



April 14, 2017

Quote: My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference.... *Jimmy Carter*

Tiny Houses: Not So Tiny Challenges workshop filling up

ECC, in partnership with the Tiny House NC Street Festival, is proud to bring you the Tiny Houses: Not So Tiny Challenges workshop. The workshop will take place April 21st from 10:00 – 3:00 in Pink Hill (301 N. Pine Street Pink Hill, NC). This event is in conjunction with a Tiny House Festival going on in Pink Hill from April 21st – 23rd so participants will be able to actually view a number of tiny houses and talk with their designers and builders. This event is free to ECC member government representatives and is \$25 for all other interested parties. Lunch will be free for all attendees. To register send an email with pertinent information (name(s), affiliation, email address) to eccadmin@eccog.org by April 17th. Questions? Contact ECC Planning Director Patrick Flanagan at pflanagan@eccog.org or 252.638.3185 x 3031. No registrations at the door—nonrefundable payment in advance only. Make checks payable to Eastern Carolina Council and mail to PO Box 1717, New Bern, NC 28563-1717 along with the email you sent to register. This workshop has been approved for four (4) AICP CM credits. The full agenda along with speaker bios is posted on the ECC website: www.eccog.org under News & Events.

If a very small town in the ECC region can do it, you can do it too!

ECC is constantly pitching the need for planning, especially for small rural towns. You can't move forward if you don't know what you need or want to achieve. We were very surprised and gratified when we went to the Town of Mesic's (Pamlico County—Pop. 215) Board meeting to help the town citizens decide on features for a new park. Mayor Booker T. Jones, Jr. whipped out a large chart of the town's basic goals for each of a number of categories (recreation, economic development, etc.). He pointed to the one on recreation to indicate how the presentation tied back to the goals. Now THAT was truly impressive! We invite you to talk to Mayor Booker T. Jones, Jr. about why and how Mesic developed their goals. bj739@embarqmail.com ECC is available to assist member governments with this process. Contact ECC Planning Director Patrick at pflanagan@eccog.org

Assistance to Firefighters Grants

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grants Programs Directorate is responsible for the implementation and administrations of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program. The purpose of the AFG Program is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The Grants Programs Directorate administers the Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grants as part of the AFG Program. FP&S offers grants to support activities in two categories: (1) activities designed to reach high-risk target groups and mitigate incidences of death and injuries caused by fire and fire-related hazards ("Fire Prevention and Safety Activity") and (2) research and development activities aimed at improving firefighter safety ("Firefighter Safety Research and Development Activity"). The program guidance document provides potential applicants with the details of the requirements, processing, and evaluation of an application for financial assistance for both of these activity areas. <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=293099>

SOG Public Employment Law Update to be held May 12, 2017

Live presentation in Chapel Hill with a videoconference in Cullowhee. This course provides an in-depth analysis of current issues in public employment law and an overview of the previous year's developments. The course is open to

state and local government employees and affiliated organizations who have responsibilities for human resource functions and to attorneys in private practice who represent public sector clients in employment matters. Click to read

New Stormwater rules effective January 1, 2017

You are probably aware that new stormwater rules went into effect Jan. 1, 2017. The past three months have been a transitional time for stormwater professionals as the N.C. Stormwater Program has worked to update our Stormwater Design Manual, Supplement Forms and other materials to reflect the new rules. We thank everyone for their patience during this time. We are pleased to announce that the Stormwater Design Manual has now been completely drafted and is available on our web site. For the remainder of 2017, we will be improving it frequently as we receive suggestions and questions from the public, so you may wish to hold off on printing the entire manual. The manual is designed to be compatible with screens and it contains many useful links, so we encourage you to consider not printing it but rather viewing it on your computer, laptop or tablet from here forward. Please be aware that the Minimum Design Criteria (MDC) for each Stormwater Control Measure (SCM) are now codified in rules and that the manual is technical guidance for complying with the rules. Therefore, when the N.C. stormwater staff improves the manual, this does not change the design criteria but rather provides better guidance on how to meet the rule requirements. Some other highlights: "Supplement-EZ" is replacing the old Supplement Forms. It is updated per the new rules and is available on the Stormwater Design Manual web site. Also, N.C. State University and the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality have teamed up to offer 1.5-day "Welcome to the MDC" workshops. The currently advertised workshops are full, but additional workshops will be opening soon. Any suggestions or questions related to the new rules, manual or other technical stormwater matters can be directed to Annette Lucas at annette.lucas@ncdenr.gov or (919) 807-6381.

SOG one-day workshop--Register Now for Working with Citizen Advisory Committees and Boards

One of the most common and substantive ways citizen participation in local government occurs is through service on appointed advisory committees (CACs) and boards (also sometimes called commissions or task forces). While some CACs are statutorily mandated, most are created at the discretion of governing boards in order to provide community input for various local government functions. WHAT: Working with Citizen Advisory Committees and Boards WHEN: May 5, 2017 WHERE: UNC School of Government. This one-day workshop explores promising practices of non-mandated, local government citizen advisory committees and boards. Participants will learn about important nuts-and-bolts, including clarifying roles and expectations; recruiting, appointing, and training volunteers; staffing and managing committee work; and evaluating CAC effectiveness. Participants will also contribute to the learning by completing a pre-workshop survey and participating in a collaborative learning exercise to identify key issues and share promising practices from their experience. Program facilitators will prepare a workshop report that will be distributed to all participants soon afterward. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and register!

2017 Federal report on abandoned and derelict vessels

On March 28, 2017, the US Government Accountability Office issued its final report on abandoned and derelict vessels, entitled Maritime Environment: Federal and State Actions, Expenditures, and Challenges to Addressing Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (GAO-17-202). Here is the link to the report: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-202>

Beneficial Prescribed Burns Continue Across North Carolina

In an effort to improve wildlife habitat in N.C., the Wildlife Resources Commission continues to conduct prescribed burns on game lands across the state. Prescribed burns, also known as controlled burns, are one of the most beneficial and cost-effective methods for managing and improving habitat for wildlife. This simple and effective management tool helps the Commission restore and maintain wildlife habitat on nearly 2 million acres of game lands.

Many of North Carolina's declining or rare wildlife species like the Red-cockaded woodpecker and the Bachman's sparrow are adapted to fire or can only survive in fire-assisted habitat. Burning encourages production of native grasses and herbaceous vegetation, which provide valuable food and cover for a wide variety of wildlife species including kestrels, deer and fox squirrels. Prescribed burns are also used to reduce high levels of forest fuels (such as leaf litter and pine straw) that can cause deadly wildfires. Fire was a natural occurrence in North Carolina to which animals have adapted. While conducting necessary prescribed burns, the Commission employs safety measures to help protect native wildlife by using burning techniques that ensure animals have time and room to escape. Wind conditions, humidity, time of year and other variables are factored in to reduce the effects of smoke on people, nesting birds and other wildlife.

After an area is burned, exposed insects and seeds are available for birds and rodents to forage while quality new vegetation typically returns within a few weeks, providing cover and nutrients to a wide array of wildlife species. For more information on prescribed burns, view [No Cause for Alarm](#) and visit [Prescribed Fire: What NC Citizens Need to Know](#). For a schedule of prescribed burns planned for 2017, visit www.ncwildlife.org/fire. For details on the Commission's game lands program, including an interactive game land map, visit www.ncwildlife.org/gamelands.

2017 predicted to be a below-average Atlantic hurricane season

Colorado State University hurricane researchers are predicting a slightly below-average Atlantic hurricane season in 2017, citing the potential development of El Niño as well as recent anomalous cooling in the tropical Atlantic as primary factors. A weak La Niña this past winter has dissipated and there is the potential that a weak to moderate El Niño could develop by the peak of the Atlantic hurricane season, according to the report. Satellite image of Hurricane Earl, from the 2016 Atlantic hurricane season. (Courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

El Niño tends to increase upper-level westerly winds across the Caribbean into the tropical Atlantic, tearing apart hurricanes as they try to form. A cooling in the tropical Atlantic over the past month could also provide a more stable atmosphere as well as drier air moving into hurricane season, both of which suppress organized thunderstorm activity necessary for hurricane development. The CSU Tropical Meteorology Project team is predicting 11 named storms during the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season. Of those, researchers expect four to become hurricanes and two to reach major hurricane strength (Saffir/Simpson category 3-4-5), with sustained winds of 111 miles per hour or greater. The article goes on to describe the predictions but reminds us that it only takes one storm to make landfall and cause significant damage (e.g., Hurricane Matthew). [Click here to read more...](#)

Public May Comment on CDBG Disaster Recovery Plan

The state is welcoming public comment on its [Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\) Disaster Recovery Action Plan](#) for use of nearly \$200 million meant for eastern North Carolina communities' critical housing and economic development needs following Hurricane Matthew. "We still have a long way to go before those devastated by the storm are whole again but (state) grants and this action plan are key steps to get us there," Gov. Roy Cooper said in [a release about the plan](#). The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which administers CDBG, has appropriated \$198.5 million in disaster recovery funds for North Carolina. [Click here](#) and scroll down to access the forms for filing public comments about the planned use of those funds, which includes addressing the lack of affordable housing in the storm-torn communities of Edgecombe, Wayne, Robeson and Cumberland counties.

Coastal Resilience and other resiliency ideas

CoastalResilience.org – Coastal Resilience is a program led by The Nature Conservancy to examine nature's role in reducing coastal flood risk. The program consists of an approach, a web mapping tool, and a network of practitioners around the world supporting hazard mitigation and climate adaptation planning. For more resiliency resources: <http://nrcsolutions.org/resources/>

Using Nature to Address Flooding

We've created this guide of nature-based solutions and included case studies of successful projects from across the country to help communities learn more and identify which nature-based solutions might work for them. What Are Nature-Based Solutions? Nature offers a powerful set of tools for addressing hazards like flooding and erosion. Nature-based solutions use natural systems, mimic natural processes, or work in tandem with traditional approaches to address these specific hazards. Communities across the country— along rivers or coasts, large or small, rural or urban— can incorporate nature-based solutions in local planning, zoning, regulations, and built projects to help reduce their exposure to flood and erosion impacts . . . <http://nrcsolutions.org/>

ECC offers a number of services at reduced cost for member governments. Contact ECC if you need a price for these services. pflanagan@eccog.org

- Posting of county and municipal jobs on the ECC website (free to member governments)
- Asset mapping and management plans to meet grantor requirements for infrastructure funding
- Maps (all sizes);
- Digitizing of existing paper maps;

- Special studies (e.g., pay classification);
- Staffing for planning and zoning boards;
- GPS services;
- GIS mapping services;
- Mapping water, sewer and stormwater systems
- Map scanning (will make that ratty looking map look almost new and give you a digital copy);
- Surveys (citizen, special issue, employee, P&R);
- Various types of plans (P&R, revitalization, redevelopment, business development, etc.);
- Interim help (finance, planning);
- Staff training (communication, customer service, team building, managing employees, grant writing, grant management, etc.)
- Executive Searches (managers, executive directors, police chiefs, etc.)
- Assistance in determining eligibility for Economic Development Administration (EDA) infrastructure grants

Workshops/Meetings/Events/Webinars/Deadlines coming up soon

- 4/14 Good Friday Holiday—ECC office closed
- 4/18 Census LUCA workshop at ECC office 2 PM pflanagan@eccog.org
- 4/19 NC APWA Stormwater workshop in Greensboro 10 to 2. <http://northcarolina.apwa.net/EventDetails/11371>
- 4/21 Tiny House Workshop for planners—in Pink Hill, 10 to 3 with lunch www.eccog.org pflanagan@eccog.org
- 4/23-26 NCAFPM 2017 Annual Conference in Atlantic Beach <http://www.ncafpm.org/index.html>
- 4/26-27 Effective Planning workshop in Beaufort [Agenda](#) [Registration](#)
- 4/28 Applications due to Division of Water Infrastructure for spring 2017 funding round, Click [here](#)
- 5/1 SOG Public Executive Leadership Academy deadline to register [click here](#)
- 5/5 SOG workshop Working with Citizen Advisory Boards . Click [HERE](#) to learn more and register
- 5/9 NC Rural Center Rural Day
- 5/28 DERPO TAC meeting at ECC 2nd Floor Conf. Room 10:00 AM pflanagan@eccog.org
- 5/11 ECC Executive Committee meeting 6:00 PM ECC office—2nd floor conference room lmorgan@eccog.org
- 5/12 SOG Public Employment Law update in Chapel Hill and Cullowhee [Click to read](#)
- 5/18 ECRPO TCC and TAC meeting—LaGrange Community Center 9:30 AM pflanagan@eccog.org
- 5/23 DERPO TCC meeting at ECC 2nd Floor Conf. Room 10:00 AM pflanagan@eccog.org
- 5/29 Memorial Day Holiday—ECC office closed
- 5/30 DERPO TAC meeting at ECC 2nd Floor Conf. Room 10:00 AM pflanagan@eccog.org
- 6/8 ECC General Membership Meeting 6:00 PM ECC office 2nd floor conference room lmorgan@eccog.org
- 6/14 Financial Fiduciary responsibilities of elected officials in Carthage 9 to noon Click [here](#) to Register
- 6/30 NC DCM Planning and Management grant applications due from CAMA counties [online](#)
- 11/3-4 NC Bike Summit in Wilmington <http://www.bikewalknc.org/nc-bicycle-summit/>

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

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