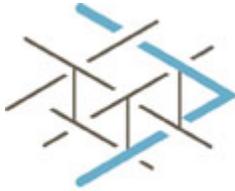


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

NARCLEADERSHIP

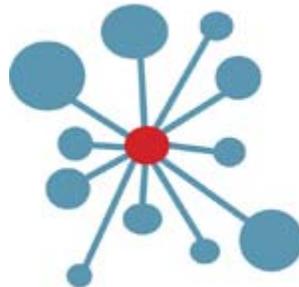
President Ron Morrison,
Mayor,
National City, CA
Chair Mark Policinski,
Executive Directors
Council
Executive Director,
Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana
Regional Council of
Governments

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

The good news from last week is that investors gobbled up U.S. securities at a steady rate, which made the S&P downgrade less relevant; and interest rates are at an all-time low, which is good for the housing market. In

[PROGRAMUPDATE](#) [POLICYUPDATE](#) [REGION360](#)
[PARTNER UPDATE](#) [GRANTOPPORTUNITIES](#)
[UPCOMINGEVENTS](#)



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executive directors' conference
september 18-21, 2011
jacksonville, fl

REGISTER TODAY!

Draft Agenda Is Now Available. Join the Northeast Florida Regional Council and NARC for the 2011 Executive Directors' Conference in Jacksonville, FL. Executive Directors and senior staff are invited to meet with experts, network with your colleagues and share best practices in management, programs, finance, budget, governance and other issues of importance to you. For more information, to access the agenda or to register for the event, click [HERE](#).

PROGRAMUPDATE

Federal Partnership to Improve Drinking Water Systems and Develop

addition, the Joint Deficit Reduction Committee that was constituted under the Debt Ceiling compromise has been fully assigned. However, there are issues of concern for our organizations because of the composition of the Committee.

The major Federal programs you administer are not well represented. Click [HERE](#) to access NARC's draft analysis. Our analysis shows that core programs in transportation, the Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Regional Commissions (like the Appalachian Regional Commission, ARC) for example, do not have significant representation from members of their standing House and Senate Authorizing Committees. For example – no member of the Deficit Reduction Committee is also a member of House Transportation and Infrastructure, which has House authority over transportation, EDA and ARC authorizations. Only two Senators sit on

Workforce in Rural Communities: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a national partnership to improve rural drinking water and wastewater systems by supporting communities that need assistance to promote job training in the water industry. Under the agreement, EPA and USDA will work together to promote jobs by targeting specific audiences, providing training for new water careers and coordinating outreach efforts that will bring greater public visibility to the workforce needs of the industry, and develop a new generation of trained water professionals. EPA and USDA will also facilitate the exchange of successful recruitment and training strategies among stakeholders including states and water industries. The agencies will also help rural utilities improve current operations and encourage development of long-term water quality improvement plans. The plans will include developing sustainable management practices to cut costs and improve performance. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the partnership.

NRDC Report on Water Impacts of Climate Change: The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) recently released a report, “Thirsty for Answers: Preparing for the Water-related Impacts of Climate Change in American Cities,” which details how many U.S. cities are likely to see climate change impacts from an absence or surplus of water and what those cities are doing to adapt. The report also offers several recommendations for how cities can adapt to potential issues, including pursuing regional partnerships for climate change research and planning. Click [HERE](#) to read the report.

FCC Releases Rural Broadband Report: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has released, “Bringing Broadband To Rural America: Update To Report On A Rural Broadband Strategy” which confirms the need to continue investments and a policy framework to ensure that rural communities and tribal nations receive the same access to the economic, educational, health care and public safety opportunities and services that broadband delivers in urban communities. Click [HERE](#) to access the report.

Article on the Role of Public Safety in Community Development: Click [HERE](#) to access an article from the Institute for Comprehensive Community Development.

HUD Releases Mapping Tool for Foreclosed Properties: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) last week launched a web-based mapping tool identifying the location of foreclosed properties held by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Administration. The tool will assist communities using HUD's [Neighborhood Stabilization](#)

Environment and Public Works.

Many of the Deficit Reduction Committee members sit on revenue, appropriations and taxation committees, and/or were chosen for their skills at compromise, which is appropriate given the overarching purview of the Committee and the complexities of their calculations. However, as the Committee examines the broad spectrum of possible deficit reductions, NARC hoped more would have longer standing histories with core programs to weigh against cuts. Given the recent FAA standoff these concerns across local governments and industry become more relevant. Individually many of these members are champions of our programs in the House, Senate and in their home states and are powerful as senior legislators in their own right. However, we will have to work to continue to emphasize how important infrastructure, economic development, and other core programs are in creating stronger

Program and help local communities, homebuyers and investors locate and acquire properties. Access the Real-Estate Owned Properties Portal [HERE](#).

NARC Conference Call: Streamlining the Federal Transportation

Process: The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) recently conducted a webinar (July, 2011) in which they reviewed their ideas for how best to streamline the current federal transportation schema through administrative, regulatory and ultimately, legislative changes. This conference call, hosted by NARC, seeks to test themes that arose not only in that webinar, but also address streamlining ideas not raised in that session. The goal of this call is to develop reactions to current ideas, and create granular information to share with U.S. DOT in their efforts to create a more streamlined process for developing and implementing transportation projects. Conference call will be held on Thursday, August 18, 2011 at 1:00 pm ET. Click [HERE](#) to access the call agenda and dial-in information.

National Climate Assessment Request for Information: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has issued a request for information, inviting the public to provide comments and expressions of interest in offering technical inputs or assessment capacity on topics related to the National Climate Assessment. Expressions of interest are due by October 1, 2011, and final inputs are due by March 1, 2012. Click [HERE](#) to access the Federal Register Notice for a detailed timeline and more information. Additional supplementary material, including "Potential Technical Inputs and Assessment Capacities and Suggested Best Practices," can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in recess for the month of August, but will conduct pro forma sessions. Legislative activity will resume after Labor Day.

New Joint Deficit Committee Begins Work: The recently passed Budget Control Act increased the debt ceiling by \$400 billion and required the federal government to make \$917 billion in spending cuts over a ten-year period. It also called for the establishment of a new bipartisan Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to begin efforts to broker a deficit-reduction deal by Thanksgiving (11/23/11). The Committee has the power to recommend at least \$1.5 trillion in additional deficit reduction. Congressional leaders selected the following 12 members to comprise the Committee: Senators

communities, while balancing the needs of the overall process with legislators and the Administrations' deficit concerns. As NARC learns more, we will keep you posted.

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

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Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

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Sylvia Bryant

Office Manager

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

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Make NARC your homepage — **click here to learn how.**

Murray (D-WA) (co-chair), Baucus (D-MT), Kerry (D-MA), Kyl (R-AZ), Toomey (R-PA) and Portman (R-OH); and Representatives Hensarling (R-TX) (co-chair), Camp (R-MI), Upton (R-MI), Van Hollen (D-MD), Clyburn (D-SC) and Becerra (D-CA).

PARTNERUPDATE

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, 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.

Solar America Communities Events at ICMA's Annual Conference

- **Solar Workshop** – Sunday, September 18, 8:30-12:30 – Learn important concepts related to local solar installations, including technologies, costs, and barriers.
- **Solar Powering Your Community Session** – Monday, September 19, 9:45-11:00 – Attend this panel session to hear how local governments can address the challenges of implementing solar.
- **Milwaukee Shines Solar Tour** – FREE! Monday, September 19, 12:30-1:30 or Tuesday, September 20, 4:00-5:00 – Visit Milwaukee Public Library's solar installations and green roof.

REGIONS360

WMSRDC Receives \$300,000+ Fish and Wildlife Restoration Design Grant: The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission's (WMSRDC) "Muskegon Lake Area of Concern (AOC) Habitat Restoration Design" proposal to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

(NOAA) Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program has been approved and awarded. The project includes 1) engineered design of fish and wildlife habitat restoration at two locations, and 2) regional transfer of technical information related to the restoration of Great Lakes “mill debris” sites, and the hydrologic reconnection of wetlands and surface waters. WMSRDC will coordinate the project with NOAA’s Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory and their 2011 Muskegon Lake Benthos Survey. The Annis Water Resources Institute will perform benthic monitoring and sediment sampling. The Great Lakes Commission (GLC) will assist by transferring information about sawmill debris restoration to other Great Lakes communities.

COMPASS Seeking Services to Provide Economic Benefit(s) Tools: The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) is seeking consulting services to provide an economic benefits tool(s) to evaluate a broad range of infrastructure investments as part of an update to the regional long-range transportation plan, *Communities in Motion 2035*. This update process is currently underway and will conclude the summer of 2014. COMPASS is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Ada and Canyon Counties, Idaho. To download a copy of the Request for Qualifications/Proposals please [click HERE](#). **Proposals must be received by COMPASS before 1:00 pm MT Friday, September 9, 2011.**

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

DOT Announces Interim Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for TIGER Grants

Preliminary Application Deadline: August 22, 2011

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced the availability to issue \$527 million for TIGER grants, a competitive grant program, which funds innovative transportation projects that address job creation and making a significant impact on the nation, a region or a metropolitan area.

Preliminary applications are due from August 22 through October 3, with final applications due between October 4 and October 31. DOT will host a half-day seminar and Webcast from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, July 18, to provide guidance for applicants. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the notice and upcoming information on the grants.

HUD Releases NOFA for Communities Regional Planning Grants:

Deadline: August 25, 2011

The U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Donovan

announced the availability of \$95 million to support sustainable local initiatives through the FY 2011 Regional Planning and Community Challenge Planning Grant Programs from HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities. Awarded competitively, both programs work to expand housing choices, improve connections between employment centers and homes, and reduce barriers to achieving affordable, economically vital and sustainable communities. Click [HERE](#) to access the press release and [HERE](#) for additional information about the program.

DOE's Rooftop Solar Challenge - \$12.5M Available

Deadline: August 31, 2011

As part of the [SunShot Initiative](#) and the [Solar America Communities Initiative](#), DOE has announced a funding opportunity for a [Rooftop Solar Challenge](#), with the goal of achieving measureable improvements in market conditions for rooftop photovoltaics across the United States. The emphasis of the Rooftop Solar Challenge is to streamline and standardize permitting and interconnection processes. DOE anticipates awarding up to \$12.5M to up to 25 awardees. Regional teams of local governments are encouraged to apply. For more information about the webinars, and a link to the full NOFA, visit <http://www.eere.energy.gov/solarchallenge/>.

Climate Solutions University: Forest and Water Strategies - Scholarships Available

Deadline: September 9, 2011

The Model Forest Policy Program (MFPP) is now accepting applications for 2012 [Climate Solutions University: Forest and Water Strategies \(CSU\)](#). This program offers rural U.S. [only] communities the opportunity to be part of climate adaptation solutions urgently needed across the country. Six communities will be provided \$10,000 scholarships. Local communities are on the front line making key land use decisions in regards to climate change. Climate Solutions University (CSU) helps rural communities design and implement climate adaptation plans that protect local forest and water resources and support viable rural economies. Through a peer learning network that links underserved rural communities across the U.S., Climate Solutions University (CSU) provides training, expertise, and support to communities engaged in climate adaptation planning. CSU strengthens local leadership and public engagement and promotes the following outcomes: protection of forests, streams, human and ecological health, preservation of natural resource based economies, and builds broad public support. Additional information is available at www.mfpp.org.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

NOAA Webinar on Community Resilience, Part I - Assessing Vulnerabilities Using the Roadmap for Adapting to Coastal Risk

September 7, 2011, 2:00-3:00 pm ET: NOAA webinar highlighting a customizable approach for assessing hazard and climate change threats and impacts. This approach, the Roadmap for Adapting to Coastal Risk, is a participatory process for assessing vulnerability. The Roadmap helps communities characterize their vulnerabilities to hazards and climate change, and assess how existing planning and policy efforts can incorporate vulnerability issues. The Roadmap process helps communities move beyond general awareness of hazard and climate change impacts to actually identify risks and the potential actions that can reduce these risks. To register, please click [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 more 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.

2011 Ohio Freight Conference

September 20-21, 2011, Toledo, OH: SAVE THE DATE! This is the fifth year for the conference that brings together transportation professionals to focus on the movement of goods through Ohio and the Great Lakes region. It is a unique opportunity for dialog and exchange of information between all modes: rail, ground, pipeline, air and sea. For more information or to register, click [HERE](#).

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, 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**](http://icma.org/conference2011) for details and registration info and view the preliminary program [**HERE**](#).

Innovative Solutions for Solar Financing Webinar

September 27, 2011, 2:00pm ET: Join the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) for a [**Solar America Communities Program**](#) webinar on solar financing. Learn from Sonoma County, California and the Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network as they detail their efforts to overcome major barriers to adopting solar technologies in their region. Speakers will include Sam Ruark, Sonoma County Energy Watch Program Manager, Rachel Solomon Massaro, Associate Director of Climate Initiatives with Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network and Ben Foster, VP of Operations for Optony, Inc. Advanced registration is required; please click [**HERE**](#) to register.

2011 Water Resources Summit

October 25, 2011, College Park, MD: Join the Horinko Group for the Second Annual Water Resources Summit, hosted on the campus of the University of Maryland. The topic of this year's summit is *Sustaining Our Nation's Water Resources: Answering the Call for Stewardship*. The summit will focus on three areas: Water Governance, Water Advocacy, and the Business of Water and will feature speakers from the public, advocacy and the business sector. Topics include the recent efforts to integrate water resource planning and management and the incremental advantages of adaptive management and system thinking; what organizations are doing to promote social learning and better inform citizens of the importance of water conservation; and new water conservation strategies that tackle infrastructure and compliance challenges. To view the full agenda and register, please click [**HERE**](#).

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