

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,

It was an honor to attend at the request of The White House a round table to address the needs of rural and suburban communities in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's new Sustainable Communities Grant program (additional information below).

We also completed a series of meetings this week with the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Department of Agriculture on creating and managing food networks. This is a growing area regions are getting involved and we believe there are opportunities for funding and programs at the regional level. Please complete our [brief online survey](#) if your organization is planning for a regional food network.

The 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition in Cleveland is shaping up nicely and we look forward to seeing all of you there. Early-bird registration is open. We will be sending out 2010 NARC Award and Election information next week so please look for it in your inbox. This year, we've added a new award in honor of our colleague David Soule. If you or someone you know has excelled in academics related to education or research in, or at, the regional level please consider a nomination.

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. 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.

[NARC 2010 NARC Achievement and Leadership Award Information](#): Hurry—the deadline to submit is April 15, 2010!

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

Board of Director and Executive Directors Council election information will be available soon!

NARC PROGRAM

NAAQS Ozone Conference Call: NARC conducted a successful discussion with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the proposed National Ambient Air Quality Standards: Ozone Rulemaking. This discussion focused on the formation of the proposed secondary standard and the relationship between two potentially different standards, and their relationship to transportation conformity. The call included participants from metropolitan planning organizations, councils of government, consultants, National Governors Association, U.S. EPA, U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration and is part of a larger effort by NARC to engage the regional planning and local elected community in a discussion on important air quality issues. For more information, contact Erika Young at, erika@narc.org.

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

please consider a nomination.

We look forward to seeing you again soon—

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

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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 or 202.986.1032 x215.

NARC GIS User Group: NARC has created a NARC GIS User Group for GIS managers and technicians. The purpose of the group is to collaborate with other GIS managers and technicians from regional planning organizations across the country to open a dialogue and share information among one another. This group is open to all individuals, but focused on those GIS managers and technicians. If you are interested in learning more or joining, please contact Jenee Kresge, jenee@narc.org.

NARCPOLICY

NARC Leadership Attends White House Roundtable: On March 9th NARC President Selectman Stephen Cassano, President Elect Judge James Townsend, Board Member Commissioner David Danielson, and EDC Past Chair and Executive Director Jim Reed (Central Texas Council of Governments) attended and presented at a White House roundtable on Livable Communities. Board Member Danielson specifically addressed at White House request the recent U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) release for comments on their new livable community grant program. Commissioner Danielson focused on the "under 500,000 population" threshold in HUD's grant program and how to package a series of opportunities to address rural and suburban needs.

NARC Submits Comments on HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program: In response to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's [Advance Notice of Funding Availability for its Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program](#), NARC submitted comments, available [HERE](#). Additional information about the proposed grant program and NARC's related activities is available [HERE](#). NARC's submission are a synthesis of comments from members – urban and rural large and small.

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 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

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](#).

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 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 a *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

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](#).

May 26-27, Washington, DC: The Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors will hold their 2010 Annual Meeting. Registration is free and open to non-members, but you must RSVP to Adrienne Gildea at agildea@blakey-agnew.com.

June 15-17, Cleveland, OH: Early-bird registration ends on March 31st! NARC and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency will host the 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition. 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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