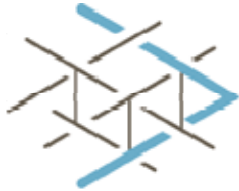


Lindsey Riley

From: Lindsey Riley <lindsey=narc.org@mail18.us1.mcsv.net> on behalf of Lindsey Riley <lindsey@narc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2012 4:11 PM
To: Lindsey Riley
Subject: eRegions: January 3, 2012

Email not displaying correctly? Click [HERE](#) to view it as a PDF.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 1, January 3, 2011

eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

President Ron Morrison,
Mayor,
National City, CA
Chair Mark Policinski,
Executive Directors
Council
Executive Director,
Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana
Regional Council of
Governments

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2012. I hope everyone had wonderful holidays and a safe and happy New Year. I look forward to another successful year at NARC, with exciting opportunities and great events.

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)
[REGIONS 360](#) [ASSISTANCE REQUEST](#)
[PARTNER UPDATE](#)
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



2012 NATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF REGIONS
FEBRUARY 12-14, 2012

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

Draft Agenda Available: click [HERE](#) to access the draft agenda.

Registration: click [HERE](#) to register.

Hotel rooms must be reserved by Saturday, January 14th. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Report: States and Localities Face Reduced Support for Health

Emergencies: A report, *Ready or Not? 2011*, was released by Trust for America's Health (TFAH), a non-profit, nonpartisan think tank focused on disease prevention. The report revealed that many agencies have been targeted for budget cuts in recent years, potentially putting the public at a

We are off to a good start with excellent attendance numbers for the 2012 National Conference of Regions (you know who you are and thank you!); but hotel rooms are going fast so if you haven't registered, please do so.

I also look forward to our Annual Conference and Exhibition in St. Petersburg, FL (June 10-14, 2012) and our Executive Directors' Conference in Boise ID (September 23-25, 2012). Please put them on your schedule.

2012 will prove to be an interesting year with a presidential campaign in full swing, serious budget discussions and a gridlocked Congress. We will continue to provide you the most timely information relevant to the regional agenda.

Also, if you'd like NARC staff or leadership, to attend, brief or speak at your state or local meetings please let us know. Last year, we logged over 130,000 miles (about half the distance to the moon) to

greater risk if a major health crisis occurs. It concluded that preparedness programs could be dramatically reduced or completely eliminated if trends in federal budget cuts continue. For more information about how specific states and localities are being affected, visit the TFAH [website](#).

EPA Briefs Water Stakeholders on Proposed Integrated Planning

Framework: On December 13, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) briefed water stakeholders on EPA's current thinking as they develop their framework to implement the October 27 [memo](#) "Achieving Water Quality Through Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Plans," which included key elements of an integrated municipal stormwater/wastewater plan. Click [HERE](#) to access the PowerPoint presentation used, which will serve as the basis for upcoming stakeholder meetings early next year. The principles and elements laid out in the presentation will be revised based on the comments EPA receives over the coming months. EPA indicated this schedule, which will be posted in the Federal Register, for their series of public workshops starting in January 2012 across the U.S. in various EPA Regional Offices: Atlanta - week of January 31; New York City - February 6; Seattle -February 13; Kansas City - February 15; and, Chicago - February 17.

Open Comment Period for Proposed EDA Regulations: *Comment Period Closes February 6, 2012.* Last week, the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) published its [proposed revised regulations](#) based on external and internal feedback gathered through a public comment period earlier this year. Stakeholders may now provide comments on the proposed revised EDA regulations. Please click [HERE](#) to learn more or provide comments, and please provide copies of any comments you plan to submit to [Jenee Kresge](#).

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is out of session.

REGIONS360

CMAQ Policy Analysis of EPA's 8-HR Ozone Designations: The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAQ) recently released their policy analysis of EPA's proposed designations of areas that do not meet the 8-hr ozone standard. This analysis provides an overview of what one MPO is facing and also information on how they are addressing their problem. Click

be with you, share your stories and learn more about our regional communities. We hope to do more this year.

Finally – an interesting thought to start the new year – a report on [The Future of Work](#) presented by the World Future Society.

Happy New Year,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

[Fred Abousleman](#)

Executive Director

[Shannon Baxevanis](#)

Deputy Director

[Mia Colson](#)

Program Analyst

[Kristin Heery](#)

Program Analyst

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Economic and

Community

Development Manager

[Lindsey Riley](#)

Deputy of

Communications

[Erika Young](#)

Transportation Director

To access past issues of *eRegions*, [visit our website](#).

Make NARC your homepage —

[click here to learn how](#).

[HERE](#) to access their analysis.

ASSISTANCEREQUEST

Grant Management: The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) is looking for assistance with the following questions regarding grants. 1) Does your organization use the services of a grant writer or have an FTE that handles grant management? Can you provide a copy of the scope if you work with a contractor or a job description if it's an employee? 2) If your organization doesn't have a dedicated person responsible for grants, who handles the close-out of grants, the management of your grant(s), etc.? Please contact Roxie Ronsen, DRCOG, directly at rronsen@drcog.org.

Performance Audit Scope of Work: The Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) is looking for an example of scope of work (SOW) for a Council of Government performance audit. Specifically, they are looking for a performance audit SOW for the organization itself, rather than for a specific program. Has your organization completed a performance audit and could share your SOW? Please contact Michael Cavallaro, RVCOG Executive Director, at mcavallaro@rvcog.org.

Solar Case Studies: As part of NARC's work with the [SunShot Initiative](#), NARC is developing case studies of regional councils who have done work in the field of solar energy. The goal is to include a variety of examples to be highlighted in a publication. We would love to hear about your experience working to promote solar energy in your region. CONTACT: Kristin Heery, kristin@narc.org or 202.986.1032 x225

PARTNERUPDATE

Regional Excellence: *Tibet Style*. Former NARC Executive Director Bill Dodge authors this column and can be reached at WilliamRDodge@aol.com. Click [HERE](#) to access the column.

***Doing Less with Less, and Beyond*:** Bill Barnes, Director of *Emerging Issues* at the National League of Cities (NLC), publishes his latest column on Citiwire.net. Click [HERE](#) to access the article.

Small Modular Nuclear Reactors: The Pittsburgh Post Gazette recently ran an article on how small modular nuclear reactors (SMNRs) are part of an

emerging market in the U.S. and worldwide. Included in the piece are how American supply chain jobs can be created. Click [HERE](#) to access the article or [HERE](#) to access the Nuclear Energy Institute for more information.

EcoSummit 2012: The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission will host EcoSummit 2012, September 30-October 5, 2012 in Columbus, Ohio. The Call for Abstracts has been released. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

FHWA Transportation, Community and System Preservation Program

Deadline: January 6, 2012

The Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Program provides funding for a comprehensive initiative including planning grants, implementation grants, and research to investigate and address the relationships among transportation, community, and system preservation plans and practices and identify private-sector-based initiatives to improve those relationships. Grants may be used to plan and implement strategies that improve the efficiency of the transportation system; reduce environmental impacts of transportation; reduce the need for costly future public infrastructure investments; ensure efficient access to jobs, services, and centers of trade; and examine development patterns and identify strategies to encourage private sector development patterns that achieve these goals. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Siemens Sustainable Community Awards

Deadline: January 13, 2012

For the fifth year, Siemens, a National League of Cities (NLC) Corporate Partner, is sponsoring The Siemens Sustainable Community Awards in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center (BCLC). Nominations for the 2012 awards will include three categories: small communities (less than 50,000 residents), midsize cities (50,000-500,000 residents) and large communities (more than 500,000 residents). Each winning city will be announced during an awards reception in April 2012 and will receive a donation of \$20,000 worth of trees through the Alliance for Community Trees. Strong candidates for the award are able to demonstrate that their community has forged relationships with residents and the local private sector to set and achieve complementary economic, environmental and social goals. Together, these goals have helped the community realize long-term competitiveness and success. Communities will be judged by a panel of experts in three categories — environmental

sustainability, economic sustainability and overarching sustainability. For more information, or to apply, click [HERE](#).

EPA Requests Proposals for Urban Waters Small Grants

Deadline: January 16, 2012

The U.S. EPA will award at least \$1.8 million in funding for projects across the country to help restore [urban waters](#) by improving water quality and supporting community revitalization. The goal of the urban waters small grants are to fund research, studies, training, and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities such as public health, social and economic opportunities, general livability and environmental justice for residents. Examples of projects eligible for funding include:

- Education and training for water quality improvement or green infrastructure jobs
- Public education about ways to reduce water pollution
- Local water quality monitoring programs
- Engaging diverse stakeholders to develop local watershed plans
- Innovative projects that promote local water quality and community revitalization goals

Information about urban waters small grants including the Request for Proposal and registration links for the webinars is available [HERE](#). Questions can be submitted in writing via e-mail by clicking [HERE](#) and addressed to Ji-Sun Yi. EPA expects to award the grants in Summer 2012.

DOI WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2012

Application Due: January 19, 2012

The Department of Interior (DOI) WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program establishes a framework to provide federal leadership and assistance on the efficient use of water, integrating water and energy policies to support the sustainable use of all natural resources, and coordinating the water conservation activities of various DOI bureaus and offices. DOI invites eligible entities to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with the Bureau of Reclamation on projects that seek to conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the use of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency, benefit endangered and threatened species, facilitate water markets, or carry out other activities to address climate-related impacts on water or prevent any water-related crisis

or conflict. More information is available [HERE](#).

2012 NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program

January 24, 2012

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), which is hosted by the USGS, sponsors the CAP to promote the technologies, standards, best practices and organizational collaboration vital to data integration, partnerships and collaborations for data investment and speedy delivery of geospatial products to support government and other stakeholders. This year the FGDC is offering a total of \$810,000 to award for up to 41 geospatial related projects that are spread across seven categories. Each project will focus on ways to expand the geospatial data infrastructure that is necessary to effectively discover, access, share, manage and use digital geographic data. The project awards are scheduled to be announced in March 2012 with obligated work to begin on each project no later than September 30, 2012. More information and a link to the announcement on Grants.gov are available [HERE](#).

U.S. DOE Smart Grid Data Access Funding Opportunity – \$8 million

Application Due: March 1, 2012

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory is seeking applications aimed at empowering consumers to better manage their electricity use by enabling access to electricity consumption data by customers and their authorized third parties, and providing or supporting the use of third party tools and software products that use the available data to deliver a value-added service to the customer.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Installing Solar On Municipal Facilities Webinar

January 24, 2012 1:00pm ET: Are you or your members considering installing solar on a municipal facility? This webinar focuses on writing a solar RFP for municipal installations, the importance of building partnerships with utilities and the private sector and financing mechanisms that have helped make municipal solar installations possible. For more information and registration, click [HERE](#).

New Partners For Smart Growth Conference

February 2-4, 2012, San Diego, CA: Register today for this 11th annual event. Additional conference details are available [HERE](#).

Planning for Solar Energy in Your Community: Workshop

February 4, 2012, San Diego, CA: This workshop will be held during the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference and will focus on overcoming planning and zoning barriers to adoption of solar energy technologies—primarily rooftop PV—at the local level. Increased solar adoption supports smart growth goals. Throughout the workshop, speakers will present zoning tools and innovative financing options that can make communities more "solar-friendly" and case study examples of what communities across the country are doing to address solar in their planning, zoning, and development decisions. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

2012 National Conference of Regions

February 12-14, 2012, Washington, DC: Register Today! NARC will host its 2012 National Conference of Regions, which will focus on Obama Administration's priorities, Congressional activities, and critical policy issues and pending federal legislation that will impact regions. Click [HERE](#) to access registration and additional information.

Green Infrastructure Workshop

March 5-9, 2012, Shepherdstown, WV: The Conservation Fund's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV is hosting *Strategic Conservation Planning Using a Green Infrastructure Approach* on March 5-9, 2012. This workshop provides participants with a strategic approach for prioritizing conservation opportunities and a planning framework for conservation and development- integrating the green and the grey. For more information, click [HERE](#).

46th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 10-14, 2012, St. Petersburg, FL: Save the Date! Join us for the the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. NARC's Annual Conference and Exhibition is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Registration and additional information will be available in early 2012.

2012 Executive Directors' Conference

September 24-26, 2012, Boise, ID: Save the Date! Join Executive Directors and senior staff of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations at this premier regional training event. Registration information and a draft agenda will be available in mid 2012.

2012 EcoSummit

September 30-October 5, 2012, Columbus, OH: EcoSummit 2012 will bring together the world's most respected minds in ecological science to discuss restoring the planet's ecosystems. Click [HERE](#) for additional information - now accepting Call for Abstracts!

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