

# NEFCO

## NORTHEAST OHIO FOUR COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

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*Vincent A. Marion, Chair*

*Joseph Hadley, Jr., Executive Director*

### Regular Meeting of the General Policy Board

Wednesday, January 17, 2024  
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 January 17, 2024 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 December 20, 2023 **ACTION REQUESTED**
3. Consideration of the Financial Status Report: Income and Expenditures through December 31, 2023 **ACTION REQUESTED**
  - a. December bank reconciliations
4. **SPEAKER:** “Chicago Regional Office EDA Updates”; Ms. Ellen Heinz, EDA Economic Development Representative – Ohio and Indiana, U.S. EDA
5. Adoption of the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2024 Annual Performance Report* **ACTION REQUESTED**
6. Authorization for the continuation in CY2024 of a policy for the Chair or the Executive Director to provide, without the NEFCO board’s prior approval, requested letters of support for projects and grant applications that are consistent with NEFCO’s work program, or past board actions or positions, and for the handling of other support letter requests as determined by the board  
**ACTION REQUESTED**
7. Appointment of CY2024 NEFCO Administrative and Functional Committees **ACTION REQUESTED**

8. NEFCO FY2024 Work Program
    - a. Economic Development Planning
      - 1) Economic Development Administration (EDA) Updates
        - a. Stark Economic Development Board awarded EDA Recompete Plan Approval and \$500,000 Strategy Development Grant!
        - b. 2024 Annual Performance Report due to EDA on Jan. 31 (see Item #5)
        - c. Current EDA funding opportunities
          1. Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program (Tech Hubs) – Phase 2
          2. Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program (Recompete) Phase 2 **(NEW)**
          3. FY2023 Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance (PW/EAA)
      - 2) Economic Development Planning Information
        - a. December unemployment rate remains at 3.7 percent (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
        - b. “Do land-use reforms spur housing development? You betcha.” (*Route Fifty*)
        - c. “Want More Transit (and Federal Funding)? Build Housing That Supports It” (*Bloomberg CityLab*)
        - d. “Feds tout pedestrian, cyclist safety measures in new road design rules” (*Route Fifty*)
      - 3) Funding Opportunities (upcoming deadlines contained in status report)
      - 4) Regional Economic Development News (contained in status report)
    - b. Environmental Planning
      - 1) NEFCO Board approved 208 Plan updates March 2023 through December 2023 submitted to Ohio EPA for state certification
      - 2) Ohio EPA announcements:
        - a. Draft [2024 Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Program Management Plan](#) is available for public comment until **January 17, 2024, 5:00 p.m.**
        - b. [Three public drinking water grant opportunities](#) are available until **February 23, 2024, 5:00 p.m.:**
          1. Asset management program development grant (for community and not-for-profit non-transient non-community public water systems)
          2. Source water protection strategies grant (for community public water systems)
          3. Well abandonment grant (for community public water systems)
      - 3) Ohio EPA’s Nutrient Reduction Strategy is being updated by Ohio University this year; first regional roundtable of water quality professionals scheduled for February 14, 2024
9. Federal and State legislation or information of importance to local governments
  - a. Federal
  - b. State
10. 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
11. Other Business

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 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