

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

Vincent A. Marion, Chair

Joseph Hadley, Jr., Executive Director

Regular Meeting of the General Policy Board

Wednesday, February 21, 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 February 21, 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 January 17, 2024 **ACTION REQUESTED**
3. Consideration of the Financial Status Report: Income and Expenditures through January 31, 2024
ACTION REQUESTED
 - a. January bank reconciliations
4. Greater Akron Chamber requests letter of support for its EDA Tech Hubs Phase 2 grant application
ACTION REQUESTED
5. Consideration of a renewal of authorization to provide meeting amenities to volunteer members or citizens who attend NEFCO meetings **ACTION REQUESTED**
6. NEFCO FY2024 Work Program
 - a. Economic Development Planning
 - 1) Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Work Program Updates
 - a. 2024 Annual Performance Report submitted to EDA
 - b. Grants Online data migrating to the EDGE Portal
 - 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)
 - d. NEFCO provides letter of support for City of Wooster's RAISE grant application
 - e. NOACA/Vibrant NEO Brownfields RLF Update

- 2) Economic Development Planning Information
 - a. January unemployment rate remains at 3.7 percent (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
 - b. As pandemic aid winds down, states scramble to fill gaps (*Route Fifty*)
 - c. “Want to reform housing? Take a look at parking.” (*Route Fifty*)
 - d. “What makes a top performing city?” (*Route Fifty*)
 - e. “Five things your city can do right now to become more food resilient” (*Route Fifty*)
 - f. “More cities offer broadband service, study says” (*Route Fifty*)
 - g. “Rent growth cools, but affordability is still out of reach” (*Route Fifty*)
 - h. “Infrastructure ‘bootcamps’ help smaller cities win federal grants” (*Route Fifty*)
 - i. “Report: Ohio roads funding adequate, but facing challenges” (*Columbus Dispatch*)
 - j. “Ohio’s population ticks back up, but larger declines projected by 2050” (*Dayton Daily News*)
 - k. 2024 Ohio Brownfields Conference: May 7th in Dublin
- 3) Funding Opportunities (upcoming deadlines contained in status report)
- 4) Regional Economic Development News (contained in status report)

- b. Environmental Planning
 - 1) Next annual 201/208 Facilities Planning Area update begins
 - 2) Ongoing Clean Water (208) Plan; Chapter 4 update; status
 - 3) Ohio EPA announcements:
 - a. Draft 2024 [Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report](#) for Ohio’s waters is available for review and comment until **March 8, 2024, 5:00 p.m.**
 - b. Project nominations are being accepted for the [Water Supply Revolving Loan Account \(WSRLA\) Program Year 2025](#) until **March 8, 2024, 5:00 p.m.**
 - c. Interested party review: [Proposed ‘Amend’ Rulemaking Governing Underground Injection Control Rules](#); comment deadline: **February 19, 2024, 5:00 p.m.**
 - 4) City of Cuyahoga Falls requests support letter for a Clean Ohio Trail Fund grant application for Phase II of the Mud Brook/Mill Pond Greenway; application deadline: March 15, 2024

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

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Wednesday, March 20, 2024, is the date for the next meeting of the NEFCO General Policy Board at the **City of Green Council Chambers**, 1755 Town Park Blvd., Uniontown OH 44685