2010 Officers

Pamela Lancaster, President
Hall County Supervisor

Steve Erdman, Vice-President
Morrill County Commissioner

LeRoy Janssen, Sec./ Treasurer
Wayne County Sheriff

Dennis Kimbrough, Past President
Fillmore County Supervisor

Upcoming Events

Nebraska Digital Government Summit
Lincoln, November 1, 2010

Election Day
November 2, 2010

GIS Day
Norfolk, November 17, 2010

Omaha Police Dept. Grant Writing Workshop
Omaha, November 18-19, 2010

2020 Committee Meeting
Lincoln, November 19, 2010

116th Annual Conference
Lincoln, December 8-10, 2010

County Board Workshop
Kearney, February 9 –11, 2011

Don’t forget to set your clocks back one hour!

The NACO/MIPS Offices
will be closed
Thursday, November 11th
in observance of
Veteran’s Day

FHWA Approves Three-Year Pilot Program To Improve Accountability on Nebraska Highway Projects
Four highway projects chosen to showcase improved project delivery

LINCOLN, Neb. – Thursday, October 28, 2010

Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez today announced the start of a three-year pilot program developed in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) to improve state oversight of federal-aid highway projects administered by local public agencies (LPAs).

“Public money and public projects require a level of public responsibility, transparency and accountability,” said Administrator Mendez. “NDOR shares our commitment to improving the way public infrastructure projects are managed as evidenced by their willingness to enhance their oversight of LPA projects.”

The pilot program is one of the elements outlined in a five-point action plan developed by the FHWA after last March’s transportation summit held in Nebraska to address concerns of local government officials. The focus of the pilot program is to monitor state oversight of LPA projects that use private consulting firms to manage both the preliminary engineering and construction engineering on the same federally funded highway project, which the FHWA prohibited in Nebraska in 2009. A lack of state oversight and the potential for conflicts of interest prompted the ban.

At today’s meeting, FHWA Division Administrator Joe Werning and NDOR also announced the selection of four model projects. The projects will demonstrate the renewed federal-state-local partnership, the enhanced communication and coordination process, and a set of milestones that will shorten project delivery for Nebraska highway projects. These four model projects include:

- Constructing viaducts over railroad tracks at 3rd, 12th and 18th Avenues in Columbus;
- Widening 12th Street from Elm Avenue to 6th Avenue from two lanes to three in Hastings;
- Widening 108th Street from Decatur to N. Bridge Road in Omaha; and
- Improving roadway approaches on both sides of the Filley North bridge in Gage County.

Over the next three years, FHWA will work with NDOR and its LPAs to evaluate the newly established oversight controls and ensure these safeguards are implemented.
NACO’s 116th Annual Conference

Register now for NACO’s 116th Annual Conference, to be held December 8-10, 2010 at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln. Registration and tentative agenda information are available on the NACO website at www.nacon.org. Detailed conference information will be published in the November issue of CountyLine.

News Across the State...

Links are to outside sources and may not be available indefinitely

County bans use of tobacco products on all its property
Hastings Tribune, 10/20/10

Jail fails compliance inspection
Beatrice Daily Sun, 10/21/10

Sheehy thanks emergency responders
North Platte Telegraph, 10/24/10

Three counties to consider eliminating weed boards
Norfolk Daily News, 10/26/10

Phelps Co. signs funding deal with FEMA
Kearney Hub, 10/27/10

New Buffalo County Jail in compliance with state standards for first time ever
Kearney Hub, 10/27/10

Officials expect nearly 50 percent voter turnout Nov. 2
Waverly News, 10/28/10

Nebraska expects dismal voter turnout
Omaha World Herald, 10/2810

GIS Day to be held November 17, 2010

In commemoration of GIS Day, a Professional Development Session will be held in Norfolk at the Lifelong Learning Center at Northeast Community College on November 17, from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. This event is free to the public. For those interested in attending contact Michael C. Murphy, GIS Manager, Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District at mmurphy@lenrd.org or by telephone at 402-371-7313.

1:00-1:50  LIDAR and its Applications – Doug Hallum, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and Nolan Little, Tri-Basin Natural Resources District

2:00-2:50  HAZUS –MH for ArcGIS – Arnold Radloff, Lincoln Water System, Public Works

3:00-3:50  National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) – Josh Lear, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

4:00-4:50  Mapping H1N1 / Traffic Injuries / West Nile - Kim Schultz, Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department

Nebraska Crime Commission Grant Announcement

2010 Federal Title II & 2011 State Juvenile Services Funds

Applications are due to the Nebraska Crime Commission by January 7, 2011. The application and instructions can be accessed on the Crime Commission website: http://www.ncc.negov.

The US Department of Justice and Health and Human Service awarded nearly $76 million in FY 2010 grants to enhance adult and juvenile drug treatment courts.

To view the full press release, which includes links to actual award amounts and details about Department of Justice grants, click here.
Take Advantage of NACo’s Web-based Education...

NACo’s Leadership Series: Using Broadband to Drive Economic Development
Wednesday, November 3
1:00 - 2:15 p.m. CDT

A recent national survey conducted by broadband industry analyst Craig Settles, presents a clear picture of how broadband can impact economic outcomes in local communities. Mr. Settles will demonstrate to NACo members how you can incorporate this data into action that produces results for your community. This is a NACo member only webinar.

Save Money Through Green Purchasing
Tuesday, November 9
1:00 - 2:30 p.m. CST

Are you looking for ways to go green and start saving money right away? Counties across the country are having success working with free resources and innovative product suppliers to address environmental concerns with green purchasing strategies. Come hear from several county leaders and experts how you can take a few steps to save money while greening your county facilities and operations. Connie Kuranko, Director of the U.S. Communities’ Going Green Program, will introduce how you can save money with green purchasing and review a few tools and calculators to get you started. Two county leaders will highlight their green purchasing strategies and the costs they've saved. Karen Edwards, United Soybean Board Representative, will offer up some great opportunities for counties to utilize bio-based products in their green purchasing programs. To register, click here.

NACo’s Leadership Series: Synergize for Power
Thursday, November 18
1:00 - 2:15 p.m. CST

Practicing leadership can be a lonely task if you take too much of the burden on yourself. Keith Niemann and Lisa Kaslon conclude the 2010 Leadership Series with a strategy for inviting and incorporating diversity of experience, background and opinions for innovative solutions to the challenges you face. This is a NACo member only webinar.

Staying Home: Foreclosure Prevention Programs that Help Residents and Counties
Thursday, December 09, 2010
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM CST

Many counties are effectively addressing the threat of foreclosure faced by many of their residents. Join this webinar for an update on the current status and projected outlook of foreclosures across the country and examples of two innovative county foreclosure prevention efforts: a mortgage foreclosure court program and a foreclosure prevention outreach initiative. To register, click here.

Aligning Counties and Cooperative Extension: Working Together to Serve Our Communities
Tuesday, December 14, 2010
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM CST

Join this program to learn more about Cooperative Extension as a national system and how Extension provides talent, resources and services to counties across the nation. Meet Trudy Rice, current Ralph L. Tabor Extension Fellow, and representatives from NACo and Cooperative Extension as they discuss the benefits and opportunities of this national partnership to NACo members. This is a NACo member only webinar.

Kickstart Your Card: Improve Your Residents’ Awareness and Savings with the NACo Prescription Discount Card
Thursday, December 16, 2010
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM CST

Learn effective ways to promote your county’s NACo Prescription Discount Card Program to help residents save big on their medicine costs. Program experts from NACo, CVS Caremark, and fellow county officials will describe how the free NACo member benefit program has resulted in more than $300 million in savings nationwide. Register today and explore easy and inexpensive strategies your county can implement to make more households aware of the potential savings. The program includes all the support, resources, and media/press materials necessary so you can provide another “tough-times” solution to your residents. This is a NACo member only webinar.

For more information on these, other upcoming and previous webinars, visit the NACo Web-based Education page.

If you are aware of any news that may be of interest, please let us know

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