



CIDS

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. 38

OCTOBER 10, 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER 16, 2008	CCAO GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
OCTOBER 17, 2008	CCAO PLATFORM ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
OCTOBER 24, 2008	CCC/ESAO SOUTHWEST REGIONAL MEETING, SPRINGVIEW GOVERNMENT CENTER, CLARK COUNTY (SPRINGFIELD)
NOVEMBER 12, 2008	OHIO COUNCIL OF COUNTY OFFICIALS LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON, STATEHOUSE ATTRIUM, COLUMBUS
DECEMBER 7-10, 2008	CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE, HYATT REGENCY, COLUMBUS
MARCH 7-11, 2009	NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, MARRIOTT WARDMAN PARK, WASHINGTON, D.C.
JULY 24-29, 2009	74 TH NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION, DAVIDSON COUNTY (NASHVILLE), TN

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CCAO GENERAL GOVERNMENT & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – OCTOBER 16

Tim Brown, Wood County Commissioner and CCAO General Government & Operations Committee Chair, has scheduled a meeting of the Committee on Thursday, October 16, 2008 from 12:00 noon until the finish of business. The meeting will be held at the CCAO offices.

The primary purpose of the meeting is to review and revise the current priority and platform issues of the CCAO General Government & Operations Committee. In addition, representatives from the Ohio State Coroners Association have been invited to speak about HB 471, which would provide

supplemental annual compensation to full-time coroners in counties with a population exceeding 175,000 whose offices perform autopsies under contract for at least ten other counties.

Lunch will be provided. Please confirm your attendance by October 13, 2008 to Janet Erwin, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at (614) 220-7986 or jerwin@ccao.org.

CCAO PLATFORM ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE – OCTOBER 17

CCAO President Daniel Troy (Lake) has called a meeting of the CCAO Platform Assembly Committee to be held on Friday, October 17, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the CCAO offices. Members of the

committee include the chairs of all the CCAO Standing Committees.

Earlier this year, CCAO consolidated and changed the structure and purpose of some of the CCAO committees. In line with these changes, the Policy Assembly Committee was established to develop final recommendations to the Board of Trustees on the content of the *CCAO Legislative Platform* and to recommend Legislative Priorities for the 128th General Assembly. Please confirm your attendance by contacting Kathy Dillon, CCAO Office Manager and Boards' Liaison, at (614) 220-7998 or kathydillon@ccaao.org.

STATE ACTIVITIES

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE ANNOUNCED

Per Ohio's constitutional amendment adopted in 2006, the Ohio Department of Commerce announced the increased minimum wage amount for 2009. Effective January 1, Ohio's minimum wage will increase to \$7.30 per hour for non-tipped employees and \$3.65 per hour for tipped employees. The adjustments are increases from the current \$7.00 and \$3.50 per hour, respectively.

The Department also announced the new threshold to which the minimum wage will apply on January 1. All employers who gross more than \$267,000 per year will be subject to Ohio's Minimum Wage Law, which is an increase from the current \$255,000 standard.

Pollworkers, however, are not subject to this wage increase. Ohio statute regulates pollworker pay and requires that pay to be based on the federal minimum wage law. On July 24, 2008, the federal minimum wage increased from \$5.85 per hour to \$6.55 per hour. On July 10, 2008, Secretary of State Brunner issued Directive 2008-51 setting forth the new wage requirements for pollworkers based on this federal increase. (Please see <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/Upload/elections/directives/2008/Dir2008-51.pdf>.)

The Secretary directs all boards of elections to pay their poll workers at least the new federal minimum wage of \$6.55 per hour, which is \$91.70 for a 14-hour election day, but not more than the new

maximum per diem amount of \$120.82. The maximum per diem amount does not include compensation for attending training classes. This new per diem amount is an 11.97% increase over the \$107.91 per diem established last year, which is the same percentage that the federal minimum wage increased in July of this year from last year's wage.

However, a board of elections would not be able to increase the per diem from \$107.91 to \$120.82 for 2008 and 2009 elections without written approval from the board of county commissioners. No board of elections may increase poll worker pay during a calendar year unless the board has given written notice of the proposed increase to the board of county commissioners not later than October 1 of the preceding calendar year. Since a board of elections cannot comply with this notice provision because the federal minimum wage increase was effective July of this year, the board of elections can raise poll worker in this or next calendar year only if the board complies with either of the following:

1. The board of elections may increase poll worker pay without commissioner approval if either of the following occurs:
 - a. The county currently pays poll workers a per diem of between \$85 and \$95 and the increase in the per diem is less than 4.5% of that \$85 to \$95 rate.
 - b. The county currently pays poll workers a per diem of \$85 or less and the increase in the per diem is less than 9% of that \$85 or less rate.
2. The board of elections gets written approval from the board of county commissioners to increase poll worker pay more than the percentages specified above.

If the board of elections chooses to increase the per diem to \$120.82, the board must obtain the written approval of the commissioners because that increase would exceed 4.5% or 9%.

A special situation may arise in a county that has been paying poll workers \$5.85 per hour, or the

federal minimum wage. Because this wage has increased to \$6.55 per hour, and because the Ohio statute requires a board of elections to pay no less than this hourly rate, a board of elections must increase poll worker pay to this increased rate. However, such an increase exceeds the 9% increase limitation a board of elections may impose without prior approval from commissioners. Thus, a board of elections technically would not be permitted to pay the increased rate this upcoming election because the board did not obtain commissioner approval in October 2007. To remedy this situation, it appears board of county commissioners must enter into a written agreement with the board of elections so that the board of elections can pay the increased wage, as required under Ohio law.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

BUSH SIGNS GREAT LAKES COMPACT

The long-sought Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact was signed into law on October 3 by President George W. Bush, marking the end of years of negotiations and, in the case of Ohio, sometimes acrimonious debate over the multi-state initiative.

A synopsis of the compact's elements as provided by the Council of Great Lakes Governors:

- Economic development will be fostered through sustainable use and responsible management of Basin waters.
- In general, there will be a ban on new diversions of water from the Basin but limited exceptions could be allowed in communities near the Basin when rigorous standards are met.
- Communities that apply for an exception must have a clear, predictable decision making process; standards to be met; and, opportunities to appeal decisions.
- The States will use a consistent standard to review proposed uses of Basin water.
- The States will have flexibility regarding their water management programs and how to apply this standard.

- Regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency will be developed, and they will be reviewed every five years.
- Each State will develop and implement a water conservation and efficiency program that may be voluntary or mandatory.

Concerns over the agreement's impacts on private property rights held up passage of the ratification legislation in Ohio, where lawmakers ultimately linked the bill (HB 416) to a related constitutional amendment on this fall's ballot (Issue 3).

The agreement in principle, reached after five years of negotiations, was originally forged between eight states and two Canadian provinces in 2005. The pact involved the Governors of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin as well as the leaders of Ontario and Quebec. The pact, however, proved a hard sell for certain legislatures, and it would be three more years before all the ratifications were complete. Ohio, which endorsed the plan last spring, was one of the last states to get on board.

NACo ACTIVITIES

OHIO OFFICIALS APPOINTED TO NACo LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

NACo President Don Stapley, Maricopa County Supervisor, has appointed the following Ohio officials to serve in leadership positions in 2008-2009:

NACo Board of Directors

- Lenny Eliason, Athens County Commissioner
- Roger Tackett, Clark County Commissioner

Environment, Energy & Land Use Committee

- Paula Brooks, Franklin County Commissioner
Vice Chair, Solid Waste Subcommittee

Financial & Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

- Daniel Troy, Lake County Commissioner
Chair, Fiscal Policy Subcommittee

Human Services & Education Steering Committee

- Robert Suver, Director, Clark County Jobs & Family Services
Vice Chair, Education & Families Subcommittee

Labor & Employment Steering Committee

- Lenny Eliason, Athens County Commissioner
Vice Chair, Labor & Employment Committee
- Roger Tackett, Clark County Commissioner
Chair, Pension Subcommittee

AWARDS

OCMA ANNUAL AWARDS

The Ohio City/County Management Association (OCMA) Annual Awards Program honors communities and their administrators for their creative contributions to professional local government management. The program also strives to increase public awareness of the value of professional local government management. The association recognizes the outstanding work performed by elected officials, appointed managers, local government staff, educators, and citizens who work together to address the most pressing issues facing today's communities.

The award categories include:

- Career Achievement Award
- Career Development / Mentoring Award
- Citizen Participation Award
- Innovation in Local Government Award
- Profile in Courage Award

Nomination must be received at OCMA by December 1, 2008. For more information contact Cindy Holodnak, Secretariat, Ohio City/County Management Association, c/o John Glenn School of Public Affairs, The Ohio State University, 150 Page Hall, 1810 College Road, Columbus, OH 43210, (614) 292-7731, Holodnak.1@osu.edu or <http://ocmaohio.org>.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

IMPACT OHIO: 2008 POST ELECTION CONFERENCE

The Success Group, Ltd. And the Ohio Capitol Policy Consultants will present "Impact Ohio: 2008 Post Election Conference" on Thursday, November 6, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Columbus Convention Center, 400 North High Street, in downtown Columbus. Impact Ohio is designed for business and government officials interested in public policy and politics in Ohio. U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown will be the keynote speaker.

Registration fee: \$135 per person (lunch included).
Registration deadline: October 24, 2008. For more information, please contact Impact Ohio, c/o The Success Group, Ltd., 172 East State Street – Suite 400, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 221-0971, info@impactohio.org or www.impactohio.org.

OHIO LAND USE CONFERENCE 2008

Join OSU Extension for the "Ohio Land Use Conference 2008: Land Use in Turbulent Times" on Monday, November 17, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center on the campus of The Ohio State University, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive, in Columbus.

Conference sessions will include:

- Regional Approaches to Resource Protection
- Multi-jurisdictional Agreements for Land Use
- Protecting Community Water Supplies through Land Use Strategies
- Zoning, Farming and Livestock Farms
- The Prosperity Agenda
- The Mortgage Crisis: Impacts for Rural Land Use
- Brownfield Redevelopment: One Community's Success Story
- Zoning Issues: Wind Turbines and Oil and Gas Development
- Energy and Land Use in Ohio: Prospects, Promise and Problems

Registration fee: \$55 per person (includes meals and conference materials). For more information, please contact Ohio Land Use Conference, OSU Extension, Community Development, 2120 Fyffe Road–Room 25, Columbus, OH 43210, (614) 292-6232, cook.22@osu.edu or http://comdev.osu.edu/landuse_conf08.html.

MANAGEMENT FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS

The Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) has developed four training seminars for local officials in water & wastewater capacity development, which will be offered at locations throughout Ohio. These one-day courses cover technical, managerial, and financial aspects of utility operation and management, and several aspects of financial management including records policies, accounts, billing and analysis, and implementation asset management and application.

The first two courses, Utility Management Court 101 and Financial Management Course 201, are being offered at various locations across the state. The remaining courses will be offered in early 2009.

These courses are provided at NO COST to participants by the Ohio EPA Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, and are approved for Ohio EPA contact hours. No meals or refreshments are provided – 1.5 hours will be allotted for lunch. To register, please visit www.glracap.org/ohio or call Nadine Thompson at Ohio RCAP at (419) 332-2056 or (800) 775-9767.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

SYLLABUS: 2008-033

The requirement of R.C. 5901.32 that burial or cremation expenses incurred under R.C. 5901.25-.32 for indigent veterans and their family members be paid from the "county fund" refers to the county general fund and permits the expenses to be paid from any moneys in the county general fund that are available for this purpose. Amounts (up to .5 mill) that are levied for the county veterans service commission under R.C. 5705.05(E) and R.C. 5901.11 as part of the county general levy are included in the county general fund and may be

used for indigent veterans burial assistance if budgeted and appropriated for this purpose.

CLASSIFIEDS

URBAN/REGIONAL PLANNER

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission is accepting applications for an Urban/Regional Planner. The successful candidate will prepare technical components of major work elements of comprehensive planning and planning administration programs, including the following: land use planning and analysis, environmental planning, housing and economic data analysis. Responsibilities also include reviewing and preparing recommendations regarding proposed zoning amendments and compliance of new subdivisions and developments with applicable subdivision regulations and state law. A working knowledge of GIS and computer applications preferred. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in a planning-related field in urban/regional planning. A minimum of two years professional planning experience required or equivalent combination of education and experience. Salary Range: \$30,000-\$40,000. 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, **by noon, Friday, October 17, 2008**. EOE.

PLANNER 2

The Wayne County Planning Department is seeking qualified candidates for full-time Planner 2. This professional position will develop and implement special projects and activities; establish and implement educational programs regarding land use, zoning and alternative development options; conduct research and data gathering; and provide technical assistance to various entities.

Qualifications: Undergraduate degree in planning, public administration and/or related field and two years related experience. Salary available upon request. An application for employment may be obtained at the Wayne County Planning

Department, 2nd floor, County Administration Building, 428 W. Liberty St., Wooster, OH 44691. Applications will be received through **October 17, 2008 until 4:30 p.m. EOE.**

ECONOMIC RECOVERY COORDINATOR

The Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC), a multi-county planning and development commission located in Waverly, is seeking candidates for the contract position of economic recovery coordinator. The coordinator will be responsible for providing recovery assistance to communities in three counties (Clinton, Fayette and Highland) most impacted by the potential DHL Airpark closure in Clinton County (Wilmington). Application deadline: **4:30 p.m. on October 31, 2008.** For more information visit www.ovrdc.org. EOE.

DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Adams County Commissioners are accepting applications for a full-time director of emergency medical services. Duties include planning, directing, and controlling departmental activities including personnel, purchasing, expenditures, and budgeting. Salary is negotiable. Adams County has a population of approximately 28,500 and 588 square miles consisting of a combination department with five stations and eleven full-time,

part-time, and volunteer employees. Submit application and a resume to the Adams County Commissioners, 110 West Main Street - Room 102, West Union, OH, 45693. Applications will be accepted **until 4:00 p.m. October 24, 2008.** EOE.

GIS COORDINATOR

The Adams Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is accepting applications for the full-time position of GIS coordinator. Qualifications include a strong knowledge of ArcInfo, ArcView, ArcGIS and database management, at least one-year of experience preferred in operating, maintaining, and implementing automated mapping and/or GIS systems, and a bachelor's degree in geography, computer science, or a related field. An associate's or technical college degree plus two-years of experience can substitute for the bachelor's degree requirement. Application deadline: **4:00 p.m. on November 3, 2008.** EOE.

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. 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.