Email not displaying correctly? Click HERE to view it as a PDF.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS
VOL. XIII, No. 43, November 12, 2013
eRegions

EXECUTIVEBRIEF

Colleagues,

NARC is saddened by the news of Dr. Ronald Kirby's passing. Dr. Kirby was a senior director at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) and the organization's Director of Transportation Planning. We reiterate MWCOG Executive Director Chuck Bean's sentiments and comments he expressed earlier today, available **HERE**.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Kirby's family and colleagues.

Best,
Fred

PROGRAM UPDATE **POLICY UPDATE**
MEMBER REQUESTS **REGIONS360**
GRANT OPPORTUNITIES **UPCOMING EVENTS**

PROGRAMUPDATE

Rooftop Solar Challenge II Kick-off Meeting: On November 7th and 8th, The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) traveled to Kansas City, MO for the U.S. Department of Energy's Rooftop Solar Challenge II Kick-off Meeting. Meister Consultants Group and nine regional councils gathered at the Mid-America Regional Council offices to discuss Rooftop Solar Challenge II activities and goals. Each national and regional partner left this kick-off meeting energized and excited about expanding the solar energy market in their region, while also helping to standardize and streamline the process for future solar planning initiatives.

NARCLEADERSHIP

President
Hon. Penny Gross
Supervisor,
Fairfax County, VA

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

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman
Executive Director
Shannon Baxevanis
Deputy Director
Autumn Campbell
Director of Community Programs
Mia Colson
Program Analyst
Marcy Fritter
Office Manager
Bridget Gribbin
Intern
Taylor Markwith
Program Associate
Lindsey Riley
Deputy of Communications
Anna Rosenbaum
Communications Associate
Erich W. Zimmermann
Director of Transportation Programs

To access past issues of *eRegions*, visit our

POLICYUPDATE

The Senate is in session. The House is back in session, as of today.

NDD United Releases Report on Impacts of Austerity Measures: Today a coalition of organizations representing nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs in ongoing budget debates, NDD United, released the most comprehensive report to-date detailing the devastating effects of budget cuts on core services government programs. The report outlines what programs such as housing, infrastructure and job training, among many others, are facing as a result of across-the-board funding cuts to federal agencies that support these investments. The full text of the report is available **HERE**.

Farm Bill Conferees Hopeful for Compromise by Thanksgiving Holiday: While House and Senate Members leading the conference negotiations on long-term Farm Bill reauthorization have not released an official date, members have said they hope to arrive at a compromise version by the Thanksgiving holiday. Additionally, discussions around using savings provided for in an eventual compromise as part of a final budget agreement are still ongoing, though conference committee leadership are split on the potential benefits of such a move.

NARC and Coalition Members Meeting this Week with Senate Leadership on Next Steps for Workforce Reauthorization: Over the next several weeks, NARC and other members of the Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce (CIAW) will meet with Senate Leadership to discuss bringing the Workforce Investment Act of 2013 (S 1356) to the Senate floor for a vote. The Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee passed a bipartisan bill in July. NARC members are encouraged to contact your Senators and ask them to reach out to Senate Leadership to schedule the bill for floor consideration. WIA has not been reauthorized since 2003. More information and resources are available **HERE**.

Senate Aging Committee Examines Challenges to Senior Transportation: Last week the Senate Select Committee on Aging held a hearing to discuss the unique challenges the nation's seniors, aging agencies and transportation departments face in ensuring that older Americans have access to reliable and affordable transportation options. Witnesses from both the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) discussed

website.

Make NARC your homepage — click here to learn how.

progress and challenges faced under the National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST) initiative authorized in both the 2005 and 2012 transportation authorization bills. Full statements and video from the hearing are available **HERE**.

MEMBERREQUESTS

Project Database Solution: The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) is looking for an off-the-shelf project database solution that other metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) are using to manage their regional transportation plans (RTP) and/or transportation improvement program (TIP). The solution that SEMCOG is currently using was developed in-house, but they are considering replacing this with an off-the-shelf solution.

Capturing ROI: The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is seeking information or strategies from their peers on ways to capture or report direct value or return on investment (ROI) for their local government members. Ideally, MORPC is looking to provide something to each member on a regular basis. As an example, are there specific dollar values that can be aligned with programs/benefits that all members receive? What information is shared that helps members validate the investment?

These organizations ask for your thoughtful reply. Please forward any feedback to Anna Rosenbaum, anna@narc.org, including which member assistance request to which you are responding.

REGIONS360

Northern Arizona Council of Governments Highlighted in International Economic Competitiveness Report: Recently the Inter-American Competitiveness Network released its 2013 “Signs of American Competitiveness Report,” assessing the competitiveness landscape of countries in the North and South Americas. Cited for best practice in the report is the partnership among NARC members, the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG), Northern Arizona University (NAU), and the city of Flagstaff to construct the Northern Arizona Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology Incubator (NACET) facility. The full text of the report and other examples of regional

competitiveness efforts is available **HERE**.

FHWA Newsletter Highlights NCTCOG program: The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) October 2013 "Fostering Livable Communities" Newsletter highlighted the North Central Texas Council of Governments' (NCTCOG) program titled "Planning Livable Military Communities." The program goals include options for sustainable transportation, economic development, housing, and retail markets in the area surrounding the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Fort Worth. You can read the article **HERE**. For more information about NCTCOG's program, go **HERE**.

FHWA Highlights MARC in Case Study Concerning Livability Planning: FHWA recently released a case study to assist MPOs in addressing livability through the planning process, which included the approach utilized by the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in Kansas City. MARC uses a 100 point scoring system – which includes livability elements – to inform the decision-making process for project inclusion in the long-range plan. You can read more about this case study **HERE**.

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

Climate Solutions University Accepting Applications

Application Deadline: Rolling

The Model Forest Policy Program is offering a special funding opportunity for qualifying U.S. urban and rural communities working together addressing ecosystem services. Urban decision makers need to plan for climate impacts that result from land changes beyond their jurisdictional boundaries. To find out more about the Climate Solutions University, click **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.

Environmental Protection Agency – Urban Waters

Deadline: November 15, 2013

The EPA is soliciting proposals for projects that will advance EPA's water quality and environmental justice goals. Projects proposed for funding must take place entirely within and focus on one of 18 specific Eligible Geographic Areas, as listed in Section I.A and illustrated on the Urban Waters Small Grants program **mapping website**. More information is available **HERE**.

Wells Fargo Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Deadline: December 16, 2013

Designed to support projects that link economic development and community well-being to the stewardship and health of the environment, Wells Fargo and the NFWF have launched a five-year, $15 million initiative that will be used to leverage other public and private investments with an expected total impact of over $37.5 million. Funding priorities for this program include supporting sustainable agricultural practices; promoting land and water conservation; facilitating investments in green infrastructure and energy efficiency; and encouraging broad-based citizen participation in project implementation. More information is available **HERE**.

Department of the Treasury – Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI)

Deadline: December 23, 2013

Funding is available for the CDFI Program, which aims to use federal resources to invest in CDFIs and to build their capacity to serve low-income people and communities that lack access to affordable financial products and services. Through the CDFI program, the CDFI Fund provides two types of monetary awards to CDFIs - Financial Assistance awards and Technical Assistance awards. More information on this opportunity is available **HERE**, and more information on the CDFI program is available **HERE**. Funding for the Native American CDFI program is also available. More information can be found **HERE**.

National Endowment for the Arts

Deadline: January 13, 2014

The NEA Our Town Program aims to support creative placemaking projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places with the arts at their core. Our Town will invest in creative and innovative projects in which communities, together with their arts and design organizations and artists, seek to improve their quality of life; encourage greater creative activity; foster stronger community identity and a sense of place; and revitalize economic development. More information is available **HERE**.

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.

National Science Foundation (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**.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Deadline: January 30, 2014

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the availability of $181 million to develop commercial-scale biorefineries or retrofit existing facilities with appropriate technology to develop advanced biofuels. Funding is available through the Biorefinery Assistance Program provides loan guarantees to viable commercial-scale facilities to develop new and emerging technologies for advanced biofuels. The announcement is available **HERE**, more information about the program is available **HERE** and the full text of the Federal Register notice 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

EPA to Hold Public Listening Sessions on Reducing Carbon Pollution from Existing Power Plants

Following through on President Obama's Climate Action Plan, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold 11 public listening sessions across the country to solicit ideas and input from the public and stakeholders about the best Clean Air Act approaches to reducing carbon pollution from existing power plants. Power plants are the nation's largest stationary source of carbon pollution, responsible for

about one third of all greenhouse gas pollution in the United States. Click **HERE** for more information about EPA's carbon pollution standards for the power sector. Click **HERE** for the complete list of sessions, locations, and to complete online registration.

DOE Announces Webinars on Economic Impacts of Offshore Wind, Clean Energy Financing Programs

November 20, 2013, 3:00-4:00 pm EST

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will present a webinar titled "Jobs and Economic Development Impacts of Offshore Wind." This webinar will provide an overview of the new offshore wind Jobs and Economic Development Impacts model and review four completed economic assessments covering the Great Lakes, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, and Gulf Coast regions. Register for the webinar **HERE**.

The National League of Cities (NLC) to Host Webinar on Broadband Investment and the Agriculture Economy

November 21, 2013, 2:00 pm EST

NLC in partnership with the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NTCA), The Rural Broadband Association, and Public Technology Institute will host a webinar to help local elected officials better understand the impact of broadband, or robust telecommunications access, on improving agricultural practices and development. More information about this opportunity and registration are 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.

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) 2013 National Association of Regional Councils All rights reserved.

Forward this email to a friend
Update your profile