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# CIDS

## County Information and Data Service

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST 14-15, 2007	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DAYS, VAN WERT COUNTY (VAN WERT)
AUGUST 22, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL POLICY BRIEFING, WARREN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, WARREN COUNTY (LEBANON)
AUGUST 24, 2007	CORSA's 20th ANNUAL MEETING, ALADDIN SHRINE CENTER, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)
AUGUST 27, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL POLICY BRIEFING, OLDE DUTCH RESTAURANT, HOCKING COUNTY (LOGAN)
AUGUST 28, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL POLICY BRIEFING, MARY YODER'S RESTAURANT, GEAUGA COUNTY (MIDDLEFIELD)
AUGUST 29, 2007	CCAO REGIONAL POLICY BRIEFING, WOOD COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, WOOD COUNTY (BOWLING GREEN)
SEPTEMBER 2007	NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH ( <a href="http://www.ready.gov">www.ready.gov</a> )
SEPTEMBER 14, 2007	SE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS AND ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING, FARMSTEAD RESTAURANT, HOLMES COUNTY (BERLIN)
SEPTEMBER 24, 2007	NW DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS AND ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING, MARION COUNTY
DECEMBER 2-5, 2007	CCAO WINTER CONFERENCE, HYATT REGENCY, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)

### ASSOCIATION NEWS

#### CCAO TO HOST REGIONAL POLICY BRIEFINGS

CCAO is conducting four Regional Policy Briefings for

county commissioners along with county administrators, clerks and other key staff to highlight how the recently passed FY 2008/2009 state budget affects counties. In addition, the CCAO policy staff will provide updates on current issues including the

ethics law, HB 694, indigent defense and county law libraries, highlight legislative initiatives the Association is pursuing, and be available to answer questions.

Each seminar will start at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be served. There will be no charge for county commissioners and chief staff members to attend, but there is a \$20 charge per person for other county elected officials and their staff. Information and registration materials are enclosed with this issue of CIDS for county commissioners.

Plan to attend one of the following briefings:

- **August 22, 2007** - Warren County Administration Building, 406 Justice Drive, Warren County (Lebanon). Registration deadline: August 15.
- **August 27, 2007** - Olde Dutch Restaurant, State Route 664, Hocking County (Logan). Registration deadline: August 20.
- **August 28, 2007** - Mary Yoder's Restaurant, 14743 North State Street, Geauga County (Middlefield). Registration deadline: August 21.
- **August 29, 2007** - Wood County Administration Building, One Courthouse Square, Wood County (Bowling Green). Registration deadline: August 22.

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

#### SURVEY ON IMPROVING COUNTY GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

Earlier this week all counties were faxed a SURVEY regarding steps we could take to increase county government modernization or efficiency. CCAO is looking for our members to identify things counties currently do that are either no longer necessary or inefficient by today's standards. We are providing plenty of time for response and are asking that this SURVEY be returned to the CCAO office by September 17, 2007. We are asking our members to identify antiquated mandates that ought to be eliminated or responsibilities that could be reformed in order to perform them in a much more cost efficient manner.

Please take time to respond to the survey by indicating any issues which you think the CCAO ought to address from this perspective. The results will be given to the Legislative Committee for their review and consideration. Again, we ask that you return your survey by Monday, September 17, 2007. You may also fax your survey to 614-221-6986 or email your suggestions to John Leutz at [jleutz@ccao.org](mailto:jleutz@ccao.org).

#### HOLMES COUNTY TO HOST SE DISTRICT MEETING

Holmes County Commissioners Joe Miller, Ray Feikert and David Hall and County Engineer Chris Young will host the Southeast District County Commissioners and Engineers Association Quarterly Meeting on Friday, September 14, 2007. Location of the meeting will be at the Farmstead Restaurant, 4757 Township Road 366, in Berlin. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. An Amish country bus tour which will include a visit to watch brooms being handcrafted or shopping in downtown Berlin is available from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The business meeting begins at 2:30 p.m. with a buffet dinner and entertainment following at 4:30 p.m.

Registration fee: \$15 per person - buffet dinner only or \$25 per person - bus tour and buffet dinner. For more information please contact Debbie Bell, Holmes County Highway Department, 7191 State Route 39, P.O. Box 29, Millersburg, OH 44654, (330) 674-1856 or [engineer@co.holmes.oh.us](mailto:engineer@co.holmes.oh.us).

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

##### GEORGE R. PATTERSON

Lawrence County Commissioner George R. Patterson (67) died after an extended illness on Monday, July 30. Patterson was elected six times as Lawrence County Commissioner - the longest serving commissioner in the county's history. He served from 1983 to 1986 and 1991 until his death.

A former Coal Grove High School football star, 33-degree Master Mason, U.S. Marine veteran, and ARMCO Steel retiree, Patterson loved serving the people in Lawrence County. Other county elected officials said that Patterson had many friends and loved helping people solve problems. Patterson

worked on successful economic development programs, promoted a county 9-1-1 system, and never tired of helping to solve challenges that the county faced.

The CCAO staff extends heartfelt sympathy to the Patterson family. Notes of sympathy may be sent to the Patterson Family, 4783 County Road 19, Kitts Hill, OH 45645-8876.

## **CCAO SERVICE CORPORATION UPDATE**

### 2008 WORKERS' COMP GROUP DEADLINE REMINDER

**August 15, 2007** is the deadline for eligible counties to join the 2008 CCAO Workers' Comp Group. Packets were mailed out to all eligible counties the week of June 25<sup>th</sup>. As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, we have not received documents from the following eligible counties: Adams, Ashland, Athens, Belmont, Clinton, Darke, Fairfield, Gallia, Guernsey Harrison, Hocking, Logan, Marion, Meigs, Mercer, Pickaway, Preble, Seneca, Union, Vinton, Wayne, and Williams. **Don't wait until the last minute!** The estimated total group savings for 2008 is \$1.9 million, with an average savings of 16.87% for each member. For assistance with 2008 Group Rating documents contact Tricia Callihan, CORSA Program Assistant, at (614) 220-7993 or (888) 757-1904 or [tcallihan@ccao.org](mailto:tcallihan@ccao.org). For general information on group rating contact Beth Miller, CORSA Claim and Litigation Manager, at (614) 220-7989, (888) 757-1904 or [emiller@ccao.org](mailto:emiller@ccao.org).

## **STATE ACTIVITIES**

### FORECLOSURE PANEL URGES EARLY CONTACT WITH TROUBLED HOME BORROWERS

Mortgage lenders should make significant efforts to communicate with borrowers whose ability to make future payments is likely to be impacted by upcoming interest rate adjustments, a panel of the Ohio Foreclosure Prevention Task Force said Monday. Those contacts, State Commerce Director Kimberly Zurz said, should occur as early as six months before rates adjust. The recommendation was one of several delivered to the Task Force, which is closing in on issuing final suggestions to tackle the issue.

CCAO Executive Director Larry Long is a member of the Ohio Foreclosure Prevention Task Force. Ohio Department of Commerce Director Kim Zurz is a former Summit County Council Member.

Director Zurz said the suggestions, which also involve loan modifications and public awareness efforts, might be viewed as "harsh" by some parties. "Considering where we are in Ohio, it's not as harsh as I'd like to be," she said. Ms. Zurz said her Responsible Lending Options Committee recommended a wide range of options to modify loan terms, including fixing resetting interest rates for an additional 24 months. The panel also urged including the escrowing of taxes in affordability calculations; writing down principal amounts in excess of current values and waiving fees that create barriers to loan modifications.

The director and task force chair also said the state should begin a public awareness campaign, require servicers to submit worksheets that would be forwarded to the Commerce Department and refer certain borrowers to HUD-certified counseling agencies. The panel also suggested ways that would help lenders expedite foreclosure on non owner-occupied properties if they are certified by the department in terms of how they deal with potential foreclosures at owner-occupied properties.

The task force also accepted a slightly revised report from the Community Outreach and Community Education committees. Beyond technical changes, the report adds language encouraging the state to be aggressive in securing funding to help address foreclosure problems.

## **FEDERAL ACTIVITIES**

### FARM BILL PASSES THE HOUSE

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a \$286 billion, five-year farm bill on a 231-191 vote. The bill was controversial due to the House leadership's decision to fund a \$4 billion increase in the food stamp program by taxing royalties, interest and other payments that U.S. foreign-owned companies make to foreign affiliates. House Agriculture ranking member Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) supported the bill in committee when a financing plan

had not been decided. He and the White House opposed the Democratic solution and the White House is threatening to veto the bill as passed. The House rejected a more liberal alternative that would have reduced farm subsidies in support of other programs by defeating an amendment 309-117. The bill preserves the existing system of farm subsidies and provides additional assistance for conservation nutrition and agricultural sectors as well as increasing assistance for preservation of grasslands and wildlife habitat.

Rural development funding only received level funding. NACo is working with the Campaign for a Renewed Rural Development, chaired by Immediate Past President Colleen Landkamer, to increase funding for RD in the Senate bill. Food stamp updates include indexing benefits to inflation, increasing the minimum benefit and raising the standard deduction. Beginning in October of next year country of origin labeling would be required for imported meat including hamburger made from multiple animals. The House also approved by voice vote an amendment to remove a provision that would have allowed Farm Credit System banks to make loans in areas forbidden to them by law. Joint hearings on the availability of credit to farmers and farm-related businesses, particularly ethanol plants will be held. The Senate Agriculture Committee is expected to take up a farm bill in early September after the August Congressional Recess. Please contact your members of Congress, especially in the Senate and urge their support for at least \$2 billion in assistance for rural development activities. (Contact: Ed Rosado, NACo Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4271 or [erosado@naco.org](mailto:erosado@naco.org))

ENTIRE NATION TO USE NEXT-GENERATION VOTING EQUIPMENT UNDER REVISED H.R. 811; ASK YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS TO OPPOSE THE BILL

The *New York Times* reported last weekend that Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) had reached an agreement with Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ) to bring his legislation to amend the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to the floor of the House of Representatives this week. As of press time, the bill has not made it to the floor and NACo is hopeful to have stalled action until after the August

Congressional Recess.

As reported in the press, the compromise would require counties in 18 states that currently use voting equipment without a voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) to replace or retrofit their equipment before the presidential election in 2008. Even more dramatically, however, it would require the entire nation to switch to next-generation voting equipment before the presidential election in 2012. Language requiring paper ballots be scanned into an audio format for accessibility for the visually impaired has been expanded to make this process “hands-free” - which would appear to make all existing electronic voting equipment obsolete. The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) would be required to issue an annual report on vendor development of this new product each year from 2009 to 2011; the compliance deadline would be 2012.

In addition, the bill would require the use of pre-printed paper ballots at every polling site, even at early voting and vote center locations. These ballots would have to be available in case of voting system failure in 2008, and be offered to every voter beginning in 2010. There has been no change in the audit requirements of the underlying legislation, which would strip authority for conducting audits from county election officials and require that all recounts be conducted by human hand and eye rather than by using electronic ballot counters.

NACo urges county officials to **contact your member of Congress** during the August recess and **urge them to oppose H.R. 811**. This applies even to cosponsors of the original legislation; it has been revised significantly since it was introduced and several of its requirements have become more, not less, onerous in the process. NACo has heard that Representative Dennis Moore (D-KS) is prepared to offer an amendment stating that H.R. 811 would pose an unfunded mandate on counties.

County officials should send a copy of all correspondence on this issue to Alysoun McLaughlin, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4281 or [amclaughlin@naco.org](mailto:amclaughlin@naco.org)

## SENATE INTRODUCES WATER OF THE U.S. BILL

On July 25, S. 1870, the Water Resources Restoration Act, a companion bill to H.R. 2421, the Clean Water Restoration Act, was introduced. Both bills propose to remove the word "navigable" from the "waters of the United States" definition within the Clean Water Act (CWA). NACo opposes any efforts to remove the word "navigable" from the definition of CWA.

Both bills attempt to address the regulatory uncertainty that currently exists under the 1972 Clean Water Act's Section 404, also known as the dredge and fill permit. In the past several years, counties have been struggling with federal definitions of wetlands or bodies of water. Take "ditches" for example. NACo members have voiced concern regarding officials at local Army Corps of Engineers offices deciding to regulate man-made ditches as jurisdictional waters under the CWA. Ditches are pervasive in counties across the nation and, until recently, were never considered to be jurisdictional by the Corps. While some Corps offices regulate ditches, other offices have continued the existing policy of not regulating them. This expansive and inconsistent application of the law frustrates many counties' ability to provide and conduct vital projects for the public.

However, both bills go beyond just addressing the uncertainties in the 404 program. The "waters" definition is crucial in defining federal/state water responsibilities under the Clean Water Act. This definition is the linchpin for state water quality standards under section 302 and section 303, national performance standards under section 306, toxic and pretreatment standards under section 307, oil and hazardous substance liability under section 311, aquaculture standards under section 318, State water quality certifications under section 401, national pollution discharge permitting requirements under section 402 and dredge and fill permits under section 404.

To change the definition will have a huge impact on counties from both an unfunded mandate and a land use preemption standpoint, affecting every program within the CWA. This is especially important to counties who both are the regulator and regulated under the CWA.

Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown has signed onto S. 1870 as an original cosponsor. Contact Senator Brown and urge him to oppose any efforts to remove the word "navigable" from the "waters of the U.S." definition in the Clean Water Act. (Contact: Julie Ufner, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4269 or [jufner@naco.org](mailto:jufner@naco.org))

## **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

### FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

The "2007 Ohio Stateside Floodplain Management Conference" will be held August 22-23, 2007 at the Embassy Suites, 5100 Upper Metro Place, in Franklin County (Dublin). Coordinators of the conference are the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Ohio Floodplain Management Association (OFMA).

"Managing Ohio's Floodplains During Global Climate Change" topics include: legal aspects of floodplain management, map modernization, national flood insurance program, essentials for the floodplain manager, challenges in floodplain management, engineering in floodplain management, floodplain management incentives, natural benefits of floodplains, sustainable development & no adverse impact (NAI), science behind floodplain management, politics of floodplain management, and examining flood risk.

Registration fee for WMAO members: \$155 both days, \$100 - August 22 only or \$100 - August 23 only; non-members: \$175 both days, \$110 - August 22 only or \$100 - August 23 only. Registration deadline: August 16, 2007. Hotel reservation deadline: July 31, 2007. For more information please contact Jaimee Korleski at (614) 882-5489 or [www.ofma.org](http://www.ofma.org).

### MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTE IN OHIO

GT Environmental, Inc. will sponsor "The Management of Solid Waste in Ohio: Flow Control in Light of the U.S. Supreme Court Decision and Key Policy and Regulatory Issues for Solid Waste in Ohio" on Wednesday, August 29, 2007 at the Doubletree Hotel & Conference Center, 175 Hutchinson Avenue, in Worthington. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with

sessions starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending after lunch. Registration fee: Public sector - \$45 before August 17 or \$50 after August 17; Private sector - \$85 before August 17 or \$100 after August 17. Register more than one guest from the same organization and receive a \$10 total discount. For more information please contact: GT Environmental, Inc., Attn: Flow Control Seminar, 635 Park Meadow Road - Suite 112, Westerville, OH 43081 or (614) 794-3570.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

The Ohio CSEA Directors Association is seeking applications for the newly created position of Sr. Policy Analyst. Primary responsibilities: developing and monitoring policy initiatives at the State and Federal Levels; participating in and monitoring the progress of assigned work groups of OCDA and joint work groups with ODJFS Offices and other organizations; developing, implementing and coordinating training efforts for County, State and Partners in child support; performing research and developing position papers on child support related issues; maintaining and participating in an ongoing educational and information sharing network for local agencies with a special focus on directors, administrators, supervisors, case managers and other CSEA Staff. Persons filling this position must possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, analytical skills, be energetic and willing to work with others.

The preferred minimum requirements of a Bachelor's Degree and at least five years of experience in child support or a demonstrated combination of education and experience that would meet the primary responsibilities of the position. The position is full time and would be stationed at the office in Columbus. Salary would be commensurate with experience. Other benefits are also offered.

The posting will remain in effect until filled. To apply, please send a cover letter, resume and writing sample to the attention of Kim Newsom Bridges, Director By mail to Ohio CSEA Directors Association, 37 W. Broad Street, Suite 840, Columbus, Ohio 43215, or e-mail to [Christy@ocda.us](mailto:Christy@ocda.us) or fax to (614) 228-5554. EOE

SCATS TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission/Stark County Area Transportation Study is accepting applications for a SCATS Technical Director. This is an advanced professional position in transportation planning and engineering.

Responsible for the design and supervision of all technical elements of the transportation planning program. Ability to prepare and/or supervise the preparation of transportation planning documents, planning goals, policies and objectives is required. Strong computer, communication, problem-solving skills, and familiarity with ODOT and FHWA transportation planning programs are required.

Qualifications: Bachelor's or Master's degree in civil engineering, planning or a related field. A minimum of five to seven years work-related experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Salary range \$55,000-\$85,000. Send resume and cover letter stating qualifications, experience and salary history to Stark County Regional Planning Commission, 201 3rd Street NE, Suite 201, Canton, OH 44702-1211, Attn: Bob Nau, Executive Director, or FAX to 330-451-7990. Deadline 12:00 noon- **Wednesday, August 22, 2007.**

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

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. Ads will also be published on the CCAO website at [www.ccao.org](http://www.ccao.org). When submitting your ad to CCAO please provide a link to the job posting online and a deadline. Please provide a 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, by e-mail [mjneiman@ccao.org](mailto:mjneiman@ccao.org).

