

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



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIV, No. 22, June 16, 2014

eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

President

Hon. Penny Gross
Supervisor,
Fairfax County, VA

Chair Jim Hassinger,
Executive Directors Council
Executive Director,
Southwestern Pennsylvania
Commission

NARC STAFF

Joanna Turner

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Mia Colson

Program Analyst

Nathan Devers

Intern

Marcy Fritter

Office Manager

Taylor Markwith

Program Associate

Lindsey Riley

Deputy of Communications

EXECUTIVE BRIEF **PROGRAM UPDATE**
POLICY UPDATE **REGIONS 360**
GRANT OPPORTUNITIES **UPCOMING EVENTS**

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Dear Colleagues,

First, I would like to extend our warmest congratulations to NARC's new leadership! The Hon. Gary Moore, Judge/Executive of Boone County, KY, is your new President; the Hon. Byron Ryder, Judge of Leon County, TX is now President Elect; and the Hon. Ron Shaffer, Mayor of Prairie Village, KS is now Senior Vice President. I also want to extend a big congratulations to our new Board and Executive Directors Council Members. Here's to a productive year together!

Secondly, I'd like to thank all of our 48th Annual Conference attendees and host. Much gratitude to all of the Kentucky Area Development Districts who worked with us to ensure smooth logistics, engaging content, and a great time in the Commonwealth. As you know, conferences generate revenue for your membership association, helping to keep your dues down, and enabling us to provide the services you expect. I appreciate your support!

Anna Rosenbaum

Communications Associate

Erich W. Zimmermann

Director of Transportation
Programs

To access past issues of
eRegions, **visit our website.**

Make NARC your homepage

—
click here to learn how.

NARCMEDIA

Follow us on Twitter:

@NARCRegions

@JoannaNARC

Click **HERE** to follow us on
Facebook.

In addition, the Annual Conference is an opportunity to share best practices, connect with your colleagues and NARC staff, and hear from experts (like U.S. DOT Secretary Foxx and KY Lt. Governor Abramson) on topics important to local governments and regional planners. Over these three days, your new Executive Director learned more from all of you – Board and EDC Members, elected officials, and staff – than I learned in the last year here in Washington. It is my sincere hope that all of our attendees enjoyed a similar experience. In an effort to continue to refine NARC's conferences, I welcome any suggestions you have on how we can improve your Conference experience. Please feel free to call or email me with those suggestions.

Lastly, I'd like to give a big thank you to the Hon. Penny Gross, Supervisor of Fairfax County, VA for her service as President over the past year.

Best,
Joanna
202.618.5689 (direct)
joanna@narc.org

PROGRAMUPDATE

NARC at *Solar Powering your Community Workshop* in NM:

This week, Mia Colson of NARC is partnering with the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) and the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) to run a *SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership* workshop in Albuquerque, NM. This workshop focuses on helping communities learn more about regional solar energy development and implementation.

DOE Announces New Regional Approach to Wind Energy

Information: To support wind energy decision-making, DOE recently kicked off the collaborative partnership between its new *WINDEXchange* initiative and six supporting **Regional Resource Centers**. The purpose of *WINDEXchange* is to help communities weigh the benefits and costs of wind energy, understand the deployment process, and make wind development decisions supported by the best available science and other fact-based information. Click **HERE** to learn more about this initiative.

EDA Releases New Cluster Mapping Tool: In an effort to spur regional economic growth, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has released a new cluster mapping tool called the *U.S. Cluster Mapping and Registry Project*. The website is interactive and provides users access to cluster data and regional statistics from the entire U.S. economy. Users can also participate by contributing resources and news covering a vast array of topics such as economic development and policy. Click [HERE](#) for additional information, and [HERE](#) to access the tool.

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in session.

Transportation Planning Proposed Rule Released: The transportation planning proposed rule was released, laying out how metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) will be expected to approach performance management under the *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (MAP-21), among other changes related to rural transportation planning organizations (RTPOs) and the use of scenario planning. The proposed rule has a 90-day comment period. NARC will be holding an initial webinar in the next few weeks to begin discussion of what is in the rule, and to gather member reactions to the rule. The proposed rule can be found [HERE](#).

Related to the planning rule, final policy guidance was also released on the MAP-21 requirement regarding the inclusion of transit representation on the board of transportation management areas. The final guidance does not appear to differ much from the draft, save for a couple of clarifications. Read the details [HERE](#).

Appropriations Update: The House continues to chip away at each of the annual appropriations bills. The House has postponed immediate consideration of its Agriculture bill, which would provide \$142.9B, \$2.8B less than FY14. For rural development programs, the House bill appropriates \$2.4B, a \$38M increase, and \$869M for conservation programs, reflecting a \$43M increase over FY14. Click [HERE](#) for Agriculture bill highlights and [HERE](#) for adopted amendments. Meanwhile, the Senate is scheduled to consider a mini-omnibus that incorporates the bills for Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) (S. 2437), Agriculture (S. 2389), and

Transportation-HUD (T-HUD) (S. 2438). All have passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee with bipartisan support. Some tension exists over spending levels, as well as potential amendment limitations during Senate floor consideration. A clearer picture on the fate of these bills, and the overall timetable and path forward on FY15 spending process, will be determined this week. Click [HERE](#) for a FY15 appropriations bills chart. Click [HERE](#) for NARC's letter to the Senate Committee on CJS and THUD appropriations.

Water Resources Bill Signed into Law: Last Tuesday, June 10, President Obama signed the *Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA)* into law, which provides \$12.3B for 34 projects such as flood control, hurricane recovery, dredging, and environmental restoration. The law also establishes a project financing system ([WIFIA](#)), addresses funds spent from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, and seeks to increase ocean and coastal resiliency. President Obama indicated his desire to now turn to an immediate bipartisan Highway Trust Fund solution. Click [HERE](#) for more details, and see "Upcoming Events" section to attend a webinar on the topic.

Stormwater Bill Introduced in Senate: On June 10, Senator Cardin (D-MD) introduced the *Highway Runoff Management Act* (S. 2457), which would require states to analyze the hydrological impact federal aid highways are having on water resources and develop approaches to reduce the impact of stormwater runoff volumes and flows. The bill would require analysis and best management practices implementation for new federal-aid highway construction and major highway rehabilitation projects that increase the amount of post-construction impervious surface by either 10% of the project site or by one or more acres. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Former NARC Intern Introduces President Obama: A former NARC policy intern, Andy McCracken, is the Executive Director of the [National Campus Leadership Council](#), a forum for current and former student body presidents to come together and confront pressing issues facing young people nationally. Last week Andy introduced President Obama for his announcement and executive order on interest-based repayment and pay as you earn student debt plans. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

REGIONS360

Building North Carolina Communities for Tomorrow's Jobs:

North Carolina (NC) regional councils of governments have recently partnered with the NC Department of Commerce and EDA to launch a project known as *NC Tomorrow: Building Communities for Tomorrow's Jobs*. The Project is designed to help North Carolina achieve its economic and community development goals. Kirby Bowers, Chair of the N.C. Association of Regional Councils and Executive Director of Triangle J Council of Governments, emphasized that "the report is intended as a resource tool to be used by local, regional, and state leaders as they move forward in developing community and economic development policy for job creation." Click [HERE](#) to read the press release.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Click [HERE](#) to view the list of grants still open!

EPA - Technical Assistance Funding for Integrated Planning

Letters of Interest Due: June 27, 2014, 5:00 PM ET

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Wastewater Management is accepting letters of interest from communities seeking technical support to develop and implement an [integrated planning approach](#) to meeting *Clean Water Act* (CWA) requirements for municipal wastewater and stormwater management. The total value of the EPA assistance available in 2014 is approximately \$335,000, and EPA anticipates providing assistance to five communities. Each applicant may submit only one letter of interest, and applicants may apply for project periods of up to nine months. Letters should be submitted by email to IP_Tech_Assistance@epa.gov to the attention of Kevin Weiss. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Click [HERE](#) to view the list of events still open!

WEBINAR: Transportation Planning Rule

June 24, 12:00 – 2:00 PM ET

For those who were unable to register for the June 13th external webinar, a second offering has been scheduled. Please be sure to mark your calendar for a joint Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Authority external webinar to go over the content of the regulations. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: WIFIA and impacts to Clean Water State Revolving Fund

June 25, 12:00 PM ET

This webcast will explain the *Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act* (WIFIA), which was recently passed by Congress. The new program will provide loans and loan guarantees for drinking water, wastewater, and other kinds of municipal water infrastructure. The webcast will detail the specific provisions of the new program and help potential applicants understand how they may be able to pursue financing through the program in the future. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: Updates on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Resources

July 22, 1:30 PM ET

Join this session to learn the latest resource information on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, including: How the federal government is implementing the *National Alzheimer's Plan*, the overall direction of the plan, and its 2014 changes; existing and new consumer resources on dementia, the 24/7 National Alzheimer's Call Center, the Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral Center, research registries, and brain health materials; and resources for caregivers of people with dementia and service providers. Click [HERE](#) to register.

CONFERENCE: Dark Skies Summit

August 18-20; Flagstaff, AZ - Registration is open.

Flagstaff MPO, City of Flagstaff, and Lowell Observatory are hosting *the 2014 Dark Skies Summit* to discuss impacts of LED lighting and other technologies on astronomy, health, and public safety. At this conference, you'll learn how to address public safety needs like street lighting while protecting an important resource: Dark Skies. The Colorado Plateau region will serve as a case-study for regional coordination, a range of technology applications,

and approaches to regulation. Click [HERE](#) for more information, and email Todd Bryan, tbryan@keystone.org, with questions.

WEBINAR: Community Collaborations for Assisting People with Alzheimer's and Dementias

August 28, 1:30 PM ET

This session will describe community initiatives and public-private partnerships to develop and implement Alzheimer's disease plans, dementia-capability efforts, dementia-friendly communities, and access to resources for starting initiatives in their states and communities. Three individuals representing model state and community collaborations will discuss their connection to the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*; secrets to their collaboration successes; and how they are helping individuals, families and professionals access research, education, training, and support services. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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) 2014 National Association of Regional Councils All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend

[Update your profile](#)