

STATEWIDE PLANNING e-NEWS

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Inside this Issue

Transportation Improvement Program	2
Office of Training and Development	2
Northeast Private Well Symposium	2
Statewide Planning Committee meetings	3
University of Rhode Island Lectures	3
American Community Survey	3
ARC GIS Classes	4
LID Site Planning and Design Workshop	4
Grow Smart Rhode Island Land-Use Training Collaborative/Narragansett Bay Research Reserve Electronic Calendar	5
Economic Development Investment Assistance	5
RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund 2011-2012	5
A New Approach to Financing Stormwater Management: Stormwater Utility Districts	6

Division of Municipal Finance

Municipal Memo: This Legislative Reference Service can be found at www.muni-info.ri.gov/legislation. Both current and past issues are available at this site.

Directory of City & Town Officials:

This 2011 directory, and updates as of July 25, is available at www.muni-info.ri.gov/publications. Paper copies of the directory are also available; please contact Susan Moss at 222-4468 or at Susan.Moss@dor.ri.gov for specifics.

2011 Planning Challenge Grants

Statewide Planning Challenge Grants

There is approximately \$1,000,000 available in FY 2012 for project grant awards in amounts up to \$100,000. Multi-community Corridor Studies may be higher. Unless otherwise noted in the RFP, each grantee will be required to provide a match share totaling 20% of the total project cost.

Planning Challenge Grants are administered by the Statewide Planning Program and are funded with Federal Highway Administration Metropolitan Planning funds received by the State of Rhode Island and allocated to the Statewide Planning Program in its role as staff to State Planning Council, the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for Rhode Island. The purpose of the grant program is to provide funding for statewide, regional, and local planning studies leading to the implementation of the State Guide Plan, particularly Land Use 2025 and Transportation 2030.

The State Guide Plan is Rhode Island's long-range planning document. It comprises many separately published elements covering a range of topics including transportation, land use, outdoor recreation, water supply, and historic preservation. Two of the most recently updated elements are Land Use 2025 (2006) and Transportation 2030 (2008). These elements envision a Rhode Island with walkable, mixed-use growth centers complimented by a first class transportation infrastructure and a connected greenspace network.

In addition, projects that specifically address improving the quality or increasing the availability of affordable homes may be eligible for additional funding under Rhode Island Housing's Targeted Assistance Grant Program. This additional grant award, not to exceed \$10,000, may be used to satisfy the match requirement outlined above.

Applications for funding will be accepted on a competitive basis within the limits of available funds. The submission deadline is November 10, 2011. The Request for Proposals and Frequently Asked Questions sheet can be found at www.planning.state.ri.us/misc/pcgrants.htm.

Any questions should be directed to Karen Scott, Assistant Chief of the Statewide Planning Program at 222-4411 or Karen.Scott@doa.ri.gov.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FFY 2013-2016

The State Planning Council is developing the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for federal fiscal years 2013-2016. The TIP is a multi-year program of Bicycle / Pedestrian, Bridge, Congestion Management Air Quality (CMAQ), Enhancement, Highway, Interstate, Major Projects, Pavement Management, Planning, Study and Development, Traffic Safety, Transit, Administration, and Earmark projects that are eligible to receive federal funding. Any municipality, organization, or individual may submit project proposals.

Information on the TIP is available on the Statewide Planning Program's website, www.planning.ri.gov/misc/TIP2013.htm or can be made available upon request by contacting the Statewide Planning Program at 222-7901.

Project proposal application forms must be received by the R.I. Statewide Planning Program; One Capitol Hill; 3rd Floor; Providence, RI 02908 no later than 3:00 p.m., Friday October 28, 2011.

As part of the next step, all project proposals must be presented at one of four public hearings listed below. Public hearings have been scheduled for the following dates, times, and locations to accept proposals and comments regarding the preparation of the Transportation Improvement Program for FY 2013-2016:

Monday; November, 7 at 6:00 p.m. at the South Kingstown Town Hall; 180 High Street; Wakefield.

Tuesday, November 8 at 9:00 a.m. at the RI Department of Administration; Conference Room A; Second Floor; One Capitol Hill; Providence.

Wednesday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley Corridor Commission Office; One Depot Square; Woonsocket.

Thursday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m. at the Middletown Town Hall; 350 East Main Road; Middletown.

All hearing locations are accessible to individuals with disabilities. Individuals requesting assistance should contact Ms. Dawn Vittorioso at 222-7901 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled start of a hearing. Public transit schedule information for hearing locations is available from RIPTA at (401) 781-9400 or www.ripta.com.

Office of Training and Development

The Office of Training and Development schedule of classes for fall 2011 is available at www.admin.ri.gov/otd/ and includes classes on Microsoft Access, Excel PowerPoint and Word. Check the website for classes, times, and registration information. Please contact Melissa Day at 222-2178 or at mday@gw.doa.state.ri.us if you have any questions, or have any suggestions for future course offerings.

Northeast Private Well Symposium

University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension water quality advisors and several partner organizations throughout the Northeast are coordinating the 2011 Northeast Private Well Symposium, which will take place November 14 and 15 in Southbury, CT. This event provides a forum in which researchers, government officials, water professionals, and anyone interested in water quality can discuss current issues and set priorities for future work.

Presentation topics at this year's symposium will include: *Impact of Hydrofracturing on Groundwater*; *Testing Private Well Water and Interpreting Results*; *Public Health and Regulation of Private Wells*; *Groundwater Quality Issues in New England*; and *Arsenic and Manganese in Drinking Water*.

For more information or to register, visit www.usawaterquality.org/nesci/symposium2011/ or contact Alyson McCann at alyson@uri.edu or at 874-5398.

Statewide Planning Committee Meetings

Technical Committee Meeting

Scheduled for November 4 at 9:00 a.m., Conference Room A on the second floor of the Justice William E. Powers Building; Department of Administration; One Capitol Hill; Providence. For the latest schedule information please see the Committee Calendar at www.planning.ri.gov/misc/calendar.htm.

State Planning Council Meeting

Scheduled for November 10 at 9:00 a.m., Conference Room A on the second floor of the Justice William E. Powers Building; Department of Administration; One Capitol Hill; Providence. For the latest schedule information please see the Committee Calendar at www.planning.ri.gov/misc/calendar.htm.

Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Scheduled for November 17 at 6:30 p.m., meeting location to be determined. For the latest schedule information please see the Committee Calendar at www.planning.ri.gov/misc/calendar.htm.

University of Rhode Island Lectures

Landscape Architecture Lectures 2011 – 2012

The University of Rhode Island has begun the 2011 - 2012 Landscape Architecture Lectures series. All lectures are held in the Weaver Auditorium on the Kingston Campus of the University of Rhode Island. This series is co-sponsored by the College of the Environment and Life Sciences, the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association. All lectures are free and open to the public.; the lecture halls are handicapped accessible. General questions about the series may be directed to Deb Hughes at Dmhughes@ds.uri.edu or at 874-2983

- November 17 - Terri Hahn, ASLA, Principal, L.A.D.A., Simsbury, CT.
- December 1 - Keith LeBlanc, Principal, Keith LeBlanc Landscape Architecture, Boston, MA. *Site Responses for Residential Design*.
- February 23 - Catherine Weaver, Principal, Tupelo Gardenworks, Wakefield, RI. *Challenges From the Field*.
- March 8 - Marc Miller, Lecturer in Landscape Architecture, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. *Prototyping Topography: Landscape, 3d Printing and Practice*.
- March 22 Calvin Ahbe, Principal, Ahbe Landscape Architects, Culver City, CA. March 22.
- April 19 - TBA.

American Community Survey

The Census Bureau has released all of the 2010 ACS 1-year estimates, and the full set of ACS products for all areas of 65,000 or more in American FactFinder . This is the first release of ACS estimates in the New American FactFinder. These are population and housing characteristics based on data collected from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010 and are not the 2010 Census population counts. Due to a technical issue, a limited number of products for smaller geographic areas are not available through American FactFinder at this time. However, all Detailed Tables are accessible in the ACS Summary File, through the Census Bureau's FTP site at www2.census.gov/acs2010_1yr/summaryfile/

Working with the ACS Summary File requires computer expertise. Technical documentation is available at www2.census.gov/acs2010_1yr/summaryfile/ACS_2010_SF_Tech_Doc.pdf. Data users who are not able to access the Summary File can contact the American Community Survey Office (301) 763-1405, or at acso.users.support@census.gov. The 2010 American Community Survey web site is www.census.gov/acs/www/.

ArcGIS Classes

Introduction to ArcGIS 10

This three-day hands-on computer course provides an introduction to the capabilities and functionality of [ESRI's ArcGIS 10®](#), software. Using the current version of the software, you will learn how to use ArcMap™, ArcCatalog™, and ArcToolbox™. In addition, you will be taught the fundamentals of working with GIS data; how to query a GIS database; edit spatial and attribute data and how to present data using maps, reports, and graphs. There will also be extensive work with the [Rhode Island Geographic Information System \(RIGIS\)](#) database.

All students receive hands-on software instruction, course books with exercises and with accompanying training data. Upon successful completion of the course, students receive a URI Certificate of Course Completion. Classes are taught at [URI's Kingston campus](#).

The course will be offered twice, January 10 through 12, 2012 and March 19 through 21, 2012. Registration for the course is \$750.00 and pre-registration is required. For more information and to register please visit: http://geospatial.uri.edu/training/registration_geo.htm.

Working with ArcGIS Online

This half-day training will introduce students to ESRI's new online mapping service available at [ArcGIS.com](#). The training will explore the ready to use maps available, and also explore the basic functionality of the applications available. This workshop will explore the mapping and querying tools available in ArcGIS Explorer Online application, and the ArcGIS Viewer application. There will also be a focus on the maps available from RIGIS and on creating your own maps. You will create your own maps, your own data and share these maps via email, Facebook, Twitter or embed the code into your own website.

The course will be offered three times, January 4, 2012; January 17, 2012; and March 22, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day. Registration for the course is \$100.00 and pre-registration is required. For more information and to register please visit: http://geospatial.uri.edu/training/registration_geo.htm.

Low Impact Development (LID) Site Planning and Design Workshop

This workshop will present an overview of the new *Rhode Island Community Low Impact Development Site Planning and Design Guidance Manual* (LID Manual). The LID Manual provides communities with the specific guidance, case studies and economic justification they can use to revise their existing land use regulations to more effectively avoid and reduce the impacts of development to water quality, habitat, and community character while helping to reduce municipal service costs, increase property values, and preserve community character.

This companion guidance to the new *Rhode Island Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual* (Stormwater Manual) will help communities to more effectively meet LID standards and requirements as outlined in the Stormwater Manual. Please note that this workshop will not focus on the specific engineering techniques outlined in the Stormwater Manual itself.

The workshop is intended for planners, other municipal staff and officials ([3.0 AICP CM credits offered](#)), designers, builders, and non-profit staff, but all are welcome. This workshop will be presented Wednesday, November 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; registration and coffee will begin at 8:30 a.m. There is no cost for the workshop but preregistration is required. To register, please contact [Jennifer West](#), Narragansett Bay Research Reserve Coastal Training Program Coordinator at jennifer@nbnerr.org or 222-4700 x 7413.

While you are encouraged to participate in the short hands-on activity toward the end of the workshop, you have the option of attending solely the presentation if you are unable to attend the entire workshop; the presentation and Q&A will end at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Grow Smart Rhode Island Land-Use Training Collaborative/ Narragansett Bay Research Reserve Electronic Calendar

This calendar is available for use by elected and appointed municipal officials and planners, citizen advocates, the natural resource protection community and the design and development community. The calendar can be found on the web at www.communityconnectionri.org. Please see Grow Smart Rhode Island's web page at www.growsmartri.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=489 for information about listing a workshop or conference.

Economic Development Investment Assistance

The Office of Strategic Planning & Economic Development is seeking proposals for projects from eligible applicants interested in applying to the federal Economic Development Administration for public works or planning grants in Fiscal Year 2012. This is an opportunity to submit proposals for projects using federal funds to implement some of the state's long-range economic development objectives and policies on the local and regional level. Project proposals will undergo a selection process. Selected projects that meet federal and state criteria will become part of a "Priority Project List" that will be presented to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). This will qualify these projects to compete for grants under the EDA's Public Works and Development Facilities Program. Applications are received on an ongoing basis but must be received no less than 60 days prior to the beginning of the federal fiscal quarter in which the applicant intends to apply for funds.

Potentially eligible CEDS applicants include cities and towns, public agencies, academic institutions, and local and regional non-profit economic development organizations. They can contact via email [Robert Griffith](mailto:Robert.Griffith@ceds.org) if they are interested submitting a proposal and/or if they are interested in receiving application instructions and materials.

RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund 2011-2012

The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council is currently seeking pre-proposals for habitat restoration project funding through its RI Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Program and Trust Fund. The program is administered by the CRMC with technical support from the R.I. Habitat Restoration Team.

Municipalities, committees, boards or commissions chartered by a municipality, nonprofit organizations, civic groups, educational institutions, and state agencies are eligible to submit a project pre-proposal. Proposed projects must be located within Rhode Island. There is no specific match requirement for proposed projects; however, proposals that can demonstrate matching funds or in-kind services will have an advantage in the selection process. Applicants are therefore encouraged to detail all federal and non-federal resources contributing toward completion of the project, whether cash or in-kind.

Funding for projects is from an annual account totaling \$225,000. The Trust Fund allocates these monies from fees collected under the Oil Spill Response and Prevention Act (OSPAR) to potential habitat restoration projects. The Habitat Restoration Team Technical Advisory committee, formed in 1998 through the collaborative efforts of the CRMC; DEM; and Save the Bay, recommends projects to the Council for funding. Individual project awards generally range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 per year. Longer-term projects may reapply for additional funds in subsequent years.

Project pre-proposals are due by 4:00 p.m. on November 18. To submit a pre-proposal, please download a pre-proposal form at www.crmc.ri.gov/habitatrestoration.html, fill out the form and submit it to Caitlin Chaffee, Coastal Policy Analyst; R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council; Stedman Government Center, Suite 116; 4808 Tower Hill Road; Wakefield, RI 02879. For more detailed information about the Fund and previously funded projects, go to the CRMC web site www.crmc.ri.gov/habitatrestoration.html. For questions regarding the Fund or pre-application requirements, please contact Caitlin at cchaffee@crmcc.ri.gov or at 783-3370.

A New Approach to Financing Stormwater Management: Stormwater Utility Districts

A Workshop Series

Increasingly Rhode Island's cities and towns are grappling with the impacts of uncontrolled stormwater runoff and its consequences - street flooding, property damage, beach closures, closed shell fishing waters, and impaired water quality. However, the majority of Rhode Island's municipalities are challenged to fully fund the program and operational expenses of complying with regulations that govern stormwater management in their communities. Faced with similar challenges, municipalities from across the nation are opting to establish stormwater utilities as a means of establishing a dedicated, stable and predictable funding source to pay for these services. The three scheduled workshops will look at how stormwater utilities may provide a workable solution.

This workshop series is designed for public works directors, council members, managers, planners and other board or commission members. For communities participating in the Phase II Stormwater Education and Outreach Program: MS4s attendance at the first two workshops is mandatory.

At this workshop series you will learn about innovative methods some RI towns are using to fund stormwater programs; you will get the facts on how stormwater utility districts work around the country; how municipal officials were able to start utility districts in nearby states; and find out if utility districts can work in RI, based on studies now ongoing in Middletown and Westerly.

Workshop 1: *Managing Stormwater in Tough Budget Times* will be held October 25 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the URI Narragansett Bay Campus, Coastal Institute Auditorium. This program will address current challenges faced by municipalities, the future direction of stormwater management, and introduce stormwater utility districts. Speakers include Andrew Reese, AMEC Earth and Environmental, and a panel of local public works directors.

Workshop 2: *Stormwater Utility Districts: Success Stories from New England States* will be held November 17 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Johnson & Wales Providence Campus, Culinary Arts Museum. Stormwater utility districts have been successfully implemented throughout New England. A panel of speakers will share the challenges and benefits associated with stormwater utility districts in their communities.

Workshop 3: *Stormwater Utilities: Rhode Island Moves Forward* will be held on January 26, 2012 as a concurrent session at the RI League of Cities and Towns Annual Convention. This final workshop will present findings on the feasibility of utility districts in Westerly and Middletown based on studies now underway. It will also include a discussion of state law and policies for municipalities to implement utility districts in Rhode Island.

There is no cost for these workshops, but preregistration is required. Please visit the URI website at: www.uri.edu/ce/wq/NEMO/Workshops-Support/index.htm#current for details, directions, and the agenda.

RIGIS Upcoming Event Calendar

The RIGIS (Rhode Island Geographic Information System) home page has an event calendar on the right hand side listing upcoming GIS programs and events. The calendar can be enlarged by clicking the 'Event Calendar' link at the top of the calendar. Basic information on the programs and event is displayed; clicking the basic information will open a new screen with additional information. If you are interested in adding an event to this calendar, please submit the event details to [RIGIS Coordinator Shane White](#) for consideration.