April 10, 2023

Last week, Henry County Commissioner Jeff Mires retired after three years of service as a county commissioner. CCAO Executive Director Cheryl Subler and CCAO Assistant Director John Leutz joined CCAO President & Henry County Commissioner Glenn Miller along with Commissioner Bob Hastedt in thanking Commissioner Mires for his steadfast service.

If you are having issues viewing Counties Current in your email, click [View this email in your browser] at the top of the email.

Association and Member News | State and Federal News | Education and Grants | ARPA and BIF Resources | County News | Did You Know? | Job Postings

Statehouse Report and Counties Current Archive | Print Version | Dates to Remember

ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

Back to Top

Commissioners Handbook Chapter 96 published

Last week, CCAO published a new chapter in the County Commissioners Handbook. Chapter 96: Renewable Energy Facility Siting Authority covers the authority that counties now have regarding the siting of solar and wind energy facilities, as well as a review of the payment in lieu of taxes (or PILOT) agreement that counties can negotiate with these facilities, and other provisions.

Chapter 96 is largely an adaptation of the Senate Bill 52 manual that CCAO published in 2021. Converting it into a Commissioners Handbook chapter will make it more accessible on our website and allow for more regular updates.

CCAO hopes the chapter is helpful to our members!

Registration for the Northeast District Meeting now open!

Registration on the CCAO website for the Northeast District Meeting to be held on May 5 is now open! Registration is $15 per person and must be completed by April 24. Members from all regions are welcome to attend.

The event will take place at the Hall of Fame Village in Canton. The event will feature a welcome from leadership of the Hall of Fame Village, a legislative update from CCAO and CEAO, and a working lunch and presentations by Mark Havens of Constellation Energy and by Senator Kirk Schuring.

The event will conclude with a tour of the Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium and of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

If you have difficulty registering, please contact Robin Garrett or Brandy Allen.

Former Fairfield County Commissioner Jon Myers passes away

Former Fairfield County Commissioner Jon Myers passed away last week at the age of 75 after an eight-month fight with cancer.

Myers served as county commissioner from 2001 to 2011 after representing Fairfield County in the Ohio House of Representatives for 12 years.

Myers was also a long-time member of the Lancaster City Council. When he retired from the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, he capped nearly 30 years of public service.

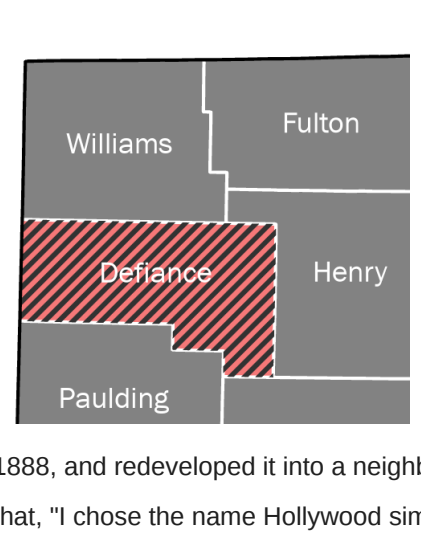
Ohio Council of County Officials Legislative Reception now open for registration

Registration for the 2023 Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) Legislative Reception is now open! The event will be held at the Statehouse Atrium from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on April 19. The event is free to attend and is a great opportunity to get to know your legislators and statewide office holders.

Registration can be completed at CCAO's website. If you have any questions about the event, please contact Robin Garrett, CCAO Boards' Liaison and Events manager at rgarrett@ccao.org.

Happy birthday to Defiance County!

Last Friday, Defiance County celebrated its 178th birthday. Created out of portions of Henry, Paulding, and Williams counties, the county is named after Fort Defiance, a fortification in the area built by "Mad" Anthony Wayne, the general in charge of American forces during the Northwest Indian War. The present-day city of Defiance is built where the fort was located, with the exact site of the fort currently occupied by the Defiance Public Library.



A neighborhood name that has become associated throughout the world with cinema owes its origin to a former resident of Defiance County. Daeida Hartell Wilcox Beveridge grew up in the Defiance County village of Hicksville and married a Williams County real estate developer (and, coincidentally, a one-time Williams County Recorder) named Harvey Henderson Wilcox. The two bought a ranch just outside of Los Angeles, California, in 1888, and redeveloped it into a neighborhood. Daeida gave it the name of Hollywood, stating later that, "I chose the name Hollywood simply because it sounds nice and because I'm superstitious and holly brings good luck."

Daeida was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1995.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

Back to Top

State allocations under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund announced for FY 2023

Last week, the Biden-Harris Administration announced a $6.5 billion investment in drinking water infrastructure through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

Ohio is slated to receive $242.9 million under the investment:

- $11.2 million under the base DWSRF distribution.
    - At least $1.6 million must be provided as a subsidy.
    - Between at least $1.3 million and $3.9 million must be provided as a subsidy to disadvantaged communities.
- $47.5 million under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law General Supplement of the DWSRF.
- $17.3 million under the "Emerging Contaminants" allocation.
- $166.9 million under the Lead Service Line Replacement allocation.

As CCAO learns how Ohio plans to invest and distribute these funds, we will keep our members informed.

You can read the official US EPA memo, which includes the allocation tables for each state.

ARPA Project and Expenditure Reporting portal is open; due by April 30

The reporting portal for counties to submit their annual and quarterly ARPA Project and Expenditure (P&E) Reports is open.

ALL COUNTIES MUST SUBMIT A P&E REPORT BY APRIL 30.

Please note that there is new information that is required for these April P&E Reports. Counties are now required to include the following information (these requirements DO NOT apply to expenditures that are paid for using lost revenue – EC 6.1):

1. **Unique Entity ID Requirements for Subrecipients and Contractors:** All subrecipients and contractors are required to have a Unique Entity ID (UEI) and have that number included as part of the reporting process. The UEI is the replacement for the previously used DUNS numbers, and they are issued by SAM.gov. While this requirement is not new, starting in April 2023's P&E Report the report form will now return an error when no valid UEI is provided when creating new Subrecipient or Contractor entities. **This was previously not explicitly required, but strongly urged by Treasury.**
    1. Treasury has stated that for the April 2023 P&E reporting form, **if a pre-existing subrecipient or contractor record does not have a UEI, the system will simply flag it as a warning but not prevent them from submission of the entire P&E report.**
    2. However, **ANY NEW** subrecipient or contractor records will be required to have their UEIs provided and they cannot create those entities without one.
    3. Treasury has stated they **DO NOT KNOW** how long they will be able to keep this flexibility available after April 2023 so **counties should get their UEIs together ASAP.**
2. **New Subaward/Direct Payments Entity Type:** All Subawards/Direct Payments records will be required to have an “entity type” selected before a subaward can be created. This field will capture whether the entity receiving the award or payment is a Subrecipient, Contractor, or Beneficiary. **If a county attempts to create a new subaward for a subrecipient without a populated entity type field will result in an error.**

Information from the US Treasury Department on how to complete the P&E reports can be found in its User Guide and its Reporting and Compliance Guidelines.

Ohio Means Jobs Gen Z Virtual Career Fair

Ohio has more than 940,000 working-age individuals in the “Gen Z” generation. If your organization is interested in tapping the talents of young workers just starting their careers, consider participating in the first-ever statewide OhioMeansJobs.com **Gen Z Virtual Career Fair**.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is hosting this event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, **May 3**. Ohio employers of all sizes, industries, and from all parts of the state are invited to participate. You can advertise specific job openings and even interview candidates on the spot, for full-time, part-time, summer, or internship positions.

To learn more or register, email EmploymentServices@jfs.ohio.gov or contact a workforce specialist at your local OhioMeansJobs Center. To find your local OhioMeansJobs Center, visit jfs.ohio.gov/owd/wioa/map.stm.

The fair will take place during In-Demand Jobs Week, a statewide celebration of the jobs, industries, and skills that are in-demand in Ohio.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

Back to Top

Visit the Grants and Funding Opportunities page on the CCAO website for a detailed listing of open grant programs.

Grant program to support infrastructure jobs accepting applications

The US Department of Labor is accepting grant applications for its "Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs" program. Applications are due by July 7 and are open to county governments, among other entities.

The objective of the grant program is to fund partnerships to develop worker-centered programs that train and prepare the skilled workforce that is needed to meet the demands of infrastructure projects funded via the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

A total of $80 million is available through the program, with individual grants capped at $5 million. Applicants must contribute at least 15% of the total amount of requested funds, either through leveraged funds or matching funds, depending on the program type the application is for.

You can access more information via the Grants.gov page listing.

CCAO, OACBHA to host ADMAH Board property tax levy training

On Friday, April 28 at 10:00 a.m., CCAO and the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) will be hosting a training on the topic of ADAMH Board property tax levies that will be open to members of both CCAO and OACBHA.

The training will be presented by representatives from OACBHA, CCAO, the Ohio Department of Taxation, and the Franklin County Auditor’s office.

Registration is free and can be completed here.

Grant opportunity round up

CCAO has posted several new grant opportunities on our Grants and Funding Opportunities page that counties may choose to pursue. Below is a brief description of some.

- RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund
    - To providing funding to help defray costs of drug task forces.
    - Deadline: April 17
- Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Program
    - To increase awareness of and increase availability of services to pregnant women and parents, as well as other relatives caring for children less than 12 months old.
    - Deadline: May 1
- Family-Based Alternative Justice Program
    - To build capacity for diversion and alternate justice programs for parents in order to mitigate the harmful effects that the incarceration of a parent has on children.
    - Deadline: May 1
- Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Program
    - To provide funding directly to law enforcement agencies to hire additional career law enforcement officers.
    - Deadline: May 11

Lake Erie Commission to host event on the Ohio Domestic Action Plan in April

On April 20, the Ohio Lake Erie Commission will be hosting a virtual event to review progress made on the Ohio Domestic Action Plan and kick off updates that will occur on the plan during 2023.

Among action items currently included in the Domestic Action Plan are H2Ohio support for home sewage treatment system remediation, establishing science-based agricultural best management practices and supporting farmers to implement them, and integrating the role of watershed planning at the local level to help better reduce nutrients efficiently.

You can find more information about the Lake Erie Commission and Ohio's Domestic Action Plan here.

SAM.gov, federal grant portal, walkthrough available; grant writing resources available

Last month, the US General Services Administration hosted an online forum to help walk state and local officials through how to use SAM.gov. The website is the primary portal for intergovernmental assistance from the federal government to state and local governments.

The Administration has made the presentation slide deck and the recording of the session available for download, as well as a one-page guide.

Grants are a valuable resource for counties to utilize, but knowing how best to develop competitive applications can be difficult and the learning curve cause counties to lose out on grants. Luckily, federal agencies and nonprofits offer resources to assist in developing competitive applications. Federal agency websites point to internal and external sources and many conduct free training and targeted one on one or small group technical assistance. Here are some current resources to explore:

- Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse
- Great Lakes Community Action Partnership
- Local Infrastructure Hub
- National Wildlife Federation
- Rural Community Assistance Partnership
- State and Community Energy Programs-Tools and Resources
- US Department of Transportation
- USDA Rural Development
- 10,000 Communities Initiative

ARPA and BIL RESOURCES

Back to Top

This section of Counties Current will be a permanent fixture for the foreseeable future to help counties with the ins and outs of the American Rescue Plan Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These two laws provide a once-in-a-generation investment.

Federal legislation increases ARPA flexibility for infrastructure, disaster response, and CDBG projects

The federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 was signed into law on December 29, 2022. The legislation contains important updates to how counties and other local governments may use their ARPA funds. First, the Act codifies the standard allowance included in the US Department of the Treasury’s Final Rule that permits counties to use up to $10 million for the provision of government services under the “revenue loss” eligibility category without having to demonstrate losses through a complicated formula. This codification means that the Treasury Department cannot alter the standard allowance in any subsequent rulemaking.

The Act also permits counties to use the greater of $10 million or 30 percent of their total ARPA allocation for federal infrastructure projects, responding to natural disasters, or Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects. Counties must expend these funds no later than September 30, 2026, rather than the standard date of December 31, 2026. Eligible natural disaster responses include emergency relief and the negative economic impacts of natural disasters, including temporary emergency housing, food assistance, financial assistance for lost wages, or other immediate needs. CDBG projects must meet the requirements of Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

Some of the federal infrastructure programs eligible for ARPA match include the National Highway Performance Program; Bridge Investment Program; Surface Transportation Block Grant Program; and, the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program. More information, and a complete list of eligible transportation programs, is available from NACo at this link.

Resources for ARPA Reporting and Compliance

The most recent version of the US Treasury Reporting Guidance was published September 20, 2022. Counties and other local governments with populations greater than 250,000 or ARPA distributions greater than $10 million are required to file Project and Expenditure Reports no later than 30 days after the end of each quarter throughout the grant period. Other recipients will file Project and Expenditure Reports annually by April 30.

Members are urged to consult resources from US Treasury, NACo, and the Ohio Office of Budget and Management for more information about reporting and how to use ARPA funds. CCAO maintains a list of ARPA links and resources, including a comparison of state and federal procurement laws, at the ARPA Resources page.

Ohio Ethics Commission issues statement regarding stimulus funds

Last week the Ohio Ethics Commission released a statement ensuring that public officials are aware that stimulus funds, such as those received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act and the funds that communities will receive under Governor Mike DeWine's Appalachian investment program, are public funds and that conflict of interest laws must be observed.

To that effect, the Commission also recirculated its Advisory Opinion No. 2009-006, issued in 2009 regarding stimulus funds made available to governments under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It provides a more in-depth examination of potential conflicts of interest with stimulus funds, including a discussing regarding vendors.

CCAO encourages members refamiliarize themselves with this Advisory Opinion and conflict of interest laws to ensure good stewardship of ARPA and Appalachia funds.

Guidance and overview of available BIL funding available from NACo and the Ohio Department of Transportation

NACo and ODOT each host a resource page providing information to counties about the Bipartican Infrastructure Law. The pages are rich with information including multiple tables providing overviews and links to funding opportunities, a timeline of upcoming grant programs, and much more.

The NACo website can be found here and the ODOT website can be found here.

CCAO strongly encourages counties to frequently visit the sites and apply for funding through the myriad of programs to bring valuable federal funds to Ohio communities.

COUNTY NEWS

Back to Top

Each week Counties Current highlights the happenings in our counties in the words of their local media. One county from each of the CCAO's five districts is highlighted.

Northwest District

Commissioners award and authorize advertising for bids

Sidney Daily News, April 7, 2023

The Shelby County Commissioners awarded two bids during business between March 9 and March 30.

On March 14, the commissioners awarded a bid of $1,888,059 for the 2023 resurfacing program to Barrett Paving Materials, Inc. One bid was opened for the program on March 9. On March 30, a bid of $287,999.03 from Jutte Excavating in Fort Recovery was awarded for the Hardin Wapakoneta Road bridge rehabilitation project. Three bids were opened for the project on March 28.

The commissioners also authorized advertising for bids and accepted quotes. Bids will open for the Shelby County maintenance garage project at 11 a.m. on April 13 and for the 2023 Eilerman Road sanitary force main replacement project at 11 a.m. on April 25. All quotes for the 2023 road maintenance program – including two quotes for bituminous asphalt materials, four quotes for bituminous emulsion materials, and two quotes for aggregate stone materials – were accepted on March 14.

On March 9, the commissioners authorized Shelby County to receive opioid settlement funds from litigation against pharmaceutical supply chain participants. According to a chart showing allocation to Ohio municipalities on the national opioid settlement website, Shelby County is estimated to receive $524,125.25 as a result of the lawsuit, as listed under the “100% direct payment to subdivision” column.

Northeast District

Trumbull set to vote to move MARCS system forward

Star Beacon, April 5, 2023

Trumbull County commissioners are expected to authorize an agreement between state officials and the county for the proposed Multi-Agency Radio Communication System tower.

The new system is supposed to enable safety-service departments to communicate clearly over long distances and in all types of weather.

In the proposal, the state and county each will provide $875,000 for the construction of the radio tower, an associated building for MARCS and all associated equipment needed to make it fully operational.

The state is expected to pay for the tower and the county will pay for the equipment, according to Commissioner Denny Malloy, board president.

Central District

Columbus Zoo to have single board with tighter spending controls

Columbus Dispatch, April 3, 2023

Franklin County and the city of Columbus have quietly put in place a new agreement that will eliminate one of two boards with oversight over the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, changes the make-up of the remaining board and ensures better financial accountability.

The new memorandum of understanding agreement puts the zoo on a tighter financial leash by requiring the nonprofit Columbus Zoological Park Association to provide the county with all "necessary information to assure (taxpayer levy funds) are used appropriately," according to the agreement.

The changes follow a 2021 Dispatch investigation that revealed zoo executives allowed relatives to live in houses owned or controlled by the zoo, obtained tickets for their family members to attend various entertainment events, and raised questions about other expenditures. A forensic audit that followed concluded four executives used zoo assets on personal expenses, including concert tickets, golf memberships, Amazon purchases, satellite radio subscriptions and vehicles, resulting in more than $630,000 in zoo expenses.

Southwest District

Commissioners, engineer open bids on FEMA projects

Pike County News Watchman, April 7, 2023

The Pike County Commissions along with Pike County Engineer Denny Salisbury were on hand Monday to open the bids for projects that are at least partially funded by monies from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The first project was the Carr’s Run repair project, which came with an apparent low bid around $15,000.

The amount FEMA gave for the Carr’s Run was $3,800. The county will be on the hook for the remaining cost of the project.

The next project was a repair project on Kirk Road. The apparent low bid of $26,625 from WE Contracting out of Piketon.

Southeast District

Holmes County commissioners deny dogs access to county buildings

The Daily Record, April 3, 2023

Concerns over liability, the potential for disturbances and other issue have led Holmes County commissioners to put a leash on the Freedom Fridays program recently enacted by Dog Warden Jonathan Beam.

The animals are not allowed in county buildings, said commissioners, unless they're service dogs.

The Holmes County Board of Commissioners addressed the matter at Monday's meeting after a shelter dog caused a disturbance in the county office building by barking.

Freedom Fridays is an initiative to get dogs out of the shelter environment and on hiking trails and other outdoor activities for an hour or so. The program began a few weeks ago, Beam said.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please view the CCAO Calendar for a comprehensive list of events to note.

Back to Top

APRIL 5 - 13
Passover

APRIL 19
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting
OCCO Legislative Reception

APRIL 27 - 28
CEBCO Board of Directors Retreat

MAY 5
Northeast District Meeting

MAY 10
Central District Meeting

MAY 12
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

DID YOU KNOW?

Back to Top

Licking County

On the grounds of the Newark-Heath Airport in Licking County is an odd sight but one that dates back to early aeronautic navigation.

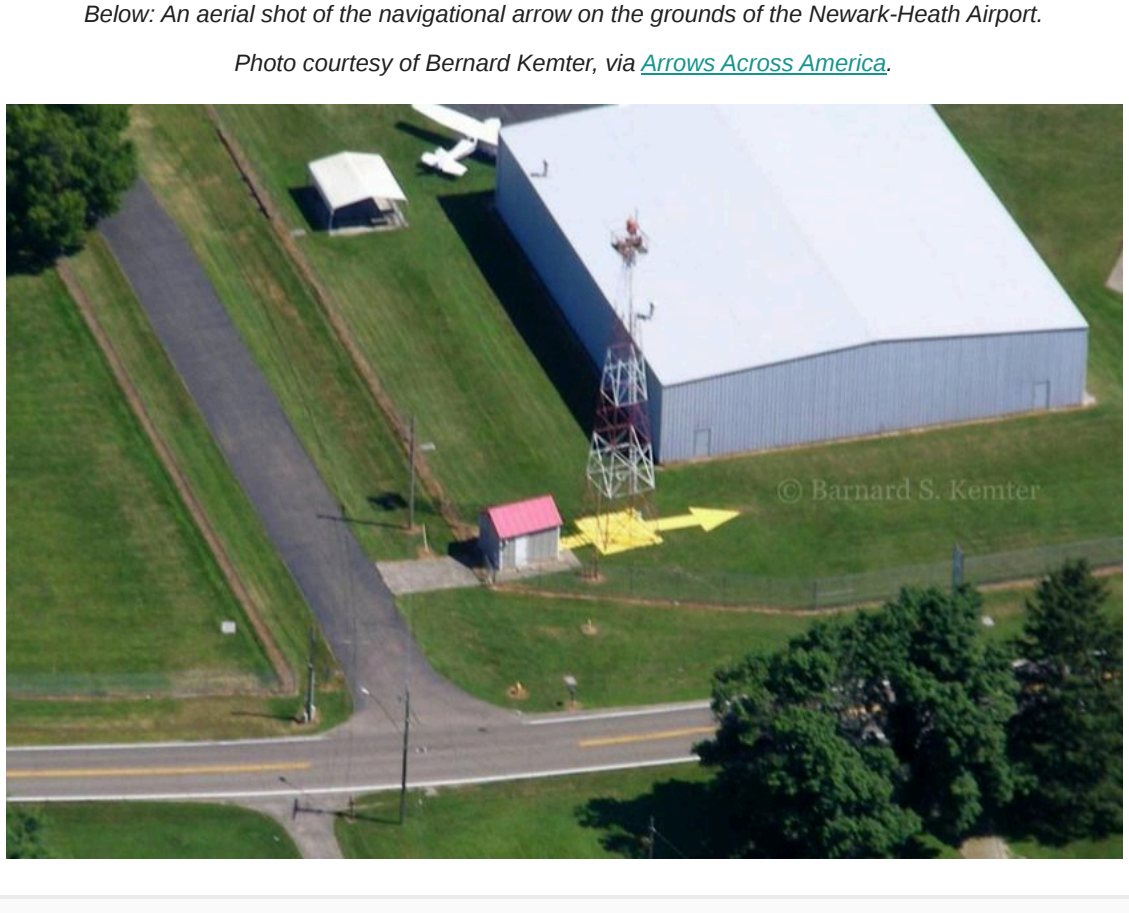
Immediately south of one of the airport's hangers is a beacon tower built on a large concrete yellow arrow pointing east. The site was known as "2 C-P" when it was operational beginning in 1930.

The site was a Beacon Station which helped guide airmail flights across the country in the age before radar and more sophisticated navigation instruments were available in aircraft.

The Newark 2 C-P site was the second navigational beacon on the Columbus-Philidelphia air route. Pilots departing from Columbus would follow the directional arrow to the next stations where subsequent arrows would adjust the heading for pilots to help them reach their destination. The Newark site was an "intermediate landing field" where planes could land if need be, although the facility did not provide servicing if the plane needed maintenance.

The Newark 2 C-P arrow is the only navigational arrow in Ohio that is confirmed to still exist, as tracked by the enthusiast "Arrows Across America" website.

Below: An aerial shot of the navigational arrow on the grounds of the Newark-Heath Airport. Photo courtesy of Bernard Kemter, via Arrows Across America.



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