

**OHIO TAX CREDIT AUTHORITY MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Ohio Job Creation Tax Credit Authority was called to order at 10:03 a.m. on September 25, 2023, by Eric Lindner.

Roll Call:	Eric Lindner, Acting Chair	Present
	Brian Cooper	Present
	Joy Evangelista	Present
	Emmett Kelly	Present
	Deborah McGraw	Present

Staff Members Present: Ben LaGrasso, Carrie Manno, Emily Wilson McPhail, Jarrod Ulrey

Others Present: Allison Rowland, Sarah Daligga, Abby Falcone, Stephen Caviness, Chris Bills, Shawn Starlin, Erika Roitblat Bowers

Minutes Approval: Lindner made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2023 meeting, Kelly motioned first, Cooper seconded; Lindner and Evangelista abstained. The vote was 3-0 yes. Voting Cooper, Kelly, McGraw.

NEW JOB CREATION TAX CREDIT PROJECTS

Ohio Ordnance Works, Inc. appeared before the Tax Credit Authority requesting a tax credit for a project in the City of Chardon, Lake County. Lindner made a motion to approve a tax credit of 1.226% for 6 years for Ohio Ordnance Works, Inc. in exchange for a commitment to create 70 full-time equivalent employees generating \$3,988,370 in new annual payroll and to retain \$5,542,814 in existing payroll by 12/31/2027 at the project location. In addition, the company will claim the tax credit on Ohio employee payroll generated at the project location in excess of the company's baseline payroll at the project location. The tax credit would begin on 1/1/2025 and end on 12/31/2030. Evangelista seconded; Kelly abstained. The vote was 4-0. All present voted yes.

Viega LLC appeared before the Tax Credit Authority requesting a tax credit for a project in the Shalersville Township, Portage County. Lindner made a motion to approve a tax credit of 1.325% for 8 years for Viega LLC in exchange for a commitment to create 68 full-time equivalent employees generating \$3,684,376 in new annual payroll by 12/31/2027 at the project location. In addition, the company will claim the tax credit on Ohio employee payroll generated at the project location in excess of the company's baseline payroll at the project location. The tax credit would begin on 1/1/2024 and end on 12/31/2031. McGraw seconded; Cooper abstained. The vote was 4-0. All present voted yes.

Aligned Data Centers (NEO) Propco, LLC appeared before the Tax Credit Authority requesting a tax exemption for a project in the Perkins Township, Erie County. Lindner made a motion to approve a tax exemption of 75% for 15 years for Aligned Data Centers (NEO) Propco, LLC in exchange for a commitment to create 18 full-time equivalent employees generating \$1,650,000 in new annual payroll at the project location. In addition, the company will claim the tax credit on Ohio employee payroll generated at the project location in excess of the company's baseline payroll at the project location. The tax credit would begin on 1/1/2024 and end on 12/31/2038. Cooper seconded. The vote was 5-0. All present voted yes.

Curiosity, LLC appeared before the Tax Credit Authority requesting a tax credit for a project in the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County. Lindner made a motion to approve a tax credit of 1.633% for 7 years for Curiosity, LLC in exchange for a commitment to create 32 full-time equivalent employees generating \$3,463,148 in new annual and to retain \$6,103,496 in existing payroll by 12/31/2028 at the project location. In addition, the company will claim the tax credit on Ohio employee payroll generated at the project location in excess of the company's baseline payroll at the project locations. The tax credit would begin on 1/1/2024 and end on 12/31/2030. Evangelista seconded; Kelly abstained. The vote was 4-0. All present voted yes.

Dine Development Corporation; DDC IT Services, LLC; Dine Source LLC appeared before the Tax Credit Authority requesting a tax credit for a project in the City of Dayton, Montgomery County. Lindner made a motion to approve a tax credit of 1.633% for 7 years for Dine Development Corporation; DDC IT Services, LLC; Dine Source LLC in exchange for a commitment to create 32 full-time equivalent employees generating \$3,463,148 in new annual and to retain \$6,103,496 in existing payroll by 12/31/2027 at the project location. In addition, the company will claim the tax credit on Ohio employee payroll generated at the project location in excess of the company's baseline payroll at the project locations.

The tax credit would begin on 1/1/2024 and end on 12/31/2032. Kelly seconded. The vote was 5-0. All present voted yes.

G & J Pepsi-Cola Bottlers, Inc. appeared before the Tax Credit Authority requesting a tax credit for a project in the City of Columbus, Franklin County. Lindner made a motion to approve a tax credit of 1.171% for 6 years for G & J Pepsi-Cola Bottlers, Inc. in exchange for a commitment to create 44 full-time equivalent employees generating \$2,232,000 in new annual and to retain \$30,655,208 in existing payroll by 12/31/2026 at the project location. In addition, the company will claim the tax credit on Ohio employee payroll generated at the project location in excess of the company's baseline payroll at the project locations.

The tax credit would begin on 1/1/2024 and end on 12/31/2029. McGraw seconded. The vote was 5-0. All present voted yes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Findlay Machine & Tool, Inc.

The staff recommends the Authority re-assign the tax credit from Findlay Machine & Tool, Inc. (FEIN 34-1545822) to Findlay Machine & Tool, LLC (FEIN 87-1464094).

Lindner made a motion to accept staff recommendation and Kelly seconded. The vote was 5-0. All present voted yes.

Coastal Ridge Management, LLC et al

The staff recommends the Authority 1) Re-assign the tax credit from Foxen Insurance Company (FEIN 82-2352498) to Foxen Administration, LLC (FEIN 86-2313862) and 2) Add the following address to the project site - 333 W. Nationwide Boulevard, Columbus, OH 43215.

Lindner made a motion to accept staff recommendation and McGraw seconded. The vote was 5-0. All present voted yes.

Nova Tube and Steel LLC

The staff recommends the Authority change the project's Metric Evaluation Date from 12/31/2023 to 12/31/2024.

Lindner made a motion to accept staff recommendation and Evangelista seconded. The vote was 5-0. All present voted yes.

Cornerstone Research Group, Incorporated

The staff recommends the Authority make the following changes: 1) Change the retained FTE commitment from 88 to 72, 2) Change the baseline payroll from \$7,530,714 to \$6,921,965.

Lindner made a motion to accept staff recommendation and Cooper seconded; Kelly abstained. The vote was 4-0. All present voted yes.

Mix Talent, LLC

With the company's written consent, the staff recommends the Authority approve the reduction of the grantee's new jobs commitment from 50 FTEs to 40 FTEs and the new payroll commitment from \$5,170,000 to \$4,135,567. To align with the new commitment, staff recommends the Authority reduce the grantee's 1.714 percent/8 year tax credit to 1.714 percent/2 year (2021-2022), 1.452 percent/6 year (2023-2028).

Lindner made a motion to accept staff recommendation and Evangelista seconded. The vote was 5-0. All present voted yes.

Rochling Glastic Composites LP

The staff recommends the Authority reduce the grantee's tax credit term from six years to four years, ending on 12/31/2022, as the grantee did not create 10 new FTE position by the Metric Evaluation Date. Post term reporting will be required for the years 2023 -2025. The grantee originally committed to 26 new jobs created with \$1,237,891 in new payroll to be achieved by 12/31/2022. Per the grantee's 2022 annual report, the company created 0 new

jobs.

Lindner made a motion to accept staff recommendation and Cooper seconded. The vote was 5-0. All present voted yes.

Amify, Inc.

The staff recommends that the Authority reduce the grantee's tax credit rate from 1.916% to 1.000% beginning 1/1/2023, as the grantee did not meet the project commitments by the Metric Evaluation Date. The grantee originally committed to 90 new jobs created with a payroll of \$8,100,000 to be achieved by 12/31/22. Per the grantee's 2022 annual report, the company attained 39 new jobs created with \$2,178,257 in new payroll.

Lindner made a motion to accept staff recommendation and McGraw seconded. The vote was 5-0. All present voted yes.

AHEAD, Inc. (fka RoundTower Technologies, LLC)

The staff recommends that the Authority reduce the grantee's tax credit rate from 2.456% to 1.160% beginning 1/1/2023, as the grantee did not meet the project commitments by the Metric Evaluation Date. The grantee originally committed to 128 new jobs created with a payroll of \$14,080,000 to be achieved by 12/31/22. Per the grantee's 2022 annual report, the company attained 34 new jobs created with \$2,344,980 in new payroll.

Lindner made a motion to accept staff recommendation and Evangelista seconded. The vote was 5-0. All present voted yes.

CPP-Cleveland, Inc., et al

The staff recommends that the Authority reduce the grantee's tax credit rate from 1.675% to .950% beginning 1/1/2023, as the grantee did not meet the project commitments by the Metric Evaluation Date. The grantee originally committed to 128 new jobs created with a payroll of \$9,478,000 to be achieved by 12/31/22. Per the grantee's 2021 annual report, the company attained 41 new jobs created with \$6,637,417 in new payroll.

Lindner made a motion to accept staff recommendation and McGraw seconded. The vote was 5-0. All present voted yes.

Cheer Pack North America, LLC

The staff recommends that the Authority reduce the grantee's tax credit rate from 1.55% to 1.20% beginning 1/1/2023, as the grantee did not meet the project commitments by the Metric Evaluation Date. The grantee originally committed to 55 new jobs created with a payroll of \$3,821,300 To be achieved by 12/31/21. Per the grantee's 2021 annual report, the company attained 44 new jobs created with \$2,553,674 in new payroll.

Lindner made a motion to accept staff recommendation and Cooper seconded. The vote was 5-0. All present voted yes.

iMFLUX, Inc.

The staff recommends the Authority terminate the agreement with clawback for failure to maintain operations during the post-term reporting period of the agreement. On 9/30/2013, the grantee was approved for a 60% (later amended to a 55%), 8-year tax credit in exchange for a commitment to create 221 FTEs at the project location. Development has learned the grantee failed to maintain operations at the project location as of June 30, 2023. Due to this failure, the Authority has statutory authorization to require clawback of 75% of credits issued, which totaled \$2,344,908.54. Based on this circumstance and information provided by the grantee, staff recommends the Authority terminate the agreement with a clawback of \$586,227 (25% of previously awarded credits).

Lindner made a motion to accept staff recommendation and Evangelista seconded. The vote was 5-0. All present voted yes.

Sedgewick Claims Management Services, Inc.

The staff recommends the Authority terminate the agreement with clawback for failure to maintain operations during the active-term reporting period of the agreement. On 2/26/2018, the grantee was approved for a 1.310%, 7-year tax credit in exchange for a commitment to create 109 FTEs and retain 300 FTEs at the project location. Development has learned the grantee failed to maintain operations at the project location as of March 2, 2023. Due to this failure, the Authority has statutory authorization to require clawback of 100% of credits issued, which totaled \$250,192.39. Based on this circumstance and information provided by the grantee, staff recommends the Authority terminate the agreement with a clawback of \$62,548 (25% of previously awarded credits).

Lindner made a motion to accept staff recommendation and McGraw seconded; Kelly abstained. The vote was 4-0. All present voted yes.

ND Paper, Inc.

The staff recommends the Authority terminate the agreement with clawback for failure to maintain operations during the post-term reporting period of the agreement. On 6/29/2015, the grantee was approved for a 1.130%, 6-year tax credit in exchange for a commitment to create 10 FTEs and retain 26 FTEs at the project location. Development has learned the grantee failed to maintain operations at the project location as of April 2022. Due to this failure, the Authority has statutory authorization to require clawback of 75% of credits issued, which totaled \$107,851.59. Based on this circumstance and information provided by the grantee, staff recommends the Authority terminate the agreement with a clawback of \$53,925 (50% of previously awarded credits).

Lindner made a motion to accept staff recommendation and McGraw seconded. The vote was 5-0. All present voted yes.

Candle-Lite Company, LLC

The staff recommends the Authority cancel the tax credit at the request of the grantee. The Tax Credit Agreement has never been signed by the company and no tax credit certificates have been issued.

Lindner made a motion to accept staff recommendation and Evangelista seconded; Kelly abstained. The vote was 4-0. All present voted yes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Transformational Mixed-Use Development applications for this round of funding have been received. Development is in the current stages of confirming eligibility for the applicants.

MOTION TO AJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m. by Lindner.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.