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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

"Is the Traditional Office Becoming Extinct?" asks Jessica Stillman on Gigaom Press. Decidedly yes is the response from an expert panel including Bob Gaudreau, Executive Vice President of Regus and

Register Today!

Join your colleagues from around the country at the largest event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education - NARC's 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition. Click [HERE](#) to register or access the current draft agenda. Contact Lindsey Riley at lindsey@narc.org or 202.986.1032 x220 for more information.

Annual Membership Meeting: The Annual Business Meeting and Elections will be held on Wednesday, June 15. *Only NARC members of current standing may vote.* Please email or fax Mia Colson, mia@narc.org, a Voting Delegates form. Click [HERE](#) to access a copy of the form.

Philip Ross, Chief Executive Officer of Unwired. The reason the office is changing is space and cost – business needs less of both. Are these lessons and trends in our offices? This article comes from a new web application called *Flipboard* which aggregates news and information for phones and tablets. The point being – not only is our physical space changing, but the way we do business and collect information is as well. All of this leads to continued discussion with our members on the changing state of business practice.

These and other topics are being explored at our upcoming Annual Conference in San Diego. See you there!

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

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Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

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Mia Colson

PROGRAMUPDATE

NARC Survey on Regional Experiences in Federal Emergency Grants:

The National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) is working on a report for Congress with recommendations on the effectiveness of grants administered by the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), namely the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSG) and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). To best assist NAPA in their assessment and provide the regional perspective, NARC respectfully requests members fill out a brief online survey that poses questions important to NAPA's effort. Click [HERE](#) to access the survey.

New England States Coordinate Security Response Planning: Click [HERE](#) to read an article in *Emergency Management* that details how Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Massachusetts are coordinating funding and plans for responding to disruptions in services due to cyber-attacks or natural disasters that affect computer systems.

HUD Releases Block Grant Allocations for FY2011: Last week, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the Fiscal Year 2011 block grant allocations under the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) and the Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESG), totaling \$5.4 billion. HUD's FY11 formula-based block grant programs will be funded at \$3.3 billion for CDBG, \$1.6 billion for HOME, \$298 million for HOPWA and \$160 million for ESG. These reductions passed in the FY2011 Continuing Resolution reduced CDBG funding by 16.5 percent and HOME funding by 11.7 percent. Additional information including allocations by community is available [HERE](#).

POLICYUPDATE

The House is in session; the Senate is out of session all week.

House Republicans Pushing to Move FY12 Appropriations Bills: House Republicans continue to work on the 12 FY12 appropriations bills with floor votes to be done first on spending for homeland security, military construction and veterans' programs. Republican appropriators are aiming to

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reduce FY12 spending by \$30.4 billion. This week House appropriators have scheduled the following for debate:

- Today, Tuesday, May 31 – Agriculture (\$17.3B) by the full House Appropriations Committee
- Begin Wednesday, June 1 - Homeland Security (HR 2017; H Rept 112-91) (\$40.6B) by the House floor
- After passage of Homeland Security bill – Military Construction-Veterans Affairs (\$72.5B) by the House floor
- Wednesday, June 1 – Defense (\$530B) by the House Appropriations Subcommittee
- Thursday, June 2 – Energy-Water (\$30.6B) by House Appropriations Subcommittee
- Thursday, June 2 – Legislative Branch (\$4.3B) by House Appropriations Subcommittee

House to Take Up Debt Limit: This week the House is expected to take up a vote on increasing the nation's debt limit (HR 1954) by \$2.4 trillion. Republicans have been quoted as saying that any increase in the debt limit would be accompanied by significant spending cuts. Additionally, President Obama will host House Republican and Democratic leaders this week at the White House to discuss debt reduction. August 2 is the deadline when the Treasury Department says the debt limit must be increased. Click [HERE](#) to read an article about how states and local governments are feeling the pinch of the debt limit.

FEMA May Deplete Disaster Relief Fund: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has \$2.4 billion in its Disaster Relief Fund through September 30, 2011 and is seeking \$1.8 billion for the new fiscal year (FY12) that begins October 1, 2011. This fund pays for "life-saving and life-sustaining efforts" in heavily damaged areas by helping people get food, shelter and clothing. If the disaster fund dips below \$1 billion, FEMA will stop approving rebuilding projects until the fund is replenished. Click [HERE](#) to read an article with additional information.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Health Impact Project

Deadline: June 1, 2011

The Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson

Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, is accepting brief proposals through June 1, 2011 for grants to conduct health impact assessments (HIAs). The funding will enable awardees to develop an HIA, which is a study that can help policy makers and community members identify and address the potential, and often-overlooked, health implications of proposed policies and projects in a broad range of sectors, such as agriculture, energy, transportation and development. The Health Impact Project will fund up to eight HIAs to identify how policy proposals will impact health at the local, tribal or state levels. Grants will range from \$25,000 to \$125,000 and will support government agencies, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

ClimateWise Project

Deadline: June 10, 2011

The Geos Institute has pioneered a process called ClimateWise that offers community-based climate change planning services to communities across the nation. Working with local governments and regional planning organizations, the Geos Institute is seeking new partners for the next focal region where the process will be implemented. If you are interested in partnering with the Geos Institute, click [HERE](#) to review the Request for Partnerships or [HERE](#) for additional information about the Geos Institute.

EDA, ETA and SBA Announce Funds for Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge

LOI Deadline: June 10, 2011; Application Deadline: July 7, 2011

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) for the Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge (Jobs Accelerator), which will fund regions to address gaps and opportunities for high-potential industry clusters. Funds can be used for commercialization, business formation and expansion, job creation, and exports. The Jobs Accelerator technical resources from 16 federal agencies and \$33 million in funding, with individual awards from \$1.5-2.2 million plus required matching funds. Awards are made to an organization or team eligible for three unique activities, each funded partially by EDA, ETA and SBA, supporting a single regional cluster. Access the FFO [HERE](#), additional information [HERE](#), or register for a webinar for potential applicants on June 7, 2011 at 3:30pm [HERE](#).

Clean Cities Community Readiness and Planning for Plug-in Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure

Deadline: June 13, 2011

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory is soliciting projects emphasizing the development of local and regional plug-in electric vehicle and charging infrastructure for their Clean Cities Community Readiness and Planning for Plug-in Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure project. The U.S. DOE is interested in exploring ways that will prepare communities for successful deployment and implementation of plug-in electric drive vehicles. Projects should include policy implementation and planning elements that support the deployment of plug-in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure on the local and regional level. Plans must also address infrastructure deployment for light, medium and/or heavy duty plug-in electric vehicles (including extended range electric vehicles). Overall, the U.S. DOE hopes this effort will help to decrease the nation's dependence on petroleum and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by accelerating the deployment of plug-in electric drive vehicles and electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE). The U.S. DOE will award 10-15 awards ranging from \$250,000-\$500,000. More information is available [HERE](#).

The Kodak American Greenways Grant Program

Deadline: June 15, 2011

The Eastman Kodak Company, The Conservation Fund and the National Geographic Society have announced the release of their 2011 Greenways Awards. Each year a Greenway Award is presented to land trusts, local governments, and other organizations that are growing our nation's networks of greenways, blueways, trails and natural areas. These projects connect Americans to the outdoors and their heritage. Funded projects typically advance one or more of the program goals, including catalyzing new greenway projects; assisting grassroots greenway organizations; leveraging additional money for conservation and greenway development; and promoting use and enjoyment of greenways. Award amounts range from \$500 to \$2,500. The full grant announcement is available [HERE](#).

EDA University Center Competition

Deadline: June 30, 2011

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced its FY 2011 University Center Economic Development Program competition to promote bottom-up regional strategies that help foster business expansion and job creation in EDA's Chicago and Philadelphia regions. Accredited institutions or consortium of higher education, including community colleges, are eligible to apply for funding. The U.S. EDA will award \$1.1 million in the Chicago region and \$1.4 million in the Philadelphia region. Additional information is available [HERE](#).

Healthy Food Financing Initiative Funding Opportunity Announced.

Deadline: July 11, 2011

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI), funded at up to \$10 million for FY2011, will support projects located in food deserts and designed to improve access to healthy foods by developing grocery stores and other retailers. HFFI awards will be funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) via its Community Economic Development program to provide resources from HHS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Treasury. Awards will be made to community development corporations (CDCs) for up to \$800,000 each. Additional information and application instructions are available [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

International Trade Administration Conference Call: Attracting Investment to Your Region

June 1, 2011, 4:00pm ET, Conference Call: The U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) will host a conference call to help communities and regions across the country develop strategies to attract Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) to their jurisdictions. Experts on FDI – including Craig Allen, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia in the Market Access and Compliance branch of DOC's International Trade Administration (ITA), and Christopher Clement, International Investment Specialist at Invest in America, U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service at ITA – will discuss trends and opportunities. Join the call by dialing 1-888-560-8501 and using passcode 1137829. Please RSVP to Christopher.clement@trade.gov by Tuesday, May 31st if you plan to participate in the call.

Transforming Local Government Conference

June 1-3, 2011, Clearwater, FL: Making Magic: How BOLD Can Local Government Be? The Alliance for Innovation's Transforming Local Government (TLG) Conference is different from any other conference you'll attend. At TLG, you'll learn about some of the most innovative programs in the country directly from the teams that created them. This year, TLG takes place in conjunction with the Florida City/County Management Association Annual Conference. The joint event will attract participation from local governments that seek new and innovative ways to connect people, information, and ideas to become some of the best places to live, grow, work, play, and prosper. Recognized for its dynamic content, the TLG format encourages team building and free thinking and fosters the generation of

unprecedented ideas, all within a relaxed and professional networking and learning environment. Visit the conference website by clicking [HERE](#); a full program, registration and hotel information is available.

NARC's 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 13-15, 2011, San Diego, CA: Join us for the the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. NARC's annual conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

**Rescheduled: International Trade Administration Conference Call:
Attracting Investment to Your Region**

Wednesday, June 15, 2011, 3:00pm ET

Note that the call described in last week's eRegions has been moved from June 1st to Wednesday, June 15th due to increased interest. Updated dial in and RSVP information is below. The U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) will host a conference call to help communities and regions across the country develop strategies to attract Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) to their jurisdictions. Experts on FDI – including Craig Allen, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia in the Market Access and Compliance branch of DOC's International Trade Administration (ITA), and Christopher Clement, International Investment Specialist at Invest in America, U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service at ITA – will discuss trends and opportunities. Join the call by dialing 1-800-369-1157 and using passcode 9750925. Please RSVP to imartinez@eda.doc.gov with "RSVP" in the message body.

***NHI Innovations: Transportation and Natural Resource Planning
through Environmental GIS Tools***

June 16, 2011, 2:30 – 4:00 pm ET: Join the NHI for this innovative web conference and hear how Texas and Maryland are pioneering GIS planning approaches for transportation to improve environmental outcomes and enhance project delivery. In each state, early collaborative planning among transportation and natural resource planning agencies have produced ecosystem-based frameworks to guide transportation decisions. The web conference will detail the benefits of using GIS tools for transportation and natural resource planning, including data-driven decision support systems, early multi-agency integration and using the systems approach. To register click [HERE](#).

***Freight Community to Share Best Practices on Advocating for
Infrastructure Investment***

June 21-23, 2011, Savannah, GA: Members of various freight-related organizations will gather to share information and best practices on how to effectively communicate the value of transportation infrastructure investment to policymakers, influencers and the public. The American Association of Port Authorities is sponsoring this seminar on *Communicating the Importance of Infrastructure Investment*. Featured key note speakers will include Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, representing the Building America's Future coalition, who will address the topic of *Successfully Promoting the Infrastructure Investment Agenda*; as well as Former U.S. Senator Mack Francis Mattingly (R-GA 1981-87) who will address *Effectively Communicating with Key Legislators*. More information is available by clicking [HERE](#).

NLC's 19th Annual Leadership Summit

September 15 - 17, 2011, Minneapolis, MN: Join renowned leadership scholars and authors Dan Buettner, Lindsay Strand, John M. Bryson, Barbara C. Crosby, and John Luthy as you engage in a unique, reflective program that will help guide your work and leadership in local government. Insightful learning experiences will provide you the opportunity to reflect, recognize and discover what you can do to enhance your success as a local leader. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

2011 Executive Directors' Conference

September 18 - 21, 2011, Jacksonville, FL: 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 soon.

ICMA Annual Conference

September 18 - 21, 2011, Milwaukee, WI: Join ICMA for this informative, innovative, and engaging 4-day professional development conference from September 18-21 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where the spectacular Lake Michigan shoreline serves as an ideal setting for ICMA's 97th Annual Conference: *Fresh Ideas and Fresh Water*. When you're facing layoffs, hiring freezes, budget cuts, and less revenue, you need the tools, tips, information, and resources offered by a high-quality, professional development opportunity. That is why ICMA's 97th Annual Conference, the world's foremost event for local government managers and administrators, could be the most important professional development opportunity you participate in this year! Beginning June 1, you can reserve a hotel room and register online for [ICMA's 2011 Annual Conference](#). Visit <http://icma.org/conference2011> for details and registration info and view

the preliminary program [HERE](#).

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