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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 36, October 2, 2012

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Executive Directors from all over the country descended on Boise to discuss the future of regional planning organizations, management issues, new program opportunities and share experiences – they made it a fantastic Executive Directors' Conference. I want to thank COMPASS and their sponsors for hosting the conference, and for a warm welcome to the region. Congratulations to Executive Directors Council Chair Sean Day for a successful event. We were honored to have key note addresses by Jonathon Skinner of the National Interagency Fire

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Message from Chair Dey, Executive Directors Council

I would like to thank all the executive directors who attended the Executive Directors' Conference in Boise, Idaho. It was a very successful event, with many educational, training and networking opportunities. The *Future of Regions* sessions were of special interest to me, and the discussions continued at the NARC Board of Directors meeting which followed. The Board endorsed the preparation of a White Paper entitled *Project 2020: A Vision for the Future of Regional Councils* to be presented to the membership at the February 2013 National Conference of Regions.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Matt Stoll and Amy Luft from the Community Planning Organization for Southwest Idaho for hosting the conference; and to Fred, Lindsey and Shannon for organizing the conference.

PROGRAM UPDATE

NARC Transportation Webinar: As U.S. Department of Transportation

Center and NASA Astronaut Barbara Morgan, a distinguished educator in residence at Boise State University. We had many new Directors participate and I hope all of us see value in helping them be successful by attending events, offering our time and getting to know them better.

The NARC Executive Directors Council met and had a successful business meeting, which was followed later in the week by the NARC Governing Board of Director's Fall Retreat - a day of discussion and exchange. Congratulations to President Dave Shafer for a successful Board retreat.

Best,
Fred

NARCLEADERSHIP

President David F. Shafer,

Clerk/Treasurer,
Town of Munster, IN

Chair Sean Dey,

Executive Directors
Council

Executive Director, West
Michigan Shoreline
Regional Development
Commission

(DOT) continues to draft and prepare guidance that supports the implementation of the recently enacted federal surface transportation authorization, NARC will schedule the three Transportation Committee webinars through the end of the year to focus on different aspects of the law. The next webinar, *Transportation Planning: How are Regions Preparing?*, will take place on Tuesday, October 9, 12:00-2:00pm ET. Click [HERE](#) to register and [HERE](#) to access an agenda for the session.

Highlights from Recent Solar Workshops: NARC has been on the road with the *Solar Powering Your Community* regional workshop tour for the past two weeks as part of their work with the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership (SolarOPs). These regional solar workshops sought to enable local governments to replicate successful solar practices and expand local adoption of solar energy in the Southeast and Midwest regions. Several of NARC's members graciously dedicated their time and resources to making these tours a success: Atlanta Regional Commission; Centralina Council of Governments; Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments; and Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. For more information about the regional solar workshop tour, including resources and presentations, click [HERE](#) or visit the [Solar Energy Resource Center](#) or contact [Mia Colson](#).

CMAP Launches Local Food Micro Website: The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) launched a new web microsite and video about supporting local food systems, a significant economic issue. Of the \$48 billion that Illinois residents spend on food every year, \$46 billion is leaving the state. If local food production were increased in the region, it could create over 5,000 jobs and generate \$6.5 billion per year in economic activity. Local governments, planners, and economic development professionals have an important role to play in supporting local food systems. Visit CMAP's [website](#) for additional information.

EPA Releases New Climate and Energy Strategy Guide: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a new climate and energy strategy guide for local governments, titled [Resource Conservation and Recovery: A Guide to Developing and Implementing Greenhouse Gas Reduction Programs](#). This guide provides comprehensive information for local government staff and policy makers on designing and implementing resource conservation and recovery programs, including: Environmental, economic, and human health

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benefits; Source reduction and waste diversion practices and technologies; Key participants; Policy mechanisms for initiating programs; Implementation strategies for success; Costs and funding opportunities.

Industry Council Launches NPM 2.0 Online Toolkit: — The Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT) announced the launch of its National Preparedness Month (NPM) online toolkit for emergency preparedness. This new and interactive resource provided by iCERT, deemed the NPM 2.0 Toolkit, provides the user with tips and tools to become better prepared in the event of a major emergency, and in the midst of everyday activities. It takes the user into an environment to peruse basic tips and assess one's current level of preparedness. Click [HERE](#) to access the Toolkit and additional information or [HERE](#) to visit iCERT's website.

New Water Campaign Launched: A group of industry groups launched "Water for Jobs: Water Puts America to Work," which makes the business case for water infrastructure investment by emphasizing the link between investment and job creation. Click [HERE](#) to access the Campaign.

FEMA Announces New Funding Opportunity: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced a new funding opportunity – the Community Resilience Innovation Challenge – to build local resilience, through a Whole Community approach. This new opportunity, provided through FEMA and the Rockefeller Foundation, is designed to continue to move community preparedness forward and assist local areas in building and revitalizing community-based partnerships to advance the nation's resilience to disasters. The highest grant amount is \$35,000, and applications are open to most local, state, and tribal agencies and governments; business entities; associations; organizations and groups. Submissions will be accepted through October 26. Click [HERE](#) for additional information on the Challenge program criteria and application process.

EPA Brownfields Pilot Program Webinar: NALGEP Brownfield Communities Network is hosting a webinar on Wednesday, October 3 at 2pm ET on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Area-wide Pilot Program, detailing lessons learned and an upcoming new funding opportunity. Click [HERE](#) to register.

POLICYUPDATE

The House and Senate are in recess until after the November elections; they are expected to return on November 14.

Sequestration Update: On Friday, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is ordering federal agencies to plan for spending in FY13 as if sequestration is not a factor, stating, "Agencies should continue normal spending and operations." If Congress doesn't address sequestration in the lame duck, in January OMB will enact steps to make the \$109 billion in FY13 cuts. Also, the U.S. Conference of Mayors sent a letter to Congressional leaders signed by 149 mayors around the country detailing the negative impacts sequestration will have on local budgets. Click [HERE](#) for more information. Please contact Shannon Baxevanis at Shannon@narc.org if you would like to use NARC's draft sequestration letter to send to your Congressional delegation or if you would like more information.

Farm Bill Expires: Congress did not take any action on the Farm Bill reauthorization or drought disaster assistance before it left for recess on September 21. Most programs will continue and farmers will receive direct payment checks in October. As part of the FY 2013 Continuing Resolution passed by Congress last week, conservation and other U.S. Department of Agriculture programs will receive funding equal to FY12 levels until March 2013, but all programs will not be able to enroll new participants or sign new contracts until the next Farm Bill is completed or an extension is passed and signed. It is anticipated Congress will take this up in the lame duck session.

REGIONS360

Broward MPO Issues Request For Proposals (RFP): The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), 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 Federal Transit Administration 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. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Broward MPO Issues Request For Qualifications (RFQ): The Broward MPO is requesting responses from qualified firms to develop a ready to use scope of services to develop a Public Education Campaign to help implement Broward's transportation plans and projects (Transit Systems Plan). The Successful Offeror shall be responsible for Tasks identified in the Scope of Services located in Appendix A. Interested firms should submit an offer that addresses all factors listed in the RFQ. Deadline for submitting the offer is 5:00 PM, October 17, 2012. For more information, click [HERE](#).

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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](#).

FEMA Announces New Funding Opportunity

Application Due: October 26, 2012

FEMA announced a new funding opportunity – the Community Resilience Innovation Challenge – to build local resilience, through a Whole Community approach. This new opportunity, provided through FEMA and the Rockefeller Foundation, is designed to continue to move community preparedness forward and assist local areas in building and revitalizing community-based partnerships to advance the nation's resilience to disasters. The program will be administered by the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation who will act as a third-party intermediary to encourage local communities to engage in creative activities that enhance disaster resilience. The highest grant amount is \$35,000, and applications are open to most local, state, and tribal agencies and governments; business entities; associations; organizations and groups. Key assessment areas for the awards will be

the approach to community resilience is innovative, collaborative with community stakeholders, sustainable, replicable outcomes, and measurable benefits. Click [HERE](#) for additional information on the Challenge program criteria and application process.

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

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.

Ask the Utility: Working with your Local Municipal Utility
Thursday, November 1, 2012: 2:00pm-3:00pm ET

This webinar will be focused on a discussion with municipal utility representatives about the opportunities and limitations of increasing distributed solar electricity, and how municipal utilities have worked successfully with local governments to implement best practices and policies around solar development and interconnection. This webinar seeks to educate local government professionals who are interested in learning about how to better collaborate with municipal utilities to develop solar projects in their community. Participants of this webinar will come away with a better understanding of the following issues: how municipal utilities view solar, how to best work with your muni and other utilities, and how to leverage electric utility expertise. To register, click [HERE](#).

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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