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County Information and Data Service

Published weekly by: County Commissioners Association of Ohio

37 West Broad Street, Suite 650 • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4195

Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986 • www.ccao.org

VOLUME XXXXVIII

NO. 11

March 21, 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 28, 2008	CCAO AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
APRIL 4, 2008	CCAO HUMAN SERVICES & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, ODJFSDA BOARD ROOM, 37 W BROAD STREET – FLOOR 11, COLUMBUS
APRIL 6-12, 2008	NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK
APRIL 21, 2008	NW OHIO COMMISSIONERS AND ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING, ROMER'S CATERING & ENTERTAINMENT FACILITY, MERCER COUNTY (CELINA)
APRIL 25, 2008	CCAO PUBLIC SAFETY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
MAY 5, 2008	SE OHIO COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, MUSKINGUM COUNTY, (ZANESVILLE)
MAY 21-23, 2008	NACo WESTERN INTERSTATE REGION CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON COUNTY (ST. GEORGE), UTAH
JUNE 8-10, 2008	CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE, LAKE COUNTY (PAINESVILLE)
JULY 11-15, 2008	NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE, JACKSON COUNTY (KANSAS CITY), MISSOURI
AUGUST 19-20, 2008	COUNTY COMMISSIONER DAYS, ROSS COUNTY (CHILLICOTHE)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

2008 CCC/ESAO REGIONAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Over the past five 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 four regional meetings in 2008. These informal meetings are open to all commissioners' clerks, deputies, 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>APRIL 25, 2008 – NORTHWEST REGION - HARDIN COUNTY</p> <p>LOCATION: Henry’s Restaurant, 995 North Detroit Street, Hardin County (Kenton)</p> <p>For more information, please contact CCC/ESAO NW District Representative Rhonda Slauterbeck, Clerk/Assistant Administrator, (419) 734-6720 or rslauterbeck@co.ottawa.oh.us.</p>
<p>MAY 9, 2008 – NORTHEAST REGION – MAHONING COUNTY</p> <p>LOCATION: Upstairs Restaurant, 4500 Mahoning Avenue, Mahoning County (Youngstown)</p> <p>For more information, please contact CCC/ESAO NE District Representative Nancy Walega, Administrative Assistant, Mahoning County Engineer’s Office, at (330) 799-1581 or nwalega@mahoningcountyoh.gov.</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 26, 2008 – SOUTHEAST REGION – ATHENS COUNTY</p> <p>LOCATION: To-be-announced</p> <p>For more information, please contact CCC/ESAO SE District Representative Crystal Digenova, Administrative Assistant, Tuscarawas County Commissioners, at (330) 365-3240 or commissioners@co.tuscarawas.oh.us.</p>
<p>OCTOBER 24, 2008 – SOUTHWEST REGION – CLARK COUNTY</p> <p>LOCATION: To-be-announced</p> <p>For more information, please contact CCC/ESAO SW District Representative Dianna Harris, Administrative Assistant, Montgomery County Engineer’s Office, at (937) 225-4904 or harrisd@mcohio.org.</p>

For more information, please contact the 2008 CCC/ESAO President Susan Schmunk,

Administrative Assistant, Williams County Engineer’s Office, (419) 636-2454 or sschmunk@wmsco.org.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER DAYS –2008

Ross County Commissioners Jim Caldwell, Frank Hirsch, and Doug Corcoran and OSU Extension invite you to attend County Commissioner Days on August 19-20, 2008 in historic Ross County (Chillicothe). Plan to bring your family to enjoy Ohio’s First Capital. Opportunities include educational sessions, local tours, a trip to Tecumseh – an outdoor historical drama production, an optional golf outing and the many other tourist attractions that you can experience on your own. Registration information will be distributed in June, so save the dates and plan to attend.

For more information, please contact Gwen Wolford, Director, Government Relations, OARDC and OSU Extension, 2121 Fyffe Road – Room 101, Columbus, OH 43210, (614) 292.0877, fax (614) 292.6738 or Wolford.1@osu.edu.

MERCER COUNTY TO HOST NW COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSN

Mercer County Commissioners John Bruns, Jerry Laffin and Bob Nuding and County Engineer James Wiechart will host the next meeting of the Northwest Ohio Commissioners and Engineers Association on April 21, 2008. Registration and dinner will be held at Romer’s Catering & Entertainment Facility, 1101 – A West Bank Road (U.S. Route 127) in Celina. Registration begins at 12:15 p.m. The following tours leave at 1:00 p.m.:

- Tour 1 – Agriculture
Mercer Landmark Soybean Extrusion Plans and Burtch Seed Company
- Tour 2 – Small Business
Coldwater Machine and Signature4

The business meeting begins at 4:00 p.m. followed by the social hour and dinner. Registration fee: \$10 per person. Deadline: April 7, 2008. Cancellation deadline: April 11, 2008. For more information please contact the Mercer County

Commissioners Office, 220 West Livingston Street, Celina, OH 45822 or (419) 586-3178.

OHIO STATEHOUSE MUSEUM PHOTO PROJECT; PHOTOS DUE APRIL 1

The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB) has developed a design plan to create updated, high-tech, interactive exhibits and educational programs at the Ohio Statehouse. CSRAB and CCAO have partnered on this project and are seeking the assistance of all counties. Information about the project is posted on CCAO's front page at www.ccao.org.

Thanks to **Coshocton, Henry, Ross, Stark, Wayne, Wood and Wyandot** counties who are compiling photos for the new Ohio Statehouse Museum project, which will be housed on the ground level of the Statehouse! These photos highlight individuals who have come to serve their fellow citizens and make a difference either as governors, legislators, business people, farmers, concerned citizens and even school children.

The Ohio Statehouse Web site highlights plans of the interactive museum, including a fly-through video. The Ohio Statehouse Museum Web site portal is featured on the front page and under the education tab of the Statehouse Web site – www.ohiostatehouse.org. The new Ohio Statehouse Museum is scheduled to be completed in early March 2009.

How can counties participate? Photos are requested that represent Ohioans from all races, genders, socio-economic backgrounds, professions, educational backgrounds and regions of the state. The images will include some of Ohio's first citizens as well as some of its most recent. Specifically, your county is invited to submit the images of up to 25 individuals. Please review the memo and criteria sheet for detailed information.

In order to maintain the aggressive design schedule, we ask that all submissions must be received by CSRAB by **April 1, 2008**. If you have any questions, please contact the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board at (614) 752-9777.

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK – APRIL 6-12

In 2008, the National County Government Week's theme is "Protecting Our Children." Counties can show their residents the many ways they work to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of children in sensible and cost-effective ways.

National County Government Week (NCGW) is an annual celebration of county government. First held in 1991, the goal of county government week is to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation's counties.

For more information go to www.naco.org and click on the story on the front page. Send details of your county activities to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at mjneiman@ccao.org.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT – HANDBOOK CHAPTER UPDATED

Over the decades, CCAO has published four editions of the *County Commissioners Handbook* and distributed copies to all counties. Since the first edition, the *Handbook* has grown to nearly 1,000 pages and publishing an updated copy of all chapters in a timely manner is nearly impossible. Due to technology changes and the high cost of publishing a hard copy of the *Handbook* will be published on our website.

Recently, Chapter 32 – Solid Waste Management was comprehensively updated. A revised copy has been published on the CCAO website at www.ccao.org. Click on the story on the front page about the *Handbook* or go to publications.

CCAO thanks the Organization of Solid Waste Districts of Ohio (OSWDO) who prepared this Chapter of the Handbook. OSWDO is a CCAO affiliate organization and their website is located at www.oswdo.org. Chapter 32 – Solid Waste Management was written by Michael Greenberg, Owner/Principal Consultant with GT Environmental, Inc., 635 Park Meadow Drive – Suite 112, Westerville, OH 43085. They may be reached at

(614) 794-3570 or at their website <http://www.gtenvironmental.com>.

CCAO SERVICE CORPORATION PROGRAM NEWS

CCAO DEFERRED COMPENSATION PROGRAM "GREEN" STATEMENT INITIATIVE

GREEN IS TWICE-AS NICE! Participants in CCAO's Deferred Compensation Program are already saving the green by investing in their retirement plan, but did you know that you can also receive your quarterly statements and stuffers electronically? Visit <https://www.gwrs.com/login.do> to sign up for Online File Cabinet. It's fast and easy, plus Great-West Retirement Services will donate \$1.00 to the National Arbor Day Foundation for every person who signs up during 2008. Working together to preserve your financial future and our national forests...now, that's savvy investing! If you need assistance, please contact CCAO Deferred Compensation Program/Great-West Retirement Services at (614) 847-0500 or (800) 284-0444.

STATE ACTIVITIES

STATE LAUNCHES FORECLOSURE AWARENESS INITIATIVE WITH NEW WEB SITE, TV AND RADIO SPOTS

With looming triggers on adjustable rate mortgages threatening to deepen Ohio's foreclosure crisis, state officials have unveiled an awareness campaign aimed at keeping people in their homes despite debt problems. The "Save the Dream" campaign borrows its name from a similar initiative in Michigan. The state plans to spend \$135,000 from the Ohio Real Estate Commission's education and research fund to place ads on television and radio, Department of Commerce Director Kimberly Zurz said.

Joined at a Columbus kickoff event by Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher, Ms. Zurz said Ohio's dubious top rank for foreclosures, as reported by the Mortgage Bankers Association, as well as reports of more than 83,000 new foreclosure filings, demanded a state-backed awareness effort. "That's a record high for Ohio and unfortunately we have not seen the end," she

said, adding that more borrowers could get caught up in problems once the rates on ARMs reset in the coming months.

Along with the radio and TV spots, the state has initiated a toll-free foreclosure information hotline at 888-404-4674 and launched a Web site at <http://www.savethedream.ohio.gov>. Operators on the help line will refer people to housing counselors or the attorney general's office, depending on the nature of their calls. The Internet site includes links to foreclosure resources, homeowner help and servicer contracts.

"We're doing everything we can to help Ohioans save the dream of home ownership," Mr. Fisher said. Mr. Fisher, also the state's Development director, said the foreclosure crisis has hit the state especially hard in that "entire neighborhoods are being riddled with abandoned homes" that attract squatters, thieves, drug dealers and other criminals. The awareness campaign was the number one recommendation of 27 generated by the governor's Foreclosure Prevention Task Force, he said.

Ms. Zurz said the administration is seeking related legislative changes to give counties more financing flexibility in fighting mortgage fraud; update deed guidelines (HB 138) and help protect leaseholders. In terms of further lender restrictions, the director said the administration is working aggressively to develop rules within new statutes enacted last session (SB185, 126th General Assembly). "Had we had that in place prior to this, I don't think we'd be where we are," Ms. Zurz said.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD & OHIO JAIL ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

County Commissioners David Pepper (Hamilton), Doug Spencer (Auglaize), and Tim Wert (Richland) have been appointed to three-year terms on the Ohio Community Corrections Advisory Board. Quarterly meetings are held in Columbus to advise the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction on matters relating to community corrections. The Board helps direct and develop community corrections initiatives in Ohio including parole and probation services and state-subsidized

community corrections programs. The Deputy Director of the Division of Parole and Community Services chairs the Board, which represents a cross section of officials representing state and local governments and a number of recognized organizations that are part of Ohio's justice system. Representatives to the Board come from the courts, elected officials, law enforcement, and community service, and treatment providers.

Also, County Commissioners Sam Bassitt (Allen), Bob Peterson (Fayette), and John Pyles (Monroe) were appointed to three-year terms on the Ohio Jail Advisory Board, which meets quarterly in Columbus to assist the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's Bureau of Adult Detention. The advisory board is charged with advising the department in developing policy and procedures; critiquing standards and policies; reviewing and commenting upon the Bureau's goals and objectives; and developing funding recommendations for the implementation of standards and criteria for compliance. The Board also plays an active role in the Bureau's activities of improving jails in Ohio by serving on review panels to provide input and recommendations for the Bureau's consideration in monitoring compliance, making suggestions on the appropriate uses of grant money, providing liaison between the Bureau and constituents of advisory board members. The Jail Advisory Board members are to be representatives from the chiefs of police, city, village or township governing officials, county commissioners, county sheriffs, local judges, local prosecutors and state legislators.

Thanks to Commissioners Pepper, Spencer, Wert, Bassitt, Peterson, and Pyles for representing county government on these boards!

OHIO STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SEEKS
REPRESENTATIVE FROM CCAO

The Ohio Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC), established in the fall of 2002, provides guidance and strategic direction for public safety first responders in their communications initiatives for the purpose of continuous improvement in reliable, mission critical wireless communications interoperability.

The SIEC has been very successful in improving interoperability in Ohio, and has been recognized by the Strickland Administration as the body of knowledge for Ohio. In recognizing the SIEC, the Administration pointed out the need to expand membership to include a representative of CCAO on the SIEC. Commissioners interested in serving on the SIEC should have some working knowledge and interest in public safety communications.

SIEC meetings are held every other month, or more often as needed, at the State Emergency Operations Center, 2855 West Dublin-Granville Road, in Columbus. Meeting length is held to two hours, if at all possible. The Committee's most recent significant achievement was to finalize the Ohio Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan, which is a requirement set by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and review and submission of Ohio's 10 PSIC grant applications to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

CCAO will have one representative on the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee. Commissioners interested in serving should contact John Leutz, CCAO Senior Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7994, (888) 757-1904 or jleutz@ccao.org by **April 18, 2008**. The next SIEC meeting will be held in May.

OHIO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PLAN REMINDER

Just a reminder if you have not registered to participate on a regional committee for implementing the Physical Activity Plan (PA Plan), you still have time. The purpose of these groups is to look at the short-term opportunities in the PA Plan that each region will be able to implement through collaborative efforts and/or legislative connections on the local level. tentative regional committee meeting dates have been scheduled. Each meeting will be facilitated by a member of American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, or Ohio Parks and Recreation Association. All locations are still being arranged and you will be contacted in early April with the location of the meeting.

Regional Committee Meeting Dates:

- April 28, 2008 - Southwest Ohio 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- April 29, 2008 - Southeast Ohio 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- April 30, 2008 - Northwest Ohio 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- May 1, 2008 - Central Ohio 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- May 2, 2008 - Northeast Ohio 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

The Physical Activity Plan needs your endorsement. **The CCAO Board of Trustees has endorsed the Ohio Physical Activity Plan to support long-term changes to create a statewide environment that can increase physical activity to all Ohioans.** (See story on the front page of www.ccao.org.) Check out www.foryourhealthohio.org for continual updates. For more information please contact Mary Beth Thaman at (937) 296-2454 or marybeth.thaman@ketteringoh.org.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

SMALL COMMUNITIES ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

One of the most pressing challenges small communities in Ohio face is the task of developing the infrastructure necessary for economic competitiveness and improved quality-of-life. This often includes developing or enhancing environmental infrastructures such as basic drinking water and sewer service. One resource available to communities for development of environmental infrastructure is the Small Communities Environmental Infrastructure Group (SCEIG). Since its formation in 1990, SCEIG, an association of federal and state agencies, local governments, service organizations, and educational institutions, has worked to help small communities in meeting their infrastructure needs.

U.S. Senator George V. Voinovich and the Small Communities Environmental Infrastructure Group will be holding two informational sessions focused on addressing these infrastructure issues. The

session will highlight resources SCEIG can provide to help communities with technical assistance, financing and planning for their infrastructure projects. Community leaders interested in exploring funding options for infrastructure projects are encouraged to attend the morning presentation that begins at 9:30 a.m. Following the morning funding presentation and question/answer period, a finance committee meeting will convene for communities currently planning public drinking water and sewer utilities projects.

The Finance Committee consists of representatives from all the state and federal agencies that provide financial resources to address environmental infrastructure needs of small communities. The group will be prepared to lend advice on a project specific basis the best options a community should pursue towards obtaining the necessary funding. Communities interested in participating in the finance committee meeting should complete a Community Project Profile, found online at <http://www.sceig.org/fmeetings.asp>, and submit the profile to Ohio EPA to be included on the agenda (space is limited).

Plan to attend one of these two informational sessions:

- April 3, 2008 - 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Ohio University Baker Center, One Park Place, Athens, OH 45701
- May 7, 2008 - 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
USDA Rural Development Findlay Office,
7868 C.R. 140, Suite D, Findlay, OH 45840

For more information about this unique opportunity or to RSVP, please contact Senator Voinovich's Southeast Ohio office at (740) 753-1985 or via e-mail at tracy_mann@voinovich.senate.gov.

H.R. 1593 – SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007 WINS APPROVAL IN SENATE

On March 11, 2008 by unanimous consent, the Senate approved the H.R. 1593 - Second Chance Act of 2007. The measure now goes to the President for his signature. Approval appears certain. Senior White House staff had indicated

earlier that the House version of the bill was acceptable to the President. The House version contained essential Senate provisions, thereby obviating any need for a formal conference. The House approved the legislation on November 13, 2007, 347-62. The legislation is the first truly comprehensive bill to address the re-entry crisis at the state and local level. It is estimated that more than two-thirds of those leaving jail and prison will be re-arrested within three years of release and half will be re-incarcerated. Representative Stephanie Tubbs-Jones (Dist. 11 – Shaker Heights) was an original sponsor of the bill.

The legislation provides an annual authorization level of \$165 million for assistance to state and local governments in developing evidence based programs that will help enable persons leaving jail or prison to successfully reenter their communities. Such efforts include job training, education, housing, substance abuse and mental health services. Grant programs will be administered by the U.S. Department of Justice.

In some respects the Second Chance Act is reminiscent of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 which led to far reaching change in local corrections –including the removal of juveniles from adult jails—based on a very modest investment of federal funds.

Several years ago, a pilot program on re-entry was set up in every state, but counties and cities were prohibited from receiving any of the funds without the approval of state governments, and then only if the funds were directed to the most serious Part I offenders. The new legislation treats local governments as equal partners with the states and removes the Part I limitation. Our next step includes efforts to obtain the \$165 million in appropriations for these programs. (Contact: Donald Murray, NACo Senior Legislative Associate (202) 942-4239 or dmurray@naco.org)

WEBINARS

BROWNFIELDS: THE BASICS & BEYOND

Join the National Association of Counties (NACo) for Webinars on “Brownfields: The Basics and

Beyond – Strategies for Counties in Mitigating Risk and Creating Value.” As development has moved into rural and unincorporated areas, counties across the nation are increasingly left to provide solutions for these vacant properties. Brownfields are no longer an urban/metropolitan problem. Participate in one of the following sessions!

- Session II – April 11, 2008, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Repositioning Sites: Unlocking the Potential of Tough Properties
Key Topics: Key Impediments to Redevelopment, Approaches to Unlocking Potential, Entitlement Issues, Repositioning, Parceling/Assembling Sites, Creating Portfolios, Green Development, Attracting Developers to Tough Sites
- Session III – April 25, 2008, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Making the Most of Valuable Properties
Key Topics: What Makes a Valuable Property?, Quantifying the Value of Sites, Insuring Appropriate Uses, Addressing Environmental Liabilities, Meeting Public Needs, Developing an Appropriate Disposition Process, and Negotiating with Developers

Registration fee: FREE - NACo invites all counties to participate. For more information on these Webinars and to register, contact James Davenport, NACo Project Manager – Community Services, at (202) 661-8807 or jdavenport@naco.org.

NACo Membership Information - If your county is not a NACo member and you would like to find out about the benefits of belonging to the only association that represents counties on the national level, please contact Andrew Goldschmidt, NACo Director of Membership/Marketing, at (202) 942-4221 or agoldschmidt@naco.org.

CLASSIFIEDS

OEQ PROJECT MANAGER

The Board of Clermont County Commissioner's - Clermont County Sewer District - Office Of

Environmental Quality (OEQ) is accepting employment applications for a full-time OEQ Project Manager. Provides technical assistance and administrative oversight in the management and application of projects and processes. Acts in the capacity of the supervisor in his or her absence. Prepares technical reports and associated paperwork. Attends meetings, conferences, seminars, and training sessions. Handles public relations functions for the department. Works alone or with other persons in short- or long-term team projects to resolve problems or conflicts in any area of county operations or to complete assigned projects at the direction of any county supervisor or department head when assigned. Participates in cross-training and maintains proficiency in area of cross-training as necessary. New and other related duties as assigned. Reports safety/risk management issues to immediate supervisor. Emergency response required.

Deadline: 4:30 p.m. on **March 25, 2008**. Contact Information: Human Resources, 101 East Main Street - Room 322, Batavia, OH 45103, (513) 732-7110 or www.co.clermont.oh.us. A completed employment application is required and must be received in the Human Resources Department by 4:30 P.M. on the posted deadline date. A resume can also be attached for consideration. Neither faxed nor e-mailed documents are acceptable.

Qualifications: High school diploma or GED equivalent. Completion of undergraduate major core course work in environmental sciences, earth sciences, public administration, or a related field; or five years' experience in a similar position or education, training and/or experience in an amount equal to the minimum qualifications stated above. Applicants must meet the minimum requirements. Conditions and procedures for selection will be consistent with Clermont County Personnel Policy and/or Collective Bargaining Agreement if applicable. Also, certain classifications, because of the nature of the work, require pre-placement and/or periodic physical examinations which may include drug/alcohol screening tests.

Position requires a strong working knowledge of environmental issues, especially water quality and solid waste. Knowledge of/experience in laboratory analysis, field sampling methodology, report writing, public communication, contract management and data analysis is preferred. This position would primarily be responsible for maintaining annual surface water monitoring program consistent with OEPA Level III Credible Data Rules, maintaining stream gauges and data sondes, interfacing with contractors and laboratories, maintaining a web page, responding to citizen enquiries and preparing written communication to citizens and local officials.