

NEFCO

NORTHEAST OHIO FOUR COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

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Richard Regula, Chair

Joseph Hadley, Jr., Executive Director

Regular Meeting of the General Policy Board

Wednesday, September 20, 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 September 20, 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 August 16, 2023 **ACTION REQUESTED**
3. Consideration of the Financial Status Report: Income and Expenditures through August 31, 2023
ACTION REQUESTED
 - a. August bank reconciliations
4. **SPEAKER:** “Elevate Greater Akron: Bringing the Economic Development Ecosystem Together...and Delivering for Local Companies!”; Gregg Cramer, Vice President of Economic Development, Greater Akron Chamber
5. **SPEAKER:** “Brownfield Grant Funding Programs”; John Zampino, Director of Assessment, Remediation, and Revitalization Services, Partners Environmental Consulting, Inc.
6. City of Akron requests letter of support for EDA Recompete Pilot Program grant application
ACTION REQUESTED
7. Stark Economic Development Board requests letter of support for EDA Recompete Pilot Program grant application **ACTION REQUESTED**
8. Consideration to release the Clean Water (208) Plan facilities planning area (FPA) update for a 30-day public review and comment period **ACTION REQUESTED**

9. NEFCO FY2024 Work Program

a. Economic Development Planning **FOR THE BOARD'S INFORMATION ONLY**

- 1) Economic Development Administration (EDA) Updates
 - a. Current EDA funding opportunities
 1. Distressed Area (Recompete Pilot Program)
 2. FY2023 Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance (PW/EAA)
 - b. EDA receives hundreds of applications for Phase 1 of Tech Hubs Program
 - c. Ohio Manufacturers Association Good Jobs Challenge Award; update
 - d. Vibrant NEO Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Application available (attached)
- 2) Economic Development Planning Information
 - a. August unemployment rate increases to 3.8 percent (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
 - b. 2023 Brownfields Federal Programs Guide available
 - c. New guidelines added to USEPA Land Revitalization Toolkit
 - d. Targeted Brownfields Assessment services available now for free
 - e. Updated Economic Development District (EDD) map now includes Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) information (NADO)
 - f. Virtual Community of Practice portal now open (NADO)
 - g. A capital requirement for broadband funding could exclude thousands of providers (Route Fifty)
 - h. More public sector workers needed. Lots more. (*Route Fifty*)
 - i. To solve the affordable housing crisis, some communities are turning to hotels (*Route Fifty*)
 - j. Flexible work options keep the public sector competitive in these post-pandemic times (*Route Fifty*)
 - k. 'Who's going to work there?': Lawmakers grapple with labor shortages (*Route Fifty*)
 - l. Higher minimum broadband speeds reflect internet's growth (*Route Fifty*)
 - m. NOACA/Vibrant NEO Brownfields Steering Committee meeting, Oct. 6, Cleveland
 - n. AMATS Annual Meeting, Oct. 6, Cuyahoga Falls
 - o. 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 **FOR THE BOARD'S INFORMATION ONLY**

- 1) FY2024 201/208 Facilities Planning Areas update; lessons learned thus far; next steps
- 2) Board-accepted Portage Lakes Management Plan posted on agency's [website](#)
- 3) U.S. EPA closeout letter received by NEFCO for its Canal Diversion Dam grant
- 4) City of Akron's proposed fourth amendment to the Consent Decree; status
- 5) September 5, 2023: U.S. District Court, District of South Carolina, directs appointed law firms to send to select public water systems (PWSs) (including the NEFCO region), notice of a proposed \$12.5 billion class action [settlement](#) and court approval hearing re: affects all PWSs in the U.S. tested on or before June 30, 2023 and found to contain PFAS at any level
- 6) Ohio Lake Management Society and Water Management Association of Ohio luncheon webinar: "*Connected by Water – Addressing Lake and Stream Problems at their Watershed Source*"; Maia Peck, Watershed Planner, NEFCO; and Stephanie Deibel, Watershed Coordinator, Summit SWCD; September 20, 2023, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 7) Ohio EPA encourages communities/counties to inventory lead service lines and to pursue available funding
- 8) Upcoming Ohio EPA webinars:
 - a. *Recycling and Litter Prevention Grants Kick-Off 2024*; October 2, 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 - b. *NPDES Permitting New and Proposed Rules and Policies*; October 12, 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

10. Federal and State legislation or information of importance to local governments
FOR THE BOARD'S INFORMATION ONLY
 - a. Federal
 - b. State
 - 1) Senate Select Committee on Rail Safety issues recommendations; review copy available at NEFCO Board meeting; contact staff for link
11. 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
12. Other Business

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Wednesday, October 18, 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