



News From The Northwest
Issue 25 No. 2 August 2020

Regional Council Annual Dinner Canceled for 2020

Usually around this time of year we are busy planning and preparing for our Annual Dinner. That said, we regret to announce that we have made the decision to cancel this year's Annual Dinner. We are taking a proactive approach against COVID-19 to protect the health of our employees, customers, and communities and because of that we feel like canceling is the best decision.

We are still working on the Annual Report and Public Officials Directory. Our plan is to have these ready to share with you all by October 1. We want to make sure the directory contains the most up-to-date, accurate information as possible. If you haven't completed your Public Officials Directory update paperwork, please do so and return those to Amy at amy@nwmorcog.org.



Regional Council Receives \$400,000 Grant to Address the Economic Impact of COVID-19

The Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments received a \$400,000 CARES Act grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. Over the next two years, the Regional Council will be working with local communities and partners, including economic development organizations and higher education institutions, to help the region recover from the economic impacts of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and be more resilient to future pandemics or disasters.

The Regional Council's strategy focuses on working with partners to provide support to businesses and entrepreneurs through business retention visits and develop the work force locally. Also, the Regional Council will be working with local communities to plan for the future by helping to upgrade infrastructure and community facilities to make northwest Missouri a great place to live and work. A vital part of the strategy is to hire a consulting firm to complete a broadband study of the region to help with future broadband planning efforts.

The Regional Council will also be creating a regional recovery scorecard to help show the impacts of the Coronavirus on the economy and our progress towards recovery.

For more information on the EDA CARES Act grant, please contact Kim Mildward, Economic Development Planner at Kim@nwmorcog.org or (660) 582-5121 Ext. 2.



Robin Davidson Hired at Regional Council

Robin Davidson joined the Regional Council in July of 2020 as the Administrative Assistant and Solid Waste Planner. Her responsibilities include general office duties and the implementation of the Solid Waste Program to educate the region on recycling, reduction and reuse.

Robin holds a degree in Legal Office Management. She resides in Sheridan, MO. For more information on the Solid Waste Program, contact Robin via email at robin@nwmorcog.org; or call 660-582-5121, ext. 4.



Grant Status Update

CDBG GRANTS

Albany Wastewater Treatment Improvements: Under Construction 90% Complete

Forest City Water Distribution System: Construction begins 8/18/2020

Gentry County Two Bridge Replacements – Miller Township: Under Construction 50% Complete

King City Emergency Water: Under Construction 90% Complete

City of Mound City Davis Creek Bridge Replacement: Environmental Review Stage

Nodaway County Two Bridge Replacements – Jackson Township: Construction Complete

Oregon Water Distribution Improvements: Advertise for Construction in August

Parnell Water Distribution System: Design/Easement Phase

SSM/Mosaic Preschool: Closeout Stage

Stanberry New Wastewater Treatment Facility: Under Construction 80% Complete

Worth County Bridge Replacement – Smith Township: Construction 100% Complete, Closeout Stage

FLOOD PROJECTS

City of Craig Replace Grinder Pumps: Purchase 13 Additional Pumps

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

Mound City Davis Creek Bridge Replacement: 50% Complete

NAP TAX CREDIT

Mission Possible Center (New Building): Selling NAP Tax Credits

Northwest Missouri Enterprise Facilitation (Operating): Selling NAP Tax Credits

Job Center Happenings

Unemployment

Missouri Job Center staff continues to assist unemployment claimants with questions they have about their claims and the filing process. Our access to the UI system is limited so we have had to refer many claimants to the regional claims center.

While a large percentage of employees are returning to work, many have been laid off permanently. These claimants are eligible for dislocated worker services and should call the Missouri Job Center for more information.

Some local employers utilized the Shared Work program which allowed all employees to continue working at reduced hours and also receive unemployment benefits. For more information about the Shared Work program please visit, <https://labor.mo.gov/shared-work>.

Return Strong Initiative

Office of Workforce Development (OWD) has been promoting training vouchers for individuals to skill up during this time of high unemployment. Visit www.jobs.mo.gov for more information.

Virtual Job Fairs were held July 22 and August 5.

Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (MODHEWD) and JobsMoGov have teamed up with Coursera to give Missourians the opportunity to skill up for FREE, right from home! Visit www.jobs.mo.gov/coursera to get started today! Must be registered by September 30 and complete courses by December 31, 2020. Individuals can take as many courses as they want.

WIOA

We have established the following goals for the current program year, July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021: Increase participants in the following programs: Out of School Youth, Jobs Leagues, SkillUP, Dislocated Worker, and Adult; Enlist more employers to utilize On-the-Job Training (OJT); and more engagement with employers. For information about OJT, contact Rita at the Missouri Job Center.

PopUp Job Centers are cancelled until further notice

Job Center Reopening

Missouri Job Center is open by APPOINTMENT ONLY. We will be following OWD guidelines:

- Staff must wear masks.
- Customers are required to wear masks.
- Missouri Job Center will open by APPOINTMENT ONLY. Call 660-582-8980 to schedule appointment.
- Maintain 6 feet for social distancing.
- Surfaces will be sanitized between customers



RCOG Office Closed to Visitors

RCOG continues to take a proactive approach against COVID-19 to protect the health of our employees, customers, and communities. Both Regional Council and the Job Center offices remain closed to the public. However, RCOG and the Job Center is accepting clients/visitors on an appointment only bases. Staff members continue to work but are still limiting in-person meetings, inside or outside the RCOG office as we do our part to maintain Social Distancing. We are still recommending everyone to call or email as almost all requests can be handled online or over the phone. We appreciate your patience, understanding and cooperation as we all do our part to protect our citizens.

Listed below are staff members and their contact information:

Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments: 114 W. 3rd Street, Maryville, MO; 660-582-5121.
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., M-F (closed 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. daily for lunch)

Jerri Dearthmont, Executive Director, jerri@nwmorcog.org; 660-582-5121, ext. 1

Kim Mildward, Economic Development Planner/One-Stop Operator, kim@nwmorcog.org; 660-582-5121, ext. 2

Amy Dowis, Regional Planner, amy@nwmorcog.org; 660-582-5121, ext. 3

Robin Davidson, Solid Waste Planner, robin@nwmorcog.org; 660-582-5121, ext. 4

Alice Schiefer, Fiscal Officer, alice@nwmorcog.org; 660-582-5121, ext. 5

Steve Houts, Program Assistant, steve@nwmorcog.org; 660-582-5121, ext. 6



Nodaway County Commission Receives Historic Preservation Grant

In June, the Nodaway County Commission received notification that the county was awarded a Historic Preservation Grant to create a master plan for the maintenance and upkeep of the historic Nodaway County Courthouse. The grant will provide up to 80 percent of the costs associated with hiring a

consulting firm to evaluate and prioritize the maintenance and repairs needed to the Courthouse and develop a Master Plan to help guide the Commission in maintaining the structure.

Currently, the Nodaway County Commission with assistance from the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments (Regional Council) has released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to find a consulting firm with experience in historic preservation. The deadline to submit a response to the RFQ is by 1 p.m. on Thursday, August 27th, to the Nodaway County Clerk's Office.

The grant program is sponsored by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. It is administered by the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Historic Preservation Grants, funds projects that related directly to the identification, evaluation, and protection of historic properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The selection process for these limited funds is competitive.

For more information on this grant or to obtain a copy of the RFQ, please contact Kim Mildward, Economic Development Planner with the Regional Council, at kim@nwmorcog.org or (660) 582-5121 Ext. 2.



Funds Available for Northwest Transportation Safety Programs

Over the past several years agencies and programs across Northwest Missouri have received funding for programs aimed at reducing the number of injuries and fatalities on our roadways. With more than 40 fatalities in the 20 counties of Northwest Missouri during 2018, the work is not over yet. To assist agencies in this fight towards zero deaths in Northwest Missouri and across the state, the Northwest Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety is once again issuing grants.

Organizations eligible to apply for these funds include schools, community groups, law enforcement, health departments, and others. Online grant applications are available now: [Grant Application](#). Completed applications are due by the close of business on Friday, Sept. 18, 2020, with award announcements to be made in October. Award funds must be spent, and all reimbursement paperwork submitted prior to May 1, 2021.

To be eligible for the grants, programs must address at least one of the emphasis areas identified in Missouri's Blueprint document. These include serious crash types, high-risk drivers and occupants, special vehicles, vulnerable roadway users, and special roadway environments. The more widespread the impact the program has, and the longer it lasts, the better chance it has to receive some of the limited funds. Further information on these emphasis areas is available in the Blueprint for Safer Roadways available for download at www.savemolives.com.

For more information, contact Amy at the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments via email at amy@nwmorcog.org or call 660-582-5121, ext. 3.



Regional Council Assisting Counties with CARES Funds

The Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments (Regional Council) is administering the CARES Act funds received by Holt and Worth Counties and is now accepting applications for CARES Act fund reimbursement requests.

The Regional Council will review the applications for completeness (including supporting documentation), compliance with the CARES Act requirements and Treasury guidance, with final award decisions made by the respective County Commissions. Award recipients will be required to enter into a written agreement with the County prior to disbursement of awarded funds.

Application packets and additional information are available from the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments and can be downloaded from their website, www.nwmorcog.org. Questions regarding the application process may be directed to Amy Dowis, Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments, 660-582-5121, ext. 3 or amy@nwmorcog.org.

On March 27th, 2020, Congress passed, and President Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"). The CARES Act established the Coronavirus Relief Fund and appropriated \$150 billion to the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Under the CARES Act, the funds are to be used to make payments for specified uses based on the requirements of the CARES Act requirements and United States Department of Treasury guidance. Generally, the CARES Act provides that payments may only be used to cover costs that: (1) are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19; (2) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 for the government; and (3) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020.

Expenditures must be used for actions taken to respond to the public health emergency. Funds may not be used to fill shortfalls in government revenue to cover expenditures that would not otherwise qualify under the CARES Act. Expenditures using CARES Act fund payments must be reasonably necessary. For further information, please refer to the guidance issued by the Treasury on April 22, 2020, and May 4, 2020.



Transportation Program Update

The Regional Council continues to work with MoDOT to provide local input on transportation related projects in our five counties of northwest Missouri. Part of this includes organizing the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), which meets quarterly with MoDOT personnel to discuss transportation needs in the area. Each of our five counties has 3 representatives on the TAC. Meetings for FY21 are scheduled as follows: August 18, November 17, February 16 and May 18. TAC meetings are being held virtually until further notice. For more information please contact Amy Dowis at amy@nwmorcog.org or 660-582-5121, ext. 3.



NW MO Regional Solid Waste Management District

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection site has resumed operation of the drive-up/drop-off service at 1516 E. Halsey Street, Maryville, Missouri. The remaining collection dates for 2020 are scheduled for September 5, October 3 and November 7. Please visit our website for more information on what waste materials are accepted. This service is available to the residents within the counties of Atchison, Gentry, Holt, Nodaway and Worth -- be prepared to show I.D.

Due to the complications and restrictions of COVID-19, the educational programs being offered will be delivered via virtual/non-contact formats to Region A schools. These programs are scheduled to begin in late September.

Two projects were approved this month by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Northwest Missouri State University was awarded \$19,500 toward the purchase of a new skid steer loader that will be used to support recycling activities. It will be used for food waste diversion and composting.

The third project approved was Farmer's Exchange in the amount of \$308.88. These funds will be used to purchase recycling bins for tenant use at a mixed-use building in Mound City. There were previously no recycling options available in the area. The building tenants will now be able to divert glass, plastic and aluminum from the landfill.

Our office is assisting the City of Grant City with their project to obtain DNR approval. This grant request of \$25,429.90 is for a combination basketball/volleyball/multi-purpose court to be installed at the city park for community use. The multi-purpose court will be made from recycled materials.



Important Dates

August 18: Transportation Advisory Committee quarterly meeting, 7 p.m. via ZOOM

September 5: Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site Open, 8 a.m.-12 noon, Nodaway County Maintenance Barn, 1516 E. Halsey, Maryville

September 7: Regional Council and Job Center closed

September 9: Solid Waste Executive Board meeting, 5:30 p.m., via ZOOM

September 24: Regional Council Board meeting, 7 p.m., via ZOOM

October 3: Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site Open, 8 a.m.-12 noon, Nodaway County Maintenance Barn, 1516 E. Halsey, Maryville

October 12: Regional Council closed

October 14: Solid Waste Executive Board meeting, 6 p.m., via ZOOM

November 7: Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site Open, 8 a.m. -12 noon, Nodaway County Maintenance Barn, 1516 E. Halsey, Maryville

November 11: Regional Council and Job Center closed

November 17: Transportation Advisory Committee quarterly meeting, 6 p.m, via ZOOM

November 26: Regional Council and Job Center closed

November 27: Regional Council closed



For more information about the Regional Council or the Missouri Job Center, upcoming events, or to request a presentation, please contact us at:

Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments

114 W. Third Street

Maryville, MO 64468

NWMORCOG Point of Contact: jerri@nwmorcog.org

Missouri Job Center Point of Contact: rita@nwmorcog.org

OR

Visit us on the web at <http://www.nwmorcog.org/> or on Facebook at Missouri Job Center - Maryville

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 at the NWMORCOG office, located at 114 W. Third St., Maryville, MO 64468.

Questions or comments should be directed to Jerri Dearmont at the RCOG office, (660-582-5121), or by E-mail at jerri@nwmorcog.org.

