



NODPC Meeting

Wednesday, January 8th, 2025

09:30am to 11:00am

6363 Selig Drive, Independence

1. Introductions

- There were approximately thirty-four individuals in attendance.

2.) Meeting Minutes Approved

- The December meeting minutes were approved without any revisions.

3.) Presentation: Ray Nejadfard with Tri-C

- Ray is the dean of the School of Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering, and Computer science with Cuyahoga Community College.

- Some of the newer programs offered are fiber optic and utility technicians.

- The utility technician program is offered through the Metro Campus.

- Ohio is ranked number three behind California and Texas in Manufacturing.

- Construction is a \$30.46 billion industry in the region (utilities are a \$12.15 billion).

- The utility tech program is a collaboration between the State of Ohio and Tri-C. It is a vision for a better and stronger Ohio by helping to maintain and improve its ranking nationally as a dominant force. The program will help invest in infrastructure, upgrade utilities, and provide strong, fast speed internet connectivity across the state.

- Tri-C is Northeast Ohio's designated training provider. They are the 2nd in the state of Ohio. The first was in Northwest Ohio at Terra State.

- The program was established based on national programs in Missouri (State Tech) and Wisconsin (Northwood Technical College).

- The utility tech. program focuses on safety, establishing industry partners, establishing co-op and internship opportunities, and offering certificates and degree programs.

- The program started on August 18th, 2024, with twelve students.

- There is/will be classroom and hand-on training which will be using the same equipment used in the industry, such as Vermeer Ditch Witch, Milwaukee, PCCA.

4.) OHIO811 Updates

- In December, there were 98,454 (+12.3% YOY) notifications made to the center. For 2024, there were 1,562,912 (-.08% YOY) notifications made to the center. This was the first year in thirteen years that we did not have a record year.

- The Cleveland-area Paradigm meeting will be on Tuesday, February 18th at Brennan's Catering and Banquet Center at 7am (CORE training at 5pm).

- The UTTC virtual meeting will be on 01/09/2024.

5.) Open Discussion

- 2025 will be the year of open elections for chair, vice chair, and secretary. Nominations will be in February, and we will vote in March.

- The Marking Standards committee representatives for the NODPC will be Vincent Teuscher with Enbridge Gas Ohio and Sam Eckman with Kokosing.

- We will be looking for a new location to host our annual December breakfast meeting.

- We discussed the importance of clear and efficient communication between locate vendors and contractors/municipalities. This included an education point on how to efficiently call in large/on-going project tickets.

- The meeting was adjourned at 1108am.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 5th, 2025 @ City of Independence Recreation Center