

# NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST



SPRING 2009

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

Issue 14, No. 2

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## DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM HELPS WORKERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS

The Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Government's workforce development staff offers services to workers who have lost their jobs due to a permanent lay-off or closure of a business. The Dislocated Worker Program is available to provide eligible customers an opportunity to work with a staff member one-on-one to reach their individual educational and employment goals. The Dislocated Worker Program is not a job placement program. Instead, it offers customers assistance with identifying appropriate in-demand careers and job opportunities based on their skills, interests, and work requirements that will provide wages to support a family.

Regional Council workforce development staff can assist customers with the following services to help them find

employment or attend training:

**Job Search Assistance** through the evaluation or

creation of resumes and cover letters, interview preparation, and advice on how to complete applications;

**Individualized Career Planning Assessment** of an individual's work skills, interests and values.

**Assistance with the costs associated with:**

**Occupational Skills Training:** for occupations that are in-demand;

**On-the Job Training:** to assist an employer with training a newly hired person for a job.

The Dislocated Worker Program is operated through the Missouri Career Center located at 1212B South Main in Maryville in partnership with



**MISSOURI  
Career Center**  
*Where talent and opportunities meet*

the Northwest Workforce Investment Board. The Dislocated Worker Program is a federally funded program through the Workforce Investment Act. All customer services through the Dislocated Worker Program must meet eligibility criteria to participate. For more information about the Dislocated Worker Program and other programs operated through the Missouri Career Center in Maryville, please contact Kim Mildward at 660-582-8980 or 1-800-711-5408.

## Did You Know?

The Neighborhood Assistance Program can help community organizations implement projects relating to...

- ...education
- ...community service
- ...crime prevention
- ...job training
- ...physical revitalization

Check out page 3 to find out if your project qualifies for this program, or

contact Arnie Kreek, Economic Development Planner, at

660-582-5121.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ahhhh, Springtime – the birds are chirping, the trees are blooming, and the sound of grants being written fills the air. The first quarter of any new calendar year is what we call “grant season” around the Regional Council. One of our primary funding programs, the Missouri Department of

Economic Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), has a number of application deadlines during April and May. During the winter and spring, our grant writers work tirelessly to put together projects to better northwest Missouri. This year, the Regional Council submitted six CDBG

applications on behalf of five communities and one non-profit organization across northwest Missouri. In addition, earlier this year CDBG issued a call for projects that were impacted by 2008's severe flooding.

(Continued on page 4)

## COMPOSTING WORKSHOP HELD

This spring, the Regional Council, Solid Waste Management District, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources sponsored a free composting workshop designed for a beginning level group interested in learning the basic fundamentals of composting. The workshop was attended by 32 participants from around



Jim Crawford demonstrates how to properly use the compost bins.

northwest Missouri and was held at the Maryville Community Center. Each participant who preregistered received a free composting bin to utilize their newly acquired skills. Jim Crawford and Tom Fowler with the University of Missouri Extension led the seminar. The workshop covered the benefits of compost, what materials may be composted, the composting process, construction and care of the compost pile, and how to build a compost bin.

Composting is a great avenue to dispose of leaves, grass clippings, and other garden refuse, particularly in urban areas. Missouri law bans these materials from

landfills, so it has become even more important to find environmentally sound disposal. These byproducts of the garden and landscape can be turned into useful compost with no more effort than it takes to bag and haul them away. Home composters avoid hauling or utility costs associated with centralized composting facilities and end up with a valuable soil conditioner or mulch for the landscape or garden. Reusing organic wastes protects our water, air, land, and energy resources.

For more information on composting, please visit <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swmp/composting/compost1.htm>.

“Composting is a great avenue to dispose of leaves, grass clippings, and other garden refuse.”

## DISTRICT-WIDE COLLECTIONS

In May, the residents from the five-county region had the opportunity to dispose of household hazardous waste and electronic waste at a facility in their area. The collections were held at the Holt County and Nodaway County Maintenance Barns on the first two Saturdays of the month. Volunteers from the Regional Council and county helped residents unload their waste to be properly disposed of by Clean Harbors Environmental Services.

The goal for the collections was to divert at least 15 tons of waste material from the local waste stream. There were 247 cars that participated in the two

events and the amount of waste collected makes meeting the diversion goal look favorable. Both drop-off points collected a large volume of electronic waste, largely due to the digital television conversion process.



Electronic wastes, such as car batteries and TV's were collected for proper disposal.

Other waste collected in large volume included paint, oil, pesticides, aerosols, batteries,

and fluorescent light bulbs.

The District is able to offer the collections free to the residents of each county through a grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The District encourages residents to properly dispose of all waste materials. The District holds collection events throughout the year to help ensure banned and recyclable materials do not enter the local waste stream. For more information on upcoming collections, contact Denise Workman 660-582-5121 or email [denise@nwmorcog.org](mailto:denise@nwmorcog.org).

## WATER PARTNERSHIP TRANSITIONS TO GREAT NORTHWEST WHOLESALE WATER COMMISSION

For more than three years, the Water Partnership for Northwest Missouri has worked to develop a vision that could meet the water needs of region. That vision is a water transmission grid, connecting population centers, communities, water districts, and water sources together for the purpose of ensuring that every northwest Missourian has access to abundant, clean drinking water regardless of drought, ground water reduction, or local treatment plant failure. With that plan in place, the project now moves into its second phase: construction and implementation.

The Water Partnership held its final meeting on March 24, 2009, signaling the successful completion of the broad planning phase of a regional water transmission project. Since that meeting, a transition

subcommittee has been working on the formation of a new entity known as the

Great Northwest Wholesale Water Commission (GNWWC). The formation of this new organization will allow the water project to move from the conceptual to the realized, with pipes in the ground and water flowing to those water retailers with a need and desire to purchase potable water from the wholesale commission.

To date, six water systems have signed on to be a part of the GNWWC - the City of Albany, the City of Maysville, the City of Plattsburg, Buchanan county PWS #1, Andrew County PWS #1 and #2, and the City of Savannah - with many additional systems currently considering membership.



Initial membership in the GNWWC provides a seat on the Board of Directors and the opportunity to influence the construction priorities and phases as the commission is established. Membership is available for an introductory rate of \$3 per water meter per year, with a three year commitment required. The first full membership meeting of the GNWWC is scheduled for June 11, 2009. For more information about the GNWWC, please visit <http://water.nwmcog.org> or contact Tye Parsons at the Regional Council.

**“Six water systems voted to become a part of the GNWWC.”**

## 2009 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Missouri Department of Economic Development 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.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

After eight months of discussion, consideration, and hard work, the first drafts of the Atchison and



Gentry County Hazard Mitigation Plans were submitted to the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) for their review on March 27, 2009. The original plans were written in 2004 and are required to be updated every five years. The most significant alteration in these updated plans was the addition of school district

participation. Each school district in the counties worked with RCOG staff to complete an All-Hazards Plan for inclusion in the county plans. Our sincere thanks to all the city and county employees, school principals and superintendents, and volunteers who helped coordinate, research, and evaluate these plans.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

*Continued from page 1*

In February, the Regional Council submitted seven bridge and drainage projects to this program from Atchison, Gentry, and Worth counties.

In a normal year, the Regional Council's grant writing slows down quite a bit as we approach the summer months. However, 2009 is anything but a "normal" year. Largely as a result of the federal stimulus package (also known as the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (ARRA)), various state and federal programs are receiving new or increased funding which, in turn, has led to a greater number of grant applications requested from our member governments. Currently, our staff is working on a number of applications to the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Neighborhood Assistance Program, U.S. Economic Development Administration's Technical Assistance Program, and CDBG's open-cycle water and wastewater program.

One of the more challenging aspects of ARRA is the shortened timeframe imposed on stimulus dollars. As state and federal agencies are pushed to quickly obligate the new funds, program details are released quickly, and often revised soon thereafter. Simply keeping track of the available funds and programs is a challenge in and of itself. We know, for example, that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources will be implementing an Energy Efficiency Block Grant using ARRA dollars, but program guidelines aren't expected to be released until late in the summer.

One of the more common questions I receive in regard to ARRA funding is whether a project must truly be "shovel-ready" in order to be considered for stimulus funding. While the answer varies from agency to agency, the general rule of thumb is that ARRA funds must be *obligated* by September 30, 2010. This means that even a project that is only in a conceptual phase may still be eligible to

receive ARRA funding if they are able to meet all of the programmatic requirements before the end of the Federal FY2010. For a water or wastewater project interested in USDA funds, for example, a community must complete preliminary engineering, pass a bond (if required), and ensure their water/sewer rates meet 2% of the median household income. ARRA has not circumvented any grant processes; rather, it has made more funding available in a shorter timeframe. If your community is interested in funding for any infrastructure project, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can take advantage of ARRA and continue to improve northwest Missouri.

**Tye Parsons**  
Executive Director

Be sure to check out our website for information on all of the activities going on in northwest Missouri!

[www.nwmorcog.org](http://www.nwmorcog.org)

## MISSOURI TRANSPORTATION IN 2009

2009 has already proven to be a busy year for transportation in Missouri. MoDOT's Safe and Sound bridge program, which rehabilitates dilapidated bridges on state routes, has begun in earnest in Northwest Missouri. Construction on three identified bridges in Atchison and Nodaway County began in April, with three additional bridges in Atchison, Gentry, and Nodaway counties scheduled to begin construction within three months. Sixty-four bridges in the five county area are included in the Safe and Sound Bridge Program.

With the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), transportation in Missouri and around the nation has received an influx of funding designed to create jobs and much needed infrastructure. Missouri was proud to be the

first state in the nation to break ground on an ARRA transportation project - the Osage River bridge located near Tuscumbia. A number of projects have been identified in MoDOT District 1, including one of 34 major projects in the state - the reconditioning of the Brownville Bridge in Atchison County. The following projects are anticipated for the NWMORCOG area:

- **Atchison County** – Route 111 will receive a thin lift overlay from Route 136 to I-29.
- **Atchison County** – Route 59 will receive a thin lift overlay from Route 136 to the Iowa state line.
- **Atchison County** – Route O will receive a thin lift overlay from Route C to Route 136.



- **Nodaway County** – Route 246 will receive a thin lift overlay from Route 148 to Route E.
- **Cold-in-place Recycling** on a number of routes throughout the region. (Work on these projects will be completed on as many of these identified routes as funds become available.)
  - 1) **Gentry County** – Route H
  - 2) **Nodaway County** – Routes EE, H, and W
  - 3) **Worth County** – Routes W and YY



For more information on transportation planning across Northwest Missouri, contact Dana Ternus, at [Dana @nwmorcog.org](mailto:@nwmorcog.org)

## JOINT TAC TRAINING HELD

Each spring for the past few years, the Transportation Advisory Committees (TACs) in MoDOT District 1 have enjoyed the opportunity to meet, network, and share information about transportation needs in Northwest Missouri. The Northwest Missouri Regional Council, Mo-Kan Regional Council, and Green Hills Regional Planning Commission continued this tradition with the Fourth Annual MoDOT District 1

Joint TAC training on May 15, 2009 at Lake Viking near Gallatin. District 1 Engineer



This year's Joint TAC training was held at Lake Viking near Gallatin.

Don Wichern discussed the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) and its

impact upon transportation in Missouri. The ongoing challenge of funding Missouri transportation was presented by Eric Curtit, MoDOT's Long Range Transportation Planning Coordinator. To conclude the meeting, the executive directors from all three regional planning organizations introduced Google Earth and its implementation in the TAC process for needs identification in Fiscal Year 2010.

## ***REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY TAC COMMITTEE***

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) met on January 6 and April 7, 2009 to prioritize the needs of northwest Missouri. 45 sites were submitted by committee members in late 2008 for consideration. These sites were compiled into a virtual tour - a presentation with photographs of each identified need. After viewing each site, the committee ranked each site on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the best condition and 5 being the worst condition. The results of rankings were tabulated, released, and finalized at the April 7th

meeting.

The Top 10 list of Northwest Missouri identified transportation needs are:

- 1) Gentry County Route UU
- 2) Nodaway County Route B
- 3) Worth County Route B
- 4) Worth County Route Z
- 5) Gentry County Route AA
- 6) Holt County Route BB
- 7) Holt County Route 120
- 8) Worth County Route W
- 9) Gentry County Route M
- 10) Worth County – Route 46 Isadora Bridge

Though these sites were selected as the most

essential, the compiled list in its entirety was submitted to MoDOT for consideration in the next Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan.



**Gentry County Route AA is one of the ten sites identified for consideration.**

**To find more information on helping your community, visit [www.missouridevelopment.org](http://www.missouridevelopment.org)**

## ***2009 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM***

*(Continued from page 3)*

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,

**Ineligible program applicants include:**

- Units of government, political subdivisions and taxing districts,
- Churches,
- Faith-based organizations that do not meet criteria,
- Partisan organizations,

-Public or tuition-based private education institutions,

-Multiple organizations sharing more than 50% of their board members in common,

-Organizations with an existing NAP project.

**Eligible Donors:** Application Procedure  
Businesses only - individuals who operate a sole proprietorship, operate a farm, have rental property or have royalty income are also eligible, as well as a shareholder in an S-corporation, a partner in a Partnership or a member of a Limited Liability Corporation.

**Eligible Use of Tax Credits:** This tax credit can be applied to:

- Ch. 143 – Income tax, excluding withholding tax,
- Ch. 147 – Corporate franchise

- tax,
- Ch. 148 – Bank Tax Insurance Premium tax, or Other Financial Institution Tax ,
- Ch. 153 – Express Companies Tax

Applications for Fiscal 2010 became available online on April 1, 2009 and can be completed by the applicant organization. If you are interested in further information on this topic, you can go to the Department of Economic Development website at [www.missouridevelopment.org](http://www.missouridevelopment.org) or contact Arnie Kreek, Economic Development Planner at the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments at 660-582-5121.

# GRANT STATUS

## CDBG GRANTS

Oregon Waterline	Construction 100% Complete – Close out
Holt County New Health Building	Construction 25% Complete
Worth County New Elevator	Bid Accepted, Starting Construction
City of Maryville/Children & Family Center	Advertising for Construction Bids
Clearmont Water Tower Improvements	Design Phase

## EPA GRANTS

Oregon Waterline	Construction 100% Complete - Close out
Albany New Water Tower	Construction 80% complete
Atchison County Water Commission Water Distribution Lines	Planning/Design Phase

## DED-ACTION LOAN FUNDS

CMC	Working Capital
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## DED GRANTS-TAX CREDITS

Atchison County Memorial Building – Renovations	95% of contributions have been received Construction 40% Complete
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## HUD/EDI

Atchison County Memorial Building – Renovations	Construction 40% Complete
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## EDA GRANT

Polk Township	Road Improvements for CMC
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## DNR RURAL WATER GRANTS

Albany New Water Tower	Construction 80% Complete
Hopkins Interconnection to PWSD #1 of Nodaway County & Water Plant Maintenance	Advertising for Bids
Burlington Junction Interconnection to PWSD #1 of Nodaway County & New Water Plant	Design Phase
Clearmont Interconnection to PWSD #1 of Nodaway County	Design Phase



**“Collection boxes are available in each county courthouse for recycling household batteries.”**



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This newsletter was prepared in part through a planning grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce (60% Federal, 40% Local Match), the Economic Development Administration, the Missouri Office of Administration, and from local membership dues and contracts for services. *NEWS from the NORTHWEST* is published quarterly at the NWMORCOG office, located at 114 W. Third St., Maryville, MO 64468. Questions or comments should be directed to Tye Parsons at the RCOG office, (660-582-5121), or by E-mail at [tye@nwmorcog.org](mailto:tye@nwmorcog.org).

## ***REGIONAL COUNCIL HELPS BRING NEW MANUFACTURER TO NORTHWEST MISSOURI***

The Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments, in partnership with Nodaway County Economic Development, the City of Maryville, and Nodaway County, has been working for several months to bring Carbolytic Materials Company (CMC) to northwest Missouri. CMC is a start-up company that utilizes new "green" technology to completely recycle old tires (tire shred). The process, which uses low-heat to chemically reduce the tire shred into base components, results in the reclamation of nearly 100% of the materials that go into making a tire. Some of the materials recovered include Carbon Black, an industrial tinting compound, and natural gas, which is used to help power the CMC manufacturing facility.

The Regional Council worked on a number of projects in support of CMC. When the company first

announced their intent to locate in Maryville, the Regional Council began exploring infrastructure funding options and completed an environmental review to support those efforts. In



**The plant will manufacturer ApexCM™, an alternative to Carbon Black.**

addition, the Regional Council was successful in applying for an infrastructure grant from the United States Economic Development Administration to assist Polk Township in constructing a concrete road to

the site of the new CMC plant. Finally, the Regional Council continues to work with CMC and the Missouri Department of Economic Development on a CDBG Action Loan Fund project which provides gap capital funding for the company.

Construction on the new plant is currently underway in the industrial park located just east of Maryville. CMC is in the process of hiring a number of positions to work both in the new manufacturing plant and in their research laboratory, located in the Northwest Center of Innovation and Entrepreneurship on the campus of Northwest Missouri State University.