

New Immigration Law and Sewer Treatment Testing Costs Highlight March Agenda

The March 25, 2009, Regional Planning Commission meeting will feature discussions of Missouri's new immigration law which became effective January 9, 2009, and the requirements and associated costs for operation of municipal sewage treatment facilities.

The Missouri General Assembly enacted House Bill 1549 and it was signed by the Governor on July 7, 2008, becoming effective January 1, 2009. Among other things, this bill prohibits employers from

employing illegal aliens. The provisions of HB 1549 also have direct and indirect effects on Missouri local governments. A representative of Missouri Attorney General's office will be reviewing the immigration law with the MidMO RPC membership at the March meeting.

Staff representatives of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources will lead a discussion on wastewater treatment options and testing requirements for communities. MoDNR will present of

overview of current programs and funding assistance and wastewater requirements. A portion of this discussion will focus on alternatives for communities with populations from 100 to 1,000. As these small communities have a small customer base, they are limited in how much revenue they can generate with monthly sewer bills. Increased operational and testing costs are now straining these municipalities financial capacity.

Announcements, Conference, and Grant Opportunities

State Emergency Management Agency Selects Leadership - Missouri Department of Public Safety Director John H. Britt has selected Paul Parmenter as the new Director of the Emergency Management Agency, and Tim Diemler as Deputy Director. Parmenter's experience includes 29 years with the Missouri Highway Patrol, while Diemler served as Callaway County's Emergency Management Director from 1995 to 2006. Both individuals began their duties on Monday, March 2.

Heartland Conference 2009 - Preparing the Missouri Workforce-March 31- April 2, Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City. The Heartland Conference will present a comprehensive technical assistance and training event to support economic recovery in the Midwest through the exchange of innovative ideas and practices; the display of cutting-edge tools and technology; and the sharing and analysis of the latest new information from the new Administration. Register on-line at www.theeventconn.com

Primary Safety Belt Rally- March 4 Participants will gather at the Third Floor Rotunda from 8:00 am to 9:40 am prior to the Press Conference at the House Lounge from 9:45 am to 10:15 am. Speakers include Rep. Bill Deeken, HB 655 Sponsor. **MoSourceLink - Linking Missouri's Business Partners** MoSourceLink is a resources database directory linking entrepreneurs and business owners in Missouri to the variety of resource agencies that are available. www.mosourcelink.com

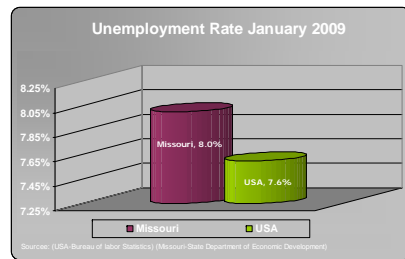
Calendar

March 11 - Moniteau County Economic Development Council meeting. Noon. CoMO Electric Co-op Community Room, Tipton.

March 25 - Transportation Advisory Committee. Ashland. 4:30 pm. Followed by MidMO RPC Annual Dinner at the Copper Kettle Restaurant at 6:00 pm.

March 13 - Mid Mo Section - American Planning Association. 2:00 pm. MidMO Regional Planning Commission Office.

March 25 - Mid Mo RPC Meeting. Ashland. 6:00. Ashland. Copper Kettle Restaurant Contact the MidMO RPC office at 573.657.9779 for additional information or to RSVP.



Missouri seasonally adjusted unemployment rate
Historical High Unemployment Rate-April 1983 at 10.5%
Historical Low Unemployment Rate-Jan 2000 at 2.5%
January 2009 rate was 8.0%



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The Current

Connecting the Cities and Counties of the Mid-Missouri Region

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Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission

March 2009

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009 Assistance to Missouri Communities

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, into law*. It has been projected that this Act will create or save 3.5 million jobs nationally over the next two years. According to information released by the White House, 69,000 of these jobs will be in Missouri.

For the most part, funding for stimulus projects will be identified and accessed through various state departments such as the Missouri Department of Transportation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Reinvestment funds to the **State of Missouri** that have been identified that may assist local governments include:



Infrastructure

- \$38.2 million through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to address the backlog of drinking water needs.
- \$110 million through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund to address the backlog of clean water infrastructure needs.
- \$637.1 million in Highway Funding to be used for projects under the Federal-aid Highway Program Surface Transportation Program.
- \$85.1 million in Transit Formula Funding for investments in mass transit.

- \$47.9 million through the Public Housing Capitol Fund to enable local public housing agencies to address such issues as improving efficiency in aging developments.
- \$39 million in HOME Funding to allow state and local government, in partnership with community-based organizations, to acquire, construct, and rehabilitate affordable housing and provide rental assistance to poor families.

Energy

- \$60.0 million through the State Energy Program, which provides technical and financial assistance to state and local governments.
- \$125 million through the Weatherization Assistance Program, providing energy efficiency upgrades to low-income Missourians through Community Action Agencies.

Infrastructure

Nearly 1/3 of all the funds in the Reinvestment Act are available only on a competitive basis. States will compete to access extensive funds to grow their economies in a number of different ways. Some of the topics which are applicable to Missouri local governments for which grants are available, and the **national totals** for which states will be competing include:

Environment

- \$375 million for projects on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.
- \$200 million for underground petroleum clean-up.
- \$210 million for state and local governments for projects to reduce diesel emissions.

Energy

- \$2.5 billion for research and development of alternative energies, including \$800 million for biomass and \$400 million for geothermal.
- \$3.5 billion for energy efficient renovations of Section 8 housing projects.

Public Safety

- \$225 million for State and law Enforcement Grants.
- \$125 million for Rural Law Enforcement Assistance, including drug interdiction.
- \$290 million to upgrade readiness facilities for the Missouri National Guard.
- \$250 million for state grants for volunteer fire assistance.

Broadband and other Infrastructure

- \$2.5 billion for expansion funds set aside for underserved rural areas to administered through USDA.
- \$50 million public works projects through Economic Adjustment Assistance Program (EDA)

The State of Missouri has created a website <http://transform.mo.gov> to assist Missourians with information and resources regarding The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. For additional information or questions regarding stimulus funds, please contact the MidMO RPC staff.



RHSOC Selects Grant Activities for FY08 Grant Cycle

The Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee met on February 10th to finalize the FY08 grant activities. All fifteen discipline representatives were present for the selection process. At this meeting, the committee discussed the various projects and how each would impact the regional needs in emergency response situations. The committee selected the top eight ranked projects for grant funding in the amount of \$623,799. The RHSOC's recommendation was then

approved by the Mid Missouri Regional Planning Commission's Executive Board. The MidMO RPC submitted these projects to the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) on February 26, 2009, for funding approval.

The following lists of eight projects were submitted to SEMA according to the RHSOC selection process.

1. Continuation of sheltering development and mass care volunteers.
2. Volunteer disaster training and education database.
3. Two XD-2i explosive detectors and hand held Raman Spectrometer.
4. Portable generators for region.
5. Functional exercise to test points of distribution / mass prophylaxis.
6. ½ ton 4X4 pick-up-truck.
7. Robotic platform for chemical/radiological detection and flash resistant uniforms.
8. Training and exercises for region F Incident Support Team.

Missouri Department of Conservation Training

On February 10, Mid-MO RPC co-hosted a seminar titled "Distinguishing your Community by its Natural Resources" with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Missouri Association of Councils of Government (MACOG). The event was held at the Conservation Credit Union in Jefferson City and featured presentations from Doug Hermes of MACOG, Mark Duewell of the Missouri Spatial Data Information Service (MSDIS), Patti Banks of Patti Banks Associates, and Steve Westin of MDC.

Attendants of the event included a Columbia contingent, consisting of Mayor Darwin Hindman and representatives of the City Council and Planning and Zoning Board. The City of Fayette and the Department of Natural Resources were also represented at the seminar.

RPC Executive Director Ed Siegmund welcomed those in attendance before Hermes presented on the incorporation of "tree and natural resource focused principles and policies" in local planning efforts. This was followed by engagement and discussion about the region's development concerns and importance threatened natural resources. Mark Duewell of

MSDIS spoke about the process and benefits of Columbia's Natural Resources Inventory and the importance of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Patti Banks presented information about development and community design patterns that can help preserve existing



natural resources and take pressure off of threatened resources. Finally, MDC's Steve Westin informed those in attendance about forest management programs offered by the department.

MACOG also held similar events in Kansas City, St. Charles, Rolla, and Springfield.



Transportation Updates

- The New Franklin Viaduct on Rte 5 over the MKT Trail is scheduled to be let for removal September 25, 2009.
- The Glasgow Hwy 240 Bridge over the Missouri River is on schedule. Construction is set to be completed by August, 2009.
- The Hwy 17 Bridge over the Osage River near Tuscumbia in Miller County was the first transportation project to be awarded and begin construction following the president's signature of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Replacing the bridge will cost \$8.5 million.
- The Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission will hold its regular Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 4:30 pm, at the Copper Kettle Restaurant in Ashland. Topics of discussion will include the Mid-Missouri Region Transportation Project List and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Annual Audit Reviewed by Board of Directors

Each year, the Mid Missouri Regional Planning Commission contracts with an independent auditing firm to conduct an audit of the Commission's accounting principles used, and the overall financial statement representation. The audit is

performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards* as required by OMB Circular A-133 (Single Audit).

The Mid Mo RPC Board of Directors reviewed and accepted the audit report covering July 01, 2007, to June 30, 2008, at their February 25, 2009, meeting. Copies of the audit are available by contacting the Mid Mo RPC office.

Auxvasse Recreational Trails Project

The City of Auxvasse, Auxvasse Elementary School, and the Auxvasse Lions Club are in the preliminary stages of planning a trail system and applying for a Recreational Trails Program grant to fund the project. The proposed trail would run through the city park and eastward along the north side of the Lions Club Arena site. Two outer loops, one to the east of the elementary school baseball and softball fields and another east of the Arena, will combine with the park



determined.

Mid-MO RPC staff will assist Auxvasse in

trail and connector for a total length of over a mile. Materials for the trail surface have not yet been

the development of the trail plan and the application process. Though the grant application deadline has not yet been announced, recent grant cycles have concluded in mid-July. Grant requests require a 20 percent match from the entity requesting the funds and requests up to \$100,000 are eligible. Funding for the grants comes from the Federal Highway Administration and is administered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Visioning and Planning

A number of communities in the MidMO RPC region have been conducting and/or considering engaging their citizens in visioning processes designed to lead to the development of a longer range plan for the community. There is renewed interest from officials and citizenry in such planning activities, and to be competitive

for some sources of economic development support, communities must have in place a long range plan that incorporates citizen input.

Rocheport is revisiting the vision process that was begun several years ago. A town meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March

19, 2009, at 7:00 pm, at the Community Hall in Rocheport. Citizens and observers are invited to attend. Community members will have the opportunity to comment, ask questions of officials, and make suggestions about future directions for Rocheport.

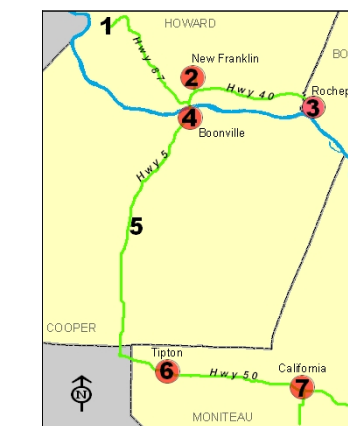
Heritage Tourism in the Mid-Mo Region

Heritage tourism is defined as tourism oriented towards the cultural heritage of the location where tourism is occurring. Heritage tourism is important for many reasons; heritage tourism has a positive economic and social impact, it establishes and reinforces local identity, it helps to preserve the cultural heritage (Richards, 1996). According to J.M.Fladdmark, in order for heritage tourism to be successful several objectives must be met within the context of sustainable development: 1) Preservation/conservation of cultural resources 2) accurate interpretation of resources 3) authentic visitor experience, and 4) the stimulation of the earned revenues of cultural resources. These four attributes have the cumulative effect of providing identification, management, protection, impacting communities and regions by generating economic stability and social value, providing financial resources for protection, as well as marketing and promotion.

There are many sites and destinations that allow tourists an opportunity to be immersed in local culture and history in Mid-Missouri. The region offers opportunities to learn about transportation (river, rail, and roads), Lewis & Clark, early settlement and growth, Missouri's involvement in the Civil War, and the development of agriculture and industry.

Following the map, a nice two day trip in the region can start at #1, Boonslick State Park, to tour and learn about the history of salt production. Salt production

was the first commercial activity in the region. From Boonslick State Park, traveling south on Route 5, stop at #2, the University of Missouri Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center to tour the



Thomas Hickman House located in New Franklin, Missouri. Built in 1819, the residence is one of the oldest intact brick buildings remaining in Missouri. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was recently restored to its 1819 appearance, and operates as the visitor and educational center for the Research Center. Continuing South toward Boonville, Missouri, check in at the Historic Frederick Hotel and then on to #3, Les Bourgeois Winery and Vineyards for a relaxing gourmet meal on the bluff top overlooking the Missouri River valley. End your 1st day by heading back to Boonville, #4 on the map, to stroll the sidewalks of historic downtown Boonville on the way to Thespian Hall to attend a production by the Boonville Community Theater.

Day 2: Continuing south on Route 5 from Boonville stop at #5, Historic Ravens-

wood, an 1880 Victorian mansion and farm that has remained in the family for six generations. The structure and furnishings are original to the home built by Nathaniel Leonard and his wife Nadine. The house stands as a testament to Victorian ideals and generational farming. Continue south to Tipton, Missouri, #6 on the map, to tour historic McClay home. Built in 1858, Rose Hill (McClay Home) was a school for girls. It was commandeered by Union Soldiers during the Civil War and used as the headquarters for General John C. Fremont. Today, the home is a house museum and local gathering place. From Tipton head east on Highway 50 to California, Missouri the 7th and final stop on this two day cultural heritage excursion. Stop for lunch at Burger's Smokehouse on Route 87, the visitor's center displays dioramas and exhibits of daily life on an Ozark farm. After lunch tour downtown California, enjoy the town square and admire the Historic Moniteau County Courthouse. This majestic brick building, built in 1867, is one of the oldest courthouse buildings in Missouri. As you can see, a two day trip through three mid-Missouri counties is packed with culture and history that encompasses over two hundred years of human development.

To learn more about Heritage Tourism and developing tours such as this, register now for our 2nd Annual Economic Development Seminar on Wednesday, May 20, 2009, in Historic Boonville. Call or email Colleen Vollman or Lee Ann Jestis at 573-657-9779 or mmmrpc@mmrpc.org.