

NOACA RURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL CHARTER

PURPOSE: The Rural Advisory Council (RAC) will play an important role in advising NOACA of the public policy and planning priorities of interested parties from rural communities within the NOACA region – and how NOACA planning work can most productively coordinate with rural interests to maximize the beneficial outcomes for urbanized and rural communities alike.

GOALS: The NOACA Rural Advisory Council seeks to:

- Promote public awareness of all of NOACA plans and programs to rural communities.
- Be an active conduit of communication of planning activities between rural and urban communities.

ACTIVITIES: The Rural Advisory Council will:

- Be a forum by which NOACA will receive comment and advice and facilitate conversation on planning concerns of rural communities.
- Be a forum for dialogue between urban and rural planning concerns.
- Provide continuous and balanced public representation in the development of regional plans and policies.
- Provide Board and staff with guidance that conveys residents' perspectives.
- Ensure the effectiveness of outreach and engagement strategies by working with staff to serve as a “speakers’ bureau” and as a local voice to spread awareness.

MEMBERSHIP: The Rural Advisory Council will have 15 members selected from among religious organizations, social service agencies, nonprofits, voter advocacy groups, health advocacy groups, modal organizations, senior organizations, schools, etc. The membership will consist of 11 that are proportionately defined by county based on rural population, and 4 that are at-large seats as follows: 1 Cuyahoga; 4 Geauga; 1 Lake; 2 Lorain; 3 Medina; 4 At-Large. Membership terms will be two years.

REPORTING RELATIONSHIP: The Council reports to the External Affairs Committee.

MEETINGS: The Council will hold regular meetings on a quarterly basis. Special meetings may be called as needed. A majority of Council members shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

AGENDA AND MINUTES: The chair will be responsible for establishing agendas for meetings, which will be sent to council members at least seven days in advance of the meeting. Minutes will be approved by council members at the following meeting.

STAFFING: Agency staff shall provide the Council with administrative and technical support as directed by the chair.