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AUGUST 6, 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| AUGUST 9, 2010 | SW DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION MEETING, CLINTON COUNTY ANNEX, CLINTON COUNTY (WILMINGTON) |
| AUGUST 11, 2010 | TRANSITION TO CHARTER GOVERNMENT IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY – 2 ND WEDNESDAY SEMINAR SERIES, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS |
| AUGUST 20, 2010 | CCAO METROPOLITAN & REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS |
| AUGUST 27, 2010 | CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETING, ROCKY OUTDOOR GEAR STORE, ATHENS COUNTY (NELSONVILLE) |
| AUGUST 30, 2010 | CCAO WIND WEBINAR (RESCHEDULED FROM AUGUST 9) |
| DECEMBER 5-8, 2010 | CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE AND TRADESHOW, HYATT REGENCY, COLUMBUS |

ASSOCIATION NEWS

SW OHIO COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION TO MEET AUGUST 9

The Southwest Ohio Commissioners and Engineers Association will meet on Monday, August 9 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Clinton County Annex, 111 South Nelson Avenue, in Clinton County (Wilmington).

During the last SW District meeting, held in December 2009 during the CCAO/CEAO Annual Winter Conference, members expressed an interest in making the district become more active during the year. The 2010 SW District Commissioners and Engineers Association officers are: President – Margery Paeltz, Brown County Commissioner; Vice President - David Brand, Madison County Engineer; and Secretary/Treasurer - Neil Tunison, Warren County Engineer

Join the Southwest District in Clinton County on August 9 to discuss OSU Extension, soil & water issues, state funding & county budgets, and CEAO update. County administrators, clerks, deputy engineers and administrative assistants/secretaries are invited to attend this meeting.

Light refreshments will be served. RSVP your attendance by **August 6** to: Margery Paeltz, Brown County Commissioner, SW District President, 800 Mt. Orab Pike – Suite 101, Georgetown, OH 45121-1170, (937) 378-3956, or commissioners@browncountyohio.gov.

TRANSITION TO CHARTER GOVERNMENT IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY; 2ND WEDNESDAY'S SEMINAR – AUGUST 11

CCAO will be hosting “The Transition to Charter Government in Cuyahoga County” – the fifth in a series of “Second Wednesday’s” seminars – on Wednesday, August 11 at the CCAO Offices, 209 East State Street, in Columbus. Information is posted on the front page of our website at www.ccao.org.

This seminar will focus on the transition to charter government in Cuyahoga County. Speakers will provide attendees with background information on county charters and alternative forms of county government, the provisions of the Cuyahoga County Charter adopted by the voters of Cuyahoga County in November of 2009, and the issues and opportunities facing the Transition Advisory Group as Cuyahoga County transitions to a charter form of government in January of 2011.

The seminar will begin sharply at 9:30 a.m. and will conclude promptly at 12:30 p.m. Registrations will be accepted only by email. Seminar information is posted on our website at www.ccao.org. Coffee will be served during the morning and lunch will be on your own. Best of all, no registration fee will be charged! To register, contact Janet Erwin, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at jerwin@ccao.org.

COUNTY ACTIVITIES

WANTED: YOUR COUNTY NEWS

Do you have news about your county to share in the *County Information and Data Service* or *County News*? Send it to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at mjneiman@ccao.org.

STATE ACTIVITIES

CONSOLIDATE MEDICAID TO COPE WITH GROWING MENTAL ILLNESS CASELOAD, REPORT SAYS

The federal health care overhaul offers Ohio the opportunity to vastly improve its mental health system, but the state must centralize control of Medicaid first, according to the Center for Community Solutions. Ohio's county-run system for taking care of the severely mentally ill is overstressed, underfunded and "on the brink of failure and collapse."

State funding for the 50 community mental health boards has decreased in recent years as the number of clients has increased, the report said. Care has been reduced or eliminated for non-Medicaid patients, wait times are longer, and more people with severe mental illness are winding up in more costly institutions.

Federal health care legislation, which will broaden Medicaid coverage for low-income childless adults with mental illness, could help reverse the situation, but Ohio must make several changes first, the group said. "The Medicaid expansion offers the most significant improvement for those with chronic mental illness by providing funding for their health care services; however, this change presents a significant challenge to Ohio's decentralized behavioral health financing system and elevates the question of whether the state should take over responsibility of the behavioral health Medicaid benefit." A federal pilot project that provides grants to co-locate primary care alongside behavioral health care in community-based mental health settings is especially promising for Ohio, the report said.

However, additional state funding for community mental health boards is critical, the group said, noting the enhanced federal Medicaid match is set to expire soon. Community Solutions said policymakers should revisit the idea of creating a standalone Medicaid agency to simplify the program, which is currently administered by five agencies. Consolidation would help position the state to manage the federal expansion. Download a copy of the report at <http://www.communitysolutions.com/assets/1/AssetManager/sbm%20v6.3 Ackerman MH%20071810.pdf>.

ADMINISTRATION DEVISES PLAN TO DEAL WITH TOXIC GRAND LAKE ST. MARYS

Last Friday, Governor Ted Strickland joined several cabinet members in Mercer County (Celina) to unveil the administration's strategy to combat the burgeoning toxic algae bloom choking Grand Lake St. Marys. The administration's "action plan" outlines several responses to the problem of reactive phosphorus that is nourishing the toxin-producing blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria. The approach calls for efforts to reduce the fertilizer that is continually recycling in the water and to prevent additional external loading.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) will attempt an in-lake demonstration project to tackle the internal loading problem. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) will provide about \$250,000 for "alum treatment" to begin on a limited basis in September before being considered for expansion in the whole lake. The plan also recommends reviewing the current small-scale "algae flipping" pilot project currently underway to determine if a larger-scale project is possible, in which case the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) will provide about \$25,000 for the effort.

The administration also outlined efforts to reduce the problem of external phosphorus loading, such as promoting improvements to manure hauling practices, limiting discharges from nearby sewage treatment plants, and educating local homeowners on septic systems and lawn management practices.

ODNR will seek the legislature's support for additional regulatory authority to restrict manure application during the winter and the requirement for farms with more than 350 tons of manure annually to develop a nutrient management plan. OEPA will test the lake water weekly and make the results public, the administration said. OEPA and the Ohio Department of Health will ask the federal government to develop national standards for the additional toxins that have been found in the water.

Grand Lake St. Marys is Ohio's largest inland lake at 13,500 acres. Straddling the Auglaize-Mercer County line between St. Marys and Celina, the lake was constructed in the mid-1800s to store water for the Miami-Erie Canal. In 1949, Grand Lake St. Marys was among the first state parks established in Ohio.

In other related news, Battelle Memorial Institute has been contracted by the Grand Lake Restoration Commission to act as an independent reviewer of work done by Wright State University-Lake Campus in tackling the blue-green algae problem at Grand Lake St. Mary's. The scope of the contract calls for Battelle to review the assessment of restoration alternatives that are being evaluated this summer in a small portion of the lake including the potential of these technologies for other areas of the lake.

The Grand Lake Restoration Commission, a grassroots nonprofit, has raised \$500,000 in private donations during the last six months to address the algae problems in the lake. These donations have been used to purchase special equipment that could significantly reduce the algae problem.

Tests on a small portion of the lake this summer by Wright State could provide a wider use of the equipment. Sampling, analysis and monitoring of critical physical, chemical and biological properties of the lake will be undertaken by Wright State. Battelle will assess the data obtained during the testing to help determine if it will be useful for possible large scale application at the lake.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

OHIO WAITING \$513 IN FEDERAL FMAP

On Wednesday, the U.S. Senate by cloture vote passed legislation that included a six-month extension of the federal Medicaid increase (FMAP). The legislation passed with 61 votes. Ohio's Senator Brown voted yes, while Senator Voinovich voted no, citing concern about public education issue in the legislation – not the FMAP extension.

Maintaining the enhanced FMAP for another six months translates to Ohio receiving about \$513 million from the increased federal match through June 2011. The federal funds support our Medicaid programs, including programs for individuals with mental illness. The bill itself still needs a final Senate vote and agreement by the U.S. House before it can go to the president for signing. For more information, contact Paul Beddoe, NACo Associate Legislative Director at (202) 942-4234 or pbeddoe@naco.org.

NACo CALLS FOR PASSAGE OF LOCAL JOBS FOR AMERICA ACT

The National Association of Counties' (NACo) has called on Congress to pass the "Local Jobs for America Act" to help economically stressed counties and cities save and create jobs and continue to be able to provide essential services to communities. H.R.4812/S.3500 would provide federal funds to states, local governments, and community-based organizations to save and create local jobs through the retention, restoration, or expansion of services needed by local communities.

Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown is the sponsor of S 3500. H.R. 4812 is co-sponsored by the following Ohio Representatives: John Bocchieri (Dist. 16-Canton), Marcia Fudge (Dist. 11-Warrensville Heights), Marcy Kaptur (Dist. 9-Toledo), Dennis Kucinich (Dist. 10-Lakewood), Tim Ryan (Dist.17-Warren), Zach Space (Dist. 18-Dover), Betty Sutton (Dist. 13-Akron), and Charles Wilson (Dist. 5-Bridgeport).

WIA PROGRAMS RECEIVE LEVEL FUNDING, INCREASED FUNDING FOR HEALTH WORKFORCE TRAINING & WORKFORCE INNOVATION FUNDS IN SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP

The FY2011 Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill provides a total of \$3.8 billion for Workforce Investment Act Title I programs, an increase of nearly \$163.6 million over the FY10 level. This funding will provide education and job training to adult and dislocated workers, and disadvantaged youth. The bill also provides \$65 million for the Green Jobs Innovation Fund. This fund provides workers with job training in green and renewable energy industries as well as sustainable agriculture, transportation and green construction. Other highlights include:

Health Training Programs - the bill includes an additional \$170 million to expand health training programs to improve patient access to health services and skills training for job seekers. The bill allocates funding for primary care training activities (\$48 million), oral health care training (\$57.9 million), and public health workforce training (\$20 million).

Workforce Innovation Funds - the bill includes \$242 million for five new Workforce Innovation Funds intended to improve the delivery of education and training programs to workers. These funds will be administered jointly by the Secretaries of Labor and Education include funding for; dislocated workers (\$55 million), adult job training (\$35 million), youth (\$95 million), disabled individuals (\$27 million) and adult education programs (\$30 million).

For more information, contact Deseree Gardner, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4204 or dgardner@naco.org.

FINANCIAL REFORM LEGISLATION INCLUDES \$1 BILLION FOR NSP 3

On July 21, 2010, President Obama signed the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act into law, passed by Congress after much debate. The law includes \$1 billion for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Round 3, to be made available after October 1, 2010. The funding helps states and localities deal with blight of vacant and abandoned properties in their communities due to the foreclosure crisis. NACo had urged Congress to include the funding in the final legislation.

The \$1 billion in funding would be allocated by a formula to entitlement communities like in NSP 1. The formula is to be established within 30 days of the legislation's enactment. The provision also provides each state to with 0.5 percent of the appropriation, the same as with NSP 1. Under NSP 1 many states have had difficulty spending their funding allotments in a timely manner. The legislation requires grantees to spend at least 50 percent of their funds within two years and 100 percent within three years, similar to NSP 2. It also permits the U.S. Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to establish a minimum grant size for direct allocation to units of local government, no larger than \$1 million. For more information, contact Daria Daniel, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4212 or ddaniel@naco.org.

BROWN, RYAN PUSH PASSAGE OF BILL TO HELP OHIO BATTLE VACANT BUILDINGS

Federal legislation introduced by U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown and U.S. Representative Tim Ryan (Dist. 17-Warren) in 2009 moved closer to fruition this week while officials continued to emphasize the need to address vacant properties in the state. The legislation was introduced last year to allocate grants to cities experiencing large-scale property abandonment. That proposal was added as an amendment to another The Livable Communities Act (S. 1619), portions of which were voted out of committee earlier this week.

The grant program would allow communities to demolish abandoned properties, find innovative uses for old structures, and create green space. Vacant housing blight slows neighborhood rejuvenation, reduces surrounding property values and displaces resources from local firefighters and law enforcement, they said. More than 30 Ohio cities (<http://brown.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Housing%20Pop.%20Stats.pdf>) have seen double-digit percentage decreases in their population since 1970.

CLASSIFIEDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-ADAMHS

The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADAMHS) for Montgomery County is seeking a full-time experienced professional to lead our agency to enhance the behavioral health of Montgomery County residents and to improve and promote Mental Health, to facilitate the process of recovering from Mental Illness and Chemical Dependency and to prevent the abuse of Alcohol and Other Drugs.

Requirements: A Master's degree is required; a PhD, MD, JD, or other degree is desirable. The person chosen shall have 10-12 years of behavioral health care experience with 5 – 7 years of senior management, good interpersonal skills, be a consensus builder, a team player and have financial and service planning expertise. Alternative experience may include an executive position in a behavioral health care or human services specific organization with an emphasis on community health issues.

The starting salary for Executive Director of ADAMHS will be market competitive, depending on the experience, qualifications and salaried history of the selected individual. The expected starting salary will be in the range of \$120,000.00 To \$150,000.00. In addition, Montgomery County expects to provide an excellent fringe benefit package. Apply at www.mcoho.org "Employment and County Commissioners" link. Application deadline: **August 19, 2010**. EOE.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

Greene County Sanitary Engineering/Wastewater Treatment division seeks a Operations Supervisor for there Sugarcreek location. Duties: Supervises subordinate staff: interviews perspective employees & makes recommendation for hiring; recommends disciplinary actions to division Manager; monitors work quality of staff & their adherence to policies & procedures; recommends employee request for leave; prioritizes daily work tasks to be performed by staff; advises employees regarding safety practices & procedures, department policies & procedures, OSHA regulations & County specifications.

Minimum Qualifications / Licensing: High School Diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (G.E.D.) and three years of related maintenance and repair experience; or, any combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties as listed above. Must possess a current Ohio Wastewater Operator Class III license, and obtain a Class IV license within three years of hire. Valid Ohio driver's license required. For more information go to <http://www.co.greene.oh.us/personnel/script.htm>. Deadline application: open until filled.

MANAGER (WASTEWATER DIVISION)

Greene County Sanitary Engineer seeks a Wastewater Division Manager. Duties: Supervises management staff within division: sets priorities & assigns tasks accordingly; monitors performance & work quality of subordinates; interviews perspective employees; makes recommendations for hiring, disciplinary actions & termination; recommends employee requests for leave; assesses employee training needs & arranges necessary training sessions.

Develops long-term operational strategies for consistent & effective operations of plants: prepares & monitors division budget, defining present & future needs; obtains bids from vendors & ensures that proposed purchases meet budgetary constraints. Ensures that division is operating in compliance with federal, state and local laws, rules & regulations by monitoring performance of employees & process equipment & analyzing various testing reports: submits various reports to EPA & superiors within the Sanitary Engineering Department.

Training and Experience Required: Bachelor's Degree in a closely related field with five years of progressively responsible experience; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job, as listed in the position description. Current Ohio Class IV Wastewater Certification and a valid Ohio driver's license required. For more information go to <http://www.co.greene.oh.us/personnel/script.htm>. Deadline application: open until filled.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR

The Gallia, Jackson, Meigs and Vinton Solid Waste Management District is accepting applications for a District Director. This position is responsible for all phases of the day to day operations of the solid waste district, including the recycling center.

Interested applicants must possess the ability to communicate both written and verbally, with many variables, define and solve problems, collect and analyze data, establish budgets, policy development and personnel management/labor relations. Bachelor's Degree or equivalent work experience in the field.

A salary range starting at \$55,000 and a full range of benefits are offered. Job descriptions are available and applications should be submitted to Tom Anderson, Chairman, 121 Fairlane Drive, Middleport, OH 45760. Application deadline: **September 15, 2010**. EOE.