

Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance

NEPA

Business Development



Community & Economic Development



Nonprofit & Community Assistance Center



Transportation



October 6, 2022

NEPA's Board of Directors 2022-2023

CARBON COUNTY

Kathy Henderson	610-379-5000	khenderson@carboncountychamber.org
Wayne Nothstein (County Commissioner)	570-325-3611	waynenothstein@carboncounty.net
Harold Pudliner	570 427-8640	weatherlyboro@gmail.com
Joseph Sebelin (Executive Committee-Past Board Chairperson)	570-657-8205	jsebelin@ptd.net
Garry Wentz	570-325-2462	gawentz@ptd.net

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Philip Condron	570-344-6888	phil.condron@condronandcompany.com
Tom Donohue	570-347-2056	tdonohue@lamar.com
Dr. Katie Leonard	570-702-8903	kleonard@johnson.edu
John McNulty	570-561-6961	jackie6741@gmail.com
Jerry Notarianni (County Commissioner)	570-963-6800	notariannij@lackawannacounty.org
(Brenda Sacco - Alternate)	570-963-6830	saccob@lackawannacounty.org
Alex Stark (Executive Committee-Assistant Secretary)	570-558-5112	alex.stark@kanelogistics.com

LUZERNE COUNTY

Stephen Barrouk (Executive Committee-1st Vice-Board Chairperson)	570-814-9114	stevebarrouk@gmail.com
Joseph Lettiere	570-455-1508	jlettieri@hazletoncando.com
Mary Malone	570-455-1509	mmalone@hazletonchamber.org
Tim McGinley (County Council)	570-825-1500	tim.mcginley@luzernecounty.org
Michelle Mikitish	570-655-1424	mmikitish@pittstonchamber.org
Kerry Miscavage	570-704-3953	kmiscavage@timesleader.com

MONROE COUNTY

Christopher Barrett	570-421-5791	cbarrett@poconos.org
John Christy (County Commissioner)	570-517-3102	jchristy@monroecountypa.gov
Charles Leonard	570-839-1992	cleonard@pmedc.com
Mary Frances Postupack (Executive Committee-Secretary)	570-422-7920	mpostupack@esu.edu
Marynell Strunk	570-460-4772	read4fun@ptd.net

PIKE COUNTY

Cynthia DeFebo	570-296-2909	cdefebo@pikepa.org
William Kerstetter (Executive Committee-Treasurer)	570-832-1578	cobk@ptd.net
Juliette Mckerrell	570-832-4260	jmcckerrell@thedimebank.com
Matthew Osterberg (County Commissioner)	570-296-7613	mosterberg@pikepa.org
Peter Wulfhorst	570-296-3405	ptw3@psu.edu

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Robert Carl	570-622-1942	rcarl@schuylkillchamber.com
Courtney Fasnacht	570-622-0992	cfasnacht@nepamaec.com
Micah Gursky	570-645-8118	micah.gursky@sluhn.org
George Halcovage (County Commissioner)	570-628-1202	ghalcovage@co.schuylkill.pa.us
(Executive Committee-2nd Vice-Board Chairperson)		
Bud Quandt	570-544-4775	bquandel@quandel.com

WAYNE COUNTY

Joseph Adams (County Commissioner)	570-253-5970	jwadams@waynecountypa.gov
James Hockenbury	570-251-6680	hockenbury@wmh.org
Craig Rickard	570-253-5970	crickard@waynecountypa.gov
Michael Rollison	570-253-8571	mike.rollison@waynebank.com
Mary Beth Wood (Executive Committee-Board Chairperson)	570-253-2537	mbw@wedcorp.org

AT-LARGE

Carl Beardsley	570-602-2000	cbeardsley@flyavp.com
Christopher Doherty	570-815-4918	chrisdoherty250@gmail.com
Ricky Durst	570-646-2300	rdurst@poconoraceway.com
Vincent Galko	570-751-3798	vgalko@mercuryllc.com
Larry Malski	570-963-6676	lmalski@pnrra.org
Kit Pappas	570-629-1665	kpappas@kslresorts.com
Alana Roberts	570-348-1622	aroberts@pplweb.com
Vacant		

EX-OFFICIO

Jeffrey Box	570-655-5581	jbox@nepa-alliance.org
Maria Montoro Edwards (NCAC Board Chair)	570-826-1777	mmedwards@mfhs.org
Andy Reilly (PNE Board Chair)	570-824-7214	andy.reilly@luzernecounty.org
(John Augustine - Alternate)	570-883-0504	jaugustine@pennsnortheast.com

EMERITUS

David Donlin	570-624-1796	dadmatd515p@comcast.net
Ernest Preate	570-558-5970	epreate@comcast.net

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT
OCTOBER 6, 2022
4:00PM**



AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order** – Mary Beth Wood, Board Chairperson
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Mary Beth Wood, Board Chairperson
- III. **Board Discussion & Action Items**
 - * June 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes - Mary Beth Wood, Board Chairperson
1-6
 - * Financial Report - Wendi Holena, CFO
Handout
 - * President & CEO Report - Jeffrey Box
7-24
- IV. **Open Discussion** - Mary Beth Wood, Board Chairperson
- V. **Adjournment to Networking Reception** - Mary Beth Wood,
Board Chairperson
- VI. **Next Meeting** - November 2, 2022

**Board of Directors Report
Minutes of
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
In Person/Video Meeting**

OFFICERS

Joseph Sebelin, Board Chairperson
Mary Beth Wood, 1st Vice-Board Chairperson
Stephen Barrouk, 2nd Vice-Board Chairperson
Comm. George Halcovage, Treasurer
Mary Frances Postupack, Assistant Treasurer
Philip Condron, Past Board Chairperson

CARBON

Kathy Henderson
Comm. Wayne Nothstein

LACKAWANNA

Thomas Donohue
Dr. Katie Leonard
Jack McNulty

LUZERNE

Mary Malone
Michelle Mikitish
Kerry Miscavage

MONROE

Chris Barrett
Chuck Leonard
Marynell Strunk

PIKE

Cynthia DeFebo
Peter Wulforth

SCHUYLKILL

Robert Carl
Micah Gursky

WAYNE

Comm. Joe Adams
James Hockenbury
Craig Rickard

AT-LARGE

Carl Beardsley
Christopher Doherty
Vince Galko

EX-OFFICIO

Jeffrey Box
Maria Montoro Edwards

STAFF

Alan Baranski
Kurt Bauman
Shanice Edwards
Wendi Holena
Donna Hritz
Cassandra Kizis
Michael Skowronski
Steve Ursich

Board of Directors Report
Minutes of
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
In Person/Video Meeting

The NEPA Alliance held a Board of Directors Meeting on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, in-person and via conference call/Zoom. Board Chairperson Joe Sebelin called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Board Chairperson Joe Sebelin welcomed everyone and noted that today's meeting is being recorded. He asked everyone to please mute their lines.

Board Chairperson Joe Sebelin asked the Board of Directors to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

A roll call was given by Donna Hritz acknowledging those participating in today's meeting in-person and/or via video call.

Jeff reported that Cassandra Kizis has rejoined the NEPA staff assisting Steve Ursich in the Business Development Division with the CDBG program and other activities. Shanice Edwards also joined the NEPA staff assisting Kurt Bauman with ARC/EDA applications and nonprofit programs in the Community & Economic Development Division. Cassie noted that she earned her bachelor's degree in Geography from Penn State University. She noted that she is excited to be part of the NEPA team. Shanice earned her bachelor's degree in Art & Design from East Stroudsburg University and is pursuing her master's degree from Drexel University. She noted that she resides in Dunmore with her husband.

ACTION ITEMS

Minutes - A motion was made by Vince Galko and seconded by Michelle Mikitish to accept the minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting of March 2, 2022, as presented. **Motion carried**

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget – Jeff reported that NEPA is in a healthy revenue position this year going into the new fiscal year. He noted that NEPA has a very healthy cash balance of approximately \$1 million. Jeff reported that NEPA has more programming than ever before. Wendi reported total revenue and total expenses of \$8.5 million, primarily due to pass through funding (\$4 million DCED CDBG program and \$460,000 Schuylkill CHIRP program). Wendi stated that there is an increase in net assets of \$1,359. She stated that the budget is a balanced and was prepared very conservatively. Wendi further stated that the budget is showing level funding from DCED and ARC. She noted that the revenues and expenses other than the additional pass through funding are similar to last year. Jeff noted that NEPA was successful in receiving additional ARC funding for staff capacity and that efforts continue to increase ARC and EDA funds for staffing.

A motion was made by Commissioner George Halcovage and seconded by Michelle Mikitish to approve the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget as presented. **Motion carried**

Financial Report – Wendi reported as of April 30th NEPA has total revenue and total expenses of approximately \$2.6 million. She further reported that NEPA is showing a small increase in net assets of \$4,588. Wendi stated that she is expecting to end the fiscal year with a slightly higher increase of approximately \$10,000. She reported that NEPA's Statement of Financial Position shows NEPA has unrestricted cash balance of approximately \$928,000. She noted that NEPA has total net assets of \$1.5 million.

**Board of Directors Report
Minutes of
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
In Person/Video Meeting**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wayne Nothstein and seconded by Commissioner George Halcovage to accept the Financial Report as presented. **Motion Carried**

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 NEPA Work Plan Adoption - Jeff stated that the By-Laws require that NEPA submit the Work Plan annually for the NEPA Board's consideration and adoption. He stated that in coordination with the budget that was just adopted, the NEPA Work Plan is on pages 9-19 in the packet, which explains the five (5) operating divisions of NEPA and all the programs and activities.

A motion was made by Michelle Mikitish and seconded by Jack McNulty to accept the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 NEPA Work Plan as presented. **Motion Carried**

Resolution 2022-7 (RACP)-Approving Submission of a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant Application to the of Pennsylvania Office of the Budget for NEPA to serve as Fiscal Sponsor on behalf of Interstate Building Materials Inc. – Kurt reported that the resolution is for NEPA to serve as the fiscal sponsor for Interstate Building Materials Inc. He further reported Interstate Building Materials Inc. received a RACP grant two years ago to assist with facility expansion. Kurt stated that project has been completed and they are looking to do an additional expansion to their manufacturing facility.

A motion was made by Michelle Mikitish and seconded by Commissioner George Halcovage to approve the submission of a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant application to the of Pennsylvania Office of the Budget for NEPA to serve as fiscal sponsor on behalf of Interstate Building Materials Inc. as presented. **Motion Carried**

Appointment of a NEPA Board Member from Carbon County to the MPO Technical Planning Committee – Jeff reported that the MPO Technical Planning Committee seat rotates among the four county members of the MPO. He noted that this term coming up is for Carbon County. Jeff stated that Garry Wentz has agreed to serve in this capacity representing Carbon County. Alan noted this is a NEPA Board assignment to the MPO Technical Committee and it is for a two-year term starting July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2024.

A motion was made by Mary Beth Wood and seconded by Kathy Henderson to appoint Garry Wentz to the MPO Technical Planning Committee representing Carbon County as presented. **Motion Carried**

Appointment of Commissioner Matt Osterberg, Kathy Henderson, Chris Barrett and Micah Gursky to the MPO Policy Board for a 2-year term. – Jeff reported that the structure of the four county MPO that NEPA manages has a governing body which the MPO Policy Board and that is reflected by one member of the NEPA Board from each of those counties. He noted that the MPO Technical Planning Committee that is fifteen plus members appointed by the county commissioners of the four counties. Alan noted that the MPO Technical Committee meets more often, and any major policies approvals are recommended by the MPO Technical Committee to the MPO Policy Board for review and approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner George Halcovage and seconded by Michelle Mikitish to appoint Commissioner Matt Osterberg, Kathy Henderson, Chris Barrett and Micah Gursky to the MPO Policy Board for a 2-year term. **Motion Carried**

Board of Directors Report Minutes of Wednesday, June 15, 2022 In Person/Video Meeting

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Nominating Committee Recommendations for Board Membership - Steve Barrouk reported that the Nominating Committee's recommendations for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, which was received from the respective counties and/or recommended by the Nominating Committee for **reappointment** to the Board of Directors for a 2-year term beginning July 1, 2022.

Carbon County

Kathy Henderson, Director, CCEDC and Harold J Pudliner, Borough Manager, Weatherly Borough.

Lackawanna County

Philip Condron, CEO, Condron Media; Jack McNulty, Mediator, Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (Retired) and Alex Stark, Director of Marketing, Kane is Able, Inc.

Luzerne County

Joseph Lettiere, President, CAN DO, Inc. and Michelle Mikitish, Executive Vice President, Gr Pittston Chamber of Commerce.

Monroe County

Chris Barrett, President/CEO, Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau and Marynell Strunk, Lehigh Valley Health Network (Retired).

Pike County

William Kerstetter, Retired Banker and Peter Wulfhorst, Community Development Agent, Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Schuylkill County

Robert Carl, President & CEO, Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce

Wayne County

Craig Rickard, Director, Wayne County Planning Commission and Mary Beth Wood, Executive Director, WEDCO.

The following recommendations have been received from the counties and/or recommended by the Nominating Committee for **new appointments** in their respective counties for a 2-year term beginning July 1, 2022.

Schuylkill County – Courtney Fasnacht, Executive Director, NEPA Manufacturers and Employers Council.

The following have been recommended by the Nominating Committee to the Board Chairperson for his action to **reappointment** them to At Large Board Seats are Carl Beardsley, Executive Director, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport; Chris Doherty, Doherty Strategies; Ricky Durst, Senior Director Marketing & Ticketing, Pocono Raceway; Vince Galko, Senior Vice President, Mercury Public Affairs; Larry Malski, Executive Director, PA NE Regional Railroad Authority and Alana Roberts, Regional Affairs Director, PPL Electric Utilities

The following is recommended by the Nominating Committee to the Board Chairperson for his **appointment** to an **At Large Board Seat** which is Kit Pappas, Managing Director, Camelback Resort

Board of Directors Report Minutes of Wednesday, June 15, 2022 In Person/Video Meeting

The following have been recommended by the Nominating Committee to be **reappointed** to **Ex-Officio Seats**. Maria Montoro Edwards, President and CEO, Maternal & Family Health Services (Representing NCAC); Jeffrey Box, NEPA Alliance and Andy Reilly, Penn's Northeast (John Augustine alt.)

The following have been recommended by the Nominating Committee to be reappointed to **Emeritus Seats**. Dave Donlin and Ernie Preate

The following have been recommended by the Nominating Committee to serve as Officers for the coming year beginning July 1, 2022.

Mary Beth Wood, Board Chairperson
Stephen Barrouk, 1st Vice-Board Chairperson
Commissioner George Halcovage, 2nd Vice-Board Chairperson
Bill Kerstetter, Treasurer
Mary Frances Postupack, Secretary
Alex Stark, Assistant Treasurer
Commissioner Wayne Nothstein, Assistant Secretary
Joe Sebelin, Past Board Chairperson

A motion was made by Dr. Katie Leonard and seconded by Phil Condron to accept the Nominating Committee recommendations for Board Membership as presented. **Motion carried.**

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Committee Memberships - Joe noted that the Committee Membership report is located on pages 23-25. He stated that each Board Member has been assigned to a committee. He noted that if you wish to serve on a different committee, please let Jeff and/or Donna know.

A motion was made by Commissioner George Halcovage and seconded by Michelle Mikitish to accept the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Committee Memberships as presented. **Motion carried.**

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Board Meeting Schedule - Joe stated that on page 26 is the Board Meeting schedule for next fiscal year. Jeff noted that a June meeting is more practical for NEPA. He noted that NEPA will send out a Doodle survey to schedule next year's June meeting.

Affiliate/Committee/Division Reports

Business Development Services - Steve Ursich reported that the Bring the World to Pennsylvania event will be held on Friday, September 23rd at the Radisson Station and Hotel in Scranton and will be in-person. He noted that additional information is forthcoming. Steve reported that NEPA's loan portfolio is currently at \$44.3 million. He noted that on March 2, 2022, it was at \$38.9 million and on May 31, 2017, the portfolio was \$6 million. Steve stated NEPA received 703 applications for the PREP CDBG program for grant funding and currently NEPA is halfway through the review process. He noted that NEPA will have grant funds for any businesses that are eligible. Steve thanked the SBDC's at Wilkes University and University of Scranton for their assistance. Steve also thanked Schuylkill County for the additional CHIRP funding necessary to complete the analysis and will be awarding the final grants to hospitality businesses in Schuylkill County in the next month.

**Board of Directors Report
Minutes of
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
In Person/Video Meeting**

Community & Economic Development Services – Kurt noted that on page 34 of the packet is a highlight of EDA applications that are outstanding. He noted that there has been a large number of applications in the past six months. He also noted that NEPA submitted an ARC Power request for the NEPA Launch program. Kurt stated that the ARC applications are on pages 34 and 35 and have been invited for full applications. He noted that the Regional Project Review Committee is scheduled to meet on June 28th. Kurt stated that NEPA applied for \$215,000 funding for the Engage program. He reported that StartUp NEPA/Angel Fund will be meeting on June 23rd. Kurt noted that there is \$750,000 committed and continue to look for additional investors. He reported that the Monroe County Community Foundation held it's first meeting. Kurt stated that NCAC will be issuing a RFQ for logo and website for the new foundation. He further reported that the Blue Ribbon Task Force Management Group will be meeting June 21st. Kurt stated that staff and the consultant are currently working on the fundraising campaign and will be implemented July, 2022 through December 2022 on behalf of the Tobyhanna Army Depot.

Communications & Membership Donna reported as of May 31, 2022, NEPA has 369 members for a total of \$262,825. She noted that last year at this time NEPA had 331 members for a total of \$250,900. Donna stated that NEPA is ahead by 38 members and \$11,925. She reported that memberships are still coming in daily. Donna also reported that NEPA's Annual Networking Reception is scheduled for Thursday, October 6th at the Lackawanna Radisson Station Hotel. She stated that NEPA's new website has been up and running since early May. Donna noted that NEPA recently held media events with Dunmore Hospitality Group Inc. and City Line Dollar, which are both loan clients. She reported that NEPA's social media breakdown in on page 42 of the Board packet.

Transportation Services – Alan reported that the 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development is nearly complete, which included several meetings with PennDOT Districts and county planners. He further noted that there will be a joint MPO Policy Board and Technical Committee meeting on June 21st. Alan stated that the draft 2023 TIP totals \$677.5 million. He reported that the development of a regional freight study has been identified as a task in the current UPWP. Alan stated that the five MPOs have agreed to conduct a joint freight plan as the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance, NEPA MPO, Lehigh Valley MPO, Lackawanna-Luzerne MPO, Reading MPO and Lebanon MPO. The group has developed a framework and submitted an application to Central Office for supplemental planning funds for the initiative. He reported that the steering committee for Milford Borough have reengaged to move ahead with the study with Michael Baker International as the consultant.

President & CEO Report and Presentation – Jeff provided a presentation on the growth of NEPA and the affiliate programs along with the staff who manages the individual programs and their funding sources. A copy of Jeff's presentation is available upon request.

Jeff also thanked Joe for his leadership as the Board Chairperson and welcomed Mary Beth Wood as the incoming Board Chairperson. Jeff also thanked Phil Condron for his service on he Executive Committee.

There being no further business Board Chairman Joe Sebelin adjourned the meeting at 1:57pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Donna Hritz,
Communications & Operations Manager
June 16, 2022

Board of Directors Report

October 6, 2022



Dear Board Members,

The NEPA Staff has been very busy with all of our programs throughout the region. I know many of you are as well.

The details of our work are included in all of the division reports in the Board Packet, and I encourage you to read through here, but here are a few highlights.

Fiscal Year End - June 30, 2022

We have been very busy with the end of fiscal year financials and program metrics. We will report on these in detail at the Annual Networking Reception, however, suffice it to say our financials and programs are excellent.

Annual Networking Reception – October 6, 2022

The reception will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2022, at the Radisson Station Hotel in Scranton. The Board Meeting will be 4pm - 4:30pm and the reception begins at 4:30pm. The brief program will begin at 6:00pm. We are expecting a great turnout for our 2nd Annual Reception. Our sponsorships are excellent, and we expect a great event. Thank you for all your support with the event!

Congressman Cartwright/NASA/Keystone Space Collaborative – September 23, 2022

NEPA partnered with Congressman Cartwright's Office, NASA and the Keystone Space Collaborative to have an NASA Space Industry Day on Friday, September 23rd at the University of Scranton. Our role is to engage our clients with the NASA supply chain, either through direct contract with NASA or through major prime contractors like Lockheed Martin or Northrup Grumman.

Bring the World to Northeast Pennsylvania – September 23, 2022

The annual trip to Pennsylvania by the overseas trade advisors resumed last week with the return to in-person meetings around the Commonwealth. Our event was held on Friday, September 23rd at the Radisson Station Hotel in Scranton. We had excellent attendance by our companies/clients and partners.

ARC/EDA Project Funding

Please remember that ARC and EDA are looking for projects. We are here to review and assist with project development. Both agencies have considerable funding available. If you have a project or know of a project, we may be able to help with, please let us know.

We have a number of additional projects and programs ongoing, so please call me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,
Jeff

Board of Directors Report

October 6, 2022



LDD CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY FORMS

Twenty-one (21) out of twenty-one (21) LDD Customer Satisfaction Survey forms were completed by NEPA clients who received assistance through NEPA's Business Financing, Procurement Technical Assistance Center and International Business Programs for assistance received during the 4th quarter of 2021-2022 which represented an 100% response rate. Twenty-one (21) clients indicated they were very satisfied/satisfied with the assistance they received through NEPA. **This gives an overall satisfaction rate of 100% from surveys received for the 4th quarter of 2021-2022.**

The following represents the number of responses from clients who indicated they were very satisfied / satisfied with the specific assistance they received:

	*Timeliness of Assistance	*Quality of Assistance	*Value of Assistance
Loans	1	1	1
Procurement	20	20	20
International	3	3	3

Procurement Technical Assistance Center

Counseling Activity (05-01-2022 to 08-31-2022)

New Active Clients for the Period	40
Active Clients for the Period	254
Initial Introductory Counseling Sessions for the Period	18
Follow-up Counseling Sessions for the Period	1,062

The Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) worked with new client registrations in the PA Supplier Portal to do business with the Commonwealth and System for Award Management to be able to sell to the Federal Government. Follow-up sessions support client registration updates, and new certification applications such as but not limited to: HUBZone, 8(a), SDVOSB/VOSB, and WOSB.

Contract Awards Activity (05-01-2022 to 08-30-2022)

Award Type	Number of Awards	Number of Clients	Total Value
Federal Prime	6789	28	\$59,075,561
State & Local Prime	7	5	\$1,901,581
Sub-Contractor	0	0	\$0

Board of Directors Report October 6, 2022



During this period, Active PTAC clients received contract awards primarily from Federal Agencies acting as a prime contractor. Contract award reporting follows Defense Logistics Agency terms.

The PTAC worked with clients during this period on either SBA or CVE certifications for their business.

Certification Activity (05-01-2022 to 08-30-2022)		
Certification Type	Applications Submitted	Certifications Approved
SD/VOSB	4	2
WOSB	4	2
HUBZone	0	0

International Business Development Program

The International Business Development staff recorded four (4) Export Actions and generated eleven (11) International Projects to Pennsylvania's Authorized Trade Representatives from July 1 – September 14, 2022. Staff processed one (1) Global Access Program (GAP) application during this timeframe. GAP is an export promotion grant administered by the Pennsylvania Office of International Business Development (OIBD) under a State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) award from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

In partnership with OIBD, the International Business Development Program will host twelve (12) of Pennsylvania's Authorized Trade Representatives for Bringing the World to Northeastern Pennsylvania on Friday, September 23, 2022. The event will take place at the Radisson in Scranton from approximately 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

PA Office of International Business Development Performance Measurements FY 2022 -2023		
Performance Measurement	Goal	YTD Totals
Active Clients	50	6
Export Actions	105	4
Exporting Companies	13	0
Export Sales	\$22,609,296.90	\$0
Projects	101	11
ATR Attributed Sales	\$9,269,811.73	\$0
New Clients	7	2
Total (weighted and capped measure) <i>Calculated 9/14/22</i>		5.28%

Board of Directors Report

October 6, 2022



Business Finance Center

The Business Finance Center has been able to close 5 loans totaling \$3,293,000.00. Through these loan closings, the small businesses are expected to create 23 jobs and retain 34 jobs in the next 3 years within the 7-county region that NEPA Alliance serves. Loans closed since that last meeting include the following business sectors:

- Hotels
- Full Service Restaurant
- Professional Offices
- Childcare Facilities

NEPA BFC continues to offer a menu of loan programs while also evaluating alternative loan programs that are available to offer. Portfolio management has return to pre-COVID levels with a focus on routine servicing actions and overview of clients with outstanding balances. Marketing activities include meetings with banks and partner agencies to continue to promote NEPA BFC offerings.

SBA 504		
	Number	Balance
Approved Loans	17	\$ 17,188,000.00
Closed Since Last Meeting	5	\$ 3,293,000.00
Outstanding Loans	31	\$ 26,524,647.08
Total	53	\$ 47,005,647.08
PIDA		
	Number	Balance
Approved Loans	2	\$ 2,075,000.00
Closed Since Last Meeting	0	\$ 0.00
Outstanding Loans	86	\$ 11,028,323.00
Total	88	\$ 13,103,323.00
Internal Funds		
	Number	Balance
Approved Loans	9	\$ 782,000.00
Closed Since Last Meeting	0	\$ 0.00
Outstanding Loans	122	\$ 6,437,714.68
Total	131	\$ 7,219,714.68

- Pennsylvania State Small Business Credit Initiative
- Community Advantage Application
- Community Development Block Grant Update

Board of Directors Report October 6, 2022



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

EDA

Development District (LDD) for the Economic Development Administration (EDA), NEPA provides technical assistance to those organizations seeking EDA grant assistance.

Organization	Project	CO	EDA Grant Request Amount	Funding Leveraged	Status
Downtown Shenandoah Inc.	Shenandoah Innovation Center	SC	\$2M	\$6M	Submitted in May 2022
City of Wilkes- Barre	Parking Garage	LU	\$3M	\$3M	In Progress

Appalachian Regional Commission

As the designated Local Development District (LDD) for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED), NEPA provides technical assistance to those organizations seeking ARC grant assistance.

2022 – Recently Funded Projects

Organization	Project	CO	ARC Grant Request Amount	Funding Leveraged	Amount Approved
NEPA Alliance	PREP	RE	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
Johnson College	Tools of the Trade: Supporting Tools for Workforce Training	LA	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000
Greater Wyoming Valley Chamber	Connect Inclusive	LU	\$154,000	\$154,000	\$154,000
Misericordia University	Simulation in Nursing Education	LU	\$83,506.93	\$83,508.93	\$83,508.93
Borough of West Hazelton	Rotary Drive Roadway, Drainage, & Public Transit Enhancements	LU	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000
Eckley Miners' Village	Virtual Design for Adaptive Reuse	LU	\$78,000	\$78,000	\$78,000
Tamaqua Area Community Partnership (Hope and Coffee)	Hope and Coffee, an Anti-Stigma Recovery-to-Work Employment Skills and Coffee Shop	SC	\$270,000	\$270,00	\$270,000
NEPA Alliance	Community Capacity Support Program	RE	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000

2022 – Projects Under Review

Board of Directors Report

October 6, 2022



Organization	Project	CO	ARC Grant Request Amount	Funding Leveraged	Amount Approved
NEPA Alliance	New Market Tax Credit Launch Phase III	RE	\$86,000	\$86,000	TBD
Scranton-Lackawanna Human Development Agency (SLHDA)	Scranton Pre-K Center and Workforce Counseling Headquarters	RE	\$117,200	\$117,200	TBD
Keystone College	LEEP Project	LA	\$100,000	\$140,000	TBD
NeighborWorks NEPA	West Scranton Main Street Revitalization & Small Business Boost	LA	\$125,000	\$125,000	TBD
IBEW Local 163	Advanced Technology Center Expansion	LU	\$92,880	\$92,880	TBD
Oregon Township	Beardsley Road Widening and Safety Improvements	WA	\$300,000	\$600,000	TBD
The Institute	Regional Needs Assessment	LU	\$75,000	\$75,000	TBD

2022-2023 Investment Package PreApp Submissions

Organization	Project	CO	ARC Grant Request Amount	Funding Leveraged	Status
NEPA Alliance	PREP	RE	\$400,00	\$400,000	PreApp in Review
Johnson College	Flying High to New Careers in Aviation Technology	LA	\$126,186	\$126,186	PreApp in Review
Lackawanna College	Montage Mountain Economic Development Plan	LA	\$100,000	\$100,00	PreApp in Review
Maternal and Family Health Services	Circle of Care Maternity Medical Home	LA	\$200,00	\$200,000	PreApp in Review
Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple	Sound Enhancements for the Weinberg Theater	LA	\$125,000	\$125,000	PreApp in Review
Wayne County	Wayne County Food Locker Pilot Program	WA	\$239,223	\$239,223	PreApp in Review

ENGAGE!

On behalf of the Northeast Pennsylvania Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP)

Board of Directors Report

October 6, 2022



partners, NEPA annually applies for the *Engage!* initiative. *Engage!* is a Pennsylvania statewide business retention and expansion (BRE) program designed to interact with targeted companies regularly and proactively. The overall goal of *Engage!* is to retain existing businesses and to help them grow and expand by building solid relationships with business owners or key decision makers and economic development partners. NEPA received \$195,000 for *Engage!* for FY 22-23 and has subcontracted with 13 partners to complete the project deliverables.

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, NEPA is offering, through the “Get Connected” initiative, e-commerce technical assistance to businesses. NEPA has contracted with three web development/tech firms to assist the launch of this initiative, which offers a free suite of services to develop an online sales platform that will assist in stabilizing the business and generate sales and clients during the pandemic. Thus far, NEPA has assisted over 70 businesses. Phase 3 and Phase 4 business recipients are listed below. Clients in Phase 1 received \$1,500 in consulting support. Clients in Phases, 1,2 and 3 received \$3,500 in consulting support and training services from the University of Scranton SBDC and the Wilkes University SBDC for their business and e-commerce platform.

Funding in the amount of \$141,500 was received from the Lackawanna County Department of Planning and Economic Development for Phase 5 of the Get Connected program. This funding will allow us to assist 32 firms in Lackawanna County through the Get Connected program.

NEPA received an Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for its Get Connected program. This award was under its Technology category.

Phase 3 Clients (Businesses from all seven counties)

Business	Contact	Consultant Assigned	County
Crazy for Closeouts	Judy Paterson	Coal Creative	Carbon
Kathryn the Younger	Kathryn Kelly	Design Done Right	Lackawanna
Platform Industries	Chris Murray	Design Done Right	Wayne
The Columbia Shade Company	Heather Isaac	Coal Creative	Luzerne
Red Leaf Salad Company	Richard Samanas	Coal Creative	Luzerne
Move Better (Move Fitness, LLC)	Hilary Greenberg	Design Done Right	Luzerne
Belrick Corporation (2 Slots)	Deborah Barbose	Coal Creative	Luzerne
Garrety Manufacturing, Inc. (2 Slots)	Kevin Koziol	Design Done Right	Luzerne
Infusion Hydration and Wellness	Lee Ann J. Klocko	Coal Creative	Luzerne
New Era Technologies, Inc.	Ross Thompson	Coal Creative	Luzerne
Eastern Penn Supply Co.	Rick Timchack, Sr.	Design Done Right	Lackawanna

Phase 4 Clients (Lackawanna County Businesses Are Eligible)

Business	Contact	Consultant Assigned	County
LMJ Shed Sales	Jenna Urban	Coal Creative	Lackawanna

Board of Directors Report October 6, 2022



Business	Contact	Consultant Assigned	County
Stately Pet Supply	Rebecca Martino	Coal Creative	Lackawanna
Electric City Solar Co.	William Notarianni	BlackOut Design	Lackawanna
Eastern Penn Supply Company	Rick Timchack, Sr.	Design Done Right	Lackawanna
Bloomin' Idiots Floral and Garden Center	Donna Jezowski	Design Done Right	Lackawanna
Damon's Getaways	Damon Spady	Coal Creative	Lackawanna
TNT Professional Cleaning Services	Edward Ferraro	Design Done Right	Lackawanna
Blackwatch Café	Patrick Hinton	BlackOut Design	Lackawanna
National Bakery	William Fox	Coal Creative	Lackawanna
Northbranch Tackle and Fishing Guide Service	Ryan Alunni	Coal Creative	Lackawanna
S & S Pools & Spas, Inc.	Anthony Shamnoski	Design Done Right	Lackawanna
Lawn and Order Landscaping, LLC	Jenna Urban	Coal Creative	Lackawanna
S & S Snow & Ice Division	Anthony Shamnoski	Design Done Right	Lackawanna
Nina's Pizza	Maria McLaine	Design Done Right	Lackawanna

StartUp NEPA

NEPA has raised \$750,000 in support of our Angel Fund initiative. Official launch meeting was held in January 2022, and member meetings have been held monthly since April. To date, several businesses have pitched and one investment commitment has been made.

NEPA Community Impact Fund

NEPA's new affiliate organization, the NEPA Community Impact Fund, was formally certified a Community Development Entity (CDE) and is actively seeking an allocation of New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. NEPA is actively seeking tax credits on behalf of three clients. We were unsuccessful in securing a NMTC allocation from the 2020 and 2021 rounds. NEPA is soliciting projects from the Commonwealth of PA with capital costs ranging from \$5M-\$60M that need NMTC subsidies to make the project viable. We will submit our next application for the 2023 round in January of 2023.

Capital Financing Services - Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP)

NEPA has partnered with CBO Financial, our NMTC consultant, to offer RACP grant writing assistance and Financial Request Package support for the clients in the table below.

Client	Location	NMTC Request	RACP Request	Status
2022 (Application August 19, 2022)				
Riverfront Sports Complex*	Scranton, PA	NA	\$2,000,000	Under State Review
Hyatt Place*	Scranton, PA	NA	\$3,000,000	Under State Review

Board of Directors Report

October 6, 2022



NexUS-1*	Hazleton, PA	NA	\$3,000,000	Under State Review
2022 (Application March 13, 2021)				
Mid Valley SD	Throop, PA	NA	\$2,400,000	Under State Review
Jim Thorpe Area School District*	Jim Thorpe, PA	NA	\$1,000,000	Under State Review
Keystone Human Services	TBD, Luzerne County	NA	\$2,700,000	Awarded \$1.25M
Little Leaf Farms, LLC*	McAdoo, PA	NA	\$2,000,000	Awarded \$1.4M
2021 (Application August 13, 2020)				
Downtown Shenandoah, Inc.*	Shenandoah, PA	\$8,000,000	\$3,000,000	Awarded \$1.5M RACP
Keystone Human Services	TBD, Luzerne County	NA	\$2,700,000	Unfunded – resubmitted in 2022
Da Vinci Science Center	Allentown, PA	\$30,000,000	NA	Awaiting final \$4-\$6M is capital funding
Hotel Fauchere – Milford*	Milford, PA	NA	\$2,000,000	Awarded \$500k RACP
Hyatt Place - Wilkes-Barre	Wilkes-Barre, PA	\$7,000,000	NA	Awaiting Financing
Little Leaf Farms, LLC*	McAdoo, PA	NA	\$3,000,000	Awarded \$2M RACP
2020				
Ball Manufacturing*	Jenkins Township, PA	NA	\$4,000,000	Awarded \$2M RACP

*NEPA is serving as the applicant.

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA NONPROFIT & COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE CENTER

NCAC Membership: NCAC currently has 125 active members. 23 new members have joined since September 2021, and membership renewal notices will be going out this month. Effective 10/1, NCAC will increase its yearly membership cost from \$50 to \$75. With the expansion of the Economic Services team, NCAC is able to offer more services to members including customized funding searches, access to Candid's Compensation Report, a list of local consultants, our 25 page list of local funders, RFQ templates, and discounts to nonprofit conferences.

West Scranton Wrestling Alumni Association: NCAC staff submitted an PA LSA grant application in the amount of \$198,000 for support the renovation of a vacant building in West Scranton. The application was completed free of services to support the transfer of the building from the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association to the West Scranton Wrestling Alumni Association.

NEPA Grantmakers Forum: In collaboration with the Harry & Jeannette Weinberg Foundation, the McGowan Charitable Trust, The Luzerne Foundation, the Scranton Area Community Foundation, and the

Board of Directors Report October 6, 2022



Margaret Briggs Foundation, NCAC launched the NEPA Grantmakers initiative. NCAC held a Grantmakers leadership meeting in June, and then hosted a Grantmakers Forum at Johnson College in August. Over 40 people attended the forum, which featured a presentation by the William G. McGowan RISE (Readiness in Skilled Employment) workforce development program.

Monroe County Community Foundation: Community Foundation board meetings have been held monthly since May. After completing a search for a marketing firm, a contract was signed with Condrion Media in September to assist the Foundation in developing its logo, mission, vision, and values. The Foundation will also hire a part-time Executive Director later this month.

BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE (BRTF) / TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT

NEPA manages the Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF), which was organized in 1992 to provide regional community support for the preservation and protection of Tobyhanna Army Depot from the base closure process known as Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

The NEPA Alliance received several grants from the Pennsylvania Military Community Enhancement Commission to support the Depot. The funding was used to develop a SWOT Analysis of the TYAD as compared to other installations. NEPA is currently collaborating with a consultant, Edwards+Strunk, Inc., a consulting firm based in Madison Township, Lackawanna County, to develop and implement a fundraising plan. The newest grant received was for \$49,750 and announced in January 2022.

NEPA annually prepares an Economic Impact Analysis of the Depot. In the last update, which is for FY 2021, it was established that the total impact of the Depot is an estimated \$3.2 billion in economic activity, an estimated 8,744 jobs, and an estimated \$715.5 million in labor income within an eleven (11) county region in Northeast Pennsylvania.

NEPA team members, along with the BRTF consulting team Edwards and Strunk toured the TYAD in April. Biweekly touchpoints are taking place to continue the establishment of a fundraising plan, and the next BRTF meeting will be held on December 20, 2022.

RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER

NEPA provided several economic impact modeling reports, some of which were used in New Markets Tax Credit applications. The table below provides a summary of these reports during this fiscal year. Note: In the Studies Column, O is for Operations, C is for Construction and V is for Visitation.

Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023						
#	Client	Project Title	Purpose	CO	Month - Year	Studies
1	Lehigh Valley Underground, LLC	The Economic Impact of a Warehouse and Distribution Facility in Coolbaugh Township	Presented before decision makers	MO	August 2022	O/C/V
2	Northern Tier RP&DC	Regional Export Network - Annually	Annual Report of Export Program to PA Office of Int'l Bus. Dev.		Aug-21	

Board of Directors Report

October 6, 2022



3	North Central RP&DC	Regional Export Network - Annually	Annual Report of Export Program to PA Office of Int'l Bus. Dev.		Aug-22	
4	Northwest RP&PC	Regional Export Network - Annually	Annual Report of Export Program to PA Office of Int'l Bus. Dev.		Aug-22	
5	Northern Tier RP&DC	Quarterly Report	Quarterly Report of Jobs Created and Retained for ARC Reporting		Jul-22	
6	North Central RP&DC	Quarterly Report	Quarterly Report of Jobs Created and Retained for ARC Reporting		Jul-22	
7	Northwest RP&PC	Quarterly Report	Quarterly Report of Jobs Created and Retained for ARC Reporting		Jul-22	
Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022						
1	Wayne Economic Development Corporation	The Economic Impact of a Warehouse and Distribution Facility at the Sterling Business & Technology Park	Presented before the Sterling Township Board of Supervisors	WA		
2	Swiftwater Solar, LLC	Economic Impact Analysis of the Swiftwater Solar Project	Updated tax information requested by Pocono Township	MO	Jun-22	O/C/V
3	CAN DO, Inc.	Economic Impact of its Properties	Report used for presentation to its Board of Directors	CA, LU, SC	Dec-21	O
4	Wayne County Commissioners	Wayne Recovery to Work Phase 1 Treatment Facility	Report used to receive \$1.0 million in RACP funding	WA	Dec-21	O/C
5	Susquehanna Data, LLC	Susquehanna Hyperscale Campus	Report of Data Center in Salem Twp., Luzerne Co.	LU	Sep-21	O/C/V
6	Northern Tier RP&DC	Regional Export Network - Annually	Annual Report of Export Program to PA Office of Int'l Bus. Dev.		Aug-21	
7	North Central RP&DC	Regional Export Network - Annually	Annual Report of Export Program to PA Office of Int'l Bus. Dev.		Aug-21	
8	Northwest RP&PC	Regional Export Network - Annually	Annual Report of Export Program to PA Office of Int'l Bus. Dev.		Aug-21	
9	Northern Tier RP&DC	Quarterly Report	Quarterly Report of Jobs Created and Retained for ARC Reporting		Jul and Oct-21 and Jan and Apr-22	
10	North Central RP&DC	Quarterly Report	Quarterly Report of Jobs Created and Retained for ARC Reporting		Jul and Oct-21 and Jan and Apr-22	
11	Northwest RP&PC	Quarterly Report	Quarterly Report of Jobs Created and Retained for ARC Reporting		Jul and Oct-21 and Jan and	

Board of Directors Report

October 6, 2022



					Apr-22	
Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021						
#	Client	Project Title	Purpose	CO	Month - Year	Studies
1	Tobyhanna Army Depot	Economic Impact Analysis for FY 2020	Annual Economic Impact Analysis	MO	Jun-21	O/C/V
2	Wayne Economic Development Corporation	Sterling Business & Technology Park Building	Report used to receive \$1.0 million in RACP funding	WA	May-21	O/C
3	Production Systems Automation, LLC	G-PSA	Business/Manufacturing Expansion	LA	Feb-21	O
4	Monroe County Industrial Development Authority	Pocono Family YMCA New Building II	Report used to receive \$2.0 million in RACP funding	MO	Dec-20	O/C/V
5	Allied Services	Capital Expansion	New Markets Tax Credit Project	LU	Dec-20	O/C/V
6	Da Vinci Science City, LLC	Da Vinci Science City, LLC	Report used to receive \$1.0 million in RACP funding	LE	Nov-20	O/C/V
7	Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund	Wilkes-Barre Gateway Center	Report used to receive \$2.5 million in RACP funding	LU	Nov-20	O/C
8	Lackawanna College	Cornerstone Commons at 401 – Lackawanna College	Report used in application for \$4.75 million in RACP funds - Not awarded	LA	Nov-20	O/C
9	Irem Temple Restoration Project, Inc.	Item Temple Restoration	Report used to receive \$1.0 million in RACP funding	LU	Nov-20	V
10	Tobyhanna Army Depot	Economic Impact Analysis for FY 2019	Annual Economic Impact Analysis	MO	Oct-20	O/C/V
11	Keystone Human Services	Keystone Human Services Capital Expansion Project	Report used in application for \$2.7 million in RACP funds – Was awarded \$1,250,000	LU	Jul-20	O/C/V

Featured Article: This month's article presents the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for the nation, state, region, and each of the seven counties within the NEPA service area.

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

According to the first chart, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates, as provided by the PA WorkStats Program of the Center for Workforce Information & Analysis at the PA Department of Labor & Industry, indicate that the average regional unemployment rate was 8.6 percent from August 2020 to July 2021 and 5.9 percent from August 2021 to July 2022. The average national unemployment rate from

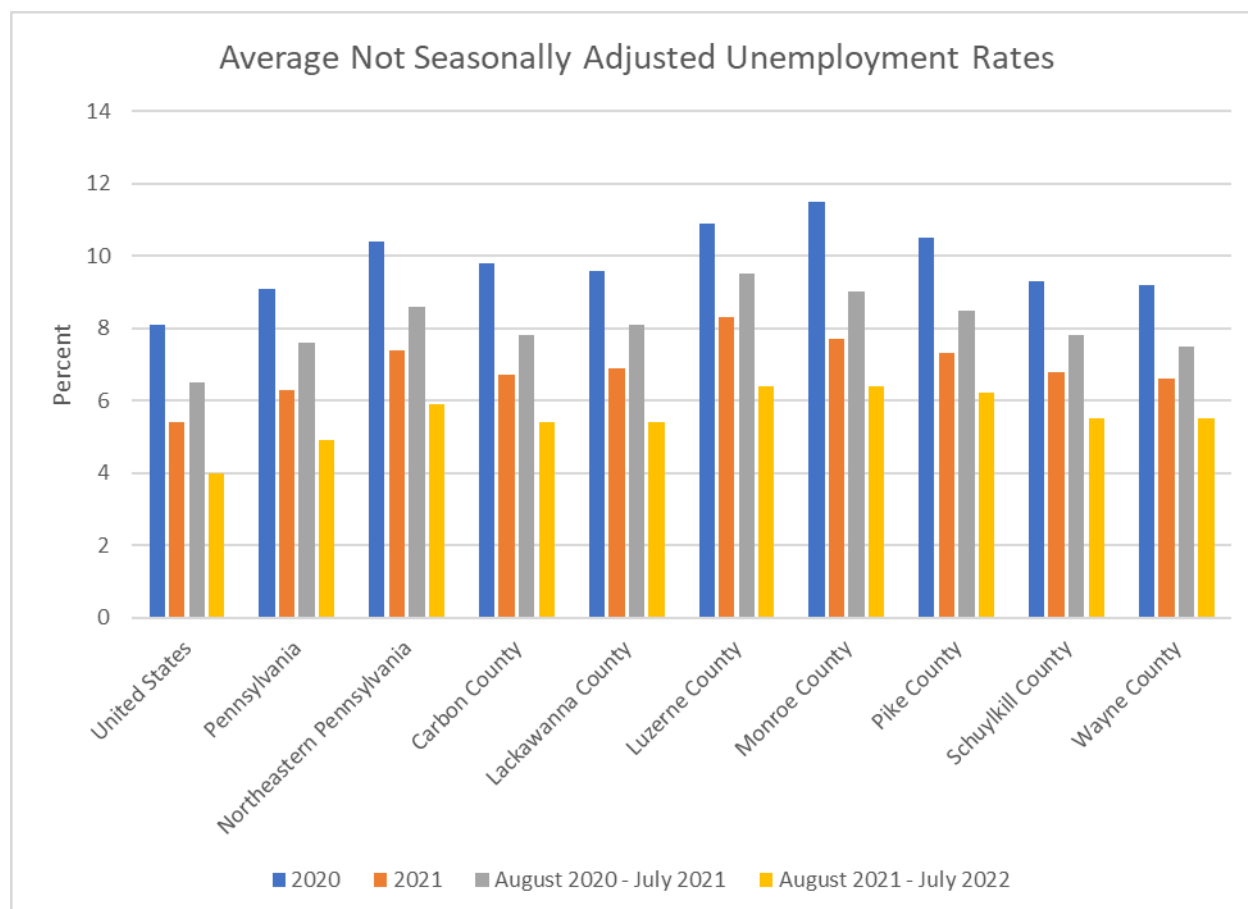
Board of Directors Report October 6, 2022



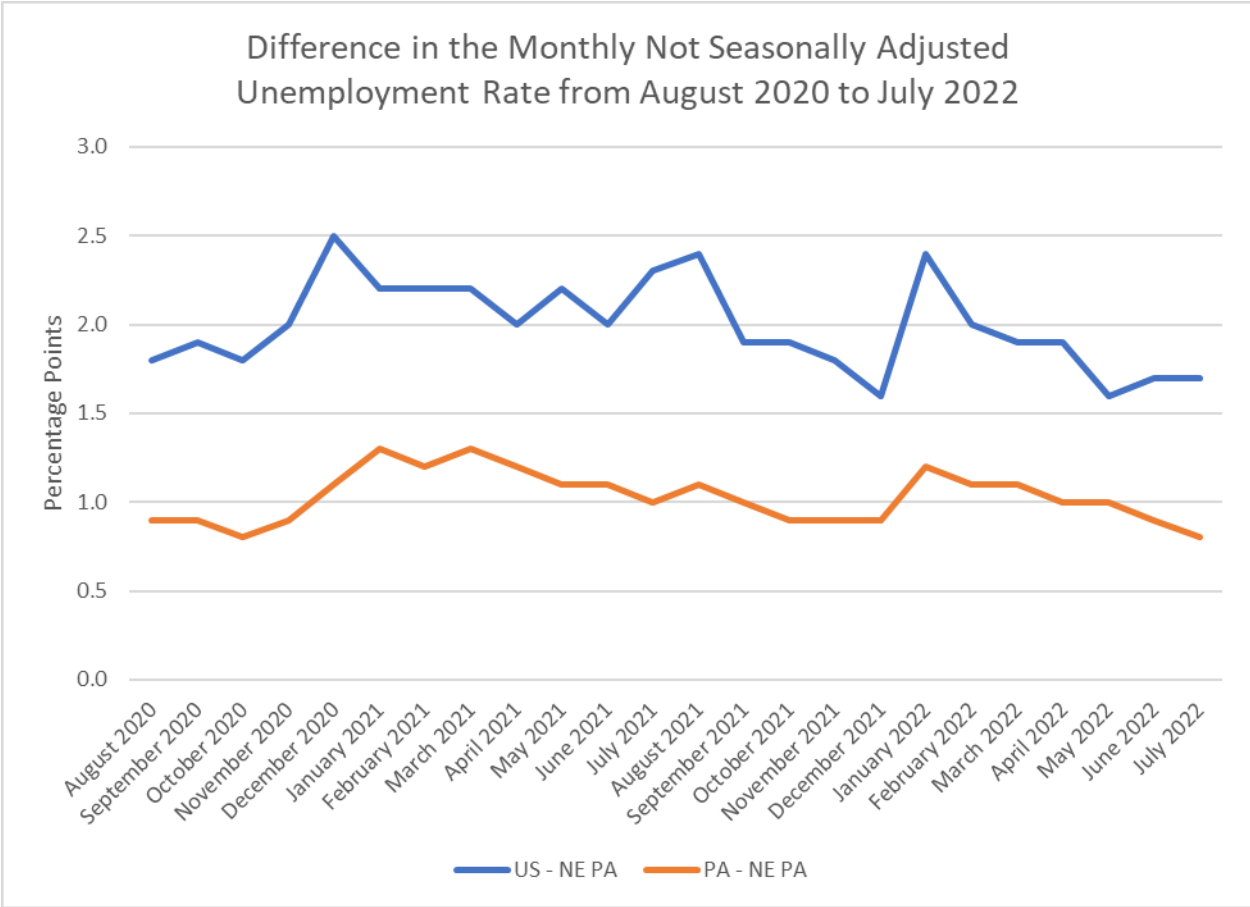
August 2020 to July 2021 was 6.5 percent and it was 4.0 percent from August 2021 to July 2022. The average state unemployment rate from August 2020 to July 2021 was 7.6 percent and it was 4.9 percent from August 2021 to July 2022.

According to the second chart, the difference in the monthly not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates between the region and nation was 1.8 percentage points in August 2020 before fluctuating to its maximum of 2.5 percentage points in December 2020. It then fluctuated to its minimum of 1.6 percentage points in December 2021 and May 2022 before increasing to 1.7 percentage points in June and July 2022. During the 24-month period, the average not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.3 percent in the nation and 7.3 percent in the region.

In August and September 2020, the difference in the monthly not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates between the region and state was 0.9 percentage points before decreasing to its minimum of 0.8 percentage points in October 2020. It then increased to its maximum of 1.3 percentage points in January and March 2021 before fluctuating to another minimum of 0.8 percentage points in July 2022. During the 24-month period, the average not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Pennsylvania was 6.3 percent.



Board of Directors Report
October 6, 2022



Social Media

June 1, 2022 – August 31, 2022

facebook

**1,088
Page Likes**

**4, 408
Reach/Views**

Instagram

**1,406
Followers**

**792
Reach/Views**

LinkedIn

**1,338
Followers**

**6,848
Impressions/
Views**

twitter

**1,751
Followers**

**5.7K
Impressions/
Views**

Board of Directors Report

October 6, 2022



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING SERVICES DIVISION

Technical Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

- At the August MPO Technical Committee meeting, a new chairperson and vice-chairperson for the Technical Committee were elected for a two-year term. According to the NEPA MPO Bylaws, the chairperson and vice-chairperson must be one of the representatives appointed by one of the four counties' boards of commissioners. The chairperson and vice-chairperson rotate between the four counties. This term, ending June 30, 2024, the chair rotated to Sue Smith, Schuylkill County Planning Director and the vice-chair rotated to Mike Mrozinski, Pike County Planning Director.

2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development

- The [NEPA MPO 2023 Transportation Improvement Program](#) development is complete. The NEPA MPO Committees approved the 2023 TIP and related documents in June. Staff sent the TIP package to PennDOT Central Office in July and it was approved by the State Transportation Commission in August. The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program was submitted to the federal agencies for approval. The 2023 TIP goes into effect on October 1, 2022.
- The NEPA 2023 TIP totals \$677.5 million and includes:
 - ❖ 96 Bridge and Highway projects, totaling \$250.7 million.
 - ❖ 22 Transit projects, totaling \$11.3 million.
 - ❖ 11 Interstate projects, totaling \$415.5 million.

Long Range Transportation Plan Update

- The NEPA MPO kicked off the update of the Long Range Transportation Plan in April. Due to our Air Quality Conformity status, our LRTP is required to be updated every four years. The LRTP consultant, Michael Baker International, has developed a Scope of Services for the plan. It was shared at the September 20th Technical Committee meeting.
- In order to fund the LRTP development, the NEPA MPO applied for and received \$100,000 in Supplemental Planning funds from Central Office. This amount will be matched by \$25,000 in local funds. The Supplemental Planning Funds will also be used for updates to other NEPA MPO plans including the Public Involvement Plan, Title VI Plan, Limited English Proficiency Plan and Coordinated Transit Plan. We anticipate discussions about the update of those plans will occur during the 2nd year of our current work program.

Eastern PA Regional Freight Study

- The development of a regional freight study has been identified as a task in the current UPWP. Given the regional nature of freight movements, particularly due to the warehousing and distribution growth in the NEPA MPO and the adjoining Lehigh Valley and Scranton/Wilkes-Barre MPOs, staff has been in discussions with neighboring Planning Partners about developing a collaborative regional freight plan.
- Five MPOs have agreed to conduct a joint freight plan as the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance – NEPA MPO, Lehigh Valley MPO, Lackawanna-Luzerne MPO, Reading MPO and Lebanon MPO. The group has developed a framework and submitted an application to Central Office for supplemental planning funds for the initiative and was awarded \$280,000 in supplemental planning funds to be leveraged by a \$70,000 match provided by the participating MPOs. The five MPOs have developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) addressing

Board of Directors Report

October 6, 2022



fiduciary responsibilities providing apportioned matching funds to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, who has agreed to serve as the lead fiscal agency for this project. The MOA was approved by the NEPA MPO Policy Board and the NEPA Board of Directors at the January meetings.

- A Request for Proposals was developed to solicit proposals from qualified freight plan consultants and interviews with the finalists, WSP USA, Inc. was selected as the consultant for the plan. Contracting with WSP has been completed and a kickoff meeting is scheduled for early October.

Transportation Funding Opportunities

- The IIJA Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL) created several new discretionary grant programs. Staff has regularly shared information about the grant opportunities with the NEPA MPO committee members and through NEPA's newsletters. The Department of Transportation (US DOT) has recently launched the [DOT Navigator](#) website as a resource for programs funded through the IIJA/BIL. In addition, US DOT has developed a Competitive Grant Funding Matrix which includes information about the funding programs including program descriptions, eligible applicants and notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs). Click [here](#) to learn more.
- PennDOT is currently accepting applications for funding through its [Multimodal Transportation Fund](#). Applications are due by November 14, 2022. Funding can be used for projects related to streetscapes, lighting, sidewalk enhancement and pedestrian safety; for projects improving connectivity or utilization of existing transportation assets; and for projects related to transit-oriented development. Municipalities, counties, school districts, economic development organizations, public transportation agencies, ports, rail freight and passenger rail entities are eligible to apply. A local match of 30% is required. The NEPA MPO will have the opportunity to review and provide comments to PennDOT Central Office about project applications submitted in the region.

Milford Borough Traffic Study

- Milford Borough Traffic Study was kicked off in January 2020. The steering committee requested that the study be delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions and its profound impact upon normal travel patterns. The steering committee has reengaged to move ahead with the study last year with Michael Baker International, the consultant on the study. Last summer, the steering committee reviewed the traffic data collected during summer events and discuss further community engagement. The committee met again in January and March to review and discuss specific traffic circulation and congestion locations and to review the study's findings. A draft of the report has been shared with PennDOT District 4-0 for comment. The consultant presented the final plan to the NEPA MPO committee on June 21st. The [Milford Borough Traffic Study](#) has been posted on the NEPA website.

National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure State Plan

- The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program was created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. In order to receive funding through the NEVI program, each state must draft and submit a state plan for EV infrastructure. [Pennsylvania's NEVI Plan](#) outlines Pennsylvania's approach to the strategic deployment of a convenient, reliable, affordable, and equitable EV charging network to support range confidence for Pennsylvanians and visitors over the course of the NEVI Formula Program.

Board of Directors Report October 6, 2022



-
- PennDOT will be rolling out information about engaging the public and businesses and how the discretionary funds will be allocated in the coming weeks. A stakeholder information session is scheduled for October 25th at the Lackawanna County Center for Public Safety.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- GIS staff is continuing to complete mapping activities for the transportation program. Staff recently developed a map of the bridge and highway projects on the 2023 TIP- <https://arcg.is/4WHz50>
- Staff has created a HUB site for the transportation program and the 2023 TIP and Environmental Justice- <https://nepa-gis-nepa-alliance.hub.arcgis.com/pages/transportation>
<https://nepa-gis-nepa-alliance.hub.arcgis.com/pages/tip-ej>
- GIS staff created several online resources for the COVID-19 Response Effort and Resources. <https://nepa-coronavirus-response-nepa-alliance.hub.arcgis.com>
<https://arcg.is/1KfSOe>
- Staff developed a NEPA Membership Hub with statistics about NEPA Members and the benefits of membership. <https://arcg.is/1vHW5z>

Regional Meetings

Staff attended the following regional meetings-

- Pike County Road Task Force- June 16th, July 21st, August 12th and September 15th
- Schuylkill County Chamber Infrastructure Committee- June 9th, July 14th, August 11th
- Lackawanna-Luzerne MPO Meeting- July 6th
- PennDOT Planning Partners Virtual Meeting – July 20th

Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)

- NEPA has partnered with PennDOT to deliver the LTAP training series in the Lackawanna-Luzerne Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) region, the NEPA MPO region and Wayne County. In fiscal year 2021-2022, 15 LTAP classes were held, with 218 attendees. Six classes are currently scheduled for Fall 2022. LTAP will also continue to offer courses in an online format.

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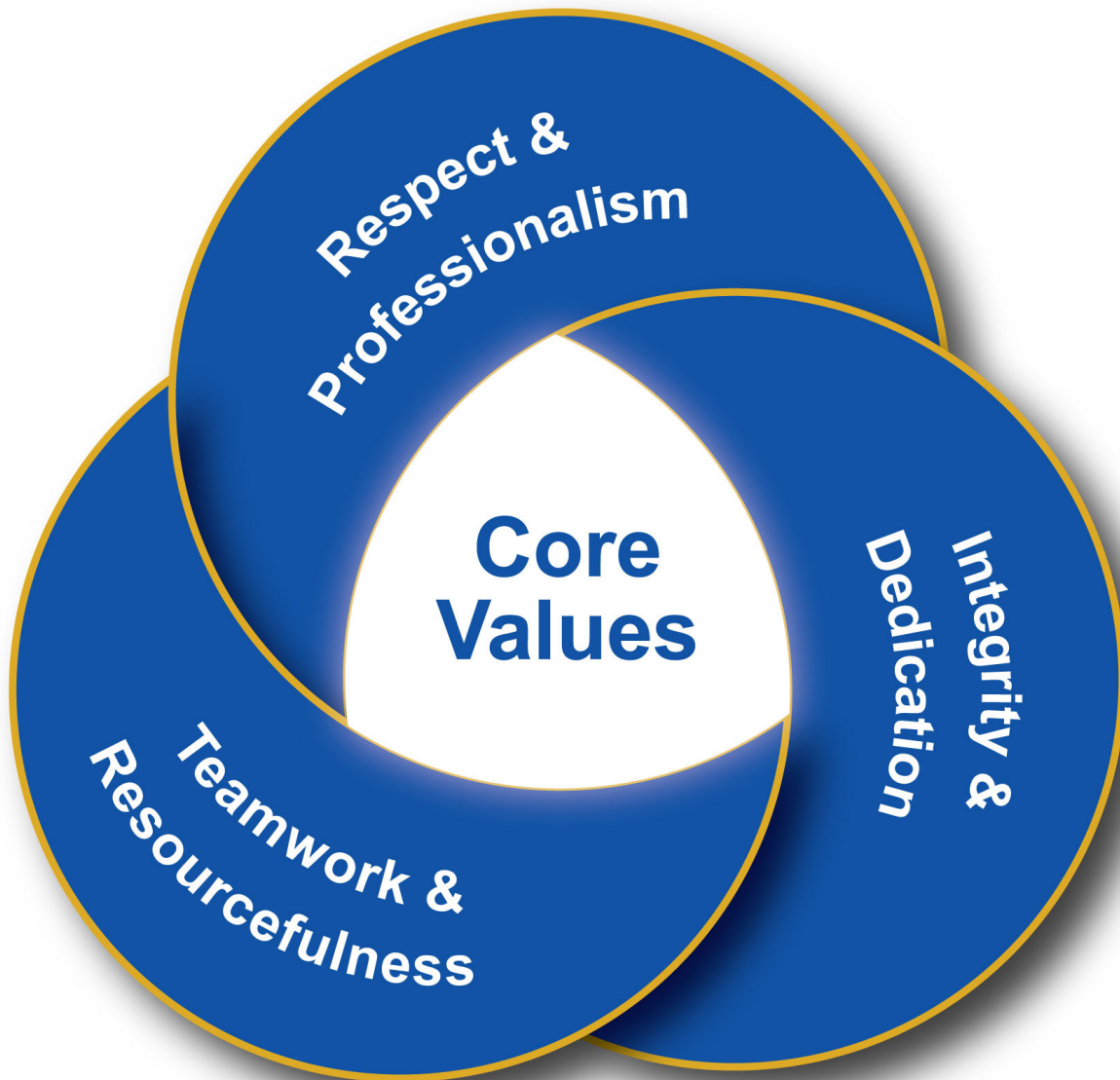
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NEPA's Mission

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA) is a regional, multi-county, community and economic development agency providing leadership, planning, and services to businesses, communities, entrepreneurs and institutions lacking adequate access to capital and financial resources that enhance and revitalize distressed communities within the region.



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