



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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JUNE 19, 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 25, 2009	AMERICAN RECOVERY AND INVESTMENT ACT SEMINAR, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
JUNE 25, 2009	CCAO COUNTY & LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM & COLLABORATION TASK FORCE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
JUNE 26, 2009	CCAO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
JUNE 26, 2009	CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETING, CARROLL MEADOWS GOLF COURSE, CARROLL COUNTY (CARROLLTON)
JULY 14, 2009	CORSA REGIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINAR, THE GALAXY RESTAURANT AND BANQUET CENTER, MEDINA COUNTY (WADSWORTH)
JULY 15, 2009	CORSA REGIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINAR, FINDLAY INN & CONFERENCE CENTER, HANCOCK COUNTY (FINDLAY)
JULY 20, 2009	NW DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS AND ENGINEERS QUARTERLY MEETING, PIKE RUN GOLF COURSE, PUTNAM COUNTY (OTTAWA)
JULY 24, 2009	CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETING, NOBLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, NOBLE COUNTY (CALDWELL)
JULY 24-29, 2009	74 TH NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION, DAVIDSON COUNTY (NASHVILLE), TN
JULY 26, 2009	OHIO CAUCUS MEETING, GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER – JACKSON E ROOM, DAVIDSON COUNTY (NASHVILLE)
AUGUST 7, 2009	CORSA REGIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINAR, CCAO OFFICES, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)
AUGUST 19-21, 2009	CCAO/CEAO/OSU EXTENSION SUMMER MEETING, GALAXY RESTAURANT & BANQUET CENTER, MEDINA COUNTY (WADSWORTH)
AUGUST 28, 2009	CORSA ANNUAL MEETING, DOUBLETREE HOTEL, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

STATE AUDITOR'S SEMINAR ON AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT SET FOR JUNE 25

CCAO, in cooperation with the State Auditor's Office and the County Auditors' Association of Ohio, is sponsoring training on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) on Thursday, June 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the CCAO Offices, 209 East State Street, in Columbus. The State Auditor's Office has developed a two-hour presentation that will cover the following topics:

- Strict Liability - What it is and is not.
- Overview of ARRA and update on latest available information - including 1512 reporting requirements.
- AOS Bulletin 2009-005, the AOS Stimulus Tracker
- Actions ARRA recipients should be taking now.
- What is a single audit?

There is no registration fee for the training seminar. Please confirm your attendance by contacting Janet Erwin, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at (614) 220-7986, (888) 757-1904, or jerwin@ccao.org. Please include your name, title and county. Attendance will be on a first come, first served basis until the maximum seating capacity is reached. Limited parking will be available at the CCAO office and in a pay lot adjacent to the CCAO offices. For a map and written directions to the CCAO office go to www.ccao.org > About CCAO > Office Location.

LENNY FOR NACo 2ND VICE PRESIDENT – HOW YOUR COUNTY CAN SUPPORT LENNY!

NACo is preparing for the 74th Annual Conference to be held July 24-28, 2009 in Davidson County, TN. Since Athens County Commissioner Lenny Eliason is running for NACo 2nd Vice President, it is important that your county participates in the association's annual election of officers. Lenny and Ohio need your support! In addition, NACo's platform – Restore the Partnership - will be adopted during the annual business meeting. Voting credentials information was sent to all NACo member counties in mid-May.

How can my county vote? A county must be a NACo member "in good standing" in order to vote. This means your county's NACo dues for 2009 must be paid before the voting occurs. Also, the county must have one paid registration for the annual conference and have proper credentials.

What are voting credentials? Credentials attest to a county's eligibility to vote. Credentials contain information on the number of votes a county is eligible to cast, as well as the identity of the delegate that is authorized to cast the county's vote.

If your county is a paid member of NACo and has at least one paid conference registrant, please complete the "NACo 2009 Credentials (Voting) Identification Form" that was sent to NACo member counties:

- Designate a voting delegate and alternate.
- Indicate who can pick up your ballot in the event your delegate or alternate is unable to pick your county's ballot up (i.e., CCAO President Kerry Metzger or his designee).
- Have the chief county elected official sign the form (i.e., board of county commissioners president or elected county executive).
- Complete these procedures by Friday, July 3. Return the voting credentials form to Ilene Manster, Membership Coordinator, NACo, 25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW – Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20001, (202) 942-4291, fax (202) 393-2630, or imanster@naco.org.
- Voting delegates should stop at the Credentials Desk located in the conference registration area!

Ohio Caucus During NACo - During the conference, CCAO will caucus on Sunday, July 26 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel Conference Center in the Jackson E Room.

For more information go to www.naco.org and search by "2009 Voting Credentials." For more information please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904, or mjneiman@ccao.org.

CCAO/CEAO/OSU EXTENSION SUMMER MEETING

In a collaborative effort, OSU Extension – Medina County and the North East Regional Office have invited CCAO/CEAO to meet together on August 19-21, 2009 in Medina County (Wadsworth). Together with OSU Extension, Commissioners Pat Geissman, Stephen Hambley, and Sharon Ray and County Engineer Mike Salay will co-host this joint summer meeting at the Galaxy Restaurant & Banquet Center, in Medina County (Wadsworth). This is the first time that the three organizations will meet together. The theme of the meeting will be "Effective Government Through Collaboration."

Taking tight county budgets into consideration, OSU Extension invited CCAO/CEAO to meet together instead of holding both the CCAO/CEAO Annual Summer Conference and OSU Extension County Commissioners Days. The CCAO Communication and Education Committee has been considering different options for meetings during the past few years. In addition, CCAO has sought the input from our affiliate members.

Registration materials will be mailed in mid-June. If you have any questions about the conference please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904, or mjneiman@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.

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.

CORSA REGIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINARS

CORSA has scheduled our highly popular regional risk management seminars for 2009. The seminars provide valuable information on how to address the risk management issues resulting from the budgetary challenges facing all counties. The agenda will include updates on the Family Medical Leave Act and the new Interactive Process requirements of the recently enacted Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act. Information on how to earn the maximum available under CORSA's new Loss Control Incentive Program will

also be presented. All three seminars start at 9:30 a.m. and end after lunch. An optional online training demonstration will take place at 1:30 p.m.

The dates and locations of the seminars are as follows:

- July 14- The Galaxy Restaurant and Banquet Center, 201 Park Center Drive, Medina County (Wadsworth)
- July 15 – Findlay Inn & Conference Center, 200 East Main Cross, Hancock County (Findlay)
- August 7 – CCAO Office, 209 East State Street, Franklin County (Columbus)

The seminars are being offered at no cost to CORSA members. Please contact Tricia Callihan, CORSA Program Assistant, at (614) 220-7993, (888) 757-1904 or tcallihan@ccao.org.

AFFILIATE ACTIVITIES

2009 CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETINGS

The County Commissioners' Clerks and Engineer's Administrative Professional Association of Ohio (CCC/EAPA) has scheduled regional meetings to share information and network with other clerks. CCC/EAPA is comprised of county commissioners and engineers' office staff. All commissioners' clerks and engineers' administrative professionals are welcome to network with this most informative organization. The board works hard to provide educational workshops and training opportunities at summer and winter conferences.

Regional information and networking luncheon meetings are a priority with CCC/EAPA. Topics will vary at each meeting and are held on Friday's beginning at 10:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. CCAO/CEAO sponsors the lunch.

The following is a general list of meetings to be held throughout the 2009 calendar year:

- June 26, 2009 - Carroll Meadows Golf Course – Knickers, Carroll County (Carrollton)
- July 24, 2009 - Noble County Health Department, Noble County (Caldwell)
- August 28, 2009 - Wood County Commissioners Office, Wood County (Bowling Green)
- September 25, 2009 - Darke County Homeland Security & Emergency Management Facility, Darke County (Greenville)
- October 9, 2009 - Scioto County Emergency Management, Scioto County (Portsmouth)
- October 23, 2009 - CCAO Offices, Franklin County (Columbus)

Meeting location addresses can be found at www.ccao.org > Calendar > Seminars, Workshops & Special Events. Please email suggestions for agenda items to Carolyn Hauenstein, Clerk, Erie County Commissioners at chauenstein@erie-county-ohio.net. Bring any forms to share that may be useful to other counties.

To obtain additional information on the CCC/EAPA, or if you are interested in serving on one of the committees, please contact JoAnn Sikorski, Clerk/Administrative Assistant, Athens County Commissioners, at (740) 592-3219, jsikorski@athenscountygovernment.com or www.ccc-esao.org. A Yahoo Group to post questions and answers that arise has been opened. You are encouraged to join this yahoo group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CCC_EAPA.

STATE ACTIVITIES

NOMINATIONS BEING SOUGHT FOR OHIO NATURAL RESOURCES HALL OF FAME

Nominations are now being accepted for the Ohio Natural Resources Hall of Fame, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). For the past 43 years, the Hall of Fame has been the state's top honor for individuals who have improved the quality of life in Ohio through natural resources management, environmental education or scientific achievement.

Created by ODNR in 1966, the Ohio Natural Resources Hall of Fame has honored 145 individuals including John Chapman (Johnny Appleseed), explorer John Wesley Powell, conservationist/novelist Louis Bromfield, pioneering botanist Lucy Braun and farming conservation advocate Bob Evans.

Successful nominators of this year's Hall of Fame selections will be notified by October 30. Award presentations will be made on December 10. Selection criteria and a nomination form are available on the internet at www.ohiodnr.com or by calling (614) 265-6842. Nomination forms must be returned no later than August 21 to ODNR Communications, 2045 Morse Road, Building D-3, Columbus, OH 43229.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

IRS SEEKS COMMENTS ON CELL PHONE PROPOSALS

The IRS has issued Notice 2009-46, requesting comments from the public regarding proposals to simplify procedures for substantiating employee cell phone use when cell phones are provided by the employer.

Government employers frequently provide their employees with cell phones and pagers to employees to conduct business. To the extent that the employee uses the employer's cell phone for business purposes, the value of the use is excludable as a working condition fringe benefit. However, any personal use is income to the employee.

In 1989, cellular telephones were designated as "listed property" under the Internal Revenue Code, and are therefore subject to special substantiation requirements. Although the use of these phones is much more widespread and economical today, they remain listed property under law and are subject to special recordkeeping requirements to establish the business use of the property. To be able to exclude the value of use of an employer-owned cell phone by an employee from income, the employer must have some method requiring the employee to keep records that distinguish business from personal phone use.

Under current requirements, employees should keep a record of each call and the time it is incurred, as well as its business purpose. If calls are itemized on a monthly statement, they should be identifiable as personal or business, and the employee should retain any supporting evidence of the business calls. This information should be submitted to the employer, who must maintain these records to support the exclusion of the phone use from the employee's wages. The value assigned to individual personal calls must include a pro rata share of monthly service charges. The fair market value of any use that represents personal use is included in the wages of the employee. If the extent of personal use cannot be established, the entire value of the cell phone is taxable income to the employee.

Because of the volume of calls that an employee may make, as well as the variety of telephone service provider pricing systems, the recordkeeping requirement may be burdensome to employees as well as employers. In order to simplify reporting requirements, and eliminate the need for detailed records on each call, Notice 2009-46 presents three proposals for simplifying the reporting burden:

- Minimal personal use method
- Safe harbor substantiation method
- Statistical sampling method

To review Notice 2009-46 go to www.irs.gov/irb/2009-23_IRB/ar07.html.

Comments must be submitted **in writing** on or before September 4, 2009, and should include a reference to Notice 2009-46. Submissions should be sent to Internal Revenue Service, Attn: CC:PA:LPD:PR (Notice 2009-46), Room 5203, P.O. Box 7604 Ben Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044.

Submissions also may be **hand delivered** Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to: CC:PA:LPD:PR (Notice 2009-46), Courier's Desk, Internal Revenue Service, 1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC. Alternatively, comments may be submitted **electronically** directly to the IRS via the following e-mail address: Notice.comments@irs.counsel.treas.gov. Please include "Notice 2009-46" in the subject line of any electronic communication. All comments will be available for public inspection and copying.

SMALL COMMUNITIES INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP MEETINGS

The task of developing the infrastructure necessary for economic competitiveness and improved quality-of-life continues to be a most pressing challenge that small communities face in Ohio. This often includes developing or enhancing environmental infrastructures such as basic drinking water and sewer service.

Following up on a very successful series of meetings in 2008, U.S. Senators George Voinovich and Sherrod Brown, along with the Small Communities Environmental Infrastructure Group, will be holding a series of meeting in 2009 focused on addressing infrastructure issues on the following dates:

- INFORMATION SESSION & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: July 21, 2009 - 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Baker University Center – Ballroom A, One Park Place, Athens, OH 45701.
- FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: October 9, 2009 – 1:00 p.m., Office of the Ohio Water Development Authority, 480 South High Street, Columbus, OH 43215.
- FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: December 11, 2009 - 1:00 p.m., Office of the Ohio Water Development Authority, 480 South High Street, Columbus, OH 43215.

An informational letter is attached to this issue of CIDS. For more information about the Informational and Finance Committee meetings and to RSVP your attendance, contact Jim Bonk at (614) 644-3713 or jim.bonk@epa.state.oh.us or David Reiff at (614) 644-3646 or dave.reiff@epa.state.oh.us.

COUNTIES AND FARMERS FIGHTING FEDERAL OVERREACH OF CLEAN WATER ACT

The National Association of Counties' (NACo) and the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) are partnering to oppose legislation to significantly expand the federal jurisdiction of The Clean Water Act (CWA). Both groups are concerned that the Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA) would needlessly expand the federal reach of CWA and result in significant negative impacts on farmers, ranchers, local governments, and local economies without improving protections of the nation's critical water resources.

Both organizations stressed that they support current CWA provisions and enforcement of state and local environmental protection laws. The groups have expressed their concern to Congress that eliminating the word "navigable" from the definition of "Waters of the United States" would result in an unprecedented expansion of federal authority.

NACo supports CWA provisions that protect wetland habitats and rivers and streams of the U.S., but does not support federal efforts to change the definition of the Clean Water Act from navigable waters to “waters of the United States.” In addition, NACo opposes federal efforts to further expand the authority and responsibilities of the federal agencies in regard to these waters.

AFBF called the bill “regulatory overkill” which largely disregards the positive conservation role farmers and ranchers are playing. By replacing ‘navigable waters’ with ‘all intrastate waters,’ the federal government would have control of structures such as drainage ditches, which are only wet during rain events.

The bill would require that counties obtain a federal permit before any project of any size could move forward if it affects any wet area. If the term ‘navigable’ is removed, it is possible that ditches, pipes, streets, gutters, manmade ponds, drainage features, desert washes and other features could be regulated. Additionally, activities such as mosquito and fire abatement prohibitions to regulating rain gutters beside homes could also be regulated.

NACo and AFBF pledge to work with the bill’s sponsors to ensure that any proposed changes to the CWA are both effective and workable for farmers and local governments.

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 is available until 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.

NACIO AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

OHIO COUNTIES APLAUDED FOR COMMUNICATION EFFORTS; CLERMONT COUNTY’S KATHY LEHR WINS BEST OF SHOW!

Congratulations to Clark (2), Clermont (9), Cuyahoga (4), Greene (3), and Summit (6) counties for winning a total of 25 Awards of Excellence sponsored by the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO). Nationally, over 500 projects were submitted and only 149 received awards. CCAO is honored that public information projects from Ohio counties are getting national recognition!

A very special round of applause goes to Kathy Lehr and Clermont County Office of Public Information for winning the best of show award for the “Clermont Annual Citizen’s Report”! In addition to best of show, Kathy won two best of class, four superior, and two meritorious awards.

Awards will be presented during the 74th Annual NACo Conference held July 24-28, 2009 in Davidson County (Nashville), Tennessee. An affiliate of NACo, NACIO was established in 1966 to promote a better public understanding of the functions of county government between the public and its elected officials.

The 2009 NACIO Awards of Excellence cover projects produced and distributed during calendar year 2008. Submissions must be primarily the work of the entrant with outside assistance strictly limited to support

functions, such as typesetting and printing. A complete list of NACIO Awards of Excellence Award recipients has been published on NACIO's website at www.nacio.org. For more information about NACIO, please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate and NACIO District Director, at (614) 220-7979 or mjneiman@ccao.org. A complete list of Ohio winners is attached to this issue of CIDS.

CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYEE/LABOR RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Licking County Government is seeking an individual for the position of employee/labor relations coordinator. This position is responsible for administering/coordinating various programs related to labor and employee relation activities under the direction of the human resources director. This is a part-time position with benefits working Monday through Thursday 30(+/-) hours a week.

Qualified applicants must possess a Bachelor's degree and two to four years' related experience in human resources or employee/labor relations or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Successful candidates will have previous experience in performance management; negotiating and administering collective bargaining agreements; ensuring compliance with federal, state, and local employment laws; and developing and administering personnel related policies and training programs. professional human resources certification and previous experience working in a public sector human resources office is preferred.

Starting salary range is \$30,000 to \$38,000. A complete job description and application can be obtained at www.lcounty.com or visiting the Human Resources Department. Successful candidates will be subject to Licking County's pre-employment drug screening. Qualified candidates should submit a completed application and resume to the Human Resources Department. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Send completed application and resume to: Licking County Human Resources Department, 20 South Second Street - 3rd Floor. Newark, OH 43055. 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 at mjneiman@ccao.org



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY INFORMATION OFFICERS

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

BEST OF SHOW

Clermont County, Ohio Office of Public Information
Clermont Annual Citizens' Report

Kathy Lehr

A Annual Reports
Best of Class

Clermont County, Ohio - Clermont Annual Citizens' Report, Kathy Lehr

A-1, Annual Reports, Magazine or Newsletter Format
Superior

Clermont County, Ohio - Clermont Annual Citizens' Report, Kathy Lehr

A-1, Annual Reports, Magazine or Newsletter Format Excellence

Cuyahoga County, Ohio - Building Tomorrow's Future, Michelle M. Adams

C-1, Internal Publications, Newsletter Format
Superior

Clermont County, Ohio - On the Move Newsletter for Employees, Kathy Lehr

C-1, Internal Publications, Newsletter Format
Meritorious

Summit County, Ohio - The County Scene Newsletter, David A. Kish

D-1, External Publications, Newsletter Format
Superior

Clermont County, Ohio - On the Move Newsletter for Citizens, Kathy Lehr

D-1, External Publications, Newsletter Format
Meritorious

Cuyahoga County, Ohio - Developing News, Michelle M. Adams

E Writing
Best of Class

Clermont County, Ohio - News Releases, Kathy Lehr

E-1, Writing, News Writing
Superior

Clermont County, Ohio - News Releases, Kathy Lehr

E-4, Writing, Speeches
Meritorious

Summit County, Ohio - State of the County Address, David A. Kish

F Graphic Design

Best of Class

Cuyahoga County, Ohio - Bicentennial Poster, Michelle Adams & Richard Frumkin

**F-1, Graphic Design, Logos, Themes and Letterheads
Excellence**

Greene County Convention & Visitors Bureau - Green Parks Logo for "Get Out" Webzine,
Alan Raney

**F-1, Graphic Design, Logos, Themes, and Letterheads
Meritorious**

Clark County, Ohio - Job and Family Services of Clark County, Robert B. Suver

Summit County, Ohio - Summit County Business Partnership Logo, David A. Kish

**F-2, Graphic Design, for Brochures and Publications
Excellence**

Greene County, Ohio Convention & Visitors Bureau - Greene County Posters for Mesa Arizona, Alan
Raney

**F-4, Graphic Design, Special Graphics
Superior**

Cuyahoga County, Ohio - Bicentennial Poster, Michelle Adams & Richard Frumkin

**F-4, Graphic Design, Special Graphics
Excellence**

Summit County, Ohio - Bridging the Gap Bus Ad, David A. Kish

Greene County, Ohio Convention & Visitors Bureau - Welcome Sign and Name Badges for 2008 Glenn
Miller Concert, Alan Raney

**G-2, Photography, Series of Photographs
Meritorious**

Cuyahoga County, Ohio - Three Generations of Tractor Riders, Michelle M. Adams

**H-1, Audiovisual Productions, DVD
Meritorious**

Clermont County, Ohio - Fair Housing - It's the Law, Kathy Lehr
Clermont County, Ohio - Somebody, Kathy Lehr

**H-2, Audiovisual Productions, Public Service Announcements
Meritorious**

Clark County, Ohio - Overall Agency TV Commercial, Robert B. Suver

**I-6, Special Projects, Other Projects
Superior**

Summit County, Ohio - Red, Woven & Blue 9-11 Remembrance Art Project, David A. Kish
Summit County, Ohio - Serving Our Soldiers Program, David A. Kish



June 17, 2009

Dear Sir or Madam,

The task of developing the infrastructure necessary for economic competitiveness and improved quality-of-life continues to be a most pressing challenge that small communities face in Ohio. 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.

Following up on a very successful series of meetings in 2008, which saw representatives from approximately 100 local governments attend a general informational funding session; as well as representatives from 40 local governments who received funding advice, United States Senators George Voinovich and Sherrod Brown, along with the Small Communities Environmental Infrastructure Group, will be holding a series of meetings in 2009 focused on addressing these infrastructure issues. A regional session (see next page) will highlight resources that 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 a regional morning presentation beginning at 9:30 a.m. Following the funding presentation and question/answer period, a Finance Committee meeting will immediately convene for communities currently planning public drinking water and sewer utilities projects.

In addition, the Finance Committee will also be meeting on October 9 and December 11 at 1:00 p.m. in Columbus to hear from 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 give advice on a project-specific basis, giving the best financing options for a community to pursue. 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, in order to be included on the agenda (space is limited to eight communities each day).

As this invitation is being sent out, federal and state governments have begun to implement the Economic Recovery Plan to stimulate the national economy. Several federal and state programs are receiving supplemental federal funding to help create jobs and address the nation's infrastructure needs. Information, as appropriate, will be presented at all sessions.

Please let us know which of the remaining meetings you plan to attend. They are as follows:

Informational session and Finance Committee meeting:

Tuesday, July 21, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Ohio University, Baker University Center Ballroom A, One Park Place, Athens, OH 45701

Finance Committee meeting:

Friday, October 9, 2009, beginning at 1:00 p.m., Office of the Ohio Water Development Authority, 480 South High Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Finance Committee meeting:

Friday, December 11, 2009, beginning at 1:00 p.m., Office of the Ohio Water Development Authority, 480 South High Street, Columbus, OH 43215

For more information about the individual Finance Committee meetings and the combined Informational/Finance Committee meetings, as well as to RSVP for each of these meetings, please contact Jim Bonk at 614-644-3713 (jim.bonk@epa.state.oh.us) or David Reiff at 614-644-3646 (dave.reiff@epa.state.oh.us).

Please feel free to contact Senator Voinovich's office at 740-753-1562 or via e-mail at tracy_mann@voinovich.senate.gov; or Senator Brown's office at 216-522-7272 or via e-mail at jeanne_wilson@brown.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



George V. Voinovich
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Steve Grossman, Executive Director Ohio
Water Development Authority on behalf of
SCEIG