



Eastern Carolina Council

ECC Weekly Information Bulletin

August 27, 2010

Quote of the Week: Do not look for approval except for the consciousness of doing your best. *Andrew Carnegie*

New Bern hires new city manager

The City of New Bern has hired **Michael R. Epperson** as their new manager. Mr. Epperson begins his new position August 31, 2010 after having been the Deputy City Manager for Dublin, Ohio. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Epperson to eastern North Carolina and to our region.

Water/Wastewater Finance & Management staff

The North Carolina American Water Works Association and the North Carolina Water Environment Association's Finance & Management Committee is proud to announce an upcoming day-long seminar: **Working With Your Customers: Crafting Great Customer Service Policies, September 9th** at the City Hotel and Bistro in Greenville, NC. Topics to be discussed in this seminar include: *Legal Considerations of Account Management; Best Practice Account Policies; Low Income Customer Assistance Programs; Tailoring Rates to Your Customers' Needs; Communication and Stakeholder Engagement: Media Relations and New Technology; and Customer Complaint and Service Issue Response Management.* Speakers include water utility professionals, private consultants, the Environmental Finance Center, and a UNC School of Government faculty member (Kara Millonzi). Staff from utilities of *all* sizes are encouraged to register and attend. All utilities, large or small, strive to provide great customer service! To learn more and to link through to registration on the NC AWWA-WEA website, please visit: <http://www.efc.unc.edu/training/2010/WorkWithYourCustomers.html>.

Homeless Summit to be held in New Bern—Save the Date

"Thinking Outside the Cardboard Box" A summit to recognize and address homelessness in our communities will be held in New Bern on Thursday October 21, 2010 from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Garber United Methodist Church. Cost is \$10 that includes breaks and lunch. The homeless are sometimes invisible. Just because you don't see the stereotypical "bag lady" or a disheveled man with a "will work for food" sign does not mean that there are no homeless people in our communities. We invite you to participate in this event to learn how to recognize and address homelessness in your community. Those with a stake in this issue who should be represented include: School systems, Community Colleges, Colleges/Universities, Health Departments, DSS, churches and/or faith based organizations, local government, hospitals/medical centers, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, food pantries, thrift stores, ESC/Job Link Centers, law enforcement, Parks & Recreation departments, domestic violence programs & shelters, prisoner re-entry programs, VR, VA, JCPC, Habitat for Humanity, housing coalitions, CDCs, mental health professionals, businesses, etc. Finding workable and sustainable solutions together..... Please pass this information along to anyone that you think may be appropriate to attend. For information: Judy Hills jhills@eccog.org or 252.638.3185 x 3005.

EPA Brownfields grants

Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment Grants Grant

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=56734> Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants Grant <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=56735>

Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Cleanup Grants Grant

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=56736>

Improve Residential Energy Efficiency

Our most promising energy resource lies not in some new fuel or yet-to-be-invented technology, but rather in the potential to reduce demand through improvements in energy efficiency. This toolkit describes policies that can be used to reduce energy consumption in the residential sector, helping to mitigate environmental impacts, reduce utility costs, and improve home comfort . . . http://www.housingpolicy.org/toolbox/energy_efficiency.html

Training for local government—fiscal tool

The School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will hold six training sessions this fall to introduce town and county officials to a new Web-based tool for analyzing fiscal data. The County and Municipal Fiscal Analysis tool, launched in July by State Treasurer Janet Cowell in partnership with the UNC School of Government, also enables local governments to benchmark their financial performance against similar governments. The free, user-friendly tool is available on the [website](#) of the state treasurer's office. The online tool grew out of a recommendation of the Small Towns Action Council, an advisory panel the center convened in 2005 as part of the Small Towns Initiative. Composed of public officials and representatives from nonprofits and educational institutions, the council developed a 17-point public policy [action agenda](#) to support economic development in North Carolina's small towns. The Rural Center provided \$17,700 to support development of the online tool. Other sources of funding were the N.C. League of Municipalities and the N.C. Association of County Commissioners. The fiscal management tool keeps track of data such as fund balance, enterprise fund health, rate structures, balance sheets and the status of capital improvement plans over a five-year period. It was designed to promote transparency and help public officials; finance officers and North Carolina citizens better understand the economic well-being of their communities. "This level of financial transparency is unrivalled nationally," Cowell said. "It will promote better decision-making by public staff, allow for more engagement by citizens in the communities and enable better governance by elected officials." The daylong training sessions, led by faculty from the UNC School of Government, will take place: Sept. 30 in Kitty Hawk; Oct. 20 in Research Triangle Park; Oct. 28 in Winston-Salem; Nov. 4 in Asheville; Nov. 18 in Concord and Dec. 9 in Wilmington. To register for the sessions or learn more, visit the school's [website](#) or contact Deidre Lewis, program manager, at (919) 966-4171 or by e-mail at djlewis@sog.unc.edu. Visit the Rural Center website: www.ncruralcenter.org.

Rain Garden Certification Workshops

Rain Garden Certification workshops will be offered by NC State University Dept. of Biological & Agricultural Engineering and NC Cooperative Extension. This certification is awarded by NC State University Cooperative Extension. **About the workshop:** As homeowners and property managers become more aware of the issues of stormwater management many of them are choosing to manage the runoff from their homes and businesses with rain gardens. Rain gardens are shallow depression landscape features that can effectively collect and treat stormwater and reduce localized flooding. Rain gardens can be integrated into the existing landscape as a retrofit or be included in the initial landscaping plan. To effectively manage stormwater, rain gardens must be accurately sized and properly constructed. This workshop will present a simple method for sizing and designing rain gardens and detail proper construction techniques. As a result of this training you will: Understand why stormwater needs to be managed, Understand the principles of rain garden location, design, construction and maintenance, Be able to select appropriate vegetation, Tour several local rain gardens, and Be eligible to take a test at the conclusion of the training to be certified in rain garden design and construction **Workshop Dates/Locations:** October 18-19, 2010 Winston-Salem, NC. To view an **Agenda** and to **REGISTER ONLINE**, please visit our website at: <http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/stormwater/training/raingarden.html>

ICMA report, "Putting Smart Growth to Work in Rural Communities"

The International City/County Managers Association has released a new report, "Putting Smart Growth to Work in Rural Communities," which focuses on how to adapt smart growth strategies to rural communities. Funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities, the report examines the challenges rural communities face, including rapid growth at metropolitan edges, declining rural populations, and the loss of working lands. It highlights smart growth strategies that can help guide rural growth while preserving the unique rural character of existing communities. The report focuses on three central goals: 1) support the rural landscape by creating an economic climate that enhances the viability of working lands and conserves natural lands; 2) help existing places to thrive by taking care of assets and investments such as downtowns, Main Streets, existing infrastructure, and places that the community values; and 3) create great new places by building vibrant, enduring neighborhoods and communities that people, especially young people, don't want to leave. Featuring case studies from across the country, the report highlights how local governments, states, and non-profits have successfully implemented smart growth strategies to support rural lands, revitalize existing communities, and create great new places for residents and visitors. To read the full report, visit: www.icma.org/ruralsmartgrowth.

Workshops/Meetings/Events/Deadlines coming up soon

- 9/1 Webinar: Smoking in Public Places 10 to 11:30 [Register online](#)
- 9/1 PARTF workshop 9 AM to 12 PM <http://ceres.cals.ncsu.edu/surveybuilder/Form.cfm?testID=10690>
- 9/8 Development Finance Toolbox SOG Chapel Hill www.sog.unc.edu/courses/0779
- 9/9 ECC Executive Committee meeting 6:00 PM ECC office 2nd Floor Conf. Rm. mstrickland@eccog.org
- 9/9 Webinar: Arc of Economic Recovery: Is it for real? 12 to 1:30 PM <http://www.sog.unc.edu/courses/1215/>
- 9/9 NC AWWA-WEA workshop on Customer Service in Greenville
<http://www.efc.unc.edu/training/2010/WorkWithYourCustomers.html>.
- 9/16 Eastern Carolina RPO meeting 9:30 AM Spirit AeroSystems Composite Center of Excellence GTP in Kinston
mstrickland@eccog.org
- 9/18-10/2 NCDOT Fall Litter Sweep http://www.ncdot.gov/doh/operations/dp_chief_eng/roadside/Beautification/
- 9/27-28 APWA-Water Resources Division conference in Asheville [http://northcarolina.apwa.net/events/5564/`+](http://northcarolina.apwa.net/events/5564/)
- 9/28 Down East RPO meeting 9:30 AM 2nd floor Conference Room O. Marks Bldg. 233 Middle Street in New Bern
mstrickland@eccog.org
- 9/28 Low Impact Development Workshop—Pivers Island Beaufort—8:45 AM to 12:30 PM. Free.
<http://www.nccoastaltraining.net/Scheduled-Workshops/92.aspx>
- 9/29-10/1 NC American Planning Association's Annual Conference in New Bern <http://www.nc-apa.org/>
- 10/18-19 Rain Garden Certification Workshop in Winston-Salem <http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/stormwater/training/raingarden.html>
- 10/21 Homeless Summit in New Bern 9-3, Garber UMC jhills@eccog.org
- 10/26 Low Impact Development Workshop—Pivers Island Beaufort—8:45 AM to 12:30 PM. Free.
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<http://www.nccoastaltraining.net/Scheduled-Workshops/92.aspx>
- 12/31 Deadline for USDA Solid Waste Grant application <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/SWMG.htm>

Note: The material contained in this bulletin is a compilation from a number of electronic and print sources.

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