

### **NARCLEADERSHIP**

**President Stephen Cassano**,  
Selectman,

Town of Manchester, CT

**Chair Anthony Reams**,  
Executive Directors Council  
President, Toledo Metropolitan  
Area Council of Governments

### **EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

Colleagues,

After completion of a successful National Conference of Regions, NARC immediately went into overdrive on White House meetings and requests. NARC members and executive directors David Warm (Mid-America Regional Council) and Sandy Seanor (Michiana Area Council of Governments) joined me for a briefing and dialog with Secretaries Donovan (HUD) and LaHood (DOT) on a Clean Energy Future held at the White House. We along with our partners from the states, local governments, NGOs and private sector participated in a discussion on Livable and Sustainable Communities and the path to a clean energy economy.

NARC was also proud to support the Development District Association of Appalachia conference that was held in Arlington, VA this week. The focus was on energy; it was nice to see so many of our members engaged in this new and exciting effort. It is also an honor to have the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Development Districts as partners.

This next week we will be at the White House event discussing the recently released HUD NOFA on comments for their new regional planning grants. NARC President

### ***NARC 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition***

*Cleveland, OH  
June 15-17, 2010*



The **National Association of Regional Councils** and the **Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency** will host the 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition. This conference is the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. You are invited to attend informative sessions on program, legislative and regulatory issues, share best practices, and network with your colleagues from around the country. Session topics will include:

- Freight, rural and urban air quality, developing regional safety programs, and finance;
- Coordination of homeland security funding from state administrators and planning for long term disaster recovery;
- Sustainable water and water quality, climate change, and energy;
- U.S. Census, healthcare, and planning for livable communities;
- Crisis management and the role of the Public Information Officer; and
- Sessions on social media training, GIS metadata planning and international partnerships, among others.

*Detailed information will be available in the coming week about the NARC Awards and Elections for the Board of Directors and Executive Directors Council.*

Early-bird registration is open through Wednesday, March 31, 2010.  
Click [HERE](#) to access the conference website and registration information.

### **NARC PROGRAM**

**Is your regional council planning for your regional food network?** If you have or are developing a program that involves planning for your region's food production and supply, please complete the short survey found [here](#). NARC is working to support our members in their work in regional food network planning and implementation programs and we need your assistance in surveying the programs that currently exist across the country, in order to better represent our members' needs for support in this area. For more information on NARC's work in regional food network planning, or with any questions about the [survey](#), please contact Jenee Kresge at [jenee@NARC.org](mailto:jenee@NARC.org) or 202.986.1032 x215.

**NAAQS Ozone Conference Call:** NARC has confirmed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) participation in a conference call to address the NAAQS Ozone proposed changes, and the proposed changes to the secondary standard as they related to

new regional planning grants. NARC President Stephen Cassano, President Elect Jim Townsend, Board Member Dave Danielson and Immediate Past Chair Jim Reed will be in DC attending this discussion along with our local government partners.

NARC will be submitting comments for HUD's public comment request on their new Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program. Comments are due on Friday, March 12th. Please send any comments that your organization plans to submit, or ideas you would like us to include, to me at [fred@NARC.org](mailto:fred@NARC.org).

Thank you again for your participation and we look forward to seeing you again soon—

Best,  
Fred

#### **NARCSTAFF**

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participation in a conference call to address the NAAQS Ozone proposed changes, and the proposed changes to the secondary standard as they related to transportation conformity. Please feel free to forward this invitation onto your member organizations and governments. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Erika Young at [erika@narc.org](mailto:erika@narc.org) or 202.986.1032 x212.

Tuesday, March 9, 2010 • 3:30pm-4:30pm, EST

Call in: 1.866.228.9900 • Passcode: 764635

#### **NARC Participates in ICLEI Webinar on HUD Regional Planning Grant**

**Program:** On Thursday, NARC participated in a webinar hosted by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), along with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Green Initiatives for Enterprise Community Partners, and Policy Link. The webinar, which garnered nearly 400 participants, discussed the formation of HUD's upcoming \$100 million Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program, informing how local governments and other entities involved in regional planning can take full advantage of the open public comment period. A recording of the webinar is available by clicking [HERE](#) and the HUD [Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities website](#).

**EPA Releases National Water Program Research Strategy:** EPA announced on March 3 the release of its [National Water Program Research Strategy](#), which identifies four priority themes: Healthy Watersheds and Coastal Waters; Safe Drinking Water; Sustainable Water Infrastructure; and, Water Security. Within each theme, the research needs are categorized into the following areas: aquatic health effects, human health effects, occurrence and exposure, methods development, and treatment technologies and effectiveness.

#### **EPA Accepting Applications for National Award for Smart Growth**

**Achievement:** Applications are now being accepted for the 2010 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement. This competition is open to public- and private-sector entities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially, and economically. The application period is open from February 8, 2010 to April 5, 2010. Up to five awards will be given in the following categories: Programs, Policies, and Regulations; Smart Growth and Green Building; Civic Places; Rural Smart Growth; and, Overall Excellence. Eligible candidates are invited to submit an [application for the 2010 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement using the official award guidelines and entry rules \(DOC\)](#). NARC encourages members to submit applications to showcase the innovative and notable work regions are doing in smart growth.

**U.S. DOT's Tribal Consultation Plan Released:** The U.S. Department of Transportation has released its Tribal Consultation Plan developed pursuant to the Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation issues on November 5, 2009. Click [HERE](#) to access more information.

## **NARCPOLICY**

**Jobs Legislation Passes House:** On March 4, the U.S. House of Representatives, by a vote of 217-201, passed an amended \$15 billion jobs bill (HR 2847), the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act, after days of negotiations. The bill is an amended version of the Senate's jobs tax package, which passed with a vote of 70-28, and includes an extension of the Highway Trust Fund through December 31, 2010, and transfers \$20 billion from the General Treasury and to the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), as the HTF is estimated to run short of funds in June. The bill also restores \$8.7 billion that was rescinded in SAFETEA-LU. The bill includes several tax and financial incentives, such as payroll tax exemptions; bonuses for keeping employees long term; increased tax write offs for small business expensing; and school construction, energy conservation and

SAFE TEA-LU. The bill includes several tax and financial incentives, such as payroll tax exemptions; bonuses for keeping employees long term; increased tax write offs for small business expensing; and, school construction, energy conservation and renewable energy bonds. Democrats are indicating that the final bill is fully offset and will be paid for in ten years. HR 2847 must now go back to the Senate for another vote before it can go to President Obama to be signed into law. Meanwhile, the Senate has begun to move forward with a \$150 billion jobs bill that will be the second phase of job creation legislation. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) plans to move a series of smaller jobs bills which combined are meant to tackle the nearly ten percent unemployment rates in the country.

**Clean Estuary Program Reauthorization Approved by House Committee; Funding Increased:** On March 3, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved legislation to reauthorize the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Estuary Program with increased funding for grants and measures to ensure program accountability. The Clean Estuaries Act of 2010 ([H.R. 4715](#)), introduced March 2 by Congressman Bishop (D-NY), would reauthorize Section 320 of the Clean Water Act through fiscal 2016 and increase the authorization of funding for comprehensive conservation and management plan implementation grants from \$35 million annually to \$50 million annually. Under Section 320 of the act, each approved estuary under the program must develop a comprehensive conservation and management plan. The bill would require each approved estuary program be evaluated every four years to determine whether it is meeting the objectives of its plan.

**Bills Introduced to Address Greenhouse Gas Regulation:** Both chambers of Congress have introduced bills (S 3072 and HR 4753) to delay the regulation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for two years, buying time for Congress to address GHG reduction through legislation. Many believe these bills were done in an effort to prevent the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from regulating emissions through other means, such as last year's Endangerment Finding. In fact, Republicans in both chambers have introduced resolutions that would remove the EPA's power to regulate greenhouse gases.

**Mayors Discuss Improvements to Addressing Disasters in Cities:** This week a group of mayors testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. Specific city issues and experiences were discussed as it pertained to a recently released report released by the United States Conference of Mayors regarding their proposals on changes to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) within programs, policies, and regulations. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the hearing and the various mayoral testimonies.

## **PARTNERUPDATES**

**The APCO Institute Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Program. Comprehensive. Customized. Cost-Effective:** The public expects 9-1-1 telecommunicators to be prepared for the unexpected. **Are yours?** Give your staff the essential tool for effective response to critical situations—The [APCO Institute Emergency Medical Dispatch Program](#). With in person and online training opportunities, your personnel will be certified to present the EMD course within your agency and begin using customized EMD Guidecards and/or APCO's customized software program. Click [HERE](#) to learn more. at: For questions, contact: APCO Institute at [institute@apco911.org](mailto:institute@apco911.org) or call (888) 272-6911.



## **GRANTOPPORTUNITIES**

**NACo now accepting applications for coastal county initiative grants:** *Deadline: March 29, 2010.* The Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative (CCRI) program, a partnership between the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be accepting applications for the 2010 round of funding. CCRI will provide between \$50,000-\$100,000 to improve stream, river, estuarine and other important marine habitats, and remove barriers such as dams and culverts for fish migration and passage. For more information, please click [HERE](#).

**EPA Accepting Applications for National Award for Smart Growth Achievement and for Smart Growth Implementation Assistance:** *Deadline: April 5, 2010:* The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now accepting applications for the 2010 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement. This competition is open to public- and private-sector entities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially and economically. For more information about the award program and how to apply, click [HERE](#).

**EPA Accepting Letters of Interest for the 2010 Round of the Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program.** *Deadline: April 9, 2010.* EPA, with the assistance of HUD and DOT, is offering direct technical assistance from national experts to communities, tribes, regions, and states that want to incorporate smart growth techniques in their development. EPA is also interested in identifying and documenting innovative solutions to complex problems faced by communities as they seek to incorporate smart growth practices. Letters of interest are due by 3:00 pm April 9, 2010. EPA expects to select up to 4 applicants for assistance this year. For more information about the 2010 application process, click [HERE](#).

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**EDA Announces Available Grant Funding:** *Deadline: April 20, 2010.* EDA's Community Trade Adjustment Assistance (Community TAA) Program, which was created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), is aimed at helping to create and retain jobs by providing project grants to communities that have experienced, or are threatened by, job loss resulting from international trade impacts. A total of \$37 million is available for grants to support a wide range of technical, planning, and infrastructure projects to help communities adapt to pressing trade impact issues and diversify their economies. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the program.

**USDA Seeks Project Proposals to Improve Water Quality in Mississippi River Basin:** *Deadline: May 1, 2010.* U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking project proposals that will improve water quality and the overall health of the Mississippi River in 41 eligible watersheds in 12 states. The [Request for Proposals](#) (RFP) for the [Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative](#), through which up to \$75 million will be available for partnership projects, was published in the [March 2 Federal Register](#). The RFP explains the procedures for potential partners to sign agreements with USDA for projects that meet with the initiative's objectives. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will administer this initiative, first announced on September 24, 2009. Forty-one eligible watersheds or focus areas in the following 12 states—Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin—were selected to participate in this initiative. Smaller watersheds within the initial 41 will be selected for approved partnership projects based on their potential for managing nitrogen and phosphorus—nutrients associated with impaired water quality in the Mississippi River Basin—while maintaining agricultural productivity and benefiting wildlife. Individual producers can only participate in this initiative in approved partnership projects. USDA will use a competitive process to distribute up to \$75 million using two conservation programs in fiscal year 2010, the initiative's first year. Up to \$50 million will come from the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative ([CCPI](#)) and an additional \$25 million from the Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program ([WREP](#)). USDA expects to provide about \$320 million in financial assistance over four years for voluntary conservation projects in these watersheds.

**Energy Efficient Building Systems Regional Innovation Cluster Initiative:** *Deadline: May 6, 2010.* The Obama Administration today announced a multi-agency initiative to spur regional economic growth while making buildings more energy efficient. Seven federal agencies issued a combined Funding Opportunity Announcement of up to \$129.7 million over five years to create a regional research center that will develop new building efficiency technologies and work with local partners to implement the technologies in area buildings. Additional details and a link to the announcement are available by clicking [HERE](#).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**March 8, Conference Call, 2:00-3:00pm ET:** The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) will be hosting a national conference call to discuss the new Trade Adjustment Assistance for Communities (TAA for Communities) program. Bryan Borlik, Director of EDA's Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms program, will provide an update on the agency's revised program information, including updates to lists of communities and firms. Participants are encouraged to download and view the updated list of program materials, including modified list of communities and firms, which can be found [HERE](#). Dial in information: 1 (866) 436-9172 / Confirmation Number: 26546032.

**March 8, Listening Tour and Webcast Session, 1:00-3:00pm ET, Hartford, CT:** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is hosting a *Sustainable Housing and Communities Listening Tour and Webcast Session*. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

**March 9, Conference Call, 3:30-4:00pm ET:** NARC has confirmed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) participation in a conference call to address the NAAQS Ozone proposed changes, and the proposed changes to the secondary standard as they related to transportation conformity. Please feel free to forward this invitation onto your member organizations and governments. Call in: 1.866.228.9900 • Passcode: 764635

**March 9 and 11, Listening Tour and Webcast Session, 1:00-2:00pm ET, Washington, DC:** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is hosting a *Sustainable Housing and Communities Listening Tour and Webcast Session*. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

**March 10, Listening Tour, 10:30am-12:00pm ET, Cleveland, OH:** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is hosting a *Sustainable Housing and Communities Listening Tour and Webcast Session*. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

**March 23, Webconference, 1:00-2:30pm ET:** The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) will host a

**March 23, Webconference, 1:00-2:30pm ET:** The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) will host a webconference titled *Local Government Collaboration: Success Stories and Lessons Learned*. Shared service arrangements bring local governments an opportunity for cost cutting and improving services. Collaboration is a way of working more effectively—especially for smaller cities and counties. This event will feature the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, the Green River Area Development District and the North Central Texas Council of Governments, and how local government collaborations helped to make the participating jurisdictions stronger and better able to provide services to the community. Additional details are available [HERE](#) and registration information is available by clicking [HERE](#).

**March 29 and March 30, Washington, DC, 9:00am-12:00pm and 1:00-4:00pm:** ICMA will host *Ethics at Work* workshop. Based on the core values of public service, these three hour sessions are designed for local government managers and supervisors, and will provide the strategies and tools needed to foster an ethical organization. The workshop will provide skills to introduce and put to work ethics principles within your organization. Begin the work to establish an ethical culture today by registering online, [HERE](#).

**April 8, Webconference, 1:00-2:30pm ET:** The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) will host a webconference titled *Let's Talk: Getting Citizens Involved in Tough Budget Choices*. This webconference will discuss how you can successfully involve citizens in making budget decisions, especially on really tough choices on service delivery. Discover how Washoe County, Nevada, launched two citizen-involved processes around budgeting—one to establish criteria that were used to prioritize services, and one to establish budget policies. Additional details are available [HERE](#) and registration information is available by clicking [HERE](#).

**June 15-17, Cleveland, OH:** Save the date! NARC and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency will host the 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition. Registration and a draft agenda will be available next week. Full conference details will be available on the conference website, available by clicking [HERE](#).

BUILDING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES – LARGE, SMALL, URBAN AND RURAL – THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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