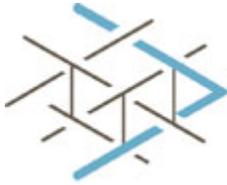


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 35, September 17, 2012

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

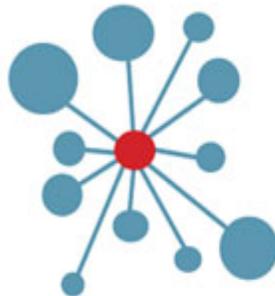
Colleagues,

It's a busy two weeks ahead as NARC prepares for upcoming meetings and what may be the last of Congressional action for the remainder of the year.

First, NARC is supporting the EDA Chicago Regional Office's Midwest Training Seminar in Naperville, IL this week. Staff is on the ground and I am headed out to assist Economic Development Districts from six states. Then, we are on to Houston for the Texas Association of Regional Councils Conference on Regionalism. Finally, we arrive in Boise for the Executive Directors'

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)
[REGIONS 360](#)
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

eRegions will not be published next week, as NARC holds its 2012 Executive Directors' Conference in Boise, ID. *eRegions* will return on October 1, 2012.



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**executive directors' conference
september 23-25, 2012
boise, id**

REGISTER TODAY

PROGRAM UPDATE

EPA Offers Webinar for Environmental Education Regional Grants:
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of

Conference.

All of this while Congress manages the federal budget and reacts to the President's proposed Sequestered cuts. There will be no significant legislation for the remainder of the year it seems - with agreement on budget cuts being left to a tight time frame. The next House votes will probably not be until November 13.

Last, congratulations to the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for a successful Ohio Conference on Freight last week.

Best,
Fred

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President David F. Shafer,
Clerk/Treasurer,
Town of Munster, IN
Chair Sean Dey,
Executive Directors
Council
Executive Director, West
Michigan Shoreline
Regional Development
Commission

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Environmental Education published a Request for Proposals for the Environmental Education Regional Model Grants Program, which supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to make informed environmental decisions and take responsible actions towards the environment. EPA will host a webinar on September 26 for potential applicants. Questions can be submitted up to two business days prior to the webinar/call to EEGrants@epa.gov. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

POLICYUPDATE

The House and Senate are in session.

House Passes Continuing Resolution Bill: Last week the House passed a FY13 Continuing Resolution (CR) (H.J. Res. 117), funding federal agencies from October 1, 2012 through March 27, 2013 and providing federal agencies with a 0.6 percent funding increase. The Senate is expected to clear the measure this week. Congress intends to continue working on an Omnibus Appropriations bill that will fund the federal government through the second half of FY13; significant effort on this will likely take place during the lame duck session.

Sequestration Update: The White House released the congressionally-mandated report detailing the impacts of sequestration, the automatic, across-the-board budget cuts set to take place on January 2, 2013. Click [HERE](#) to access the report. Click [HERE](#) to access NARC's summary of the report.

REGIONS360

WMSRC Signs Contract with a Dog: The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC), in August 2012, became the only regional council in the United States to sign a contract with a dog via the Environmental Canine Services (ECS) for a project that includes a plan and to oversee the cleanup and restoration of the Muskegon Lake watershed. Details of the project are available [HERE](#), but Sable, the highly trained, super sewer-sniffing dog will identify problem areas within the underground sewer and water pipes. With a price tag under \$5,000, far less than the cost of collecting and analyzing the number of water samples it would take, the decision to contract with

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Mia Colson

Program Analyst

Valerie Hermanson

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Sable was both a first of its kind for regional councils and made economic sense.

Broward MPO Issues Request For Proposals (RFP): The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (“BMPO”), through partnership with 2-1-1 Broward is requesting proposals from qualified firms to expand the 2-1-1 Broward Telephone and Website Software System. Utilizing a grant from the FTA and a multi-agency partnership, this project will provide residents of Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties with centralized access to transportation information. A tri-county One Call One Click transportation service will be created utilizing the 2-1-1 phone number and existing call center infrastructures. Deadline for submitting a proposal is 5:00 PM, October 12, 2012.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

EDA Grant Application Deadline Extended

Application Due: September 20, 2012

The quarterly deadline for submitting grant applications to the Economic Development Administration’s Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs has been extended. Please note that this extension covers only funding cycle 1 of fiscal year 2013, and does not affect other EDA grant application deadlines. The website for submitting applications, **Grants.gov**, will be down for maintenance between Friday, September 14, and Tuesday, September 18. While the extended deadline should allow ample time for submitting applications, applicants are advised to make every effort to submit their applications as soon as possible. For further information, please go to **www.eda.gov**.

AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Teams - Technical Assistance

Application Due: October 12, 2012

The American Institute of Architects’ (AIA) Center for Communities by Design is seeking potential partner communities that can demonstrate the capacity to convene a diverse set of community leaders and stakeholders for an intensive, collaborative planning process focused on long-term sustainability. The Center is particularly focused on identifying communities that have the ability to leverage local resources and build strong partnerships for implementation of an SDAT process. For more information, visit the **AIA SDAT page**.

NOAA Climate Program Office FY13 Grant Application Information

November 6, 2012

Individual programs within CPO will now be accepting letters of intent and project applications. The full announcement of opportunity is available on the [CPO Funding Opportunities](#) page and on the [Grants.Gov website](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Webinar

September 21, 2012, 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET

Join EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities for an overview of free technical assistance available to communities through EPA's [Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program](#). This program provides short-term, targeted technical assistance to help communities implement smart growth development approaches, such as creating a green streets strategy, linking land use to water quality, or conducting a parking audit. This webinar will focus on assistance available directly from EPA and from four EPA grantees: ForTerra, Project for Public Spaces, Smart Growth America, and Global Green. Participants will learn about the types of assistance available and how to apply. EPA's call for letters of interest will be released the day before this webinar.

2012 Executive Directors' Conference

September 24-26, 2012, Boise, ID

Register Today! Join Executive Directors and senior staff of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations at this premier regional training event. Registration information and an agenda are available [HERE](#).

EcoSummit - Ecological Sustainability: Restoring the Planet's Ecosystem Services

September 30-October 5, 2012, Columbus, OH

Topics covered will include ecological restoration, ecological engineering, global change, wetland management, corporate involvement and sustainable economies. For information, click [HERE](#).

EPA to hold Water Quality Standards Virtual Academy

October 4, 2012, 1:00-4:00pm ET

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will launch its Water Quality Standards Virtual Academy webinar with Water Quality Standards 101. Learn how you can use Water Quality Standards (WQS)

to protect water resources! Click [HERE](#) to register.

ICMA 2012 Annual Conference

October 7-10, 2012, Phoenix, AZ

Over three days, members and guests will learn about key local government management issues and leading practices, exchange ideas and network. Visit the ICMA Conference online at icma.org/conference2012.

Financing Solar in a Fiscally Constrained Time Webinar

Thursday, October 18, 2012: 3:00pm-4:00pm ET

To many municipalities, the high upfront costs of installing solar energy are still seen as a major barrier to bolstering solar development in their region. Join us for a webinar presented by NARC and the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership to learn about the numerous different types of financing incentives and mechanisms that can reduce these upfront costs and provide additional revenue streams. Learn from solar industry experts and local municipalities about how you can make solar affordable in your region. To register, click [HERE](#).

UPEDA Conference on Bi-National Collaboration Meeting

October 24-25, 2012, Sault Ste Marie, MI

Presenters include Roy Norton, Consul General of Canada at Detroit; a panel on alternative energy; Phil Becker, Executive Director of the International Bridge Authority; and other presenters still being confirmed. Click [HERE](#) for registration and [HERE](#) for a copy of the agenda.

2013 National Conference of Regions

February 10-13, 2013, Washington, DC

Save the Date for this premier event, focused on all that is happening in Washington, DC. Information about NARC's February event will be available before the end of 2012. Local elected officials, executive directors and staff of regional and metropolitan planning organizations need to be here!

NARC's 47th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 20-23, 2013, Philadelphia, PA

Save the Date for NARC's annual conference will focus on best practice and programming for regional and metropolitan planning organizations nationwide. Executive Directors and Staff of regional organizations should plan on attending!

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