



This newsletter is a publication of the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments

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Water and Wastewater Grants Help Local Cities

If you have been involved in a community infrastructure project during the past few years, you are probably aware of the effect of increasingly stringent EPA requirements based on the Clean Water Act of 1972. Two communities in the RCOG region are taking action to establish wastewater treatment systems that will enable them to remain compliant with both current and future requirements.

The City of Guilford is currently working toward the establishment of a new, first-time sewer system for their community. Working with NWMORCOG and USDA—Rural Development, the City obtained a preliminary engineering report detailing the proposed project. The RCOG prepared an Environmental Assessment for the project and approval of that document was received from the Missouri Department of Economic

Development (DED) and from USDA-RD. The project proposal was then submitted to the Missouri Water and Wastewater Review Committee for consideration. Upon approval by the



Committee, DED issued an invitation for the City to submit an application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. The CDBG application was approved and tentative funding is now in place for up to \$245,000 in CDBG funding, \$628,600 in USDA-RD grant, and \$245,000 in USDA-RD loan funds. The

City continues to make progress on the development of this project.

The City of Stanberry is in the more preliminary stages of their project development. The preliminary engineering report for this multi-million dollar wastewater project has been completed, with the Regional Council preparing and submitting the Environmental Assessment. The project proposal was submitted to the Missouri Water and Wastewater Review Committee and approval was received. Recently the City received an invitation from DED to submit an application for CDBG funding. NWMORCOG will work with the City to prepare and submit this application.

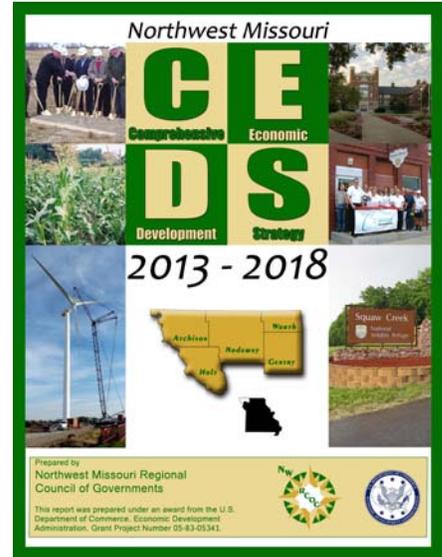
The City of Skidmore was funded by USDA—RD and the Missouri DED to construct an interconnection with

(Continued on page 2)

CEDS Completed for the RCOG Region

The Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments (NWMORCOG) has completed development of a new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS document serves as a mechanism for improving economic development activities, and can be used as a key tool in bringing attention to the planning and developmental efforts within the region. The updated CEDS report will serve as a long-term guide for the governmental and economic development agencies in our communities and provide a template for economic growth in the region. This

report was submitted to the U. S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) on June 30, 2013, to fulfill the EDA Reform Act of 1998 Guidelines. The 2013 CEDS will serve as an outline for activities and program strategies to be implemented through the year 2018 and will be updated by NWMORCOG via a CEDS performance report on an annual basis as required by EDA. The new CEDS is now available for viewing on the NWMORCOG website at www.nwmorcog.org. Feel free to contact Arnie Kreek with any questions or comments at 660-582-5121 or arnie@nwmorcog.org.



Water and Wastewater Grants Help Local Cities (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Nodaway County PWSD #1 to replace their water

tower. Originally constructed in 1932, the tower has outlived its functional lifespan. (Photo at right.) The interconnection is complete and the water tower will be bid out this summer.

The Cities of Barnard, Sheridan, and Graham successfully applied for an emergency interconnection grant with CDBG to alleviate water source issues due to the 2012 drought. Barnard and Graham have completed their interconnections with Nodaway PWSD #1, and Sheridan's interconnection is currently under construction.

Also funded was a new standpipe for

Nodaway County Public Water Supply District #1. The standpipe will provide additional pressure for water customers in the southern part of Nodaway County. Bidding will begin later this summer.

Wastewater and drinking water treatment projects are multi-year affairs that take substantial planning

and persistence on the part of local officials to bring to fruition. Congratulations to the residents and leaders of these communities for their foresight and perseverance. If your community has water or wastewater needs, please don't hesitate to contact the Regional Council for assistance.



RCOG Staff

- Tye Parsons**, Executive Director
- Arnie Kreek**, Economic Development Planner
- Brandi Shively**, Career Counselor
- Dana Ternus**, Regional Planner
- Desiree Billings**, Career Counselor
- Donna Wilmes**, Fiscal Officer

- Jerri Dearmont**, Grant Administrator
- Joseph Riemer**, Flood Recovery Coordinator
- Johnathan Ralls**, Technology Coordinator
- Kim Mildward**, Director of Workforce Development
- Linda Laderoute**, Environmental Planner

From the Director

It's summertime in Missouri, and that means the heat is on! If you're like me, you've had the opportunity to drink a frosty beverage out of a glass bottle from time to time this summer to help offset the rising mercury. But what did you do with the empty glass bottle? Now more than ever, people like you and me are choosing the recycling bin over the trash can. This simple act, repeated hundreds of thousands of times daily in America, is keeping trash out of our landfills, saving natural resources, and improving our environment. And it's not just glass – recycling rates for aluminum, paper, and plastics are higher now than in any time in history. The Green Revolution is on in northwest Missouri!

The Northwest Missouri Regional Solid Waste Management District, Region A (or just "Region A" for short) has been one of the primary drivers behind recycling and waste reduction in our region for over 20 years. From its inception in 1991, Region A has granted thousands of dollars to worthwhile projects in northwest Missouri that enable or encourage recycling and waste reduction, provide special collections for banned items, or educate our kids about the importance of the "three R's": reduce, reuse, recycle. Consider some of these contributions from the last 20+ years:

- ◆ Over \$486,000 in funding for special collections, including waste tires, household chemicals, pesticides, electronics, and appliances;
- ◆ Over \$219,000 in recycling equipment grants, including balers, chippers, skid loaders, forklifts, and waste oil furnaces;

- ◆ Nearly \$133,000 in education grants, recycling bins, and waste reduction programs for schools.

All of the above-mentioned funds are awarded by the Region A board of directors, representing each of the five counties and cities with a population of 500 or greater. Grant applicants are strenuously assessed and judged based on several characteristics, including feasibility, cost/benefit, organizational capacity, and waste diversion. After the Region A board prioritizes and ranks projects, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources gives their blessings before any awards are made. It is an open, transparent system that has worked well for over 20 years, and has greatly improved the ability for northwest Missourians to recycle, reduce their waste, and protect the natural environment.

Unfortunately, being an effective, beneficial, cost-efficient program just doesn't seem to be good enough in today's political environment. In the last Missouri legislative session, Senate Bill 13 was filed that would have effectively eliminated all 20 of Missouri's solid waste management districts, including Region A. The reasoning was that every Missourian can recycle, and these districts are no longer needed. While that short-sighted logic may make sense in Columbia or other urban areas, the reality is that many in our small, rural towns and counties do not have access to recycling facilities or haulers willing to drive the extra distance to properly dispose of recyclable materials. Through a sustained groundswell of opposition from the grassroots of cities, counties, and

other recycling stakeholders, Senate Bill 13 was defeated, as was a late session companion amendment attached to House Bill 650. However, all indications are that similar legislation will return next session. When it does, the Regional Council will again stand in partnership with Region A to fight to ensure our cities, counties, and businesses continue to have access to the expertise and resources provided by our regional solid waste management district.



Tye Parsons
Executive Director

Join us in celebrating the achievements of the last year at the 2013 Annual Dinner!

Thursday, August 8
Countryside Bistro
6:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker:
Mark Duewell,
Missouri Spatial Data
Information Services

RSVP to Jerri at 660-582-5121 by Friday, August 5th.

Status of Active Grants

CDBG GRANTS	STATUS
Nodaway County Bridge - #55	Environmental Review Stage
Guilford Sanitary Sewer	Design and Easement phase
Nodaway County Disaster Planning	Continue Disaster Planning Tasks
Skidmore New Water Tower / Connection to Nodaway County PWSD #1	Awaiting approval to advertise for Construction bids
Nodaway County Emergency Water	Interconnections underway; Tower - Design Phase
Maitland volunteer Fire Protection District	Under Construction
FLOOD PROJECTS—HOLT	STATUS
Big Tarkio Drainage District—Levee Repairs—CDBG	Closeout Stage
Corning Levee District—Levee Repairs—CDBG	Closeout Stage
Mill Creek Levee Repairs	Closeout Stage
Union Township Levee District—COE	Closeout Stage
Levee District #10—COE	Closeout Stage
Levee District #9—COE	Closeout Stage
Canon Drainage District—COE	Closeout Stage
Levee #15	Under construction -75% complete
City of Craig Flood Repairs	Closeout Stage
Village of Big Lake—Flood Repairs	Closed
FLOOD PROJECTS—ATCHISON	STATUS
Phelps City Special Road District	Closeout Stage
Phelps Dyke & Drainage District	100% complete -Waiting on FEMA funds to close project
Special Road District	100% complete -Waiting on FEMA funds to close project
North Nishnabotna Drainage District	100% complete - Waiting on FEMA funds to close project
North Nishnabotna Channel Embankment Repairs	Under construction - 80% complete
DED GRANTS—TAX CREDITS	STATUS
Tri-County Alternative Energy and Visitors Center	100% construction complete; Audit Pending
Atchison County Memorial Building Foundation	100% Tax credits received. Under Construction
BARTLETT & WEST ENGINEERS	STATUS
Atchison County Wholesale Water Commission	Monthly Wage Rate Compliance

Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP)

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) offers a program called the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP). The purpose of NAP is to provide assistance to community-based organizations to enable them to implement projects that relate to community service, education, crime prevention, job training and physical revitalization.

The program works by providing Missouri income tax credits to eligible taxpayers for qualified contributions to approved NAP projects.

Eligible Projects must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- ⇒ Enhance the community to make it more desirable to live and work for citizens and workers, as well as pave the way for economic development
- ⇒ Promote, teach or contribute to the security and safety of Missourians
- ⇒ Provide scholastic instruction for Missourians preparing themselves

for better opportunities (school districts, tuition-based schools, colleges and universities are not eligible to apply)

- ⇒ Provide skill development and other services enabling Missourians to become employable or seek a higher grade of employment
- ⇒ Aid in the physical improvement or rehabilitation of any part or all of a Missouri community

These tax credits are available in the amounts of 50% or 70% depending on community size and availability of funds. All communities within our 5-county region qualify for the 70% credits when they are available. These tax credits can be carried forward for five years. Thus, if a donor makes an eligible contribution of \$10,000 and receives 70% tax credits, they will be able to claim \$7,000 worth of tax credits on their applicable Missouri taxes and can spread that claim over a 5-year period if needed.

The maximum amount available for

a single NAP project is \$350,000 in 70% tax credits or \$250,000 in 50% tax credits.

Eligible program applicants include:

- Non-profit Corporations
- Organizations holding a 501(c)(3) ruling from the IRS
- Missouri businesses assuming full administrative and financial responsibility for the project
- Faith-based organizations that meet certain criteria

Application Procedure

Applications for Fiscal 2014 are now available online and can be completed by the applicant organization. If you are interested in further information on this topic, you can go to the DED website at www.missouridevelopment.org or contact Arnie Kreek, Economic Development Planner at the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments at 660-582-5121. Arnie will be glad to help familiarize you with the application process.

2011 Flood Projects Completed

The Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments administered a total of thirteen flood projects in the counties of Atchison and Holt that received a Presidential Disaster Declaration in 2011. To date, eleven of the projects are completed and in the closeout stage.

In Holt County, the Village of Big Lake received assistance to make repairs to their water tower telemetry system, debris removal, and silt removal from a drainage ditch. The City of Craig purchased 65 new grinder pumps to replace the flood damaged pumps and

made lagoon repairs. Big Tarkio Drainage District and Corning Levee District made the necessary repairs to rebuild levees that were breached, addressed the scour holes, and erosion control. Levee #10, Union Township, Canon Drainage, and Levee #9 also received substantial damage. All breaches, scour holes, and road repairs are complete. These four levee districts participate in the U.S. Corps of Engineer's Maintenance Program.

In Atchison County, the Phelps City Special Road District made extensive repairs to a road and

filled scour holes. Phelps City Dyke and Drainage District removed debris from numerous drainage ditches that were filled in with sand and silt. Atchison County Special Road District made repairs to several roads that were severely damaged by the flood by rebuilding roads and applying rock. The 2011 flood projects were funded through the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Community Development Block Grant Program, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Solid Waste Districts Working to Educate All Missourians

This summer, Region A will be participating with other Solid Waste Districts across the state to provide information to the public and the Missouri Legislature to define who we are and what we do. Linda Laderoute, the RCOG's Environmental Planner, is developing a brochure and whitepaper for distribution at the 2013 Missouri State Fair. Linda will be attending the State Fair to help staff the Solid Waste Districts' booth on August 17th. The planners will be available to answer questions from the public during the fair and distribute information as requested. There will be a display of Region A's recycling businesses and businesses that use recycled materials to produce new products. The State Fair runs from August 8th through

August 18th in Sedalia.

The controversial debate during the 2013 Missouri Legislative Session over the cost of district administration will continue when the new session begins in January 2014. An interim bi-partisan Legislative Committee will be meeting this summer to gather first-hand information about how the districts operate. In preparation for inquiries and a possible committee visit, it is essential to draw a clear picture of the Northwest Missouri Regional Solid Waste Management District. The brochure and whitepaper will showcase the history of accomplishments achieved through grants from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources—Solid Waste



Management Program. The information offered will be truthful, accurate documentation about the character and operation of Region A. For more information, you can contact Linda at 660-582-5121 or by email, linda@nwmorcog.org.

MoBroadbandNow Continues Development



If you have been keeping up with the deployment of high speed broadband service in Missouri, you know that Governor Jay Nixon established MoBroadbandNow as a public-private initiative to facilitate the integration of broadband and information technology into state and local economies. The number one objective of MoBroadbandNow is to expand broadband accessibility to at least 95 percent of Missouri residents by the end of 2014.

NWMORCOG began working with MoBroadbandNow in late 2010 to assist with the strategic planning process. A regional technology planning team (RTPT) was formed comprised of citizens, policy makers, business, industry, higher education, schools, investors, and others. The result of all of the work performed by the RTPT and MoBroadbandNow

personnel is the ***Broadband Availability and Adoption Strategic Plan Northwest Missouri Region***. This five-county regional broadband strategic plan identifies the issues and gaps for our area as well as proposals for how to move forward from this point. The full report is available for review at <http://mobroadbandnow.com/regional-planning/rtpt-reports/>.

The State of Missouri utilized the information gathered by NWMORCOG and the other eighteen regional planning commissions to develop a state broadband plan. The RTPT was



April's RTPT meeting reviewed the draft Broadband Plan which identifies issues and gaps in coverage.

called into session again in April of 2013 to review the draft version of the state plan. NWMORCOG will continue working on the MoBroadbandNow initiative through 2013 with a primary focus on broadband availability and usage in the fields of healthcare and agriculture. This will include the development of healthcare and agriculture focus area Topic Teams (TT's). These teams, consisting of subject matter experts in their respective fields, will review each of the priority issues identified by the original RTPT and will determine the best course of action to be taken to address each issue. NWMORCOG will prepare a final report on these two topic areas by the end of December, 2013.

If you are interested in more details, go to www.mobroadbandnow.com for more complete information or contact Arnie Kreek at 660-582-5121 or arnie@nwmorcog.org.

Missouri Career Center Provides Job Club for Energizer Employees

In November of 2012, Energizer Holding LLC announced during its quarterly investor meeting that the Energizer plant in Maryville, MO would close by November 30, 2013, affecting over 290 employees. The Missouri Career Center system, with a local office located at 114 West Third Street in Maryville, has been working with Energizer and affected employees to help them transition to new employment opportunities since the announcement. Among the services being offered is Job Club.

Job Club is an opportunity for interested job seekers to meet and learn strategies that will assist them in their job search. Members can swap job leads, conduct mock interviews, and encourage one another's success in weekly sessions supported by Career Center staff. "The idea of looking for a new job can be a stressful and discouraging process, but it does not have to be this way," said Kim Mildward, Functional Leader of the Missouri Career Center in Maryville. "Our goal is to give them the tools they need to find employment, provide

networking opportunities, and support each other through this transition. Through Job Club, they are able to stay connected to their Energizer family and motivated during their job search."

Interested Energizer colleagues who have been laid off or are still working at the facility are encouraged to attend. For more information on weekly topics, dates, and time, please contact Kim Mildward at 660-582-8980 or by email, kim@nwmorco.org.



RSA committee members inspect the site of one accident on Route A.

Road Safety Assessments Now Underway

For the third year, NWMORCOG, in conjunction with Green Hills Regional Planning Commission and Mo-Kan Regional Council, is working to complete Road Safety Assessments in Northwest Missouri. One site is selected in each RPC region each year.

This year's candidate differs from previous RSAs. Rather than selecting a single intersection for study, the Transportation Advisory Committee chose a corridor - Route A in Nodaway and Holt counties from Route H to Route 113. This minor route has a high ratio of accidents to annual average

daily traffic (AADT). An important connecting roadway for area residents, this corridor had 56 accidents from 2002 - 2012, including two fatalities and eight disabling injuries, and an AADT of less than 1,000. The Road Safety audit was performed on July 15th. Ten RSA members reviewed crash data, visited the site, and made suggestions for possible safety improvements to the route. Two additional RSAs will be performed this fiscal year, one in each remaining RPC area.

Joint TAC Training Focuses on Safety and Accomplishments

Forty TAC members, MoDOT representatives, and RPC staff joined together on June 14, 2013 at Cameron's Bank Midwest for the sixth annual Joint TAC Meeting. This unique meeting provides a yearly opportunity for TAC education on important transportation issues. This year's training focused on safety and roadway improvements of various types.

The meeting began with a synopsis of the TAC's history and purpose provided by Randy Railsback, Executive Director

at Green Hills. Dana Ternus, Lance Rains, and Megan Carroll followed with an update and summary on the six completed Road Safety Assessments in the region since 2011 and attempts to address problems at each site. A new type of pavement treatment known as Rejuvenator was also previewed by Jack Witte from Corrective Asphalt Materials.

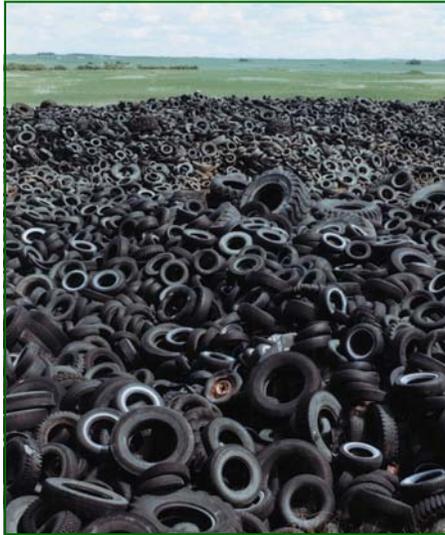
MoDOT representative Shannon Kusilek (Northwest District) discussed MoDOT's *On the Move* campaign,

designed to garner public involvement in the drafting of a new long-term transportation plan. Melissa Black and Jackie Spainhower also provided a synopsis of the Blueprint for Safety and the importance of TAC involvement in the Northwest region. Finally, legislative updates and preview of the jointly owned speed trailer rounded out the meeting. Thanks to all those who were able to attend this annual event!

Fall Tire Collections Suspended

Waste Tire Collections have almost become a fall tradition in Region A, but changes in program policy at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources—Solid Waste Management Program have left Region A no way to fund local waste tire collections. The tire collections are no longer eligible grant projects.

The waste tire program currently operated by the State has a 500 tire minimum that is not compatible with the small city populations of this rural area. The current program is fully booked through 2014, with funding scheduled to sunset in 2015. At this time, the Regional Council is looking for other ways to fund future tire collections, but hope that when the current program ends, we may once



In spite of their local popularity, tire collections can no longer be sponsored by the Solid Waste Management District on the local level.

again fund regional waste tire collections with Solid Waste Management District grant funds.

In the meantime, there are tire dealers and rubber recyclers in the District that will take waste tires for a fee. Check your local tire dealer. Some examples in the region include:

- Walmart Auto Center, Maryville — disposes of waste tires for \$1.50
- EnTire Recycling, Phelps City— disposes of waste tires for a fee based on weight
- 136 Hwy Transfer Station, Ravenwood—disposes of waste tires for \$5 each.

Please contact Linda Laderoute at 660-582-5121 or by email, linda@nwmorcog.org for more information.

New Datasets Improve Future Planning

After the many disasters that have affected Missouri in the past few years, improved data encourages preparedness and improved disaster assessments. Thanks to a CDBG Planning grant for Disaster Recovery, the Regional Council has been able to pursue a number of projects.

In 2013, the NWMORCOG contracted with Wilson & Company to provide new aerial photography of the 2011 flood affected region. One foot resolution aerial imagery was taken in April of 2013 and overlaid with freely available two foot resolution aerial photography from 2010, producing a significant improvement in imagery. (See images at right.) The movement in the levee system and flow pattern of the water across the landscape is evident. This imagery has a variety of uses beyond just landscape change due to flooding, however. The viability of fields based upon the amount of sand coverage is just one potential use.

Another current data project is the MSDIS (Missouri Spatial Data Information Service) structures project. The goal of this project is to map every structure in the state of Missouri. Created by students at the University of Missouri, this data set was sent to the regional planning commission for assessment and quality control. A portion of the data focuses on Community Anchor Institutions (CAI), locations identified by federal standards as vital to the region. This data contains information particularly related to broadband availability that requires verification at the local level. The Regional Council will be following up with each organization in the near future to confirm this information. Once verified this data will be freely available to all communities and counties in the region.

NWMORCOG will be exploring the potential of this spatial data in the near future. The data was originally created



for disaster response, but holds possible uses in planning, emergency response, and many other avenues. For further information on either of these projects and their uses, please contact Joseph Riemer at 660-582-5121 or by email, joseph@nwmorcog.org.

Four-Week Reporting Requirement Removed from Process

Governor Nixon recently signed legislation that removed the in-person four week reporting requirement for unemployment benefit participants. Previously, the Missouri Division of Employment Security (DES) required that individuals receiving Unemployment Insurance (UI) to report in person every 28 days to a Missouri Career Center to complete the reporting process on a computer connected to the DES network.

Those individuals receiving UI still need to remain active in the process of becoming re-employed on a full-time basis:

- File their weekly UI certification claim
- Search for work and log their job search on their job search logs
- Look for work using www.jobs.mo.gov, OR

- Visit a local Missouri Career Center and participate in services.

While Missouri Career Centers are separate from the Division of Employment Security, the career centers work in partnership with DES to help Missourians get back to work as

MISSOURI
Career Center

quickly as possible. DES may still require customers to visit the career centers on a case-by-case basis for programs such as required job services, extended unemployment compensation, or Re-Employment Assistance programs.

Staff at the Missouri Career Centers are

available to assist customers with setting up their www.jobs.mo.gov registration, search for jobs, create/edit resumes and cover letters, brush-up their interviewing skills, and offer workshops to help customers find employment. Staff members are also available to assist customers with identifying their career interests and skills through assessments and, if need be, assist the customer with identifying training they may need to make them more marketable.

For more information on the Missouri Career Center and its services, please contact Kim Mildward at 660-582-8980 or stop by the Missouri Career Center at 114 West Third Street in Maryville.

Familiar Faces Take on New Roles

With the start of a new fiscal year, two Regional Council staffers have taken on new or expanded duties.

Donna Wilmes, formerly the fiscal assistant, has been promoted to Fiscal Officer. With 28 years of experience working for the West Nodaway School District, Donna takes over for Denise Workman, who has taken a budget analyst position at Northwest Missouri State University.

Brandi Shively, career counselor, was recently promoted to full time after an internship with the Regional Council. After working in the Missouri Career Center as a volunteer, intern, and part-time staff member, Brandi was a natural fit for the job!

Please be sure to welcome Donna and Brandi in their new roles. The Regional Council is fortunate to have each of them.



Donna (pictured left) joined the Regional Council part-time in May 2012 as the Fiscal Assistant. In July 2013, she was promoted to Fiscal Officer, responsible for all fiscal and fund management, as well as human resource management.

Brandi (pictured right) joined the Regional Council in January 2012 as an intern. In July 2013, she accepted a full-time position as a Career Counselor. She assists clients in developing employment and education plans, readiness assessments, developing resumes, and meeting work activity requirements.



Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments
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Important Dates

August 6	TAC Meeting 6:00 p.m. RCOG Office
August 8	Annual Dinner, 6:00 p.m. Countryside Bistro
September 2	Labor Day—RCOG Office Closed
September 11	Solid Waste Executive Board, 5:30 p.m. RCOG Office
September 20	NWMO <i>Arrive Alive</i> Transportation Fair, NWMSU campus, 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
September 26	RCOG Executive Board, 7:00 p.m. RCOG Office
October 9	Solid Waste Executive Board, 5:30 p.m. RCOG Office
October 14	Columbus Day—RCOG Office Closed
October 24	RCOG Executive Board, 7:00 p.m. RCOG Office
October 29	Maryville Downtown Trick-Or-Treat, 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.



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<http://www.facebook.com/NWMORCOG>

