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NFMA RELEASES DRAFT WHITE PAPER ON NEW ISSUE PRACTICES

For Immediate Release

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The National Federation of Municipal Analysts (NFMA) announced today that it was releasing a draft White Paper on Best Municipal Bond Issuance and Disclosure Practices (White Paper). The NFMA chose to write this White Paper to address longstanding concerns that all municipal bond investors have current, complete, and reliable information; sufficient time to review that information; and, as desired, access to issuers, so that they can make informed investment decisions. The draft White Paper can be found on the home page of www.nfma.org.

The NFMA has been active in commenting on municipal bond market practices and educating the market about the need for better disclosure for over twenty years. The NFMA has prepared Recommended Best Practices in Disclosure (“RBPs”) covering various sectors of the market, and has done so for 15 sectors. Other topics, such as securities laws and industry practices, are generally addressed in white papers or letters. The document released for comment today is a White Paper, outlining best offering practices and procedures for municipal issuers and underwriters regarding the preparation and content of preliminary offering documents and how issuers and underwriters can best interact with investors and credit analysts during the pre-pricing and offering periods.

The Industry Practices Committee that prepared this White Paper was chaired by Greg Aikman, CFA, BNY Mellon Wealth Management. According to Mr. Aikman, “New issue underwriting and disclosure practices vary widely among issuers, underwriters and other sell-

side participants. The NFMA advocates for practices that ensure analysts have sufficient information, time and due diligence access to make informed investment decisions. The NFMA surveyed its membership and is issuing a White Paper which identifies best offering practices and procedures--with an emphasis on the need for plain English offering documents, clear description of bond security, and expanded disclosure of key investment risks. The NFMA believes these White Paper recommendations will serve as an industry benchmark for improved and more uniform new issuance practices, and welcomes input from industry participants.”

All NFMA White Papers and RBPs are produced with participation from NFMA members, issuers, the legal community, and financial advisors, as appropriate. Comments on this White Paper will be taken through April 14, 2014, and should be addressed to the NFMA Executive Director, Lisa Good, at LGood@nfma.org.

Established in 1983, the NFMA is an organization of over 1,300 members, primarily research analysts, who evaluate credit and other associated risks in the municipal market. These individuals represent, among others, mutual funds, insurance companies, broker/dealers, bond insurers, rating agencies, and financial advisory firms. [Follow us on Twitter.](#)