

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



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XI, No. 2, January 10, 2011

eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

President James 'Jim'

Townsend,
Judge/Executive,
Webster County,
Kentucky

Chair Charles 'Chick'

Krautler,
Executive Directors
Council
Director, Atlanta
Regional Commission

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

This past week, NARC's Past President Harriet Stockwell passed away. Ms. Stockwell served as El Cajon City, CA Councilwoman and Board Member of the San Diego Association of Governments. Click [HERE](#) to read more. Our condolences to her

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)

[REGIONS360](#)

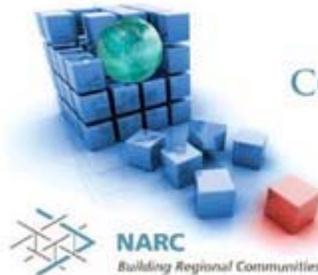
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

Please note our new address:

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305

Washington, DC 20002

The phone and fax numbers have not changed.



2011 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2011

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

The agenda has been updated! You're invited to join local elected officials, Councils of Government and Metropolitan Planning Organizations from around the country at the 2011 National Conference of Regions - *Renewing the Regional Commitment*. Click [HERE](#) to access the current draft agenda; click [HERE](#) to register or contact Lindsey Riley at lindsey@narc.org or 202.986.1032 x220 for more information.

family.

Our thoughts are also with Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and the victims of the shooting in Tucson, AZ late last week.

I presented at the Development Districts Association of Appalachia (DDAA) meeting yesterday and today. It was a pleasure to be invited and we look forward to continuing to work with the members of DDAA.

And finally, we're five weeks away from the 2011 National Conference of Regions. The agenda is packed and all committee sessions have been finalized. Click [HERE](#) to access the agenda – and if you haven't already register, please do so soon.

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman
Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis
Policy Manager

Sylvia Bryant
Office Manager

Naomi Friedman

Hotel reservations: If you haven't already done so, please make your hotel reservations this week. The deadline for our guaranteed room rate is Saturday, January 15th. Click [HERE](#) to make your reservation online.

PROGRAMUPDATE

EDA Grantees Develop Online Data and Tools for Regional Economic Development: The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grantees from Indiana University and Purdue University developed the Innovation in American Regions website that provides detailed, county-level data and a set of analysis tools regional leaders can use to assess their region's industry clusters, human capital and capacity to innovate. Click [HERE](#) to access the tool.

President Signs America COMPETES Act: Last week President Obama signed the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (COMPETES) Reauthorization Act of 2010, which reauthorizes programs intended to strengthen research and education related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics in the U.S. The Act includes funding for the [Advanced Research Projects Agency Energy](#) (APRA-E); provides federal agencies with the authority to conduct prize competitions like those on [Challenge.gov](#); formally establishes the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Department of Commerce; and supports the U.S. EDA's Jobs and Innovation Partnership. Click [HERE](#) to read the Act.

POLICYUPDATE

Due to this weekend's shooting in Arizona, House Republicans postponed all legislative action.

The Senate is in recess until January 25.

Some Members Examine Strategies for Negating EPA's Greenhouse Gas Regulations: Last week, House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) was on Fox News detailing that the House Republicans may exercise the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to negate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) greenhouse gas (GHG) regulations that recently went into effect. The CRA would allow Congress to pass a "resolution of disapproval" to eliminate new regulations, and it

Project Director

[Jenee Kresge](#)

Program Analyst

[Lindsey Riley](#)

Member Services

Manager

[Erika Young](#)

Transportation Director

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

Make NARC your homepage — [click here to learn how.](#)

provides that the resolution can pass the Senate with a simple majority. Many Republicans believe that this would be able to withstand a Presidential veto.

Also, Senator Rockefeller (D-WV), Chairman of the Commerce Committee, plans to try again for a two-year moratorium on U.S. EPA greenhouse gas regulations for electrical utilities, manufacturing plants and other facilities. Rockefeller attempted the same effort last Congress. Senator Barbara Murkowski (R-AK) is currently the sole Senate co-sponsor. Passing a bill like this would eliminate EPA's authority to use the Clean Air Act as a way to address climate change without passing federal climate change legislation. Other Senators have indicated interest in attaching prohibitive language to EPA funds for the above mentioned efforts to an appropriations bill. New Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) has a different strategy - introduce legislation requiring all agency regulations to expire within six months unless Congress votes to approve them, which would directly hit EPA GHG regulations.

President Signs Legislation Clarifying Federal Responsibility in Paying

Stormwater Fees: On January 4, 2011, President Obama signed [legislation](#), titled "A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Federal responsibility for stormwater pollution." This bill, passed in the lame duck session of the 111th Congress, clarifies the responsibility of the Federal government to pay fees related to the collection and treatment of stormwater runoff. The law addresses a recent reporting by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), who claimed that a stormwater fee imposed by the District of Columbia was a tax. This claim allowed the Federal government to avoid payment of stormwater fees under sovereign immunity.

House Adopts Rules Package, Including Transportation Legislation

Consideration: On Tuesday, January 5, 2011, the House adopted a self-binding package of rules that govern how the Chamber will take up legislation. This includes a change to how transportation legislation is considered that makes it easier for Members of the House to change the level of spending in the surface transportation authorization. For additional information on the background and potential consequences of this action, click [HERE](#).

Nuclear Energy Institute Launches Online Congressional Resource

Guide: In welcoming the 112th Congress, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) launched a new Online Resource Guide, which is designed to help Members and Congressional staff gather information and make informed decisions on nuclear energy policies in real time. It provides an overview of nuclear energy, along with in-depth information on a variety of topics. Click [HERE](#) to

access the site.

REGIONS360

Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission Highlighted for Regional Approach to Emergency Communications: Click [HERE](#) to access the article.

Regional Excellence: A Vision for the 2011 State of the Union: Former NARC Executive Director Bill Dodge authors this column and can be reached at WilliamRDodge@aol.com. Click [HERE](#) to access the column.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Wallace Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development (HUFED) Center –
Deadline for LOI: January 14, 2011

The HUFED Center supports greater access to healthy affordable food in communities across the country by providing grants and technical assistance for enterprise development and focus on getting more healthy food into communities. Implementation grants are available for nonprofit organizations to complete feasibility studies, as well as small and large enterprise projects. Additional information on the grants is available [here](#) and a [special outreach webinar for interested applicants](#) is scheduled for January 5, 2011.

U.S. EPA Accepting Applications for Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training –
Deadline: January 14, 2011

The U.S. EPA is accepting funding proposals to deliver environmental workforce development and job training programs focused on hazardous and solid waste management, assessment, and cleanup associated activities. These grants are to recruit, train, and place, unemployed and under-employed, predominantly low-income and minority, residents affected by hazardous and solid waste sites and facilities with the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in the environmental field and in the assessment and cleanup work. EPA has available \$4 million to award approximately 13 cooperative agreements. Eligible entities: local governments, government entity created through state legislature, Regional Council or group of local governments, redevelopment agency, Indian tribe, land clearance authority, and non-profit organizations. Click [HERE](#) for the application guidelines. Click [HERE](#) for more information on brownfields

funding opportunities.

U.S. EPA Accepting Applications for SmartWay Program – Deadline:
February 10, 2011

The U.S. EPA's SmartWay Program and National Clean Diesel Campaign are announcing the availability of funding assistance to create finance programs, such as low-cost leases or revolving loan programs, to achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions throughout the United States. The SmartWay Finance Program is soliciting proposals for projects that reduce diesel emissions through the creation of national, tribal, regional, state or local finance program(s). Finance programs include, but are not limited to, those that provide the loan recipient a specific financial incentive (i.e., longer terms or lower rates) to purchase or lease eligible retrofitted vehicles or equipment. The proposed finance program should maximize the total project funds available for financing eligible diesel emission reduction solutions and be sustainable to maintain the program. Eligible entities include regional, state, local, or tribal agencies or port authorities with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality, and certain non-profit organizations and institutions.

U.S. HUD to Award \$25 Million through New Rural Innovation Fund –
Deadline: February 23, 2011

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) **announced** that \$25,750,000 will be available for grants made through the Rural Innovation Fund (RIF). RIF replaces HUD's former Rural Housing and Economic Development Program, and will award grants on a competitive basis to state housing finance agencies, community development corporations, state community and/or economic development agencies, local rural non-profit organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes and consortia of these eligible groups. Successful grant applications will propose new and innovative solutions to poor housing conditions and concentrated poverty in rural and tribal areas. HUD is particularly interested in proposals that incorporate an "entrepreneurial approach" to addressing these problems. Eligible housing and economic development activities include: Commissioning architectural and engineering plans; Construction of innovative new housing units; Demolition and/or rehabilitation of existing housing units to increase sustainability and/or energy efficiency; Land acquisition; Homeownership counseling Revolving loan programs and microlending programs to establish or grow local businesses and create jobs; and, Direct financial assistance in the form of grants, loans and funding for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) for affordable housing, entrepreneurship and economic development leading to job opportunities. Additional information is available by clicking **[HERE](#)**.

FY11 Environmental Workforce Development Grants Available: *Deadline: March 18, 2011*

The U.S. EPA recently announced the availability of \$4 million to fund approximately 13 awards of up to \$300,000 each. Regional councils are specifically named as eligible applicants for the awards, which will support the delivery of environmental workforce development and job training programs focused on hazardous and solid waste management, assessment and cleanup-associated activities. Additional information is available [HERE](#) or at www.grants.gov.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Greenroads™: NARC Webinar

January 11, 2011, 12 - 2 pm ET, Webinar: The Greenroads rating system is a collection of sustainable roadway design and construction best practices. Each metric describes a particular sustainable practice and assigns a point value according to its impact on roadway sustainability. Project owners can use this system to define what project attributes contribute to roadway sustainability, provide a sustainability accounting tool for roadway projects, communicate sustainable project attributes to stakeholders, manage and improve roadway sustainability and grant “certification” based on achieving a minimum number of points. Click [HERE](#) To register.

10th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference

February 3-5, 2011, Charlotte, NC: Today, more than ever, we are faced with environmental and economic challenges that will define our generation, shape our future, and test our resilience as cities, regions, states and a nation. Join leaders from across the U.S. as we tackle these challenges head-on and demonstrate smart growth solutions that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil, create a green economy, assure a healthy population, and expand transportation and housing options for all Americans. There will be something for everybody, from veteran experts to smart-growth novices, with nearly 90 sessions and workshops. Plan to join us, and others, from across the U.S. for the smart growth event of the year! Visit www.NewPartners.org to get more details.

2011 Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference

February 8-10, 2011, Washington, DC: NARC and its *Pathways Out of Poverty* project team will present a workshop on February 8th on the importance of partnerships in regional workforce and economic development

programs, entitled "Partnerships and Pathways: Keys to Success in Regional Green Jobs Training and Placement." The 2011 Conference is the leading forum for sharing ideas and strategies for building a green economy that creates good jobs, reduces global warming and other environmental problems, and secures America's economic and environmental future. Click [here](#) for a full conference agenda and registration information.

2011 National Conference of Regions

February 13-15, 2011, Washington, DC: NARC will host its 2011 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 register for the conference.

2011 Green Infrastructure Conference

February 23-25, 2011, Shepherdstown, WV: The Conservation Fund and its partners will host speakers from across the country to discuss key elements for success and vital lessons-learned. Featured topics include green infrastructure and public health, social equity, transportation, economic development, climate change and more. For more information please click [here](#).

2011 National Brownfields Conference

April 3-5, 2011, Philadelphia, PA: What began as a response to an overwhelming brownfields concern has become one of the largest environmental conferences in the United States. A partnership between the U.S. EPA and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) has developed the National Brownfields Conference into the premier international forum focused on redeveloping America's brownfield properties and promoting environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. Registration is free; visit www.brownfields2011.org for more details.

We are sending you this email primarily for your information, to meet your needs, further our valued relationship and because you requested to receive electronic newsletters from the National Association of Regional Councils. Please forward as appropriate.

[Unsubscribe](#) lindsey@narc.org from this list.

Our mailing address is:
National Association of Regional Councils
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305
Washington, DC 20002

[Add us to your address book](#)

Copyright (C) 2011 National Association of Regional Councils All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend
[Update your profile](#)

