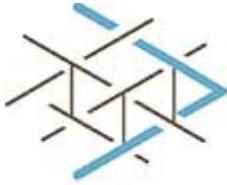


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 34, September 9, 2013

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

This past week, NARC, in partnership with the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership, held a successful solar workshop in Southern Vermont. Solar outreach and resources to help regions accelerate local adoption of solar energy can be found on NARC's solar website, www.NARC.org/solarOPs.

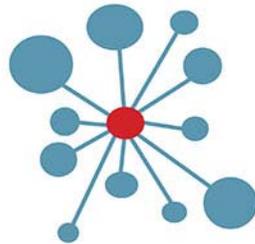
Our next solar workshop is tomorrow in Minneapolis-Saint Paul; our final workshop for the month will be in Boston on September 26th. Click [HERE](#) for additional information about these free events.

We're three weeks away from our 2013 Executive Directors' Conference in Santa Monica, CA. Click [HERE](#) to review our

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)

[MEMBER 360](#)

[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



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**executive directors' conference
september 30 - october 1, 2013
santa monica, ca**

Agenda, Registration and Hotel Information

Click [HERE](#) to access the conference website.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Upcoming Regional Solar Workshops: NARC is hosting free interactive workshops that provide regions with actionable information on creating a local-level solar program. Find out if NARC is coming to a city near you! Click [HERE](#) for more information.

- *Minneapolis, MN:* September 10, 2013
- *Boston, MA:* September 26, 2013

draft agenda – including our keynote presentation with the Executive Director of the Annenberg Foundation, Leonard Aube, who will discuss philanthropic funding opportunities and partnerships. If you haven't already registered, I would encourage you to do so today!

Best,
Fred

NARCLEADERSHIP

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Hon. Penny Gross
Supervisor,
Fairfax County, VA

Chair Jim Hassinger,
Executive Directors Council
Executive Director,
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Programs

Mia Colson
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Bridget Gribbin
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Lindsey Riley
Deputy of Communications

EPA Publishes Water Quality Standards Proposed Rule: On September 4, for the first time in 30 years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed changes to the core requirements of the federal water quality standards regulation that interprets part of the Clean Water Act. The goal of EPA is to clarify water quality standards regulatory requirements which are intended to protect and maintain waters from further degradation, ensure designated uses protect the highest attainable uses of a water body, and increase public transparency and state/tribal accountability to ensure the public has the information it needs to become actively involved as states/tribes manage their waters. EPA will accept public comments for 90 days. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

HUD to Host Webinars on Community Development Block Grant Programs: Last week, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced they will host a series of webinars aimed to discuss challenges with and potential improvements for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Specifically, HUD is looking for input from current grantees about common obstacles faced and to hear ideas for effective solutions. More information and a link for registration is available [HERE](#).

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in session.

Appropriations Update: A short-term continuing resolution (covering two to three months) is expected to move forward in the House this week to avoid government shutdown before month's end and to allow congressional time to be spent on Syria discussions. It is anticipated that it will not contain controversial policy issues, but could contain technical and reauthorization language. The FY14 appropriations bills are at a stalemate; nearly all of the bills have been approved by the congressional appropriations committees, but none have cleared Congress. It is unlikely that all of the individual bills will make it out of Congress before the end of the calendar year; however, it is possible that they are bundled into an omnibus.

Debt Ceiling Update: Congress is examining raising the nation's debt ceiling, which is due to be reached in mid-October. The White House has called for a clean increase, free from any policy or other requirements.

Anna Rosenbaum

Intern

To access past issues of *eRegions*, **[visit our website.](#)**

Make NARC your homepage — **[click here to learn how.](#)**

NARC and Rural Development Coalition Members Meet with USDA and House Ag Committee Staff: Last week, NARC and other members of the Campaign for Renewed Rural Development met with staff leadership on the House Agriculture Committee and the Chief of Staff of the USDA's Rural Development Office to discuss rural priorities and next steps for the Farm Bill. USDA RD's Katharine Ferguson assured the coalition that rural communities continue to be a priority for Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, but committee staff was less certain about the future for Farm Bill reauthorization. Congress returns this week, and House Leadership will announce tomorrow whether they plan to bring a nutrition title to the floor next week. An agriculture-only bill was passed prior to the August recess, and moving on nutrition funding is the critical next step to get a long-term Farm Bill to Conference Committee.

Transportation Spending Bill Falls Flat in House; Prospects Bleak for Other Measures: Last week aides announced that the House would not vote on the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill, the first spending bill slated for House floor consideration. The measure was to be the initial test of Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's plan to make major spending cuts across the federal budget. Additionally, House sources have reported that other individual spending measures face bleak prospects for full chamber consideration as the likelihood increases that the House will pass a temporary government funding measure, known as a Continuing Resolution, before the 2014 fiscal year begins on October 1. Congress will still have to take up debate to raise the debt ceiling in the remaining days of the 2013 legislative calendar.

MEMBER360

Mark Policinski Publishes Novel: *Castooli County to DC: Monster Hunt*, the first novel for Mark Policinski, Executive Director of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, was released this past month. More information about this "intelligent thriller," is available on Amazon's website **[HERE](#)**.

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

The U.S. Department of Commerce EDA Funding Cycle 1 of 2014
Deadline to Apply: September 13, 2013

The Economic Development Administration is offering grants for the Funding Cycle 1 of 2014. Grants made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets to support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to increase economic prosperity in distressed communities. Eligible: nonprofits, governments, Native American governments, public institutions of higher learning and others. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge

Registration Deadline: September 23, 2013

The Rockefeller Foundation announced \$100 million in funding for technical support for developing and implementing plans for urban resilience in 100 cities across the globe. Click [HERE](#) to register for more application information.

EPA to provide Design Assistance

Letter of Interest Due: September 23, 2013

EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities is seeking letters of interest from state capital cities interested in receiving design assistance to create an implementable vision of distinctive, environmentally friendly neighborhoods. Learn more about this program [HERE](#).

The Rockefeller Foundation – 100 Resilient Cities, Centennial Challenge

Registration to Apply by September 23, 2013

The Rockefeller Foundation has launched the 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge aimed at enabling 100 cities to better address the increasing shocks and stresses of the 21st century. One hundred cities from across the globe will be selected to receive technical support and resources for developing and implementing plans for urban resilience. Challenge applicants may include municipal governments or major institutions (e.g., a nonprofit organization, university, chamber of commerce, or research center) that have a predominant affiliation/association with the city and demonstrate collaborative partnership with a municipal government. Interested applicants must [REGISTER](#) to apply by September 23 to receive the application. The full application is due October 14, 2013. More information is [HERE](#).

EPA Accepting Applications for Clean Air Award Program

Applications Due: September 27, 2013

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting applications for its [Clean Air Excellence Awards](#). This award honors outstanding and innovative efforts to help make progress toward achieving cleaner air. Award-winning entries must directly or indirectly reduce pollutant emissions, demonstrate innovation, offer sustainable outcomes and provide a model for others to follow. [Past winners](#) include the City and County of Greenville, SC; the Maricopa County Air Quality Department; the Metropolitan Transportation Commission; and many others. You can apply [HERE](#).

U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) - Paleo Perspectives on Climate Change

Due Date: October 15, 2013

The goal of research funded under the interdisciplinary P2C2 solicitation is to utilize key geological, chemical, atmospheric, and biological records of climate system variability to provide insights into the mechanisms and rate of change that characterized Earth's past climate variability, the sensitivity of Earth's climate system to changes in forcing, and the response of key components of the Earth system to these changes. Click [HERE](#) for details.

Office Depot Foundation

Application Deadline: May 1 – October 31, 2013

The Office Depot Foundation is offering grant support to nonprofit organizations, government agencies, libraries, and schools that bring systemic change to the communities they serve. The Foundation provides grants averaging \$1,000 in three distinct categories. The focus of the "Giving Children Tools for Success" category is on activities that give young people tools to succeed in school and in life through education and inspiration. The "Building Capacity to Serve Communities" category targets programs that help nonprofit organizations to serve the needs of their communities efficiently. The purpose of the "Disaster Preparedness, Relief, Recovery, and Rebuilding" category is to support efforts that help people and communities prepare for disasters and rebuild and recover when disasters occur. Applications will be accepted from May 1 through October 31, 2013. Click [HERE](#) to review the guidelines.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Community Investment Initiative

Deadline: November 12, 2013

The USDA is seeking applications for grants that will be awarded to

organizations to help rural businesses create jobs and spur economic development. USDA is making \$5.6 million available through the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI), a program that generates economic activity in rural areas. Applications must be submitted to the USDA Rural Development state office where the applicant's headquarters are located. Information is available [HERE](#).

NOAA - Climate Program Office FY 2014

November 14, 2013

NOAA advances scientific and technical programs to help society cope with, and adapt to, today's variations in climate and prepare for tomorrow's. Toward this end, the agency conducts and supports climate research, essential oceanic and atmospheric observations, modeling, information management, assessments, interdisciplinary decision support research, outreach, education, and stakeholder partnership development. The full announcement of opportunity is available on the [Grants.Gov](#) website. Click [HERE](#) for information.

Community Forest Program Grant

Application Due: January 15, 2014

The US Forest Service's Community Forest Program (CFP) protects forests that are important for people and the places they call home. CFP provides funding to local governments, tribal governments and nonprofits to establish community forests that provide continuing and accessible community benefits. Click [HERE](#) for more information about available funding.

NSF - Cyber-Physical Systems

Due Date: January 29, 2014

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have a shared interest in advancing basic and applied research in Cyber Physical Systems (CPS), which are systems in which physical processes are tightly intertwined with networked computing. For transportation, CPS will provide the foundation necessary for a safe, efficient highway transportation system connecting vehicles, infrastructure, people, and goods in a vibrant, competitive economy. More information is available [HERE](#).

NSF - Cyber-Enabled Sustainability Science and Engineering

Due Date: February 4, 2014

The Cyber-Enabled Sustainability Science and Engineering (CyberSEES) program aims to advance interdisciplinary research in

which the science and engineering of sustainability are enabled by new advances in computing, and where computational innovation is grounded in the context of sustainability problems. More information is available [HERE](#).

Energy for Sustainability

Due Date: February 20, 2014

This program supports fundamental research and education that will enable innovative processes for the sustainable production of electricity and transportation fuels. Processes for sustainable energy production must be environmentally benign, reduce greenhouse gas production, and utilize renewable resources. Current interest areas in sustainable energy technologies are: Biomass Conversion, Biofuels & Bioenergy, Photovoltaic Solar Energy, Wind Energy, and Advanced Batteries for Transportation. Learn more about this program [HERE](#).

NSF - Environmental Sustainability

Due Date: March 20, 2014

The Environmental Sustainability program supports engineering research that seeks to balance society's need to provide ecological protection and maintain stable economic conditions. Research in Environmental Sustainability typically considers long time horizons and may incorporate contributions from the social sciences and ethics. There are four principal general research areas which are supported: Industrial Ecology, Green Engineering, Ecological Engineering, Earth Systems Engineering. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

2013 Ohio Conference on Freight

September 12-13, 2013, Sandusky, OH

Workshops, tour, and presentations will address the use of innovation in changing how we transport goods, design, fund and deliver infrastructure, and make policy. A full conference schedule will earn 10 hours of professional education credits. Credit for economic development professional (CEcD) is being explored. Click [HERE](#) to visit the conference website.

EPA Webinar: Smart Growth and Economic Success

September 18, 2013, 3:00 - 4:00 ET

This webinar will explore how smart growth strategies at the regional,

city, and neighborhood level can maximize economic advantages while creating attractive, healthy communities that help protect the environment. This webinar will feature EPA's report, Smart Growth and Economic Success: Benefits for Real Estate Developers, Investors, Businesses, and Local Government. Speakers will discuss how smart growth is helping their communities prosper. Click [HERE](#) for details or to register.

EPA Webinar: Infrastructure Financing for Transit-Oriented Development

September 24, 2013, 3:00 - 4:00 ET

NEW. Transit-oriented development (TOD) offers a mix of housing, employment, shopping, and transportation choices that can help reduce air pollution and development on open lands and improve water quality and access to jobs. Yet the infrastructure required to create TOD is expensive and funding for infrastructure for new TOD can be difficult to obtain. This webinar will cover some of the lessons learned from a year-long Smart Growth Implementation Assistance project on financing TOD infrastructure. Speakers from the Utah Transit Authority and the NoMa Business Improvement District in Washington, DC will then discuss TOD in their communities. Click [HERE](#) for details or to register.

Safe Routes to School National Partnership Webinar - Voices for Healthy Kids: Active Places

Thursday, Sept. 26: 2-3 p.m. EST

Childhood obesity affects the entire country, but it does not affect all communities equally. Children and all people living in underserved communities are likely to face greater challenges in reversing patterns of inactivity and poor health. The [Safe Routes to School National Partnership](#) is very pleased to be partnering with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and American Heart Association on the new [Voices for Healthy Kids](#) initiative to reverse childhood obesity by 2015. For this webinar, we are also partnering with Active Living Research to present information on increasing physical activity opportunities in underserved communities with a specific focus on reducing disparities and increasing activity in lower-income communities and communities of color. To register for this free webinar, click [HERE](#).

NARC's Executive Directors' Conference

September 29-October 2, 2013, Santa Monica, CA

Join the Southern California Association of Governments and NARC for the 2013 Executive Directors' Conference in Santa Monica, CA. 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. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Large Acreage Conservation Financing Webinar

October 9, 1:00-3:15 PM ET

Join the Northeastern Area Forest Legacy Program to learn about financing Conservation Easement Monitoring. This webinar will address key questions about different funding mechanisms, including: what are the national financing trends; what are the options for long term financing; how is financing established, managed and calculated; and are these mechanisms effective tools? Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

ICMA Webinar: Iceberg Dead Ahead: Course Correction Leadership

October 17, 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET

Is your organization drifting off course? Do you even know? According to John Gardner, ailing organizations have developed a "functional blindness" to their own defects. Many jurisdictions have hit "organizational icebergs" – often due to the economic downturn. Others have seized opportunities to change their course for the better. "Iceberg Dead Ahead!" is an introduction to the topic of Course Correction Leadership that was first described in an article published in the October, 2012 issue of *Public Management* titled "Steering Clear of Organizational Icebergs." To register, click [HERE](#).

HUD Webinar on CDBG Grant Program

October 23, 2013, 3:30 – 5:00pm, ET

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced they will host a series of webinars aimed to discuss challenges with and potential improvements for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Specifically, HUD is looking for input from current grantees about common obstacles faced and to hear ideas for effective solutions. More information and a link for registration is available [HERE](#).

NARC's 2014 National Conference of Regions

February 9-11, 2014, Washington, DC

The National Conference of Regions is the forum that NARC uses to determine key policy issues and a legislative agenda on topics of relevance and importance to executive directors and local elected officials representing regional organizations and boards. Additional information will be available in late 2013.

NARC's 48th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 6-11, 2014, Louisville, KY

The Annual Conference and Exhibition is the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. Held annually in June, NARC's Annual Conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Additional information will be available in early 2014.

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