning work program is attached. The water quality funding will focus on 208 planning, wastewater planning, and products other than 208, He said that staff is concluding the seventh year of work on the Portage Lakes Watershed Management Plan.

Mr. Moeglin asked how the \$275,000 carryover was trending? Mr. Hadley said that the carryover is pretty conservative. He said that no audit will be conducted this fiscal year which will save NEFCO an estimated \$15,000 in various fees. Mr. Hadley said that no action is being requested at today's meeting.

7. NEFCO FY2023 Work Program – status

a. Economic Development

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that NEFCO submitted six-month performance progress and financial reports for the EDA Partnership Planning Grant (PPG). He said that NEFCO also submitted the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) report. He stated that these reports are part of NEFCO's PPG, which tracks the agency's activities and expenditures for the grant.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that attached is a table showing the Economic Recovery and Resiliency Implementation Committee (ERRIC) strategy progress tracker. He said that the table shows 12 tasks which had changed since the ERRIC met yesterday (May 16th). He said that the ERRIC made some changes and edits to the table. He said that listed in the table are the key tasks and strategies that the Committee is looking to address from the ER&R Plan.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that on May 12th, the EDA published a notice of funding opportunity for the FY2023 Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program (Tech Hubs) Phase 1 grant. He stated that there is \$15 million available for the strategy development and designation of Tech Hubs around the country. He mentioned that Phase 1 applicants must choose whether they are pursuing a Strategy Development Grant, a Tech Hub Designation, or both. The deadline for the Phase 1 grant is August 15, 2023. The Phase 2 notice of funding will be released in the Fall 2023.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the EDA announced a Disaster Supplemental notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) on April 24th. This NOFO is for areas that received the Presidential declaration of a major disaster.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the 2023 STEM Talent Challenge NOFO deadline is June 12, 2023. He said this funding opportunity supports the creation and implementation of innovative science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) work-based learning models that complement the region's innovation economy.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance (PW/EAA) program is open and has been available since March 15th. There is no deadline for this program and it will be open until the funding is exhausted.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the EDA published an update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Content Guidelines. He said that these guidelines will help regions, like NEFCO, and other economic development districts (EDDs) put together a CEDS and to include certain components. He mentioned that the four new or updated topics for inclusion in future CEDS are: climate resilience, equity, workforce development, and broadband. He stated that NEFCO's 2023-2028 CEDS already includes these updated topics.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the NEFCO Board provided a letter of support to the City of Akron for its pursuit of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). He stated that the City was unsuccessful in receiving the grant. He said that some MSAs below the City of Akron, in population, were awarded funding because their states declined the funding. He said that through this program, the EPA will provide up to \$3 million to each state (including Ohio), the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. He said that the NEFCO Region will get an opportunity to participate in this project.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that he had applied to serve on the National Association of Development Organizations Research Foundation (NADO RF) Advisory Committee. He said that this would be a good way for NEFCO to get involved at a national level in economic development and regional organization activity. This will also help NEFCO gain knowledge of leadership, development, and best practices from around the country.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) released an update to the Rural Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Toolkit. He provided a link for more information.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the New Growth Innovation Network developed a Communication Resource Guide for Inclusive Economic Development. A link was provided for more information.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a new resource, "Disaster-Resilient Design Concepts and Infrastructure," for communities to use as a resource.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the US Department of Transportation (DOT) developed a technical assistance DOT Navigator tool to help communities identify grant opportunities and other technical assistance.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that attached is information on the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Funding Opportunities webinar which will be held on June 21st at 1:00pm.

Mr. Lautzenheiser said that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2023 Brownfields Conference will be held August 8-11th in Detroit.

Mr. Lautzenheiser reviewed a couple of upcoming funding opportunities, with fast approaching deadlines.

b. Environmental Planning

Mr. LaPlante said that staff organized and held a virtual meeting with the interested wastewater management agencies (MAs) on April 21, 2023. At that meeting, NEFCO's GIS specialist provided the mapping guidelines for the annual FPA update. Ms. Peck sent materials and data for the mapping to those MAs that showed an interest in the update. He said that to date, staff hasn't received draft FPA update maps from any MAs. The deadline for the MAs to submit these is June 19, 2023. He said that staff created a new webpage for the annual FPA update and linked it to NEFCO's Clean Water (208) Plan website. He stated that the annual FPA update guidelines and timeline have been posted on the new webpage; along with the link to the recorded annual FPA update mapping meeting. Please contact staff with any questions about the annual update or the 208 Plan in general.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff is finalizing the draft Chapter 4 of the 208 Plan entitled, "*The Management of Home Sewage Treatment Systems, Semi-Public Sewage Disposal Systems, and Small Flow On-site Sewage Treatment Systems*". He stated that staff will be incorporating the most current information into Chapter 4, having received input from the county health districts in 2016, 2021, and 2022. He mentioned that staff will present a draft updated Chapter 4 to the ERTAC once the draft has been reviewed by staff.

Mr. LaPlante said that staff posted, on NEFCO's website, links to the Clean Water (208) Plan amendments/updates that the board approved after approval of the 208 Plan Chapter 3 update on November 18, 2020.

Mr. LaPlante said that the Ohio EPA In-Person Workshop: *Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) Grant Writing 101/102* will be held on May 25, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; cost is free, but preregistration is required.

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

Mr. Hadley said that he has included some information on the debt ceiling. He said that the House and Senate have named individuals to do the discussion behind the scenes, which hopefully will result in something positive for the process. He said that, meanwhile, Congress still needs to go through the appropriations process which is described on page 2. He said that the Senate bill for railroad safety is progressing. There are some senators that have added or expressed some interest in adding to the safety legislation. He stated that with all the four counties having warehouses, some new and old, he included a story regarding the impact of those warehouses on air and noise pollution. He said that there are detriments for some of the people that live near those facilities. He said that there has been analysis of earmarking as the new rules for that option

have taken effect. He stated that he has included information on the future of electric vehicles. He said that the emphasis is on developing electric vehicles, yet the funding process for the highways and roads (that these vehicles would use) is based on gas taxes and that sort of dynamic. He said that it was felt by the National Association of Regional Councils that there is a need to somehow harmonize these two demands for future funding.

9. 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. Moeglin said that Stark Parks created a new logo which now displays a white oak leaf. He stated that FeLeap the Frog, previous logo, will act as an ambassador and will still be involved with park activities for visitors to meet and take pictures.

10. Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca L. Morgan, Administrative Assistant



Todd Peetz, Secretary
NEFCO General Policy Board
June 21, 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							
Daniel Blakely (Tia Rutledge)	A	A	A	A								
Joseph Diorio	A	X		X	X							
Todd Peetz (Gail Gifford)	X	X	X	X	X							
Susan Riehm (2-9-23)			X	X	X							
Amos Sarfo (Eric Long)		X	X	X	X							
CITY OF KENT												
Kathleen Petsko (Bridget Susel)	X	X	X	X	X							
STARK COUNTY												
Keith Bennett	X	X										
Alfredo Carranza	X	X										
Kirt Conrad			X	X	X							
David Maley	X	X	X		X							
Joe Mazzola		X		X								
Dan Moeglin				X	X							
Mike Naso (5-3-23)					X							
Bob Nau (Curtis Bungard)	X	X		X	X							
Richard Regula (Bill Smith)		X	X	X	X							
Jim Troike (Scott Ellsworth and Tom Davis)	A	A		X	X							
Vacant (Rachel Hosler)												
Vacant												
CITY OF CANTON												
Jim Benekos (John Highman Jr. and Chris Barnes)	X	X	X	A								
COUNTY OF SUMMIT												
Jim Balogh	X	X	X	X	X							
Alan Brubaker (Joe Paradise and Larry Fulton)	A											
David Kohlmeier (Zak Kaczor)	X	X	X	X	X							
David Lukas	A	X	X	X	X							
Sam Scaffide	X	X		X								
Ilene Shapiro (Craig Stanley & Joe Eckenrode)		A	A	A	A							
Dianne Sumego	X			X	X							
Michael Vinay (Matt Calcei)	X	X			X							
Elizabeth Walters (Mark Potter)		A	A	A	A							
CITY OF AKRON												
Ginger Baylor												
Daniel Horrigan (Sam DeShazor)												
Chris Ludle (Michelle DiFiore)	A	A	A	A	A							
Shammas Malik	X	X	X	X	X							
Linda F. R. Omobien												
Thomas A. Tatum (Jim Ashley)	X	X	X	X	X							
Helen Tomic (Kurt Mulhauser)					X							
WAYNE COUNTY												
Jonathan Hofstetter (Sue Smail)	X	X	X	X	X							
Jenn Kiper (Rob Kastner)	X	X	X	X	X							
Steven Wheeler (Kevin Givins)	A	A	A	A	A							
CITY OF WOOSTER												
Bob Breneman (Jonathan Millea. and Vince Marion)	A	A	A		A							
OHIO EPA-NEDO^a												
David Emerman (Patricia Vanah)	A		A									
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 May 17, 2023 meeting

Doug Lane, Congresswoman Sykes' Office
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Chuck Hauber, Summit County Engineer's Office

Gerard Neugebauer, Mayor, City of Green
