

NACO National Association of Counties

CountyNews

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Congress reaches agreement over Water Resources bill

By JESSICA MONAHAN AND JULIE UFFNER
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORS

The U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate recently passed the bipartisan conference report for the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA) (H.R. 3080). The legislation now heads to the president's desk for his signature.

WRRDA originally passed both chambers last fall. However, since the House and Senate passed different versions, leadership appointed a formal conference committee to reconcile significant differences between the two bills. The house passed the report on May 20, the Senate on May 22.

During negotiations, one of the key differences between the House-passed and Senate-passed legislation was how U.S. Army Corps of

See WATER RESOURCE page 10



Photos by Bev Schlotterbeck

WIR's new 2014 executive team pauses for an official portrait: (l-r) Immediate Past President John Martin, commissioner, Garfield County, Colo.; President Lesley Robinson, commissioner, Phillips County, Mont.; First Vice President Gordon Cruickshank, commission chair, Valley County, Idaho; and Second Vice President Doug Breidenthal, commissioner, Jackson County, Ore.

Endangered species, public lands dominate WIR conference

By BEV SCHLOTTERBECK
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Frustrations with the overarching reach of the federal government in public lands counties were front and center at the Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference in Anchorage, May 21–23. The Endangered Species Act (ESA), wild horses and burros' management, and an anemic Arctic policy, all took their turn drawing fire from conference speakers and attendees.

The ESA drew the fiercest comments during a County Solutions Roundtable discussion on the act.

Iron County, Utah Commissioner David Miller said the act threatened the "sanctity" of the Constitution. Matthew Cronin, research professor, University of Alaska Fairbanks, criticized the science behind the ESA. He

WIR members elected a new leadership team at their Annual Meeting and recognized Commissioner Joel Bousman, Sublette County, Wyo., with their highest honor—the Dale Sowards Award, given to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service to public lands counties. Elected to WIR's executive team were: President Lesley Robinson, commissioner, Phillips County, Mont.; First Vice President Gordon Cruickshank, commissioner, Valley County, Idaho; Second Vice President Doug Breidenthal, Jackson County, Ore.; and Immediate Past President John Martin, Garfield County, Colo. At its meeting, the WIR Board of Directors tackled the critical issue of sustained funding for the PILT and Secure Rural Schools programs. In a wide-ranging, 90-minute discussion they examined the history, formulas, politics and a possible long-term solution to solve the funding problem for each. In the end, they formed a special working group to continue the discussion and consider priorities for WIR strategy and action.

maintained that some animals on the endangered list are not facing extinction and that most animals under the ESA are not species.

During his presentation, panelist Don Peay, founder of the advo-

cacy group Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, referred to environmental groups as "terrorists," a descriptor also used by several county officials.

Workforce bill moves forward with House, Senate compromise

By DARIA DANIEL
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Last week, the House and Senate reached an agreement on new Workforce Investment Act (WIA) reauthorization legislation called the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

This bill represents a bipartisan, bicameral compromise between the SKILLS Act, H.R. 803, passed by the House of Representatives in March 2013, and the Workforce Investment Act of 2013, S. 1356, passed by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in July 2013.

The compromise bill provides the needed framework for a modernized workforce development system, while maintaining local governance authority with added flexibility.

The compromise bill:

- protects local authority with

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Cook and Wayne counties make manufacturing communities roster > Page 8

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House passes legislation on sex trafficking, foster care

By MARILINA SANZ
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The House of Representatives recently approved three bills on human trafficking that are of particular interest to counties: Preventing Sex Trafficking and Improving Opportunities for Youth in Foster Care (H.R. 4058), the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (H.R. 3530) and Stop Exploitation through Trafficking Act (H.R. 3610). It's expected that the three bills will be bundled into one package for floor action.

H.R. 4058

This bill makes several changes to data-gathering and state plans for children under the responsibility of the state, including:

- procedures to train caseworkers and determine appropriate action for children believed to be victims or at-risk of being victims of sex trafficking
- identify, document and report victims of sex trafficking to law enforcement within 24 hours
- state plan requirements to locate and respond to children who run away from foster care and
- submit data on the annual aggregate number of foster children who are victims of sex trafficking.

It also restricts the option known as "Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement" (APPLA) by eliminating it for children under 16 and adding new case plan requirements for children over 16. APPLA covers children for whom there is a determination that adoption, family reunification, guardianship or placement with a

relative is in the best interest of the child. Counties that are responsible for administering the federal foster care program would have to meet these requirements.

The bill is the furthest along in negotiations with the Senate. The Senate's Supporting At-Risk KIDS Act (S. 1870), which was approved by the Finance Committee in February, contains the H.R. 4058 provisions as well as language on child support enforcement, adoption incentives and unemployment insurance. The House has passed individual bills covering child support and adoption, so the prospect of an agreement is a distinct possibility.

H.R. 3530

This measure creates a victim-centered child human trafficking program in the Department of Justice. The Senate companion is S. 1738, sponsored by Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas). The Senate Judiciary Committee has not scheduled action on this bill yet.

Under the House bill, state, county and city governments can apply for the block grants. The grants may be used for a variety of functions, including:

- specialized training for state, county and city government agencies such as law enforcement, first responders, juvenile justice personnel, and child welfare and health care officials
- establishing or enhancing dedicated anti-trafficking law enforcement units
- dedicated anti-trafficking prosecution units
- establishing child human trafficking victim-safety assistance and relocation programs
- collaborative efforts among child welfare agencies, law enforcement, housing agencies and organizations serving trafficking victims
- assist in the development of state and local laws to prohibit, investigate and prosecute acts of human trafficking, and
- implement and provide education on safe harbor laws aimed at preventing the criminalization and prosecution of child sex-

trafficking victims for prostitution offenses.

As passed, the bill no longer includes a funding mechanism from fines imposed on individuals convicted of human trafficking, sexual abuse and related crimes. As a result, the funding availability is in doubt.

That is not to say, however, that there is no funding available for human trafficking or sex trafficking grants. The FY15 Commerce, State, Justice and Related Agencies appropriations bill (H.R. 4660) has

\$45.3 million for victims of trafficking under the victim's services program. The bill was expected to be considered on the House floor the week of May 26.

H.R. 3610

Mandates states to enact safe harbor laws within three years that treat minors engaged in commercial sex acts as victims rather than criminals and encourages diverting them to child protective services. NACo policy encourages counties to treat these youth as victims, and

many counties and state legislatures are already considering this type of legislation. The Senate companion is S. 1733, sponsored by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) The Senate Judiciary Committee has not yet scheduled action on this bill.

The House also passed the Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation Act (H.R. 4225 on May 20 and the International Megan's Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking Act (H.R. 4573). There are no Senate companion bills at this time.

USDA announces grants for rural telecom, broadcast services

By YEJIN JANG
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

On May 22, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service (RUS) announced that it is now accepting applications for grants to enhance telecommunications and broadcast services in rural areas. The USDA will fund three programs: the Community Connect Grant Program, the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program, and the Public Television Station Digital Transition Grant Program.

residential and business customers. The grant application and guidance can be found on the USDA website: www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_commconnect.html.

Additionally, USDA is making \$19.3 million available for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) program which will provide access to rural education, training and health care resources. The DLT program finances telecommunications-enabled equipment and advanced technologies for people who live and work in rural areas.

To be eligible, applicants must deliver distance learning or telemedicine services to entities that operate a rural community facility or residents of rural areas. The application, application guide and further information for this program can be found at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_dltresources.html.

The USDA will also provide \$2 million in grants for the Public Television Station Digital Transition Grant Program. This grant can be used to acquire, lease or install equipment or software that will complete the transition to digital broadcast signals. The Federal Communications Commission required all television broadcasters to convert their transmitters to broadcast digital signals by June 12, 2009.

Many rural stations have yet to complete a full digital transition of their stations across all equipment.

This grant is intended to fill the gap made during the analog-to-digital TV transition. Public television stations that serve rural areas are eligible for this grant. To access the application and for more information on this program, visit the USDA website: www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_dtvresources.html.

For more information, contact Yejin Jang at yjang@naco.org or 202.942.4239.

Quick Takes

TOP COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH 2010-2012

	PERCENT INCREASE
McKenzie County, N.D.	25.6%
Williams County, N.D.	19.2%
St. Bernard Parish, La.	16%
Chattahoochee County, Tenn.	15.7%
Billings County, N.D.	15.6%

Source: U.S. Census 2012

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SpeedRead » » »

- » \$13 million available for broadband development in unserved areas
- » Distance learning and telemedicine grants tally \$19.3 million total
- » Deadline to apply, July 7

Counties are eligible to apply for the Community Connect Grant Program and the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program. Public television stations that serve rural areas are eligible for the Public Television Station Digital Transition Grant. The application deadline for all three grants is July 7. The Community Connect Grant Program will provide up to \$13 million to fund broadband in unserved areas. Awardees must serve an area where broadband service is either very slow — 3 megabits per second (Mbps) or below — or does not exist, provide a community center with broadband access (at a speed of at least 5 Mbps and to be provided free of charge to all users for at least two years) and offer broadband service to all

CORRECTIONS

► In the story "NACo election credentials forms due June 13" on page 2, the maximum number of votes a county can cast should be 121; Supervisor Efren Carrillo, Sonoma County, Calif., is not on the committee, and Alisha Bell is the reading clerk.

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President | Linda Langston
Publisher | Matthew Chase
Public Affairs Director | Tom Goodman
Executive Editor | Beverly Anne Schlotterbeck
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Staff Writer | Charlie Ban
Graphic Artist | Jack Hernandez
Editorial Assistant | Christopher Johnson

ADVERTISING STAFF
Job Market/Classifieds representative
Christopher Johnson
National Accounts representative
Beverly Schlotterbeck
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The Voice of America's Counties

Counties sweat small stuff for future nanotech gains

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Upstate New York's Fulton and Montgomery counties couldn't be in a better place — geographically speaking — to benefit from a growing nanotechnology education, research and manufacturing sector. And they're preparing for a piece of the action.

Northwest of the counties, six global companies are investing \$1.5 billion to create Nano Utica in Oneida County, a hub of nanotechnology research and development.

In neighboring Saratoga County, to the east, microchip maker Global Foundries is looking to add 600 to 800 new employees by year's end. Head south and in Albany County you'll find the State University of

New York (SUNY) College of Nanoscale Science and engineering. All of these are within a 50–60 mile radius of Fulton and Montgomery.

"We have these three main areas in industries and educational institutions, and we lie kind of in the epicenter of the three," said James Mraz, Fulton County's planning director. "And our location, we feel, positions us very well to try and benefit from companies that will hopefully be moving to this area — to be near or be a part of this high-tech initiative that's going on here in upstate New York."

Nanoscience and nanotechnology are the study and application of extremely small things and can be used in other science fields. There are 25.4 million nanometers in an inch.

Fulton and Montgomery counties share a 35-mile border and are working together to capitalize on this tiny science.

Matt Ossenfort is five months into his first term as Montgomery County executive, a new position for the county that transformed its government structure this year. While the transition from a 15-member



Photo by Bill Trojan/The Leader-Herald

Fulton-Montgomery Community College in upstate New York installed a 'cleanroom' in 2010 and has beefed up its curriculum to prepare students for careers in nanotechnology in the region.

In Case You Missed It

News to Use From Past County News

► NACo election credentials forms due June 13

Each member county must return a credentials form, signed by the chief elected official, by Friday, June 13 in order to vote during the annual business meeting in New Orleans. In addition to being mailed, the credentials form is also available via a link on the NACo website at www.naco.org/credentials.

This year's election will be held on Monday, July 14 at 10 a.m. during the Business Meeting at the 2014 NACo Annual Conference: County Solutions and Idea Marketplace in Orleans Parish, La. Counties will vote on resolutions that set NACo legislation and association policy for the coming year. Delegates will also elect NACo officers for the coming year. The position of second vice president is typically contested.

If you have any questions, please contact Alex Koroknay-Palicz, membership coordinator, at akpalicz@naco.org or 888.407.NACO (6226) x291.

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NACo National Association of Counties

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Roundtables also looked at wild horse, burro management

Peay said that working with or suing environmental groups “was wasting time playing the game in their arena with their rules.” Instead he suggested undertaking a massive grassroots campaign with a \$10 million price tag. “If you want solutions, help me build a few-million-people campaign. Have your counties donate. Get your states to donate. I think we’ll need \$10 million,” he said.

The third member of the panel, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representative, Brian McGee, Ph.D., a fish and wildlife biologist with the BLM office in Albuquerque, made an effort to explain his federal agency’s role in selecting and enforcing the ESA. His comments were respectfully received, but most discussion returned to criticizing the federal government for overstepping its bounds.

Another county solutions roundtable focused on managing wild horses and burros. While not as heated as the ESA discussion, this roundtable struck a familiar conference chord about returning federal management of local resources to the states. Rio Blanco, Colo. Commissioner John Hill was among those who urged transfer of the BLM-managed program to the states, adding that all wild horses and burros now held in BLM pens be sold without limitations, and the money from the sale used to

castrate stallions.

There are roughly 50,000 horses and burros running on BLM lands. The ideal population is 26,700, according to Joan Guilfoyle, chief, Wild Horse and Burro Division at BLM, who spoke at the roundtable. The wild horse total population in the West comes in at about 150,000.

General session speakers also took swipes at the feds.

Alaska Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell said his state is “in a continuous battle for access and self-determination to our public lands.” Sixty-five percent of Alaska’s 586,412 square miles are in federal hands, an area larger than Texas.

Treadwell criticized the federal government for its anemic response to resource development on the Outer Continental Shelf, which abuts his state.

Changes in the climate have opened new sea routes, and countries such as Russia are taking advantage of the expanded access to the Arctic land base for resource exploration, he said. “We need to be in the Arctic like Kennedy’s commitment to going to the moon, like Eisenhower with the federal highway system.”

Even more worrisome to him, there’s no timetable or transparency about the nation’s broader Arctic policy. “The feds are holding us back on the Continental Shelf. We in the West need to figure out how



Photos by Bev Schlotterbeck

NACo President Linda Langston swears in the new WIR executive team.

to get out of this stalemate with the federal government,” he said.

Treadwell, who is running for a U.S. Senate seat, called for a renewal of the Sagebrush Rebellion, an effort throughout the West in the 1980s to return control of federal lands to the states. “It’s time to bring federal decision-making home,” he said.



Miss Native New Mexico, Ashley Piño, signs in her native language, the invocation offered by Supervisor Lloyd Felipe, Cibola County, N.M.



Joan Guilfoyle, chief, Wild Horse and Burro Division, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), outlines BLM’s adoption plans for 2014 at the County Solutions Roundtable on Managing Wild Horses and Burros.



Alaska Municipal League Executive Kathie Wasserman talks with former Alaska Governor and U.S. Senator Frank Murkowski after his remarks at the May 23 general session.

Conference speaker calls for repeal of Endangered Species Act

Also speaking at the same session, Cronin — expanding on his presentation at the ESA roundtable — said the federal government's environmental regulations countermand the Fifth and 10th Amendments, and in the case of the ESA, should be repealed, declared unconstitutional by the states, or restricted in scope. Former Alaska Governor and U.S. Senator Frank Murkowski (R) also blamed an "elite group of extreme environmentalists that have unique access to the White House" for federal restrictions on resource development.

While frustration with the federal government was a strong undercurrent at the conference, participants also took time to learn about a wide variety of topics to

help their counties be healthier, more economically resilient and safe.

Two mobile workshops looked at a local neighborhood revitalization project and a health care system created, managed and owned by the Alaska Native people.

The Nuka System of Care, an arm of the Southcentral Foundation based in Anchorage, provides broad-based health and wellness services to 64,000 Native Alaskan "customer-owners." The program has been recognized nationally and internationally for its service excellence and cost containment.

A health care breakfast roundtable, sponsored by Aetna, drew a good crowd who heard from county and insurance industry representatives about ways they could



Jeff Green, El Paso County, Colo. administrator, answers a question from the audience at the health care breakfast roundtable as Commissioner Sallie Clark, NACo first vice president, waits her turn to comment.



Commissioner Jason Anderson, Saguache County, Colo., asks panel members about the role of environmental groups in resolving issues around endangered species.

Mobile workshop tours Native health care facility

The first thing you notice is the light, the wood and the art — an open welcoming space, miles away from the contrived informality of many medical facility lobbies. The Anchorage Native Primary Care Center reflects in wood and light and glass its Alaskan native heritage and its customer-driven commitment to health care primed by and focused on relationships.

The Southcentral Foundation's (SCF) Nuka System of Care, which operates the primary care center, hosted a WIR mobile workshop where participants learned about the Alaskan Native-owned nonprofit health care system that serves the state's 60,000 natives across 150,000 square miles.

SCF has undergone a dramatic reconfiguration from its time as a federal Indian Health Service health care system to its current status as a fully Native Alaskan owned and managed system. Over the past 30 years, its operating budget has grown from \$3 million to \$241 million. It provides a broad range of services from traditional healing clinics to behavioral health services to therapeutic homes and the more common medical services such as OB-GYN, pediatrics, radiology and emergency medicine.

Dr. Doug Eby, SCF's vice president for medical services,



Photo courtesy of Southcentral Foundation, Anchorage, Alaska

Tamara Pickett, M.D. leads a tour of the Southcentral Foundation's Anchorage Native Primary Care Center. Among those on the tour are: Commissioner Ron Walter and wife Debbie (l), Chelan County, Wash. and an Alaska Municipal League staffer.

walked workshop attendees through SCF's history, mission, vision and accomplishments.

SCF is in the business of "relationships" with "customer-owners," not patients or clients, Eby said. The idea of relationships not only applies to the customer-owner and his or her family but also to the staff — from the receptionist to the physician — the importance of relationships permeates any activity, he said.

This emphasis on customer-owners, physicians as partners in health, not heroes, and an individual's responsibility for their health has resulted in some pretty impressive

outcomes, Eby pointed out.

There has been a 75 percent decrease in hospital admissions since 1999; 71 percent decrease in hospital days per 1,000 since 1999; hospital admissions for childhood asthma have dropped from 10 percent to 3 percent, and a same-day access policy dropped the waiting list from 1,300 to zero in one year.

"Seventeen years ago, we completely rethought the entire health care system and got way less cost and way better clinical outcomes, better than two-thirds of the country."



Four-time Iditarod winner Martin Buser (r) and son Rohn get their dogs in line to pull a sled through the Anchorage convention center ballroom with WIR President John Martin in tow to kick-start the opening general session.

Iditarod canines rule the day at conference opening general session

design wellness programs for their employees that would improve the health of their workforce as well as help them manage their health care costs.

Onsite workshops offered insights about resources to develop exporting opportunities for local businesses, ways to reform public defender delivery systems, leadership effectiveness, rural economic development and public lands history.

Participants were also greeted with a dashing display of canine speed and competitive spirit as sled dogs from four-time Iditarod winner Martin Buser's team took a

turn around the convention center's main ballroom for the Opening General Session with WIR President John Martin in tow.

Buser keynoted the Opening General Session with tales about his most recent race, his dogs, overcoming brutal physical challenges and how leaders should take lessons from the nine-day race through the Alaskan wilderness. One lesson the Swiss-born champion suggested: "Some times as not, it's better to not call for help. You signed up for the job. You ran for office. It's your responsibility."

Next year's Western Interstate Region Conference will be held May 20-22 in Kauai County, Hawaii.



There was a full room for the roundtable discussion on the Endangered Species Act (ESA).



Photos by Bev Schlotterbeck

Matthew Cronin, research professor in animal genetics at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, details his research in endangered species listings.



Chris Daniel, Regroup Partners International Consulting, discusses communication styles at a workshop on leadership effectiveness.



Commissioner Joel Bousman (l), Sublette County, Wyo., shows off his Sowards Award with WIR President John Martin at the conference's closing luncheon. The award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service to public lands counties.



Alaska Lt. Gov. Meade Treadwell (l) and Mark Ward, Utah Association of Counties policy analyst, trade views after Treadwell's speech.



Commissioner Amber Ash, Laramie County, Wyo., questions panelists at the ESA roundtable.

Counties should not shoulder states' Sixth Amendment duties

By DANIEL G. CHADWICK

IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AND

DAVID J. CARROLL

SIXTH AMENDMENT CENTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(Note: This is the first in a two-part series)

The fear of government unduly taking an individual's liberty led the U.S. Supreme Court, in 1963, to unanimously declare it to be an "obvious truth" that the accused indigent cannot receive a fair trial unless a lawyer is provided to him at no cost.

Why indigent defense is a state — not a county — responsibility

There are a number of reasons why counties should not be in a position to fund and administer the states' constitutional duties to provide lawyers to the poor. First, most counties have significant revenue-raising restrictions placed on them by state government while generally being prohibited from deficit spending. Therefore, local governments must rely more heavily on unpredictable revenue streams, such as court fees and assessments, to pay for their criminal justice priorities.



Photo by Bev Schlotterbeck

Idaho Association of Counties Executive Director Dan Chadwick discusses Idaho's efforts to reform indigent defense systems at a WIR workshop.

"The right of one charged with crime to counsel may not be deemed fundamental and essential to fair trials in some countries," the court announced in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, "but it is in ours." Accordingly, *Gideon* made it incumbent upon states — not county or local governments — through the 14th Amendment to provide Sixth Amendment right-to-counsel services to any person of limited means facing a possible loss of liberty at the hands of the criminal justice system. Despite this, more than half the states have passed along all or part of their constitutional right-to-counsel obligations to their counties and local governments.

This two-part series explores why counties should not be shouldering the states' Sixth Amendment responsibilities, discusses counties' exposure to litigation when placing a primacy on cost-savings over due process, and details how the Idaho Association of Counties emerged as a leader when it comes to the process of shifting the funding and administration of indigent defense services from the county to state government.

Unfortunately, there is no correlation between what a county can raise through such alternative revenue streams and the amount of revenue needed to provide constitutionally adequate defender services.

For example, the counties that are often most in need of indigent defense services are the ones that are least likely to be able to pay for it. That is, in many instances, the same indicators of limited revenues — low property values, high unemployment, high poverty rates, limited household incomes, and limited higher education, etc. — are often the exact same indicators of high crime.

Higher crime rates and a higher percentage of people qualifying for public counsel will quickly drain a county's limited resources.

Those same counties have a greater need for broader social services, such as unemployment or housing assistance, meaning the amount of money to be dedicated to upholding the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution is further depleted.

Second, county policymakers often are not constitutional scholars trained in the nuances of perpetually changing Sixth Amendment case

law. Because the right to counsel is an issue of government tyranny vs. individual liberty, the U. S. Supreme Court has been consistent on the right to counsel, regardless of whether the court has been perceived at any one time as either liberal or conservative.

So even though it was the Warren Court (1953-1969) that first determined that states were responsible for administering and funding the right to counsel in *Gideon*, it was the current Roberts Court that most recently: a) extended the right to counsel to its earliest point in the adversarial process; b) required counsel to explain the collateral consequences of guilty pleas, including immigration consequences; and c) determined that an indigent defense attorney must be constitutionally "effective," not only at trials, but also in plea bargaining as well.

Because the Sixth Amendment transcends the traditional divide of partisan politics, it is predicted that the U.S. Supreme Court will require more of both the attorneys defending the accused, and the systems in which those attorneys work. County policymakers simply cannot keep up.

The combination of an ever-expanding constitutional obligation and restricted revenue is a recipe for a constitutional crisis. In too many instances, county policymakers choose the least expensive form of indigent defense services without regard to constitutional adequacy: contracts in which a lawyer agrees to take an unlimited number of cases for a single flat fee.

In Idaho, for example, where the state requires its counties to pay for all trial-level indigent defense services, flat-fee contractual arrangements are the predominant form of indigent defense services (38 of 44 counties, or 86 percent).

Attorneys working under fixed-rate contracts are generally not reimbursed for overhead or for out-of-pocket case expenses, such as mileage, experts, investigators, etc. This means that the more work an attorney does on a case, the less money that attorney would make, giving attorneys a clear financial incentive to do as little work on their cases as possible. Such contractual arrangements are banned under standards promulgated by the American Bar Association.

In a speech on Aug. 15, 2013, Idaho Chief Justice Roger Burdick called Idaho's county-based indigent defense services "broken" and called for the "eradication" of flat-fee contracts.

Many counties employing flat-fee indigent defense contracts believe that they are not placing cost savings above constitutional due process

because they do not see a lot of cases being overturned on ineffective assistance of counsel claims. But it is difficult, at best, for a complicated appeals process to rectify broken trial-level indigent defense services.

First, broken systems result in very few trials (less than one of every 10 cases in most jurisdictions), meaning there are even fewer appeals. And second, in many counties the same financially conflicted trial attorney handles the direct appeal; the chances of an attorney arguing at appeal that he performed inadequately are slim.


This means the first chance a defendant has to challenge the fairness of their trial is at the post-conviction phase where there is no federal right to a lawyer and where many states similarly do not make attorneys available.

But low rates of overturned cases on appeal should not lull counties into thinking that they are safe from litigation. The American Civil Liberties Union has already challenged services in Connecticut, Montana,

Michigan, Washington and New York. More noteworthy, on Dec. 18, 2012, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced an agreement with Shelby County, Tenn. to usher in sweeping — and costly — reforms of the county's juvenile court system and the method for representing children in delinquency proceedings. But the DOJ is not stopping at Tennessee.

It is similarly engaged in Meridian, Miss. and announced in mid-November 2013 that it is turning its attention to St. Louis, Mo. Finally, the DOJ entered a statement of interest in a lawsuit in Washington State that a federal court relied upon to remedy flat-fee services there.

So what is a county to do that is strapped for financial resources, has a high need for defender services, but cannot provide services other than under a flat-fee structure? The answer is to follow the lead of the Idaho Association of Counties in helping a state move from county-based to state-based indigent defense services.



Profiles in Service

Gregg Moore

NACo Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee
County Board Chair
Eau Claire County, Wis.

Number of years active in NACo: 6

Years in public service: 10 years — county board

Occupation: court administrator — retired after 31-year career (seven years in Pennsylvania and 24 years in Wisconsin)

Education: master's — public administration, University of Pittsburgh, and B.S. — secondary education, University of Dayton

The hardest thing I've ever done: decide whether and where to build a new jail

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: John Muir, Eleanor Roosevelt and Jimmy Fallon.

A dream I have is to: eliminate poverty.

You'd be surprised to learn that I: can do a pretty good "barred owl" call.

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: canoe the Quetico wilderness area in Canada.

My favorite way to relax is: play bridge with an app on my iPhone.

I'm most proud of: raising two wonderful children.

Every morning I read: the local newspaper.

My favorite meal is: tortellini Rockefeller.

My pet peeve is: the public perception that taxes are bad.

My motto is: strive to make the world a better place.

The last book I read was: *The Confession* by John Grisham.

My favorite movie is: *The Naked Gun*.

My favorite music is: Jazz.

My favorite president is: George Washington.

I am a member of NACo because: it is an excellent organization for shaping good public policy and providing valuable education.

Two counties to lead regional manufacturing coalitions

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

Two counties will take the lead in the Obama Administration's Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) as designated manufacturing communities.

The Wayne County, Mich. Economic Development Growth Engine and the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development will represent two of the 12 regions selected from more than 70 communities that applied for IMCP status. The IMCP approach directs communi-

ties to develop integrated long-term economic development strategies to attract manufacturing jobs.

Plans developed by the 12 organizations that lead each region will be eligible for \$1.3 billion in funding from 11 federal agencies.

Southeastern Michigan's 13-county region accounts for 22 percent of domestic vehicle manufacturing and 70 percent of auto research investment. The region will parlay that into an emphasis on connected-vehicle technologies that will enhance automobile safety.

Bryce Kelley, the Wayne County

Economic Development Growth Engine's director, said the very process of earning the designation has set the region up for success.

"The most obvious benefit is that the region now has a vision for the future and we're gaining a lot of comfort with the level of sustainability that will be necessary to remain viable," he said. "It's a strategy issue there."

Since the economic downturn, the region has seen economic growth, sending it in the right direction, and Kelley would like to see that growth accelerate.

"Each of the counties and cities has a significant investment in manufacturing, but this is the first time something has pulled all of us together," he said. "This will help a lot of our partners have access to

grants to help them get ahead. There's strength in the structure that all these regions came together."

He added that the designation shines a spotlight on an area that some forget has a broad manufacturing base beyond just automobiles.

"We can't lose, we have too many great partners on this," he said.

Aside from Cook County, the Chicago region includes DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties and is home to more than 3,700 metals and machining companies. It couples with transportation.

"The Chicago Metro Metal Consortium will build on the region's metal and transportation assets to create well-paying jobs while accelerating the resurgence of manufacturing

in our area," Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle said. "This designation is the result of a remarkable partnership with local municipalities and organizations which allows us to work together to capitalize on our strategic location and strong capacity for economic growth."

The following federal agencies will administer grants through the partnership: the Appalachian Regional Commission, Delta Regional Authority, Environmental Protection Agency, National Science Foundation, Small Business Administration, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Labor and Department of Transportation.

Counties pursue inpatient hospices

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

Two counties are taking their commitment to citizens' health a step beyond most by acquiring and forming inpatient hospice facilities, both of which are uncommon for county governments.

Strafford County, N.H. recently announced plans to take over the Hyder Family Hospice House for six months, starting July 1, after three private managers were unable to break even. In North Carolina, Craven County is planning to manage a new in-patient hospice facility.

"Hyder House provides a really wonderful service and it has earned a wonderful reputation," said Strafford County Commissioner Leo Lessard. "Families here don't want to see it closed and we don't want it to close."

The building was designed specifically for hospice use, with 16 beds for patients and room for families to stay. At the end of 2014, the county will assess the center's financial situation and possibly put the operations out to bid.

The six-month trial will be aided by two advantages the county offers as an operator. First, because Hyder House was built on county-owned land, the county will not need to pay property taxes, cutting operating expenses. A fundraising effort by the families who have used the hospice will also be aided by the county's ownership.

"It would be difficult to get the most out of donations to a private company beyond the standard memorial donations," Lessard said. "We're talking about much higher amounts. The question is can we run it at something close to breaking even."

It's an odd position for counties to be in, because they are not often involved in hospices. Most are operated privately.

"Fewer than 5 percent of hospices are operated by governments," said Jon Radulovic, spokesman for the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. "The majority of that 5 percent are operated by the Veterans Administration, so it's rare to have one county, let alone two, getting into operation."

In North Carolina, Craven County hopes to use proceeds from the sale of its home health operation to fund startup costs for a six-bed inpatient hospice. Private fundraising will fill in the rest.

"That's an area of North Carolina that is in dire need of inpatient hospice services," said Tim Rogers, president of the Association for Home & Hospice Care of North Carolina. "Retirees are moving into the Craven County area, so there's going to be increased demand."

He pointed out that the number of inpatient hospice beds in NC has more than tripled in the last 10 years.

"It's too good of a deal to pass up," said Tom Mark, chairman of the Craven County Commission. "Our hospital will pay to build it and we wind up with a \$5 million building to try to make money and help our residents."

He added that the hospital may want to buy the hospice from the county in five years.

The closest hospice to New Bern, the county seat, is more than a half-hour's drive.

"For a family who needs inpatient hospice care, there really isn't an option nearby," Mark said. "It's not going to be big, six beds with room for expansion, but it will fill a need."

SOLUTIONS SPOTLIGHT

Effective Public & Private Sector Partnerships

Dallas County and Virtual Clarity

The Honorable John Warren, Dallas County clerk, is well known nationally as a visionary who embraces technology to improve services for the citizens and taxpayers of Dallas County. By streaming live video of all Commissioners' Court meetings through the County website and by replacing paper with iPads for all court officials, Dallas County has proved to be among the most technologically progressive counties nationwide.

The missing piece to the paperless office was how to provide a curated experience for iPad users by delivering and managing relevant and productive mobile apps on their devices. That is where Virtual Clarity came in.

PROBLEM

Mobile devices, connectivity and an ever-increasing range of mobile apps and services are dramatically changing the way Americans work, rest and play: 58 percent of American adults now have a smartphone, 42 percent a tablet and 70-80 billion apps were downloaded in 2013. But with over a million apps in the Apple iTunes store, most Americans know it can be frustrating to find the most useful apps.

Mr. Warren wanted his staff to easily access the most relevant and productive apps and services. How could he provide a curated experience for his users, specifically



virtualclarity™
clear thinking. straight talking.

tailored to their needs? Governance and manageability was also important. Dallas County IT advocates productivity gains through improved technology and has deployed wireless networking infrastructure across the county to support the clerk's initiative. It was important that the clerks' solution could be reused countywide and for managing mobile apps for thousands of employees.

SOLUTION

The **Virtual Clarity Government App Store** is a sophisticated software service delivering a curated app store for local government organizations and users. The service is completely hosted and managed by Virtual Clarity so there is no investment in infrastructure or maintenance overhead for Dallas County.

The solution delivers a tailored view of relevant and useful apps to any mobile device. The apps can be Web-based, hosted in Apple iTunes or Google Play stores, or be native apps specifically developed for the County.

Dallas County users can rate, comment on or recommend apps to co-workers through the solution as well as provide each other with sup-

port. This creates a user community within Dallas County focusing on Dallas County use cases.

RESULTS

Warren and end users alike are delighted with the results. "The system is extremely intuitive and easy to use," confirmed Warren. "This really completes my mobility strategy and allows me to target innovation that improves services for the taxpayers of Dallas County."

The solution allows Dallas County to manage apps and devices using policies. Administration is extremely straightforward and because the user view can be customized on a departmental basis the solution can expand countywide.

The next step for the clerk is to develop in-house apps and publish them through his app store. Mobile technology brings a step change in capabilities and with this solution Dallas County knows that they are in the lead and on the right track.

NACo is proud that yet another premier corporate sponsor has successfully helped a government organization fulfill its goals. NACo wishes Virtual Clarity success in bringing similar solutions to NACo members nationwide.

Two Oregon counties' voters ban GMO crops

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

David slew Goliath at the ballot box in southern Oregon when voters in neighboring Jackson and Josephine counties overwhelmingly passed bans on genetically modified crops last month — the first popular votes on GMOs in the nation.

In Jackson County, a ban on so-called GMO crops passed with 66 percent of the vote — despite proponents' being outspent nearly two-to-one by the agro-science industry. Next door in Josephine County, 58 percent of voters backed a proposed GMO ban there.

Campaign finance reports filed with the Oregon secretary of state showed that Good Neighbor Farmers, a group opposed to the ban in Jackson County, raised more than

\$929,000 — much of it coming from out of state — to fight the ordinance. Contributors included Bayer CropScience, Monsanto Company and Dow AgroSciences. Ban backers, who triumphed by using shoe leather, social media and local organizing, reported raising \$386,000.

Neither county government took an official position on the bans. But now they're considering next steps — costs and potential legal issues as part of an ongoing discussion of the ordinances' consequences.

The Jackson County law requires the harvesting, destruction or removal of "all genetically engineered plants" within 12 months of the ban's passage.

County Administrator Danny



Photo by Lily Rothrock/Flickr

In a May 2013 protest in Lane County (Eugene), Ore., marchers display their opposition to genetically modified crops in the state's southern counties.



County Innovations and Solutions

Oakland County, Mich.

Growing Collaborative Takes Aim at Homelessness

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

Though the suburbs have largely escaped the blight spreading through Detroit, nearby Oakland County, Mich. has still seen impact from the 2008 economic downturn and decline of the automotive industry, mainly in terms of unemployment and homelessness. Between 2002 and 2012, Oakland County lost almost 150,000 jobs.

From 2010 to 2011, the county's health division saw a 60 percent increase in calls from the unemployed and uninsured, which prompted the division to assess what services were available for the homeless in the county.

A nurse went into the community to interact with the homeless and get an idea of what they needed and what they knew about services the county and nonprofits offered. It didn't surprise Health Division Manager Kathy Forzley that the homeless didn't know the full extent of the offerings, but also she learned that many of those service providers weren't aware of what others did.

"There were a lot, but they didn't all know who else was out there," she said. "The first thing we thought was that we had to put these people together."



Photo courtesy of Oakland County, Mich.

Participants in the first Homeless Healthcare Collaborative meeting discuss the group's mission: to coordinate services among more than two dozen organizations providing health treatment to the homeless.

What came next was the Homeless Healthcare Collaboration, a coalition of these 20 service providers' coordinating to keep the homeless in Oakland County from resorting to emergency rooms for health care.

In the year since the group started meeting, the participants have more than doubled, representing 41 agencies, and they schedule regular meetings as they work to tighten the health safety net and

figure out the barriers preventing the homeless from accessing treatment. The meetings serve as forums to discuss the changing nature of the homeless population in Oakland County. They have a secure online network to communicate about specific clients.

At the most basic level of success, the county's health division knows how best to package and organize information valuable to people seeking health treatment.

The organizations have worked to make some processes easier for the homeless.

"It can be a monumental task for someone experiencing homelessness to prove who they are," Forzley said. "The county will waive fees for getting birth certificates, and shelters could vouch for people they knew well."

A subcommittee has developed plans for transition, such as discharges from hospitals.

"If they have no home to go to, they're not appropriately discharged," Forzley said. "The potential for them to recover is greatly diminished, so having discharge shelters connected with hospitals was a huge step for us."

The county is now working on opening a dedicated homeless respite care facility.

"It would be a place to go when you get sick but don't need the hospital," Forzley said. "Pretty much a stable environment for recovery, the way someone stays home from work when they're sick. That's a luxury these people don't have."

It became a type of "speed networking" for organizations to get to know each other and possible work together, which was valuable because they too were feeling economic pressure. Nearly all of the participating service providers have formed a partnership with another since the group started meeting.

"We're at a pivotal point where we're all running a lot leaner than we were a year ago, five years ago," Forzley said. "We all recognize the power of partnership, that what we can't do alone, we may be able to do together."

County Innovations and Solutions highlights award-winning programs.

Water Resources legislation is overdue for reauthorization

Engineers (Corps) would identify and select water infrastructure projects for funding. Historically, Congress has relied on earmarks to authorize funding for water resources projects, which conflicts with the earmark moratorium adopted in both the House and Senate.

Both bills took different approaches to avoid a conflict with the moratorium — the Senate’s bill gave the Corps sole authority over selecting which projects should move forward, and the House bill established a pro-

cess for congressional approval. After careful negotiation, the conference report endorsed policy modeled on the House bill but also included more projects (34) than the original (23) in the House-passed bill.

WRRDA is based on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), a biannual bill last authorized in 2007. As an authorization measure, the older WRDA does not fund the projects it authorizes. This is done through the annual appropriations process. The new WRRDA authorizes Corps projects that deal with water resources, environmental,

structural and navigation issues, flood protection, hydrology studies and contains Corps policy directives.

Some of the relevant provisions in the WRRDA conference report that counties should be aware of include:

- **Project Streamlining** makes reforms aimed at accelerating project delivery, and increasing flexibility and local participation. These reforms include requiring concurrent environmental reviews, ensuring collaboration among all agencies involved in a project, establishing deadlines for feasibility studies, increasing flexibility for non-federal

sponsors of Corps projects (including counties) and creating two pilot programs to expand the local role in project implementation.

- **Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund** increases expenditures from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) for harbor operation, dredging and maintenance activities in future fiscal years, with the goal of fully utilizing HMTF revenues by the year 2025. (Currently only about half of the \$1.8 billion collected in the HMTF is spent on harbor infrastructure projects, the remainder has contributed to a surplus or has been

transferred to be used on projects not tied to the trust fund).

- **Levee Vegetation Management** requires the Corps to carry out a comprehensive review of its Levee Vegetation Management plan to ensure it addresses regional differences and protection of species habitat, while ensuring public safety. The issue stems from a Corps policy that requires all vegetation, except grass, to be removed from levees in order to allow for easier inspections and to reduce any potential

See **WATER RESOURCE** page 11

Projects Expected to Receive Funding

State	Name	Estimated Costs
Texas, Louisiana	Sabine Neches Waterway, SE Texas and SW Louisiana	Federal: \$748.1 million; Non-Federal: \$366 million; Total: \$1.1 billion
Florida	Jacksonville Harbor - Milepoint	Federal: \$27.8 million; Non-Federal: \$9.3 million; Total: \$37.2 million
Georgia	Savannah Harbor Expansion Project	Federal: \$492 million; Non-Federal: \$214 million; Total: \$706 million
Texas	Freeport Harbor	Federal: \$121 million; Non-Federal: \$118.3 million; Total: \$239.3 million
Florida	Canaveral Harbor (Sect 203 Sponsor Report)	Federal: \$29.2 million; Non-Federal: \$11.8 million; Total: \$41 million
Massachusetts	Boston Harbor	Federal: \$216.5 million; Non-Federal: \$94.5 million; Total: \$311 million
Florida	Lake Worth Inlet	Federal: \$57.6 million; Non-Federal: \$31 million; Total: \$88.6 million
Florida	Jacksonville Harbor	Federal: \$362 million; Non-Federal: \$239 million; Total: \$601 million
Flood Risk Management		
Kansas	Topeka	Federal: \$17.4 million; Non-Federal: \$9.4 million; Total: \$26.8 million
California	American River, Watershed, Common Features Project, Natomas Basin	Federal: \$760.7 million; Non-Federal: \$386.6 million; Total: \$1.1 billion
Iowa	Cedar River, Cedar Rapids	Federal: \$73.1 million; Non-Federal: \$39.4 million; Total: \$112.5 million
Minnesota, North Dakota	Fargo-Moorhead Metro	Federal: \$846.7 million; Non-Federal: \$1.1 billion; Total: \$1.9 billion
Kentucky	Ohio River Shoreline, Paducah	Federal: \$13.2 million; Non-Federal: \$7.1 million; Total: \$20.3 million
Missouri	Jordan Creek, Springfield	Federal: \$13.6 million; Non-Federal: \$7.3 million; Total: \$20.9 million
California	Orestimba Creek, San Joaquin River Basin	Federal: \$23.7 million; Non-Federal: \$21.7 million; Total: \$45.4 million
California	Sutter Basin	Federal: \$255.3 million; Non-Federal: \$433.7 million; Total: \$689 million
Nevada	Truckee Meadows	Federal: \$181.6 million; Non-Federal: \$99.2 million; Total: \$280.8 million
Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction		
North Carolina	West Onslow Beach and New River Inlet (Topsail Beach)	Federal: \$29.9 million; Non-Federal: \$16.4 million; Total: \$46.3 million Renourishment Federal: \$69.4 million; Renourishment Non-Federal: \$69.4 million; Total: \$138.8 million
North Carolina	Surf City and North Topsail Beach	Federal: \$84.7 million; Non-Federal: \$45.7 million; Total: \$130.4 million Renourishment Federal: \$122.2 million; Renourishment Non-Federal: \$122.2 million; Total: \$244.4 million
California	San Clemente Shoreline	Federal: \$7.4 million; Non-Federal: \$4 million; Total: \$11.4 million Renourishment Federal: \$43.8 million; Renourishment Non-Federal: \$43.8 million; Total: \$87.6 million
Florida	Watson County	Federal: \$17.9 million; Non-Federal: \$46.1 million; Total: \$64 million Renourishment Federal: \$24.7 million; Renourishment Non-Federal: \$82.8 million; Total: \$107.6 million
Louisiana	Morganza to the Gulf	Federal: \$6.7 million; Non-Federal: \$3.6 million; Total: \$10.3 million
Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction and Environmental Restoration		
Mississippi	Coastal Improvement Program, Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties	Federal: \$693.3 million; Non-Federal: \$373.3 million; Total: \$1 billion
Maryland	Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island	Federal: \$1.2 billion; Non-Federal: \$668.1 million; Total: \$1.9 billion
Florida	Central and Southern Florida Project, Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Project, Hendry County	Federal: \$313.3 million; Non-Federal: \$313.3 million; Total: \$626.6 million
Louisiana	Louisiana Coastal Area	Federal: \$1 billion; Non-Federal: \$601 million; Total: \$1.6 billion
Minnesota	Marah Lake	Federal: \$6.8 million; Non-Federal: \$3.7 million; Total: \$10.5 million
Florida	Central and Southern Florida Project, Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project	Federal: \$87.3 million; Non-Federal: \$87.3 million; Total: \$174.6 million
Florida	CERP Biscayne Bay, Coastal Wetland, Florida	Federal: \$98.5 million; Non-Federal: \$98.5 million; Total: \$197 million
Florida	Central and Southern Florida Project, Broward County Water Preserve	Federal: \$448 million; Non-Federal: \$448 million; Total: \$896 million
Louisiana	Louisiana Coastal Area - Barataria Basin Barrier	Federal: \$321.7 million; Non-Federal: \$173.2 million; Total: \$494.9 million
North Carolina	Neuse River Basin	Federal: \$23.8 million; Non-Federal: \$12.8 million; Total: \$36.6 million
Virginia	Lynnhaven River	Federal: \$22.8 million; Non-Federal: \$12.3 million; Total: \$35.1 million
Oregon	Willamette River Foodplain Restoration	Federal: \$27.4 million; Non-Federal: \$14.7 million; Total: \$42.1 million

Levee decertifications can now be challenged under NFIP

weakening of levees through root growth. The Corps' vegetation requirement created considerable challenges for local governments and flood control agencies, the policy was often in direct conflict with federal or state laws and regulations that prohibited the removal of vegetation on or next to the levees, particularly when the vegetation provides habitat for threatened or endangered species.

Levee Certification provides a pathway for local communities to challenge levee decertifications within the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Levees are an important part of any flood-mitigation program and exist across the nation. Since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, many levees have been decertified nationally, with little option for appeal. A levee accreditation designation means communities could be exempted from NFIP's mandatory flood insurance program and restricted land use designations.

Water Infrastructure Funding includes several provisions on water infrastructure funding, one which has generated some debate. The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (WIFIA) is a five-year financing pilot program that will allow the Corps and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide direct loans and loan guarantees for construction of water infrastructure projects, including levee and flood-control projects, drinking water systems and wastewater treatment plants. Water projects financed in whole or in part with any sort of tax-exempt financing would not qualify for WIFIA funding.

Some members of Congress who oppose WIFIA expressed concerns that WIFIA threatens EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), which is used to fund water infrastructure in communities. In an effort to appease these concerns, conferees included provisions to strengthen CWSRF by allowing flexibility in loan terms and broadening the types of projects that qualify for CWSRF assistance.

WIA reauthorization could come in June

regard to workforce investment boards and workforce investment areas

reduces the number of required members (to 19 from 51) for the local workforce boards and maintains a business-led majority

allows for more flexibility for local boards by allowing up to 20 percent of funds to be used for incumbent-worker and on-the-job training for in-demand occupations

strengthens alignment between local workforce areas and labor markets and economic development regions

standardizes performance accountability with creation of six core indicators for adults and youths to determine workforce program success and

maintains providing services to youths in and out of school.

The Senate is attempting to "hotline" passage of the bill by unanimous consent via a Manager's Amendment to H.R. 803.

This will likely occur after the Senate returns from its Memorial Day recess June 2. If successful, the legislation will then be considered by the House and, if passed, signed into law by the president.

WIA reauthorization legislation is long overdue; it expired in 2003.

The House and Senate workforce staff would like support letters on the WIOA legislation compromise. If your county or local workforce board sends a support letter, please send a copy to Daria Daniel at ddaniel@naco.org.

WIA Support Letter

NACo

National Association of Counties

May 27, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chair
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair
Committee on Budget
United States Senate

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Employment and
Workplace Safety
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Kline, Chair
Education and Workforce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Member
Education and Workforce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Chair
Subcommittee on Higher Education
and Workforce Training
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Ruben Hinojosa
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Higher Education
and Workforce Training
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Harkin, Alexander, Murray and Isakson and Representatives Foxx, Kline, Miller and Hinojosa:

On behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the nation's 3,069 counties, I write in support of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, (H.R. 803 as amended), legislation that would amend and reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. We thank you for all of your work and leadership on this very important issue and urge the House and Senate to pass the compromise legislation.

As you know, WIA is long overdue for reauthorization, as it expired in 2003. A strong and modernized workforce system will increase investments in quality services, resources and training, and help ensure that states and localities can continue to respond to the needs of unemployed and underemployed Americans. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act provides the needed framework for a modernized workforce development system.

An essential component to WIA's success is maintaining local and regional governance, based on regional economies and local labor markets. Workforce and economic development must continue to occur at the local level, be governed at the local level and also coordinated with other programs. We thank you for recognizing this in the compromise bill. We are pleased that the bill will enhance flexibility at the local level so that communities can better address their workforce challenges.

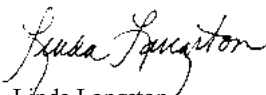
We are also pleased that the bill reduces the required numbers for the local workforce boards (from 51 to 19) and maintains a business majority, which will help to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of these boards. The bill also standardizes performance accountability with the creation of six core indicators for adults and youth, to determine workforce programs success, which is an improvement from the current system.

The legislation allows for up to 20 percent of local board funds to be used for incumbent worker and on the job training, which will allow flexibility to meet local needs. It also recognizes the importance of focusing on both in and out-of-school youth utilizing career pathways and education and training that lead to attainment of high school diploma, recognized postsecondary credentials and meaningful employment opportunities.

We urge House and Senate members to finalize passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act this congressional session. The legislation will ensure that America's workers can develop the skills needed for meaningful employment by having access to effective job training and placement services and that employers' have a skilled workforce to maintain and increase their competitive edge.

We stand ready to work with Congress to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Linda Langston
Supervisor
Linn County, Iowa
President, National Association of Counties

WORD SEARCH

Dunn County, Wis. Facts

U A B N B B X U H F E C C M P D D X W I
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K V Z K Z L I Z L E M X F B W K A X T O

BARRON (north adjacent county)
CHARLES DUNN (county namesake)
CHIPPEWA (east adjacent county)
ENGLAND (one of four countries claiming jurisdiction)
FRANCE (one of four countries claiming jurisdiction)
GERMAN (major ethnic group in county)
MENOMONIE (county seat)

NORWEGIAN (major ethnic group in county)
PEPIN (south adjacent county)
SPAIN (one of four countries claiming jurisdiction)
ST CROIX (west adjacent county)
UNITED STATES (one of four countries claiming jurisdiction)
WILD RICE (translation of Indian term Menomonie)

Created by Christopher Johnson

STATE → TO → STATE



KENTUCKY OREGON



What issues are driving state associations' legislative agendas? What are the latest and most persistent challenges your county colleagues in other states are facing? What looks to be looming on the horizon?

State-to-State, a County News feature, explores these questions and helps keep you in touch with your fellow leaders across the country.

Kentucky



In an election year, Kentucky state lawmakers didn't seem to have much of a stomach for two of counties and their allies' top legislative priorities: raising statewide E911 fees on wireless phone lines and hiking the gas tax.

Both were a tough sell, according to Shellie Hampton, government relations director, Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo). All members of the House and half the Senate will face voters in November. Raising the wireless fee would be seen by the public as a tax hike — ballot box poison.

In Kentucky, there's a 70-cent per month state wireless fee added to mobile device bills; it hasn't been raised since it was created in 1998. Hampton said proceeds from the state fee help fund about 25 percent



of the costs to operate local 911 centers. Counties and cities can add their own fees on landline phones, which she said are "going the way of the dinosaur."

Counties, cities and 911 dis-

patch center operators, had proposed a "comprehensive bill" to address the wireless fees' deficiencies, but lawmakers punted it to the 2015 session.

"With no increase in the 70 cents at the state level and us doing everything we can at the local level with the landline fees," Hampton said, "that leaves about 48 percent of the funding to come from our general fund, and that's unsustainable to have half of your money you need to come from a city and a county's general fund."

Increasing the state's gas tax will also have to wait out the political season. Hampton said county road maintenance will suffer as a result. "Our gas tax is vital to our road funding. So we're having to take it from other sources," she said, "which means something else is going to get shortchanged."

There were some positive notes from the recently concluded 60-day legislative session. Denny Nunnelle, KACo's executive director, said the Legislature "finally" fully funded their "actuarially responsible" contribution to the state's retirement system. He called that a "big win."

As for issues of concern on the horizon, beyond the statehouse, he said Washington's constant stream of "edicts" affecting envi-

ronmental issues — clean air, clean water — are hurting the state. They are contributing the decline of the state's coal industry and affecting recreational uses of the state's natural resources, he said. That is as discouraging as a "California horse winning the Kentucky Derby," he added.

On the bright side, Hampton said, county leaders are engaged as never before. "Our members have a good grasp of what their needs are and what the reality is of getting help at the federal and state level."

"I'm proud of them for standing up and vocalizing the fact that if Washington and Frankfort aren't going to help, then they need to give us the tools to let us help ourselves."

Oregon



The 2014 short session in the state Legislature was primarily defensive in nature, making sure proposed legislation would not harm counties. Even-numbered year legislative sessions in Oregon are designed to be short and deal with fixes to previously passed legislation and budget adjustments.

One of the major challenges for Oregon counties is public safety.

Several counties are currently facing substantial public safety challenges due to lack of resources caused by federal forest practices, environmental protection laws and lawsuits. The tax system is also in need of reform.

"Most of Oregon, especially the rural counties, currently faces public safety challenges," said Eric Schmidt, communications manager, Association of Oregon Counties (AOC). "A lot of factors have led to an erosion in law enforcement from patrols to guards at jails."

AOC is taking the lead in generating a proposed public safety package for the 2015 legislative session to try and combat these issues.

Inadequate management of federal forests is another issue causing uneasiness throughout the counties, he said. While the economy improves, the federal forests continue to deteriorate and timber communities suffer from lack of economic opportunity.

Congress is considering several bills that would change the rules for logging in federal forests, including one introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) that would revamp the management of 2.1 million acres of forestland in western Oregon.

"We hope Congress will act to improve the management of these forests in the next few years," added Schmidt.

Neighboring N.Y. counties prepare for nanotech industry growth

Board of Supervisors to a nine-member County Legislature has consumed much of his time, he's staying focused on how the county also might benefit from the nanosector growth in the greater region.

"The big thing for our county, specifically, is getting small and large shovel-ready sites ready to go," he said. "So that if some of the spinoff happens — should there be interest, should there be opportunity — we're ready. And that's really what we've been focusing on now."

The two counties are collaborating on a number of economic development projects to help snag nanotech and other industries to existing and proposed business parks. They have undertaken a branding effort to help market both counties as region; they've renewed negotiations to develop a regional 300-acre business park along their shared border, and both

are pursuing smaller, more single-county-focused projects.

A regional business park has been proposed before, but the counties were unable to finalize interlocal agreements. Ossenfort said recent changes in the counties' political landscapes look promising for resumed negotiations on a revenue-sharing deal.

The proposed site lies wholly within Montgomery County, but much of the infrastructure it needs is in the Fulton County city of Johnstown. A proposed annexation would cede the land to Johnstown, where the former Montgomery land could access the water and wastewater services the city has in place.

"To do so, we're working on trying to negotiate a tax-sharing formula whereby the municipalities from which the property would be annexed would receive a portion of the property tax revenues that would be generated by the city of Johnstown and Fulton County,"

SpeedRead » » »

- » Fulton, Montgomery counties at epicenter of nanotech in upstate New York
- » Counties planning for regional business park to attract high-tech industry
- » Community college aligns curriculum for nanotech future

Mraz said. That's where negotiations broke down previously.

Ossenfort said one municipality wanted a 40-year deal and another municipality wanted a "forever" deal, and they couldn't come to terms.

"We have now jumpstarted those talks and negotiations again. We're positive and optimistic that we're going to be able to work it out," he added. "We're working through some legal issues now related to the annexation of the

property and we've restarted that process." The counties hope to have agreements ironed out by the end of this year.

Another shared asset is paving the way for the counties' possible nanotech future — Fulton-Montgomery Community College, which receives some of its funding from the counties. The college has tailored its course offerings to help train a future nanotechnology workforce.

"We revised our curriculum to incorporate nanoscale technology," said Dustin Swanger, president of the two-year college, including securing federal and state funding to install a "cleanroom" on campus in 2010 where electrical and computer technology students can gain experience learning and experimenting in such an environment. It's similar to what one would encounter at the GlobalFoundries chip-fabrication plant in the Saratoga County town of Malta.

"Students on campus get an understanding of how microchips

are made and they understand the protocols of working in a clean room," he said. "We focused on the metrology [the science of weights and measures] of nanoscale because it's the tools that make the chips. What we're doing is making sure that the tools are making them accurately and within standards." The college has seen a twofold increase in its electrical-computer technology program since the cleanroom opened.

Swanger said he's seeing more collaboration between the counties and in the region in an effort to take advantage of growing high-tech opportunities.

"That's easier said than done," he added, "but we are making strides and I think that this area has tremendous growth potential, based on our location, based on what's happening on each side of us, based on the land that we have available, based on the water we have available. I think we've got a lot of assets that we can leverage."

Research News

Cars Dominate Commuting Patterns in U.S. Counties

Biking, walking are on the rise



Understanding commuting patterns — traveling from home to work — is important for counties in planning transportation projects and economic development efforts. The Census Bureau's American Community Survey data from 2008–2012 shows the various ways workers travel to work in counties across the country.

The automobile was still the dominant mode of transport for commuters nationwide—86 percent of workers are in this category. How-

ever, there is a great deal of regional variation throughout the United States and across small, medium and large counties. Alternatives to driving include public transportation, walking, biking, taxicab or motorcycle.

In the Northeast, 74 percent of workers drive to the workplace, while in the South slightly more than 90 percent of workers drive to their jobs. Large counties, with populations of over 500,000, have a smaller share of workers that drive to work, at 82 percent. Both medium-sized and small counties have a share of 91

percent of commuters that drive to work.

While most workers that drive to work do so alone, carpooling makes up a significant share of commutes by automobile, at 12 percent. The region of the U.S. with the highest percentage of carpoolers is the West at 13 percent, and lowest is the Midwest with 10 percent of automobile commuters in carpools.

The share of carpoolers out of total workers who drive to work is similar across small, medium and large counties, but the 10 counties with the highest percentage of drivers who carpool are all small counties. For example, in Quitman County, Ga. more than 28 percent of all commuters carpool to work.

There is significant variation across counties in the share of workers commuting using public transportation. Nationwide the percentage of workers commuting by public transit is 5 percent. Large counties have 10 percent of workers commuting by public transportation, while medium-sized counties have only 1.4 percent and small counties have even fewer — less than 1 percent. This result is not



surprising given that larger counties tend to be more urbanized and may have larger transit systems, compared to most medium- and small-sized counties.

The only county with more than half of its workers commuting by public transit is New York City, with 56 percent of workers getting to work using public transportation. On the other hand, in 18 percent of all counties, there are no workers that travel to work using public transportation. Most of these counties with no public transportation commutes are located in the South or Midwest regions of the U.S.

Non-motorized transport, which includes bicycling and walking,

makes up a small share of all commutes, but this share has been growing over time. The Census Bureau recently released an American Community Survey report that examined trends in bicycling and walking commutes in the U.S. The report found that the share of commuters nationwide that bike to work is 0.6 percent and walking is 2.8 percent.

While these percentages are small, the study found that the number of commutes by bicycle increased from 488,000 in 2000 to about 786,000 in 2008–2012. The Western region of the U.S. has the highest share of workers commuting by bicycle; only 13 counties have more than 5 percent of workers commuting via bicycle, but of these counties, nine are in the West. Gunnison County, a small county in western Colorado, has a large share of bicycle commuters, at 11 percent.

**For more information about walking and biking commuter statistics, see this story online at www.countynews.org.*

(Research News was written by Kavita Mak, senior research associate.)

What's in a Seal?

► **Dunn County, Wis.**
www.dunncountywi.gov/office2.com



Ruled over the centuries by Spain, France, England and the United States, Dunn County was set apart from Chippewa County Feb. 19, 1854. Its current boundaries were determined in 1858. It is named for Charles Dunn, the first chief justice of the territory.

The history of the county is rich and diverse culminating in the recognition by CNN of the Mabel Tainter Theatre, located in the county seat of Menomonie, as among the top 15 of the world's most spectacular theatres.

The seal resembles the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin. It consists of a field of figures with the words "Seal of Dunn County" above it and "Wisconsin" below it. At the top of the field a banner with the word, "Forward," the state motto, is displayed above the image of a badger, the state animal. The center consists of a shield including a plow representing agriculture above a banner with the United States motto *E Pluribus Unum*. This is above a red, white and blue starred and striped shield resembling the United States Coat of Arms topped by a plow and bordered by tree branches representing forestry and above a pick and shovel representing mining. The shield is supported by two figures: a pioneer with pick and long rifle and a lumberjack with a broad axe. Below the shield are two large logs symbolic of the county's rich history in the timber industry.

(If you would like your county's seal featured, please contact Christopher Johnson at 202.942.4256 or cjohnson@naco.org.)

Oregon state law may make Josephine County's GMO ban unenforceable

Jordan told the three-member commission in March that it could cost the county an estimated \$219,000 per year to enforce the new law.

"I think it's fairly clear what the intended purpose of the ordinance is," he said at a County Board meeting. "There's a lot of language in here that results in other actions that are necessarily costly to the county to implement.... If the county were to fund it, it's a general fund expenditure." He added that he knew of no other means of funding enforcement or abatement "unless there's some grants that I'm unaware of... maybe there's private foundations that would support it, maybe there's groups of people that support the ordinance."

There is no mainstream scientific research that has shown GMO crops to be harmful, still, localities and states have been enacting

bans and GMO labeling requirements. Supporters of the ban say genetically modified crops are still experimental.

Opponents were quick to express their disappointment, particularly with the Jackson County ordinance. "Regrettably ideology defeated sound science and common sense in Jackson County," Barry Bushue, president of the Oregon Farm Bureau, said in a statement. "We respect the voice of the voters, but remain convinced [that this] is bad public policy."

Whether Josephine County's ban proves to be bad public policy or not, it most likely may not be legally enforceable. Last fall, the Oregon Legislature outlawed local bans on GMOs but grandfathered Jackson County because its initiative had already qualified for the ballot. Josephine County was not exempted.

Cherryl Walker, chairwoman of

the Josephine Board of Commissioners, said the county is reviewing its options. "Are we in a position to carry out the wishes of the voters as a home-rule county or will we defer to the state law? We're working on trying to find that answer at the moment," she told *The Oregonian*.

Wally Hicks, the county's elected counsel, said, "The issue is going to become whether that state preemption is valid. The opponents of GMO are confident that there's just no problem.... I'm not so sanguine about that."

In any event, the county is in no financial shape to enforce the ban, he added.

"As a government, we are broke and we don't have enough money to fund our sheriff's patrols," Hicks said. "So we aren't going to be undertaking any crusades to rid the county of GMO, but we will try to provide the notice that this citizens' measure seems to require."

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News From the Nation's Counties

► CALIFORNIA

• **MERCED COUNTY** is easing access to veterans' benefits by issuing **Vet ID cards**.

The cards read "United States Armed Forces Veteran" and include a photo along with the branch of service. Prior to this identification card, only active military personnel, those retired for more than 20 years and those registered in the Veterans Affairs health care program were issued a photo identification.

This fills the gap for veterans who fall outside those categories. It also provides a photo ID for homeless or low-income vets who don't have another form. The county estimates the card could benefit 14,000 to 20,000 veterans.

The county Veteran Services Office is working with the Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce in creating a list of merchants in town that will offer discounts to veterans with the new ID card, the *Merced Sun-Star* reported.

• **ORANGE** and **SANTA CLARA counties** have filed a lawsuit accusing five drug companies of **false advertising** to boost the sales of painkillers behind the nation's prescription drug addiction problem.

Much like the legal attacks on tobacco companies two decades ago by many states, the current lawsuit accuses the drug companies of making misleading and false claims about the safety of products consumed annually by millions of Americans, the Associated Press reported.

The lawsuit seeks to stop the companies' marketing campaigns and demands unspecified damages. The suit also alleged unfair competition and creating a public nuisance and targets Johnson & Johnson's Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Purdue Pharma, Actavis, Endo Health Solutions Inc. and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries' Cephalon Inc.

► COLORADO

A comprehensive plan update in **BOULDER COUNTY** may **give certain legal rights to plants and animals**. The county's planning commission gave a tentative endorsement to a declaration of the county's responsibility to support the continued existence of all of the county's "naturally occurring ecosystems and their native species populations."

County staff will fine-tune the provision and the commission will revisit the issue in June, according to the *Daily Camera*.



Photo by John Wark • johnwark.com

An aerial view of the recent Mesa County, Colo. mudslide shows the downhill path of flow, to where the trail of mud and debris narrows.

The search has been suspended for three farmers believed to be buried by the May 25 mudslide (pictured above) in **MESA COUNTY**, Colo. County officials estimated the mudslide was about four miles long, two miles wide and some 250 feet deep in places. Sheriff Stan Hilkey said it could be "well into the summer" before the site is stable, according to the *Denver Post*.

At the same time, **COCONINO COUNTY**, Ariz. continued to deal with a "slide" of another kind, a blaze known as the "Slide Fire" — for Slide Rock State Park — near Sedona, where it began. As the fire continued to burn last week, the state officials warned that its heavy smoke made for air quality that ranged between "unhealthy for selective groups" and "very unhealthy." By, May 30, the fire had burned 21,000 acres.

Meanwhile, 2,460 miles away in Alaska, **KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH** officials were coping with the Funny River Fire, which, as of May 27, had consumed 182,000 acres and was 30 percent contained.

► FLORIDA

It's safety first for scooter and moped riders in **BAY COUNTY**. After the County Commission modified its rental ordinance for those vehicles, a rider will have to **wear a reflective vest** and carry safety brochures. Companies are also required to outfit scooters with a flag to increase visibility, according to the *News Herald*. The county changed its policy to mirror regulations in Panama City Beach.

"The problem is most people who rent scooters have never ridden one before," Commissioner Mike Thomas said. "They're using it for amusement instead of travel. Police have worked quite a few accidents there. We're hoping the more visible they are the less accidents we'll have."

► ILLINOIS

E-cigarettes, like their traditional tobacco counterparts, are now prohibited in **COOK COUNTY** buildings. The County Board added the devices to the ban that already included cigarettes, pipes, chewing tobacco and hookahs dating back to 2006.

It applies to all county facilities, including courthouses, detention centers, garages, hospitals and storage facilities, and mandates a 15-foot distance from facility doors, or 30 feet from county health facilities, the *Chicago Sun Times* reported.

► INDIANA

ALLEN COUNTY is investing more than \$7,000 in new software that will allow volunteer county firefighters to **get to the scene of a fire quicker**, easier and more efficiently.

An app called I Am Responding, instantly relays dispatching information on smartphones and mobile devices.

Once a fire call is received, firefighters will be able to relay whether they are responding, and that information will instantly be flashed on a screen in the fire station as well as on the phones, the *Journal Gazette* reported.

Firefighters can go directly to the fire site — a map and directions also show up on the screen — and the trucks will already be there, loaded with the gear they need.

The program also monitors truck

and equipment maintenance and availability; schedules staff shifts; tracks staff training, certifications and expirations; and communicates with responders and specialized teams.

► IOWA

Budget discussions in **WOODBURY COUNTY** will now be preceded by a press release disclosing how much taxpayer money was awarded to nonprofit organizations the previous year, an amount that totals half-a-percent of the county's budget.

Eight organizations are set to split \$285,524 in the fiscal year starting July 1. Officials say the funding is important to keeping the groups operating. Previously, the recipients were printed in the county budget, the *Sioux City Journal* reported.

► NEW YORK

Twenty-one students from five school districts recently completed **HERKIMER COUNTY's government intern program**, administered by the Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program of Herkimer County.

Participants explored current issues confronting county government and learned how it functions through its committee system. They also toured county facilities, interviewed county legislators and attended a County Legislature meeting, the *Little Falls Times* reported.

At the concluding session, the interns held a simulated legislative meeting and provided presentations on current issues confronting the county.

► NORTH CAROLINA

Counties have "grave concerns" about one of Gov. Pat McCrory's (R) proposed adjustments to the state budget, recently unveiled at the start of the state Legislature's short session, according to the **NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** (NCACC).

McCrory proposes **shifting the workers' compensation claims payment** for state-funded school employees to local school boards. Counties now pay for the workers' comp costs for county-funded school employees, along with other employee benefits such as retirement and health. A similar proposal was recommended, and rejected, in 2011.

"Counties have grave concerns about assuming this liability for employees that they do not hire, train or supervise," according to an NCACC Legislative Bulletin.

► PENNSYLVANIA

LUZERNE COUNTY wants to raise revenue from **outdoor advertising on county-owned land**. The county is seeking proposals from companies to design, build and operate the signs on county property, according to the *Times Leader*.

It's an idea that's been batted around for several years, since the county's outside financial advisor first proposed it in a 2005 financial recovery plan. In January, a former county official suggested revisiting the topic.

► SOUTH CAROLINA

CHESTER COUNTY is negotiating what's being called a "game-changing" deal with an unnamed company that could **invest \$560 million and create 1,500 jobs**, *The Observer* reported.

"We've never had an industrial prospect this big in the 32 years I've been county administrator," said County Supervisor Carlisle Roddey, who serves as administrator.

The H.R. Doctor Is in

Surviving Dangers Near and Far

The HR Doctor attended an astronomy lecture recently with the optimistic title of “Can We Survive an Asteroid or Comet Impact?” As it turned out, the lecture was as much about public administration and leadership as it was about astronomy and physics.

The many millions of objects floating about in the solar system contain the seeds of Earth’s ultimate destruction just as they played a role billions of years ago in the formation of the earth. Chunks of rock, ice and gases make up comets. Nickel and iron make up most asteroids. The latter primarily orbit the sun in the areas known as the Asteroid Belt and the Kuiper Belt.

The impact on earth of objects of any relatively large size, such as that of a football field or even larger, would have terrible consequences. Cities could be leveled, ecosystems destroyed, and perhaps — if the object were large enough — another mass extinction event could be triggered. Large asteroids have struck the earth repeatedly in the past. We recently read of considerable damage done in a small city in Russia last year when a small meteorite crashed into a nearby lake.

The astronomy lecture included a discussion by astronomer and friend Ernie Rossi. It detailed the various technologies available to provide sufficient early warning to permit us to take some sort of corrective action before an asteroid

or comet actually hits. The good news is that there are steps being taken now to provide surveillance of asteroids.

A high percentage of relatively large ones have already been discovered and are on the surveillance watch list. The smaller these dark colored objects are, however, the harder it is to detect them, and the less warning there would be of a pending impact.

While it was not directly mentioned in the lecture, public administration and elected officials are every bit as important to the survival of the planet as the array of advanced technologies being developed to defend us from impending doom.

Without appreciating the collision dangers and becoming educated about managing these realistic risks, none of the technologies will ever muster sufficient public support to become real. Without putting aside enough of our partisanship to take concerted action, the work will not be undertaken to prepare now to mitigate a real hazard.

Action by NASA, the military, universities and international partners requires political as well as technological consensus. Political consensus can be more difficult to achieve than the technological one. No nation, including our amazingly great country, can go it alone in meeting this need. It will take a strong partnership and commitment to years of action in order to move

“... strategic dreams are very difficult to achieve in a world where we want immediate gratification.”

the technology from drawings and computer simulations to reality.

Why spend billions of dollars on asteroid and comet impact defenses when we could use the money at home. This reasonable sounding battle cry could well have a profound impact. However, responding to a horrific, perhaps world-wide disaster would cost far more. Besides, as with the space program in general, the spinoff benefits of research and technological improvements would be economically powerful as well as amazing.

It takes a great deal of courage to push forward something with

huge strategic importance. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty and realize how much has been accomplished, we appreciate that strategic dreams are very difficult to achieve in a world where we want immediate gratification.

Despite that, we don’t have to be astrophysicists to realize the importance of long-term thinking. After all, that is a big part of what the hopes and dreams of parents are. We have a strategic view of how we hope our children can contribute and grow. We take both tactical steps, like coaching on getting homework done on time.

We also take strategic steps like exposing the children to a “Renaissance” array of subjects, including music, science, history and much more. We do this so that our children can make decisions better than we did. It is for that reason, not to mention the protection of the earth, that we get back to the critical importance of education.

Education is a direct contributor to understanding. Understanding, in turn, helps us be strategic when we need to be and tactical when we have to be.

Perhaps you think that the subject of an asteroid or comet impact is less relevant to the day-to-day life of an elected or appointed local government official... and you’d be right. However, join me in thinking broadly. Courageous action to reduce great risk is as relevant to our policy decisions about emergency management, public health, infrastructure failures or societal cohesiveness as it is about astronomy.

So, next time you look up into the sky and see a shooting star or perhaps a comet, think of how much our politics and our science depend on each other to solve critical problems. Think of how both depend on education.



Phil Rosenberg

The HR Doctor • www.hrdr.net

NACo on the Move

► NACo Officers and Officials

• NACo Executive Director **Matt Chase**, NACo President **Linda Langston**, NACo First Vice President **Riki Hokama** and NACo Immediate Past President **Chris Rodgers** were on a panel discussing transportation funding reauthorization and NACo’s The Road Ahead at a pre-Western Interstate Region meeting in King County, Wash. May 19.

• **Hokama** spoke about “Why Counties Matter” and NACo at the California State Association of Counties Annual Legislative Conference in Sacramento County May 14.

► NACo Staff

• **Kathy Nothstine**, program director, and **Alyssum Pohl**, NOAA Digital Coast Fellow, led a breakout session on tools for coastal and ocean planning at the Digital Coast Overview in Washington, D.C. May 19.

► Coming Up

• **Alex Koroknay-Palicz**, membership coordinator, will be exhibiting at the Florida Association of Counties 2014 Annual Conference and Educational Exposition in Orange County June 17–20.

On the Move is compiled by Christopher Johnson

Jail inmates will learn beekeeping

“This will change the landscape of Chester County.”

State and local officials have been working on the project for more than a year, according to Karlisa Parker, a Chester County economic development official.

County Council has given its preliminary approval to create a fee-in-lieu-of-tax arrangement and a special source-revenue credit — both of which would reduce the company’s tax liability.

The county hoped to finalize the deal on June 2.

► TEXAS

That buzzing sound coming from the **TRAVIS COUNTY** Correctional Complex? Bees.

As part of a new skill-training program, the American Honey Bee Protection Agency has **provided inmates with 10 beehives** to learn beekeeping. The program is designed as a rehabilitative activity and vocational training that could lead to future jobs.

“We created this program that will teach three-to-five inmates at a time at around four-to-five times each year,” Walter Schumacher, Central Texas Bee Rescue, told *CultureMap Austin*. “The session is 120

hours of curriculum plus about 60 hours of learning practical removal and extraction of bees.”

The Travis County Sheriff’s Office is cooperating with the educational training program, the Associated Press reported.

► UTAH

“Smoke Gets in Your Eyes” is not the tune **GARFIELD COUNTY** officials want to hear tourists singing when they come to visit Bryce Canyon National Park.

County commissioners have proposed an emergency resolution to **stop the U.S. Forest Service from conducting prescribed burns** this spring in two areas: the 400-acre Ahlstrom Hollow and the 300-acre Dave’s Hollow, fox13now.com reported.

“People come from all over the world to see Bryce Canyon National Park,” Commissioner Clare Ramsay said. “It’s one of the most beautiful parks in the world, and they get there and find the place all smoked in: they can’t see the points.”

Christine Brown, a U.S. Forest Service forest-fuels specialist, said the controlled burns are necessary to prevent future high-intensity wildfires. Before a burn can be conducted, the Forest Service must gain approval from the state’s Divi-

sion of Air Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

► WASHINGTON

Some 4.7 million visitors use **SNOHOMISH COUNTY** parks each year. The county hopes to lessen the impact of the 346 tons of garbage they leave behind with a new “Pack It In, Pack It Out” trash-reduction campaign.

It encourages visitors to the county’s 105 parks to **take the garbage they generate in the parks back home** rather than throwing it the parks’ trash cans or dumpsters. The program was tested in three parks before its official debut May 23.

Parks Division Manager Russ Bosanko told *The Herald* that 98.75 percent of Snohomish County households recycle. By “packing out” their trash, park users are expected to recycle more of their refuse.

The trash reduction is estimated to save the county \$207,000 a year in staff time and resources.

(News From the Nation’s Counties is compiled by Charles Taylor and Charlie Ban, staff writers. If you have an item for News From, please email ctaylor@naco.org or cban@naco.org.)

Financial Services News

NACo Scholarship Winners Urge Peers to Start Saving for Retirement Early

For the ninth year in a row, high school seniors participating in the NACo-Nationwide Scholarship Essay Contest demonstrated a significant understanding of the importance of preparing financially for retirement.

Lisa Cole, senior director, NACo Financial Services Corporation, said this year's entries were very strong. "More than 250 students responded and offered an impressive list of actions, strategies and reasons for Americans to take responsibility for their retirement."

Graduating high school seniors whose parent or grandparent contributes to the NACo 457 Deferred Compensation Program were eligible to apply. They were asked to write a short essay describing why it is important for a public sector employee to start early when saving for retirement.

These four seniors each will receive a \$2,000 scholarship from Nationwide and the National Association of Counties. The following excerpts from their submissions have been edited for space considerations, but the comments suggest that these students have a strong grasp of the subject.

The winning entries were submitted by:

Ashton Elizabeth Tacey – Bay County, Mich.

Tacey learned early from her parents the importance of saving money. "Since I can remember, my parents have told me to 'Save your money,' 'Don't spend more than you make,' and 'an investment in yourself is an investment for your future.' As I prepare for college and the costs that come with it I have a true understanding of these lessons my parents have instilled in me.

"In order to take care of your family, save money, have an emergency fund in place, and still be able to retire means we need to be proactive in our efforts. Public employees should be talking with their employer about their options for investment packages such as 457 plans, then take advantage of this opportunity. The sooner you start taking an active role in your ability to save money for your future, the bigger the pay off.

"I feel fortunate that over the years my parents have taken advantage of investing in the 457 plans that were offered through their employer. Knowing they



Ashton Elizabeth Tacey

will be able to live comfortably is reassuring to me."

Tacey recently graduated from Central High School in Bay City. An active volunteer in her community, she says one of her most rewarding service experiences is being a "Voice for Injury Prevention" with ThinkFirst for Teens, a global injury-prevention program. "Speaking at schools and community events has given me the opportunity to be a role model with the hope of preventing injuries."

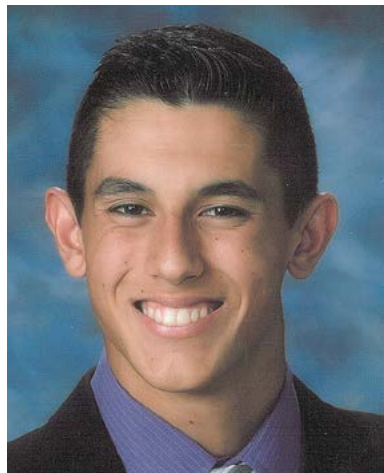
When not volunteering, Ashton Tacey enjoys spending time with friends, visiting local antique and coffee shops, collecting vinyl records, singing and acting. This fall she will attend Saginaw Valley State University to pursue a degree in occupational therapy. She is the daughter of Sharon Tacey, who is employed by Bay County Friend of the Court.

Jordan Velarde – Riverside County, Calif.

Velarde, the scholarship winner from the West Coast, created an acronym to help his peers think about retirement. He says SECURITY means Save Early, Commit, Understand, Responsible Investing, Time = Yields. Using two or three sentences, Velarde explained each of his concepts.

For Save Early he writes: "There is nothing more important than having the time needed for the magic of compounding interest to take effect — money growing on top of money. Time is your best friend when saving for retirement." Each of his tips centered on getting started early and committed to a financial plan for retirement.

"By applying my SECURITY financial concept," Velarde adds,



Jordan Velarde

"public employees can have a road map on how to achieve financial independence for themselves at retirement. Let your money work hard for you today, so you do not have to work hard later!"

A senior at Palo Verde High School in Blythe, Calif., he has been named to Honor Roll and Principal's List during his four years in school. He's also active in sports, having participated in football, baseball, basketball and track and field. Earlier this year, he was named to the San Diego All-Academic Team and earned All-League honors in football and basketball.

Jordan Velarde will head to Chaffey City College, where he will play football. His goal is to earn a master's degree in psychology with an emphasis on guidance and counseling. His father, Thomas Velarde, is employed by the County of Riverside Sheriff's Department.

Sarah Cutler – Hillsborough County, Fla.

Public employees have special challenges in preparing for their retirement, Cutler says. "I know this from first-hand experience as my mother is a public school teacher and my father is a county employee.

"Teachers like my mom consider teaching to be not just a job, but a calling. Workers like my dad consider it a privilege to serve the public. However, they both say their job is not a 'get rich quick' scheme. Public employees need to use the 'get rich slow' plan by saving, and investing consistently."

In her essay, Cutler offers several suggestions for how to limit debt, budget and find savings opportunities wherever you can and contribute those savings to an employee program like the NACo Deferred



Sarah Cutler

Compensation Plan.

A graduate of Newsome High School in Lithia, Fla. Cutler's interests include Spanish culture, community service, disease prevention and traveling. She has been active in the Wolfpack Marching Band, speech and debate, Girl Scouts, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Leo Club and tutoring. She will attend the University of South Florida and would like to go into the medical field. Her father, Richard Cutler, works for the Hillsborough County Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Theodor Stewart – Stafford County, Va.

For Stewart, it's about having comfort in retirement. "In America, most retired individuals are expected to have the money and resources to take care of themselves without the help of their children. Therefore, it is very important to have a good retirement plan so that when you grow old and can no longer work, you will have the finances you need to live in comfort.

"Social Security and some businesses provide pensions to retired citizens, but typically this is not enough to live off of. It is imperative that you also have a savings account to put retirement funds in. Most public employers provide a retirement plan such as the 457 that allows them to put a portion of their income directly into an investment



Theodor Stewart

account. The advantage to this is that this money will not count towards income tax and it will appreciate in value if invested well."

A graduate of Stafford Senior High School in Fredericksburg, Va., Stewart plans to attend Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University to pursue his studies. He works as a page (book-shelfer) at the England Run branch of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library in Stafford County, where his mother, Suzanna Stewart, is also employed.

Scholarship Honors 34 Years of Partnership

Nationwide sponsors the Nationwide-NACo Scholarship to recognize its three-decade continuing partnership with NACo and its member counties. The Nationwide-NACo Scholarship is just one of the services arising out of this partnership.

For additional information about the NACo Deferred Compensation Program, please contact Cole by email at lc@nacorma.org or phone at 202.942.4270; or contact your Nationwide representative by calling 1.877.677.3678.

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(Financial Service News was written by Bob Beasley, communications consultant, Nationwide Retirement Solutions.)

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