

May 1, 2013

BANK LOAN DISCLOSURE TASK FORCE ISSUES WHITE PAPER ON VOLUNTARY SECONDARY MARKET DISCLOSURE ABOUT BANK LOANS

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Today the municipal market's Bank Loan Disclosure Task Force released its white paper regarding voluntary secondary market disclosure about bank loans. The increasing use by state and local government issuers and conduit borrowers of private bank loans since 2009 has led holders of publicly offered municipal securities and their representatives and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board to encourage issuers and borrowers to voluntarily post information about bank loans to the MSRB's Electronic Municipal Market Access website.

Municipal market industry groups joined together to assist issuers, borrowers and their financial advisors and legal counsel in determining whether to disclose the incurrence of a bank loan on a voluntary basis and the extent of any such disclosure.

The Task Force was comprised of representatives from the American Bankers Association, the Bond Dealers of America, the Government Finance Officers Association, the Investment Company Institute, the National Association of Bond Lawyers, the National Association of Health and Educational Facilities Finance Authorities, the National Association of Independent Public Finance Advisors, the National Federation of Municipal Analysts and the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association.

"This is a significant achievement which demonstrates the industry's commitment to reach consensus on a framework to analyze important disclosure issues," said NABL President-Elect Allen Robertson, a shareholder at Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson, P.A. "The paper encourages careful consideration of making voluntary disclosure about bank loans, while acknowledging that issuers and borrowers may conclude not to provide voluntary disclosure about a particular bank loan depending on the facts and circumstances."

"The white paper provides a platform for issuers, borrowers, their financial advisors and legal counsel and the marketplace to discuss this important topic," said Lisa Washburn, NFMA Secretary and managing director at Municipal Market Advisors. "We expect some of the participating groups will develop Best Practice documents that build on the paper and encourage issuers and borrowers to provide voluntary disclosure."

Work on this project began in January 2012, when the topic of the voluntary disclosure of bank loans was discussed at the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's Industry Roundtable. The National Federation of Municipal Analysts agreed to play a coordinating role among various municipal market participants to reach consensus positions on the circumstances under which voluntary secondary market disclosure of bank loans should be considered, the form of such disclosure, the information that may be included and the time frame for making such disclosure.

The paper, entitled "Considerations Regarding Voluntary Secondary Market Disclosure About Bank Loans" is available on the NFMA website, [here](#), and on the NABL website, [here](#).