



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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MAY 8, 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 19, 2009

SE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS AND ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING, RAVEN'S GLENN WINERY, COSHOCTON COUNTY

MAY 20, 2009

OHIO COUNCIL OF COUNTY OFFICIALS LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON, STATEHOUSE ATTRIUM, COLUMBUS

MAY 20-22, 2009

NACo WESTERN INTERSTATE REGION (WIR) CONFERENCE, UMATILLA COUNTY (PENDLETON), OR

JULY 24-29, 2009

74TH NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION, DAVIDSON COUNTY (NASHVILLE), TN

ASSOCIATION NEWS

COSHOCTON COUNTY TO HOST SE DISTRICT – MAY 19

Coshocton County Commissioners Dane Shryock, Gary Fischer, and D. Curtis Lee and County Engineer Fred Wachtel will host the next Southeastern County Commissioners and County Engineers Quarterly Meeting on Tuesday, May 19 at Raven's Glenn Winery, 56183 SR 36, in West Liberty.

Registration and a continental breakfast begin at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 9:30 a.m. at the Roscoe Visitors Center, 600 North Whitewoman Street, in Coshocton. Tours begin at 9:30 a.m. at Roscoe Warehouse Steak N Stein, then proceed to Roscoe Village and continue at Richard Downing Airport, Rainbow Hills Winery, and Raven's Glenn Winery. During the tours learn about Coshocton County's innovative IT network and computerized dog warden program and the increase in revenue. Lunch will be served.

The commissioners and engineers roundtable discussion groups begin at 5:00 p.m. followed by a

social hour and dinner. Registration fee: \$20 (includes dinner.)

Golf is available at River Greens Golf Course, 22749 SR 751, in West Lafayette. Greens fees: \$29 (includes 18 holes, shared cart, and lunch).

For more information, contact Mary Beck, Administrator/Clerk, Coshocton County Commissioners, 401 ½ Main Street, Coshocton, OH 43812, (740) 622-1753, fax (740) 622-4917, or marybeck@coshoctoncounty.net.

OCCO LUNCHEON – MAY 20

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) legislative luncheon on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.! The Ohio Clerk of Courts Association will host the luncheon. There is no charge to attend the luncheon.

County officials need to continually communicate and build a partnership with members of the General Assembly. The OCCO encourages you to invite your state senators and state representatives to the luncheon. Please schedule appointments with them to discuss issues of importance to your

county while you are in Columbus. In lieu of an educational seminar, the OCCO recommends that you attend a committee meeting and/or Senate and House Session. Don't miss this opportunity to lobby the Ohio General Assembly!

Many of you see your lawmakers regularly within your counties. OCCO strongly encourages you to travel to Columbus on May 20 to physically show your support for your lawmakers, who will be looking to see if anyone from their district made the effort to come to this important event.

Please register by May 15, 2009. For more information please contact Todd A. Bickle, Muskingum County Common Pleas Clerk of Courts, at (740) 455-7104, fax (740) 455-8245, or tabickle@muskingumcounty.org.

MANAGING FISCAL RESOURCES & MAKING TOUGH STAFFING DECISIONS SEMINAR – MAY 11

During these tough economic times, all county elected officials are challenged to manage finances and human resources more effectively. To assist officials in making well-informed decisions, CCAO is sponsoring a one-day seminar on “Managing Fiscal Resources & Making Tough Staffing Decisions” that are open to all county elected and appointed officials and chief staff members. The seminar will be held on Monday, May 11 at Salt Fork Resort & Conference Center, P.O. Box 7, U.S. Route 22 East, in Guernsey County (Cambridge).

Agenda and Registration Information

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Welcome
- 9:40 a.m. Personnel & Human Resource Issues: Layoffs, Job Abolishments, Voluntary Reductions, 4-Day Work Week, and Unemployment & COBRA Benefit for Employees
- 12:00 noon Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. Mandatory Funding - *A panel discussion on mandatory programs and services the county must fund.*
- 2:30 p.m. Funding Source for Counties
- 3:30 p.m. Adjourn

Registration fee: \$25 (includes seminar materials and lunch). Registration information is posted on the front page of CCAO’s website at www.ccao.org. For more information, please contact Janet Erwin, Administrative Assistant, at (614) 220-7986, (888) 757-1904, or jerwin@ccao.org.

NEW CCAOSC ENERGY PROGRAM – NATURAL GAS SAVINGS

Recently, the County Commissioners Association of Ohio Service Corporation (CCAOSC) announced a **new energy program** designed to help keep your natural gas costs under control. The CCAOSC has partnered with Palmer Energy to help manage a new natural gas program – CCAOSC Energy Solutions - for member counties. Program advantages: utilize strength of group buying and leverage buying power to shop the market and secure the best deals.

As you recall, the CCAOSC established a natural gas program in 2000 to save counties money through pre-payment and aggregation. Since the inception of that program, the CCAOSC Natural Gas Program has saved the 30-member counties over \$7.4 million in gas commodities. In the past year, counties saved over \$1.3 million. **Counties currently enrolled in the program must sign and return the Participation Agreement for the new program by May 1. New counties and buildings may be added to the program at anytime, but signing up soon helps with the forecasting of energy consumption.**

The CCAOSC believes this program has the potential to provide a significant value for your county. If you have questions or would like to schedule a consultation, please contact Kirk Mizerek, Palmer Energy Vice President, at (419) 539-9180 or kmizerek@palmerenergy.com or Tom Strup, CCAO Deputy Director of Operations, at (614) 220-7978 or tstrup@ccao.org.

CCAO STAFF NEWS

WELCOME TO KIMBERLY TORKAR

We are excited to announce a new addition to the CCAO staff! This week, another talented individual was added to CORSA's already exceptional claims team. Kimberly Torkar comes to us from National

Interstate Insurance Company where she worked as a claims examiner for their captive group. She has also worked for Progressive and Grange insurance companies where she gained over 15 years of claims adjusting and customer service experience. Kim is relocating to Columbus from Lake County (Mentor). Kim may be contact at (614) 220-0643, (888) 757-1904, or ktorkar@ccao.org. Please join us in welcoming Kimberly Torkar to the CCAO family.

COUNTY ACTIVITIES

OHIO COUNTIES INCLUDED IN PITTSBURGH REGION 'VISIONING' PROJECT

Five eastern Ohio counties are being included in a new effort to create a shared vision for a four-state region that surrounds greater Pittsburgh. The new Regional Visioning Project, which is expected to last for two years, includes Mahoning, Columbiana, Jefferson, Belmont, and Monroe counties, as well as counties in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

The project is intended to established the shared vision, instill a sense of optimism, help solve regional problems and connect people, communities and institutions in the area. Project organizers hope to involve the largest number of people in any regional visioning process, topping the 18,000 who were involved in a similar effort involving Calgary. For more information, go to www.regionalvision.org.

STATE ACTIVITIES

SALES TAX COLLECITONS DROPPING IN OHIO

Sales tax collections fell 6.1 percent nationwide in the fourth quarter last year, the largest inflation-adjusted decline in 50 years, according to a report by the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government in Albany, NY. The research group says consumer spending deteriorated even more at the beginning of this year, as people continued to be cautious about parting with cash or taking on more debt because of fear over the economy. That reluctance to spend is squeezing government budgets that rely on sales tax as one of their largest sources of income.

In Ohio, sales tax collections were down 0.7 percent last year compared to 2007. Adjusted for inflation to 2008 dollars, the drop was much greater: 4.3 percent, or \$426.7 million. Sales tax collections dropped or were stagnant in 52 of Ohio's 88 counties last year. (Several experienced big increases or decreases because of changes in the local tax rate.) A greater share of counties — more than 70 — saw declines when adjusted for inflation. The state share — which is a better indicator because its 5.5 percent rate hasn't fluctuated — fell \$145 million, or \$437 million when adjusted for inflation.

The new survey *Luxury or Necessity?* by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press in Washington, D.C., indicated that 80 percent of respondents trimmed their spending because of the recession. Fifty-seven percent reported buying less expensive brands or shopping at discount stores. Frugal consumers are reflected in lower sales tax collections.

To read the Rockefeller Institute report, go to www.rockinst.org. To read the Pew Research Center report, go to <http://pewresearch.org>. (Source: *Akron Beacon Journal*.)

CCAO SEEKS NOMINEE, ALTERNATE FOR CAFF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CCAO has had a representative and alternate on the Concentrated Animal Feeding Facility (CAFF) Advisory Committee since it's inception in April 2001. CCAO's current member and alternate were unseated in the past election.

The Concentrated Animal Feeding Facility Advisory Committee advises the Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Livestock Environmental Permitting Program staff on policies governing large-scale livestock and poultry farming in Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture has requested that CCAO submit a nomination and alternate to fulfill the current term. The current term will expire on March 13, 2010. Any Commissioner interested in serving on the CAFF Advisory Committee, should contact Josh Hahn, CCAO Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7982, (888) 757-1904, or jhahn@ccao.org by May 20.

STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE ASSETS NOW IN PLACE REGIONALLY

Governor Ted Strickland today announced the Ohio Department of Health, Department of Public Safety and the Ohio National Guard have distributed H1N1 antiviral medications and other medical supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to eight regional locations.

“These critical resources have been distributed regionally throughout Ohio so they can be accessed quickly if needed,” said Ohio Governor Ted Strickland. “I appreciate the collaboration among employees in our state agencies. Ohio’s readiness for the developing H1N1 situation is strengthened because of their efforts.”

Ohio requested its portion of the SNS after identifying its first case of H1N1 virus (swine flu) in the state. The SNS contains medicines, personal protective equipment (such as gowns, masks and gloves) for first responders and other medical supplies. Ohio’s receipt of 25 percent of its allotted SNS brings in resources critical to respond if existing supplies already in the state begin to run low.

“I want to thank the federal government for responding so quickly to this situation and providing Ohio with these critical resources,” Strickland said.

The SNS will be accessed based on the severity of the situation, including factors such as the availability of commercial supply and confirmed cases of H1N1 virus in the community. If SNS medicines are needed, they will be provided at no charge to patients needing treatment and as prescribed by their doctor. SNS antiviral medications are to be used solely for treatment purposes, and not as preventive medication.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) has large quantities of medicine and medical supplies to protect the American public if there is a public health emergency (e.g., terrorist attack, flu outbreak, earthquake) severe enough to cause local supplies to run out. Each state has plans to receive and distribute SNS medicine and medical supplies to local communities as quickly as possible.

The ODH will continue to monitor the trends of the outbreak and make changes to its SNS plan as the situation dictates. For more information about the H1N1 virus in Ohio, call (866) 800-1404, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Visit the ODH Web site for current case counts <http://www.odh.ohio.gov>.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

LAUTENBERG, VOINOVICH INTRODUCE BIPARTISAN BILL TO INVEST \$1.8 BILLION FOR WATER SAFETY PROJECTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Last week, U.S. Senators George Voinovich (OH) and Frank R. Lautenberg (NJ) introduced legislation to authorize \$1.8 billion in federal grants to help modernize antiquated sewer systems. These sewers frequently overflow directly into rivers, lakes, streams and coastal waters during wet weather events, threatening water quality and public health and undermining local economies. Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown is also co-sponsor of the bill.

The Water Quality Investment Act (S.936) would authorize a \$1.8 billion, five-year federal grant program in the Clean Water Act. The program would provide funds directly to local governments in the first two years of the program. Over the next three years, funding would be allocated to states, based on need to address problems of overflowing sewer systems. States will then distribute the funding to local governments.

Many municipalities face problems with their Combined Sewer Systems (CSS), where sanitary sewage, industrial discharge and storm water are sent through the same pipe on the way to be treated. When flooding or heavy rainfall occur, excess water, sewage, and industrial waste are discharged into bodies of water, creating a public health hazard and harming water quality and the environment. These overflows occur in 31 states and the District of Columbia, and put the public’s health at risk in 772 U.S. municipalities. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that about 850 billion gallons of untreated wastewater and storm water from these systems are released into streams, lakes, rivers and estuaries each year.

Separate sewer systems are not immune from those problems facing combined systems, and often overflow as well, sending untreated sewage into the waterways, streets, parks, and homes of communities in every state. EPA estimates that between three and ten billion gallons of untreated waste are spilled from these systems each year.

CLEAN WATER RESTORATION ACT...ON TAP AGAIN

Conflict is again brewing over defining “waters of the U.S.” On April 2, Senator Russ Feingold (WI) reintroduced the Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA), S. 787, a bill to reauthorize the original legislation passed in 1972 known as the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Feingold’s CWRA would eliminate the word “navigable” from the definition of “waters of the U.S.” just as a predecessor bill in the House did last session. This seemingly minor edit places all bodies of water or “perceived” bodies of water under federal jurisdiction — even those waters seen as traditionally under state authority — with dramatic implications for states and countries.

The need for CWA permits would expand significantly as would the application of other federal laws and regulations such as environmental impact statements, the National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act.

The bill also seeks to regulate “activities affecting these waters.” While the intent may be to limit direct and indirect pollution going into major waterways, the phrase could be interpreted quite differently to allow federal regulation of any and all activities that “affect” waters. It is possible, for example, that a non-direct pollution source such as road runoff 10 miles to hundreds of miles away could be regulated even though there is no direct hydrological connection. A delineation of activities “affecting these waters” does not exist anywhere in current law or regulation.

For more information, go to www.naco.org and click on the story on the front page.

NACo ACTIVITIES

NACo 74th ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

The National Association of Counties (NACo) and Davidson County (Nashville), Tennessee invite you to join over 2,000 appointed and elected officials from across the nation this summer for NACo’s 74th Annual Conference & Exposition to be held July 24-28, 2009 at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel. This is the only national conference and exposition dedicated solely to county government. Conference registration is now open! Register for the conference and housing online at www.naco.org to save \$25 per registrant. Click on the article about the conference on the front page. The early bird discount expires on June 19. For more information please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904 or mjneiman@ccao.org.

BROWN TO APPOINT LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR 2009-10

Sonoma County (CA) Supervisor and NACo President-Elect Valerie Brown will be considering the following appointments to her 2009-10 Leadership Team in early May.

- **Steering Committee Leadership** – The 11 steering committees will each have a leadership team consisting of a chair, vice-chairs, subcommittee chairs, and vice-chairs. Active members of the steering committees are given first preference. **This does not include steering committee membership nominations. CCAO will process nominations in early June. (See article below.)**
- **Caucus Leadership** – These one-year appointments include the Rural Action Caucus and Large Urban County Caucus Steering Committees chair and vice-chairs. Active members of the steering committees are given first preference.
- **At-Large Appointments to the NACo Board of Directors** – These ten one-year appointments add diversity to the board.
- **Standing Committees** – Four committees (i.e., Finance, Information Technology,

Member Programs and Services, and Membership Committees)

- **Ad Hoc Committees** – Four committees (i.e., Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee – three-year term, Arts and Culture Commission – one-year term, Sustainability Leadership Team – one-year term, and Geospatial Information Systems Committee – one-year term.)

The application is available online at www.naco.org. Click on About NACo>Committees and Caucuses>Presidential Appointment. **Application deadline: May 22, 2009.** If you have any questions please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979 or mjneiman@ccao.org.

2009-10 NACo STEERING COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

The nomination process for membership on NACo policy steering committees in 2009-10 is underway. As a NACo steering committee member, you are responsible for debating and creating national policies and priorities affecting counties and serve on NACo's front line in their grassroots efforts. Committees meet at the NACo Legislative and Annual Conferences and one other time during the year. You will be responsible for your own travel. Attendance and participation in the committee is important.

NACo has eleven steering committees: Agriculture & Rural Affairs; Community & Economic Development; Environment, Energy & Land Use; Finance & Intergovernmental Relations; Health; Human Services & Education; Justice & Public Safety; Labor & Employment; Public Lands; Telecommunications & Technology; and Transportation. To serve on a Steering Committee, your county must be a member of NACo.

CCAO processes all nominations for Ohio public officials before being sent to NACo. If you would like to serve on a NACo committee for 2009-10,

please respond by **Friday, June 12, 2009**. Nominations will be approved by the incoming NACo President after the NACo Annual Conference, which will be held July 24-28, 2009 in Davidson County (Nashville), Tennessee. NACo will announce your appointment in September 2009. For more information about NACo Steering Committees please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904 or mjneiman@ccao.org.

WEBINARS

NACo METHAMPHETAMINE PREVENTION WEBINAR – MAY 14

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is offering a free webinar on methamphetamine prevention titled "Addressing Methamphetamine in our Nation's Counties," held on Thursday, May 14 from 2:00 to 3:15 pm (EST). This webinar will explore the unique ways in which methamphetamine affects counties, including social and economic costs. Attendees will also receive additional information regarding national and local meth prevention programs.

To register for the webinar go to <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/425739578>. For more information, please contact Kati Guerra, NACo Senior Associate for County Services, at (202) 942-4279, fax (202) 393-2630, or kguerra@naco.org.

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