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# CIDS

## County Information and Data Service

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FEBRUARY 16, 2007

### DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 23, 2007

CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, MARY YODER'S AMISH KITCHEN, GEAUGA COUNTY (MIDDLEFIELD)

FEBRUARY 26-28, 2007

COMMISSIONERS TRAINING SEMINAR, DEER CREEK RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER, PICKAWAY COUNTY (MT. STERLING)

MARCH 1, 2007

STATEHOOD DAY

MARCH 2, 2007

CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, MARRIOTT NORTHEAST, WARREN COUNTY (MASON)

MARCH 3-7, 2007

NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON HILTON, WASHINGTON, D.C.

MARCH 5, 2007

CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, RED PIG INN, PUTNAM COUNTY (OTTAWA)

MARCH 7, 2007

OHIO CONGRESSIONAL BREAKFAST, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING - ROOM B-369, WASHINGTON, D.C.

MARCH 9, 2007

CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, HOLIDAY INN, MUSKINGUM COUNTY (ZANESVILLE)

MARCH 9, 2007

CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, THE CLUB AT KEY CENTER, CUYAHOGA COUNTY (CLEVELAND)

MARCH 12, 2007

CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, OLD WAYSIDE INN, ADAMS COUNTY (WEST UNION)

MARCH 19, 2007

CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, HOLIDAY INN FRENCH QUARTER, WOOD COUNTY (PERRYSBURG)

MARCH 19, 2007

CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, HILTON INN WEST, SUMMIT COUNTY (AKRON)

- MARCH 23, 2007**                      **CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, HOLIDAY INN -DAYTON AIRPORT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY (ENGLEWOOD)**
- APRIL 13, 2007**                      **CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS, BLUEBIRD FARM, CARROLL COUNTY (CARROLLTON)**
- APRIL 22-28, 2007**                      **NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK**
- APRIL 23, 2007**                      **NW DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, TREE LINKS GOLF COURSE, LOGAN COUNTY (BELLEFONTAINE)**
- JUNE 10-12, 2007**                      **CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL CONFERENCE, PARK INN TOLEDO (FORMERLY RADISSON HOTEL), LUCAS COUNTY (TOLEDO)**

**ASSOCIATION NEWS**

CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS

Mark your calendar and plan to attend one of the Regional Legislative Briefings to be held in February, March and April! The purpose of the meetings are to provide legislators and county commissioners with an opportunity to discuss legislative issues affecting county government on a regional basis. Registration information was sent to county commissioners several weeks ago.

For more information please contact John Leutz, CCAO Senior Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7994, (888) 757-1904 or [jleutz@ccao.org](mailto:jleutz@ccao.org).

2007 CCC/ESAO REGIONAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED

For the past four years, the County Commissioners Clerks and Engineers Secretaries Association of Ohio (CCC/ESAO), CCAO's first and oldest affiliate organization, have held a series of very successful regional meetings around the state. The purpose of these meetings is for CCC/ESAO members to share their knowledge with other clerks and secretaries that are unable to attend conferences and workshops.

Due to the overwhelming success, CCC/ESAO has scheduled five regional meetings in 2007. These informal meetings are open to all commissioners clerks or deputies and engineers secretaries or administrative assistants to discuss various topics of concern in your county. The meeting topics are

tailored to meet the needs of each district. All meetings will start at 10:00 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. There is no charge to attend. Lunch will be sponsored by CCAO/CEAO. **The CCAO Board of Trustees encourages all county commissioners to permit their clerks and other office support staff to attend one of the following meetings.**

<p><b>MARCH 30, 2007 - MAHONING - REGION 3</b></p> <p>LOCATION: The Upstairs Restaurant, 4500 Mahoning Avenue, Youngstown (Mahoning)</p> <p>COUNTIES: Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Holmes, Lake, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, and Wayne</p> <p>For more information please contact Nancy Walega, Administrative Assistant, Mahoning County Engineer's Office, at (330) 799-1581 or <a href="mailto:nwalega@mahoningcounty.org">nwalega@mahoningcounty.org</a>.</p>
<p><b>APRIL 27, 2007 - ASHLAND - REGION 2</b></p> <p>LOCATION: Sallies, 1256 East Main Street, Ashland County (Ashland)</p> <p>COUNTIES: Ashland, Crawford, Delaware, Erie, Huron, Knox, Licking, Lorain, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Union, and Wyandot</p> <p>For more information please contact Gail Crossen, Clerk, Ashland County Commissioners, (419) 289-0000 or <a href="mailto:gcrossen@ashlandcounty.org">gcrossen@ashlandcounty.org</a>.</p>

**MAY 4, 2007 - GUERNSEY - REGION 4**

LOCATION: To-be-announced

COUNTIES: Athens, Belmont, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, and Washington

For more information please contact Crystal Digenova, Clerk, Tuscarawas County Commissioners, at (330) 365-3240 or [commissioners@co.tuscarawas.oh.us](mailto:commissioners@co.tuscarawas.oh.us).

Two additional meetings will be held in Van Wert County on September 28 and Greene County on October 26. For more information, please contact the 2007 CCC/ESAO President Cheryl Nolan, Administrator/Clerk, Huron County Commissioners, at (419) 668-3092 or [cnolan@hccommissioners](mailto:cnolan@hccommissioners).

COMMISSIONERS TRAINING SEMINAR

CCAO will be holding a *County Commissioners' Training Seminar* on February 26-28, 2007 at Deer Creek Resort and Conference Center, 22300 State Park Road #20, in Mt. Sterling. This seminar is an excellent opportunity for commissioners, administrators, and clerks to meet with other new and veteran officials. We look forward to seeing you at Deer Creek for the Commissioners Training Seminar. Please contact Janet Erwin, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at (614) 220-7986, (888) 757-1904 or [jerwin@ccao.org](mailto:jerwin@ccao.org).

OHIO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION BREAKFAST - MARCH 7; HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

CCAO will sponsor an **Ohio Congressional Delegation Breakfast** on **Wednesday, March 7** at **8:00 a.m.** in the **Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-369**. It is important to attend and personally invite your Member(s) of Congress to the breakfast. In addition, since NACo has set this morning aside for county officials to be "on the hill" you may want to schedule an appointment with one of our Senators and/or your Representative(s). Ohio has elected some new Members of Congress and it is important that we meet with them to discuss issues of importance to counties.

During the breakfast our Members of Congress will be given an opportunity to discuss issues that they are working on that impact county government. A list of topics of importance to Ohio counties and a copy of the 2007 NACo Legislative Priorities were sent to each member of the Ohio Congressional Delegation.

Transportation **WILL NOT** be provided to the breakfast. Please do not attempt to drive and park on Capitol Hill! The Capitol can be reached by taking the Metro (red line) to Metro Center and transfer to the blue or orange lines and exit at Federal South or you can travel by taxi.

A full breakfast will be served and **attendance must be guaranteed in advance**. There is no charge to attend the breakfast. Your traveling companions are welcome to attend the breakfast. Please RSVP by **February 28**.

Please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you in Washington March 3-7!

**SERVICE CORPORATION UPDATE**

CEBCO ELECTS BOB HACKETT AS PRESIDENT

The County Employee Benefit Consortium of Ohio (CEBCO) Board of Directors elected officers on Friday, February 9. The CEBCO Board of Directors unanimously elected Bob Hackett, Madison County Commissioner, as President to succeed former Ashtabula County Commissioner Robert Boggs, who is now the Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Hardin County Commissioner Gerald Potter was elected to replace Bob Hackett as Vice President. Douglas Duckett, Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations for Butler County, was elected to succeed Gerald Potter as Secretary. Becky Saine, Allen County Administrator, maintained her position as Treasurer for the CEBCO Board of Directors.

Hackett was one of the original members of the CEBCO Steering Committee and one of the architects who planned and outlined the launch of the thriving benefits consortium in 2004. CEBCO now has 14 counties and the CCAO staff as part of their 6,500

employee members and nearly 15,000 family members in the programs. This health benefits consortium has saved counties millions of dollars since its inauguration. CEBCO rates each county individually based on their claims experience. In addition, high claims are pooled and prices negotiated from vendor partners based on the total size of the group, which provide volume discounts. Commissioner Hackett stated that Madison County received double digit rate increases for the four previous years prior to joining CEBCO. For the three years Madison County has been with the CEBCO plan, the county averaged a 3% increase. It is important to note that national trends were well over 14% during this same time frame.

2007 rate increases for the entire consortium was 2.43%. Ten of the counties in the program received a 1% renewal increase for 2007. Madison County was one of these counties. The prescription drug rebates reduced the 1% increase even further. Solid plan designs, good provider discounts, strong prescription drug rebates, effective disease management programs are key to the success of the program. County employees are urged to utilize their wellness benefits and network providers. The CEBCO staff advocates for their members with each of the vendor partners and provide resources for the counties regarding the ever changing health benefits industry.

The consortium has selected Anthem Blue Cross for medical and life benefits, Delta Dental for dental benefits, VSP for vision benefits, Caremark for prescription drug benefits and Mt. Carmel Health Systems for their Employee Assistance Program for the next three years. The selection of premier vendors in the industry, strong plan designs and deep provider discounts provides a quality health care plan for county governments.

As with all of the CEBCO lines of business, your county can choose any of the stand alone programs separately or in conjunction with any of the other CEBCO offerings include: Medical, Drug, Dental, Employee Assistance Programs, Life and Vision Coverage. Harnessing group buying power is a key benefit of CEBCO. For more information on the

CEBCO Program please contact the Managing Director of Health and Wellness Benefits for CCAO, Maggie Neely at (614) 220-7984, (888) 757-1904 or [mneely@ccao.org](mailto:mneely@ccao.org).

## **STATE ACTIVITIES**

### **STATE OFFERS WIND PRODUCTION AND MANUFACTURING INCENTIVES**

The Ohio Wind Production & Manufacturing Incentive Program will have \$5 million in grants available to qualifying applicants seeking to generate electricity through wind turbines. Under the new program, grantees will receive a one-cent-per-kilowatt hour incentive for energy generated through wind sources. Projects that make use of Ohio-built turbines will be eligible for an additional 0.2 cent per kWh incentive. Funds for the program will come from the state's Advanced Energy Fund, which was revamped under H.B. 251 that was enacted late last year. H.B. 251, sponsored by State Representative Joe Uecker (Dist. 66-Loveland), allows the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) to offer the production incentive through the Advanced Energy Fund. To be eligible for wind energy production incentives, projects must begin commercial operation on or before December 31, 2008. ODOD also supports wind development in Ohio by maintaining an on-line high resolution, interactive Ohio wind map and by participating actively in the Ohio Wind Working Group. More information is available at [www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/oeo](http://www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/oeo).

Letters of intent for the Ohio Wind Production and Manufacturing Incentive Program are to be received by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2007. Applications are due to the ODOD's Office of Energy Efficiency by 3:00 p.m. on July 16, 2007. Applications for the grant and additional instructions are available on the Ohio Department of Development at [www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/oeo/GrantsLoans.htm](http://www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/oeo/GrantsLoans.htm).

### **OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION ANNOUNCES DELAY IN DESTINATION SALES IMPLEMENTATION**

Ohio retailers whose delivery sales in calendar year 2005 totaled less than \$30 million are getting a break

from a provision of the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement that would have required them to shift this year to a destination-based means of calculating sales tax.

On February 1, Ohio Tax Commissioner Richard Levin decided to not issue a Tax Commissioner's Journal Entry stating that certified service provider services are available in the state, thus exempting retailers below the \$30 million threshold from the requirement. These retailers can continue to calculate sales tax using origin-based sourcing, or location of the sale, which is normally their store location.

Most retail vendors in Ohio, however, must switch to the delivery-based system by January 1, 2008. Retailers in Ohio that have a service or delivery license were already required to use destination-based sourcing and must continue to do so.

If the tax commissioner had determined that certified service provider services were being provided by the Governing Board of the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement, retail vendors whose delivery sales in 2005 were less than \$30 million and greater than \$5 million, would have been required to begin collecting sales tax using destination-based sourcing - the rate in effect at the location to which the goods were delivered - starting May 1, 2007.

In general, a certified service provider assists the vendor in determining the taxability and applicable tax rates for sales both in and outside of Ohio. This is a requirement of the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement, in which Ohio is participating along with more than 20 other states. The agreement's goal is to establish uniform sales tax policies that enable states to collect sales tax that is currently not being collected on many out of state sales, particular catalog and Internet. The estimated loss of revenue to Ohio is over \$400 million annually.

## OHIO EPA SEEKS GREATER WETLANDS PROTECTION

Ohio EPA wants to change its general permit that regulates filling and discharging material into isolated wetlands when the total project would impact no more than 1/2 acre. To gather comments on the draft changes, the Agency will hold a public information session and hearing on Thursday, March 1, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A, 5th floor of Ohio EPA, Lazarus Government Center, 50 West Town Street, Columbus. Isolated wetlands are completely surrounded by upland areas and are not connected to other surface waters. The permit identifies coverage limitations, notification requirements, a review process, specific permit conditions, mitigation requirements and the limitations of an approved permit. The Agency is proposing to change the coverage under the permit to:

- prohibit impacting wetlands until after mitigation bank credits are purchased;
- add time frames to denote that mitigation should begin prior to impacting any wetlands to avoid the loss of ecological functions;
- clarify that replacing wetland topsoil in isolated wetlands applies to all activities, not just those involving trenches being backfilled in association with utility projects;
- ban placing stockpiled side cast material from construction into isolated wetlands for up to three months except when covered under this general permit; and
- require the permit holder to place signs around avoided wetlands for added protection.

There are two types of discharge permits: general and individual. An individual permit is specific to a facility or location, a specific amount of discharge, the specific receiving stream affected and other factors. When many individual permits contain very similar or identical requirements, and impacts are considered to be minimal, a general permit may be put in place.

A general permit covers all new and existing dischargers meeting the same eligibility criteria and

applies only to discharges that have a minimal effect on the environment. Public comments on the conditions of a general permit are considered when the general permit is created or reviewed, rather than for each project. Statewide general permits have a five-year duration and are reviewed and revised as needed at the end of that period, which is why the Agency is reviewing this permit.

The March 1 public hearing will immediately follow an information session to answer questions about the draft general permit. The public hearing will end when everyone has had an opportunity to testify. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public comments on the draft permit to be considered by Ohio EPA.

Copies of the draft general permit are available by accessing Ohio EPA's Web page: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/401/IWP.html#links>, by phoning Tom Harcarik at (614) 644-2139, or e-mailing [tom.harcarik@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:tom.harcarik@epa.state.oh.us). All comments submitted by close of business March 8, 2007, will be considered before a final decision is made on this general permit.

## **FEDERAL ACTIVITIES**

### HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES ARC REAUTHORIZATION BILL

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill last week that would reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965. The Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2007 (H.R.799). The bill would authorize \$463 million for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) through 2011. The ARC was created in 1965 to address the economic challenges affecting communities in Appalachia. ARC distributes its appropriated funds through grants and contracts to state and local governments, agencies and nonprofit entities for projects that enhance community & economic development. Projects must enhance one of ARC's strategic goals, which include increasing job opportunities; strengthening the capacity of the

Appalachian region to compete in the global economy; building the Appalachian Development Highway System; and developing and improving Appalachia's infrastructure. ARC also supplies funds to 78 of Appalachia's poorest counties for infrastructure improvements, capacity building and telecommunication and technology upgrades. Previous legislation authorizing the ARC expired on September 30. The bill is pending scheduling on a floor vote. (Contact: Cassandra Matthews, NACo Legislative Associate, (202) 942-4204 or [cmatthews@naco.org](mailto:cmatthews@naco.org))

### METH CLEANUP BILL APPROVED BY HOUSE

On February 7, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the NACo-supported Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2007 (H.R.365) by a vote of 426-2. The legislation would authorize the Environmental Protection Agency to develop voluntary cleanup standards for former meth labs. A Senate companion bill is expected to be introduced in the next few months. (Contact: Joe Dunn, NACo Legislative Associate, (202) 942-4207 or [jdunn@naco.org](mailto:jdunn@naco.org))

### HIGHWAY, TRANSIT FUNDING LOOKS GOOD IN CR

As the Senate continues to debate the Continuing Resolution (CR) which will fund all federal programs through the end of FY07, funding for the federal highway and transit programs appear to be in good shape and should be fully funded. When the outline for the CR was announced in December 2006, it was suggested that all programs be funded at the FY06 levels, which would have resulted in highways and transit receiving about \$4 billion less than the "guaranteed" levels SAFETEA-LU called for. Aggressive lobbying has resolved the issue and both the House bill, passed on January 31 and the pending Senate bill include full funding for the highway program at \$39.1 billion and full funding for transit at

\$8.9 billion. All other transportation programs are at the FY06 levels. (Contact: Bob Fogel, NACo Legislative Associate, (202) 942-4217 or [bfogel@naco.org](mailto:bfogel@naco.org))

## PRESIDENT'S FY2008 BUDGET

On February 5, President Bush released his FY2008 Budget to the public and NACo's initial reaction is the budget is not "county friendly". Many programs affecting county budgets are slashed and NACo will be working hard to maintain current funding levels. At this writing the FY2007 continuing resolution (HJ Res. 20) has not been signed into law, so it is difficult to fully assess the complete impact of these proposed cuts.

### Major Highlights:

- Payments in Lieu of Taxes cut by 18 percent.
- CDBG cut by \$1 billion (over 25 percent ).
- Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund cut by approx. 32 percent.
- Accelerate 3 percent withholding tax implementation from 2011 to 2008.
- Discontinue the Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP)
- DHS' grants to state and local governments cut by \$700 million.
- Elimination of justice programs including the Byrne, JAG, Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program. (Smaller program is proposed for all).
- Consolidation of the basic adults, dislocated workers, youth employment and training funding with Employment Service funding in a block grant to states.
- Essential Air Service program cut by over 50 percent.
- Amtrak funding cut by almost 40 percent.
- Health cuts of over \$25 billion over 5 years. Rural health programs cut by 89 percent.

- Request for a one-year extension of the Forest County Safety Net (PL 106-393) has caveats

A comprehensive article will appear in NACo's *County News*.

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

### DIRECTOR

The Knox County Board of Commissioners is seeking applications for a full-time Director of Homeland Security/Emergency Management Agency. The Director is responsible for the administrative operation of the Agency and its various functions including countywide 911 Dispatch and the Local Emergency Planning Committee. The successful candidate will formulate and lead the County's response to natural disasters, hazardous materials spills and catastrophic events.

Applicants must have strong leadership, management and communication skills, as well as a comprehensive knowledge of emergency management, emergency response, public administration and public relations. A Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Management or equivalent is preferred. Must be willing to become CEM certified. Valid Ohio Driver's License with acceptable driving record is also required. Salary begins in mid-thirties; commensurate with education and experience.

For job description and application, contact Emily Marth at [epmarth@ecr.net](mailto:epmarth@ecr.net) or at 117 East High Street, Mount Vernon, OH 43050. The application deadline is **March 15, 2007**. EOE.

### ASSISTANT PLANT MANAGER

Responsibilities : Manages assigned staff to ensure the effective operation & reliable performance of the plant in compliance with permit standards; assists with the management & implementation of the plant preventive maintenance program; develops, prepares and reviews operating records and reports, and trains plant personnel.

Minimum Qualifications

- Ohio EPA Class III Wastewater Works License (or an equivalent license from another state; Ohio Class III license would need to be obtained within one year of appointment to the position), and
- Minimum of five years experience as a Chief Plant Operator or equivalent in a wastewater treatment facility, and
- Valid driver’s license, with driving privileges in the State of Ohio
- Bachelor’s degree preferred (in environmental sciences or engineering)

Management salary schedule, grade 3 \$53,500 - \$66, 875. Applications accepted until filled; however, earliest qualified applicants will be interviewed first. Please submit an employment application and copy of Ohio EPA Class III license to the Lucas County Human Resources/Personnel Department, One Government Center, Suite 450, Toledo, OH 43604. EOE.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CHIEF OPERATOR

Job Responsibilities: Under general supervision, provides assistance to the Operations Superintendent to ensure proper operation of the facility, e.g., provides supervision and instruction for plant operators; assists with the modification of plant operations to meet regulatory standards; prepares and maintains records and reports; analyses, adjusts and controls plant operations to maintain optimum plant performances; and performs other related duties as required.

Qualifications: Two (2) years work experience as a supervisor in a treatment facility; or training and/or work experience which evidences an advanced knowledge of supervision, sanitary science and operating procedures and processes of wastewater facilities, and an advanced knowledge of wastewater treatment methods and equipment, and a demonstrable skill in reading blue prints and/or equivalent combination of training and/or experience.

Must hold a Class III Wastewater Operators License with the capability of obtaining a Class IV Wastewater Operators License within 24 months from hire date.

Pay Range: \$39,772.27 - \$66,301.60.

Application Process: A Warren County Application for Employment must be completed. Please visit Warren County’s website, [www.co.warren.oh.us.com](http://www.co.warren.oh.us.com), to download an application. Please send application and resume to: Workforce One Center, 300 E. Silver Street, Lebanon, OH 45036 or fax to: 513-695-2547. Please contact Susan Spencer, Personnel Officer, if you have any questions at; 513-695-1747.

This position is subject to a post-offer drug screen and back ground check (BCI). EOE.

<p><b>CLASSIFIED ADS</b></p> <p>CCAO publishes the County Information and Data Service (CIDS) weekly. Classified ads will be published free of charge as a service to counties. Ads will run for two weeks if space is available. Please provide faxed or e-mailed copy of the classified ad by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday of each week. Transmit the copy to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, via fax at (614) 221-6986 or e-mail <a href="mailto:mjneiman@ccao.org">mjneiman@ccao.org</a>.</p>
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