

NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST

Spring 2015

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Regional teens attend Safe Driving Assembly

Students from Albany, Nodaway-Holt, Mound City and South Nodaway high schools attended the *Teen Safe Driving Assembly* held on April 29th at the Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts on the Northwest University campus. Speakers Jenny and Sarah from ThinkFirst of Greater Kansas City provided information about traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries including a video about the impact on a family caring for a teen with a traumatic brain injury from a car crash. Students listened intently to Sarah tell her personal story about dealing with everyday life after a paralyzing spinal cord injury put her into a wheel chair at the age of 17. She was riding as an un-buckled passenger and ejected from the vehicle when the driver lost control and crashed.

Officers Angle and Cross from the Missouri Highway Patrol presented the video *Gone Too Soon* which included very graphic



footage of actual roadway crash victims followed by a discussion about attention to the road and how being buckled-up can make the difference between life, death and serious injury in a crash. Sargent Angle related the difficult task of notifying next of kin when there is a fatality; this is the hardest part of his job.

Next, the students were able to feel the effects of a 5 mph crash in the Seatbelt Convincer and then witnessed what happens in a roll-over crash. The Roll-Over demonstrator showed the difference in a roll-over

incident when the driver is un-buckled and when they are buckled-up. In the un-buckled demonstration, the dummy was ejected from the vehicle after partially hanging out of the window while the vehicle rolled three times. The buckled demonstration showed the driver still in the driver's seat after the third roll. The objective of the assembly was to impact student behavior to make safe driving choices a habit starting with putting the cell phone away and buckling that seat belt every time!

Transportation legislation stalls at end of session

Missouri Congress ended the current session without addressing the coming transportation funding problems. Unable to reach an agreement, congress ended the session

promising to pick up next session a discussion on how to improve Missouri's transportation funding. As most have heard by now, Missouri's department of transportation will be unable to

make federal match as of 2017 and will have to revert to the 325 plan, where only primary routes are kept up and some secondary. A proposed piece of legislation

(Continued on page 6)

Inside this issue:

Missouri Career Center	2
Solid Waste Updates	3
Environmental Reviews	4
Big Lake CDBG	4
Active Grants Status	5
TIM Training	5
Important Dates	6

Summer Youth Employment Programs

With area schools being out for summer area youth may be looking for ways to fill their days until school starts again. Many are looking for jobs! The Missouri Career Center received funding for two youth summer employment programs, the State Parks Youth Corps and the Summer Job League. Our staff has been hard at work getting all youth approved for the program and placed at job sites in the 5-county area.

STATE PARK YOUTH CORPS

This summer, two young Missourians will have the opportunity to gain valuable

work experience to prepare for tomorrow's careers, while enjoying the beauty and grandeur of Missouri's state parks. The Missouri State Parks Youth Corps will challenge participants to "Think Outside" by accomplishing interesting projects that help preserve and enhance Missouri's state park system. In addition to developing the critical leadership skills that will prepare them for success in future careers, the program will bolster an appreciation for the environment and "green" concepts that are an exciting part of Missouri's growing

industries.

SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM

The Summer Jobs Program is a workforce placement program that helps emerging workers (ages 16-24) earn workplace skill certificates and connect with area businesses. Youth gain real-world work experience while earning a paycheck, and supporting businesses access high-quality candidates at NO cost! The Regional Council is looking to place 11 youth through the Summer Jobs program.



The Missouri Career Center in Maryville continues to host a series of workshops, scheduled through September for people interested in starting their own business.

For a complete schedule of workshops, please visit our Facebook page at Missouri Career Center-Maryville or the Regional Council website at <http://www.nwmorcog.org/>.



Employers and/or youth interested in any of the above programs should contact Amy Dowis at (660) 582-8980 for more information!

Welfare reform passed in Missouri

The Missouri House and Senate recently passed legislation that will limit the number of months a person can receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits, commonly known as cash welfare from 60 months to 45 months. This change will go into effect January 1, 2016. The new law will ramp up the requirements for low-income parents to participate in job training, volunteer work or find suitable employment. The bill also strengthens the penalties for families who do not participate in activities help them achieve self-sufficiency.

them with their employment and education goals along with help them stay in compliance with the work requirements established under current and upcoming welfare law.

For more information on the Missouri Work Assistance Program contact Brandi Shively at (660) 582-8980.

The Missouri Work Assistance Program offered through the Regional Council of Governments in partnership with the Family Support Division is available to work with families to meet with families receiving cash welfare benefits and assist



Find us on Facebook at Missouri Career Center-Maryville



MISSOURI Career Center

NW Region has shortage of Healthcare workers

Northwest Missouri is facing a shortage of health care workers! Seeing a need to assist local nursing homes, hospitals and other health care organizations fill their openings the Missouri Career Center hosted a Health Care Career Fair on Tuesday, May 12, at the Center for Innova-

tion and Entrepreneurship, on the NWMSU campus. Twenty business and three education providers participated. Twenty-one job seekers attended the fair.

Solid Waste Management District selects six new grant projects

The FY'16 Grant Call closed on April 6, 2015. The District received a total of eight applications totaling \$89,089.90. Funds available for the subgrantees was \$47,500 for community grants. Two applications were not funded. Total funding request for FY'16 is \$94,975 including \$40,000 for District Operations and \$7,500 for Plan Implementation education and outreach. The application and allocation of funds has been approved by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Solid Waste Management Program. FY'16 projects are scheduled to begin on July 1, 2015.

Worth County School Composting
\$9,975.00

Reduce Your Paw Print: Weigh It (NWMSU)
\$2,502.50

Stanberry Park Expansion Project
\$3,200.00

Albany Curbside Recycling
\$11,797.50

Nodaway & Holt Co. HHW Collections

\$15,000.00

WildKat Track Project (King City)
\$5,000.00



Successful spring for Solid Waste District events

Spring is the busiest time of the year for the Solid Waste Management District. Household Hazardous Waste Collections were held in Grant City and Maryville. The collections were much smaller this year with the elimination of latex paint and alkaline batteries from the list of acceptable items. A total of 41 cars dropped off items, including six residents from Albany that contributed to the first time satellite collection. Albany residents brought their HHW items to Albany City Hall for collection on Thursday and Friday and then the items were transported to Maryville to be processed at the Nodaway County collection on Saturday.

Composting was the focus of Plan Implementation outreach in April. Two Backyard Composting Workshops were presented by Linda Laderoute in Grant City and Tarkio. Thirteen regional gardeners participated in the workshops that included instruction on garden composting and vermicomposting. The winners of the worm box drawings were Kara Hauber in Grant City and Ron Pederson in Tarkio. 500 worms in each box provide a system for composting kitchen scraps into nutrient rich worm castings to be used as a soil amendment.



Nodaway County employees helped unload hazardous waste at the Maryville HHW event.

Solid waste legislation attached to two bills; finally passes

During the last week of the 2015 Legislative Session, both Senate Bill 445 and HB 92 were Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed. Senate Bill 152 (filed in 2014) language regarding Solid Waste Districts was added to both bills towards the end of session to ensure passage. Passage of this legislation is the culmination of two years of work by the Joint Task Force on Solid Waste Administration that was initiated in response to Senate Bill 13 (prefiled in December of 2012) that proposed the abolition of the Solid Waste Districts. It has been a stormy process, but local support around the State strongly encouraged continuation of the Solid Waste Management Districts; the impacts on Region A are positive.

The best news is that the budget draining biennial audits are no longer required. The State Auditor's office may still audit the District, but the amount of charges to the District are capped at 2% of the annual allocation (\$1,900). The Solid Waste Management Program staff will monitor the region's activities and may request a financial audit based on performance. Region A is scheduled for a financial audit in 2016 under the old law, but the change in the law may effect that requirement. Currently, there is \$4,250 in the FY '16 District Operations budget for a financial audit for FY '14 and '15.

Other changes include adding textiles to the items to be addressed in recycling and waste diversion projects; Solid Waste

Management Districts may not conduct events that compete with private enterprises; grant applicants with familial connections must be approved by 2/3 vote; the moratorium on tipping fees is extended to 2027; DNR must review grant applications under a set timing structure; meeting requirements of the Solid Waste Advisory Board is restructured to quarterly meetings and an Annual Report is required to DNR and the Legislature. There were no changes to the fundamental District funding structure. Region A will still be allocated the minimum funding amount of \$95,000 per fiscal year. The full text of the bill summary can be found at http://www.senate.mo.gov/15info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=3812970.

Environmental Reviews

Every project that will receive federal funding is required to perform some level of environmental review and an Environmental Review Record (ERR) must be created and maintained. The project must be very clearly defined with engineering or architectural work completed before the environmental review process can be finalized. Project planning should allow for at least three to six months for completion of the environmental review.

While each federal agency has its own specific requirements for what must be contained in an environmental review, they are all governed by the "National Environmental Policy Act of 1969," or NEPA. A handy place to see a more complete history of the development of the environmental review requirement is on the internet at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Environmental_Policy_Act.

The ultimate goal of the environmental review process is to prevent or mitigate possible negative effects to the environment by determining if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be developed for the project. Most municipal or county projects do not reach the scale of complexity or potential effect on the environment to warrant preparation of an EIS.

The environmental review process begins with the question "does this project lie within the requirements of NEPA or is it Exempt"? If the actions to be performed by the project are not subject to NEPA, this must be documented to the appropriate funding agency and no further environmental review actions are required.

If the project is not Exempt, the next step is to determine if it is Categorically Excluded. Certain actions may be excluded from NEPA requirements and require no further action while others may still be "subject" to other federal laws. Projects that are "subject to" require that a lower-level Statutory Checklist be performed.

Projects that are neither exempt nor categorically excluded require an Environmental Assessment. This is a comprehensive look at many environmental and human factors such as historic preservation, floodplain management, wetlands protection, coastal zone management, aquifers, endangered species, wild and scenic rivers, air and water quality, farmland protection, environmental justice, wastewater, storm water, community facilities, noise, airports, and other environmental features that might be affected by the project.

Both the Statutory Checklist and the Environmental Assessment require that input be sought from numerous governmental agencies including EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, State Historical Preservation Office, and others

including Indian tribes with potential interests in the area.

Personnel at the Regional Council of Governments are trained and skilled in the performance of these reviews. Each year we complete from five to fifteen environmental review documents, most of which range in size from five hundred up to eight hundred pages.



Big Lake awarded \$500,000 CDBG for drainage repair and dredging

The Regional Council assisted the Village of Big Lake with a Disaster Grant Application with CDBG. The Village has been recovering from the devastating floods of 2011 for the last four years. Though some improvements have been made of the last few years, the Village and Park has not totally recovered from the devastation. The application was submitted to assist with improvements to road culverts as well as helping to dredge

the lake where silt has closed in dykes. CDBG awarded a \$500,000 grant to fix a number of culverts and dredge the lake. The community and the Regional Council are excited that recovery is ongoing in the region.

Photos above were included in the review completed for the Big Lake projected funded by a CDBG grant.

Status of active grants

CDBG GRANTS	STATUS
Nodaway County Bridge-#1027	Demolition of old bridge to begin soon
Nodaway County Emergency Water	New tower site location, update environmental review, interconnections complete
Guilford New Sanitary Sewer	Under Construction
Stanberry Wastewater Treatment Facility	Design Phase/Easement Process
Sheridan—Water Distribution Improvements	Design Phase
Big Lake Dredging & Drainage Improvements	Awarded April 2015/Environmental Review/Design
FLOOD PROJECTS—HOLT COUNTY	STATUS
Levee District #15	Under Construction—95% complete

Traffic Incident Management training

Recently the Regional Council hosted an event in conjunction with the KC Scout Team. Corey Sloan (Region H SEMA Coordinator) and Bill Lamar (St. Joseph Fire Department) traveled to Maryville to teach a group of Emergency Personnel, Police, Sheriff, and MoDOT workers about traffic safety when responding to an emergency incident. The four hour training course is a hands on approach with 19 lessons to improve the safety of first responders.

The National TIM Responder Training Program was developed under the reliability focus area. The TIM training program was designed to establish the foundation for and to promote consistent training of all responders to achieve the three objectives of the TIM National Unified Goal (NUG)

Responder Safety
 Safe, Quick Clearance
 Prompt, Reliable, Interoperable Communications

The National TIM Responder Training Program was developed and reviewed by professionals from all responder disciplines and those disciplines are the target audience for the training.

At the core of many responder deaths and injuries are drivers who are inattentive, impaired, or make poor driving decisions. The National Safety Council states that, using a mobile phone while driving is the equivalent to driving impaired. And texting while driving is equivalent to driving blindfolded.

The training was attended by 10

dedicated emergency personnel members from the region and is highly recommended if training is held in your area.



Hazard Mitigation planning updates; one ends and another begins

Atchison County

Recently the Regional Council completed updates to the Atchison County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan was approved by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) with no requested amendments.

Over the last few months the Regional Council has visited all of the school districts, city and village councils in the county to

obtain signed adoption resolutions for the plan. With all resolutions passed by mid-May, the plan is finalized and has taken effect. If there were to be a natural disaster in Atchison County they are now prepared and have the ability to apply for Federal hazard mitigation grant funding, if available.

Gentry County

Updates for the Gentry County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan are just getting started. Look for press releases inviting members of the public to meeting dates in the next few weeks. The Regional Council is working diligently with the Gentry County Emergency Management Director to produce a successful update of the Gentry County Plan.



NORTHWEST MISSOURI REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Important dates

- Jun 5 Joint TAC Meeting, Trenton, 10:00 a.m., RSVP Required
- Jun 10 Solid Waste Executive Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., RCOG
Solid Waste Full Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., RCOG
- Jun 11 Great NW Wholesale Water Commission Meeting, 2 p.m., Cameron
- Jun 25 RCOG Board of Directors, Personnel Meeting, 6:00 p.m., RCOG
RCOG Board of Directors, Budget Meeting, 6:45 p.m., RCOG
RCOG Board of Directors Board Meeting, 7 p.m., RCOG
- Jul 3 RCOG and Missouri Career Center Closed, Independence Day
- Jul 8 Solid Waste Executive Board , 5:30 p.m., RCOG
- Jul 9 Great NW Wholesale Water Commission Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Cameron
- Jul 20 Nodaway County Joint Planning Task Force, 6:30 p.m., RCOG
- Jul 23 RCOG Board of Directors Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., RCOG

Transportation legislation

(Continued from page 1)

has been changed from the original 2x2x2 cent gas tax increase over the next three years with room for indexing to plan for inflation to a 1 ½ cent gas tax increase and a 3 ½ diesel gas tax increase. The legislation currently proposed would allow MoDOT to match federal funding in 2017 and continue to maintain the current system but not improve it. As the system stands something needs to be accomplished to improve the Missouri Department of Transportation funding, the next legislative session might just be what the Missouri road system needs.

