

SEMCOG REGIONAL UPDATE

A BIWEEKLY PUBLICATION OF SEMCOG, THE SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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February 9, 2009

Regional Update will be sent via e-mail beginning in March

Regional Update, SEMCOG's biweekly newsletter to members, will be delivered via e-mail beginning with the March 9, 2009 issue. This decision is based on the results of SEMCOG's member survey late last year where a majority of respondents indicated they prefer to receive information from SEMCOG electronically. This will enable members to receive information on a more timely basis (grant opportunities, economic stimulus news, etc.), will address members' environmental concerns with paper copies, and will allow SEMCOG to use a more cost effective approach to communicating with members. The electronic version of *Regional Update* will also allow us to provide direct links to additional information.

If you have not received any communication from SEMCOG via e-mail, we may not have your e-mail address. Please send it to Mike Spence, Communications, at spence@semcog.org. If you still prefer to have a paper copy of *Regional Update* mailed to you, please call Mike Spence at 313-324-3401.

Regional Update is also posted on the home page of SEMCOG's Web site — www.semco.org. Look for it under Recent News. Contact: Sue Stetler, SEMCOG Director of Communications.

John Scott elected SEMCOG Vice Chair

John A. Scott, Oakland County Commissioner and active member of SEMCOG for many years, was elected Vice Chair at SEMCOG's Executive Committee meeting on January 23, 2009. Scott fills a Vice Chair position vacant as a result of the November 2008 elections. He joins the following officers:

- Mary Blackmon, Chair; Treasurer, Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency;
- Robert Hison, First Vice Chair; Mayor of St. Clair Shores;
- Robert J. Cannon, Vice Chairperson; Supervisor of Clinton Township;
- Gretchen Driskell, Vice Chairperson; Mayor of Saline;
- Michael Sedlak, Vice Chairperson; Clerk of Green Oak Township; and
- William Roberts, Immediate Past Chair; Mayor of Walled Lake.

Contact: Amy Malmer, SEMCOG Membership Manager.

SEMCOG partners with local organizations to offer Sustainable Lighting Solutions seminar

SEMCOG, in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council – Detroit Regional Chapter and the Engineering Society of Detroit, will present *See the Light, Save the Money: Sustainable Light Solutions for Local Governments* on February 26, 2009 at the Engineering Society of Detroit's new offices, 20700 Civic Center Dr., Ste. 450, Southfield.

Topics discussed at the seminar will include purchasing and upgrading street lighting, best practices and lessons learned, LEDs, and retrofitting building lighting for offices, warehouses, and more. Featured speaker is local lighting expert Stefan Graf, design director at Ypsilanti-based Illuminart.

Registration is required for this seminar, Please register now at www.semco.org (via SEMCOG's online calendar). Registration is free for members of participating organizations. Contact: SEMCOG Information Center.

Wind Energy Conference is March 3-4

The Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association and the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth will hold a statewide Wind Energy Conference in Detroit at Cobo Hall on March 3-4, 2009. The conference is important for local government officials and planners.

The conference will have six workshop tracks: commercial wind; community wind; small wind; off-shore wind; manufacturing; and legal, finances, and training. Keynote speakers will highlight state, national, and international developments. Contact: www.glrea.org for specific information.

MCDA Spring Conference to be held March 5

SEMCOG is co-sponsoring the Michigan Community Development Association (MCDA) Spring Conference, to be held March 5, 2009, at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI. The conference will focus on addressing some of the challenges associated with the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), as well as an overview of the incoming administration's community development initiatives. Other topics include the Consolidated Plan, revised Michigan Uniform Energy Code (MUEC), universal design concepts, and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's Property Improvement Program. Contact: Ken Bishop, Assistant Planner, SEMCOG Community and Economic Development.

SEMCOG to host grant writing workshop

SEMCOG and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grant writing workshop on March 30-31, 2009, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in SEMCOG's Buhl Building office in downtown Detroit. Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, township, county, and other governmental agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges, and universities are encouraged to attend. Tuition is \$425 and includes all materials – workbook and accompanying resource CD that's packed full of tools and more than 200 sample grant proposals. For more information and to register, visit www.grantwritingusa.com. Contact: Cathy Rittenhouse, (800) 814-8191 or cathy@grantwritingusa.com.

Grant opportunities for local governments

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) have announced details for grants available to local governments.

MDEQ is currently accepting applications for grants for local governments to clean up rivers and streams within their boundaries. The application is posted on the Great Lakes Commission Web site at www.glc.org/streamclean/app09. A total of \$25,000 is available; deadline is February 13, 2009.

MDNR will be hold informational workshops in February and March, around the state, for communities interested in applying for grants through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). In Southeast Michigan, a workshop is scheduled in Allen Park on February 26, 2009, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Best Western Greenfield Inn, 3000 Enterprise Dr. The agenda for the workshops include discussion of the changes to the criteria process for evaluating applications, applicant and project eligibility, distribution of funds, preparing of applications and attachments, project selection, and grantee obligations. Grant application materials will be available mid-February at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Web site. Applications are due April 1, 2009.

The MNRTF provides funding assistance for state and local outdoor recreational needs, including land acquisition, development of outdoor recreation facilities and protection of valuable natural resources. The MNRTF is supported by revenues from the development of state-owned mineral resources, in particular, oil and gas. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants. Click on "Grant Programs" and "Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund" and then "Forms and Publications."

Fiscal forecasting tool available from Michigan Department of Treasury

The State of Michigan Department of Treasury has developed an easy-to-use revenue, expenses, and fund balance forecasting tool for local governments. Since property tax revenues are projected to drop 20 percent over the next three years, a longer term fiscal outlook is needed to survive a crisis. To access the tool, go to www.michigan.gov/treasury. Contact: Dave Boerger, SEMCOG Local Government Effectiveness.

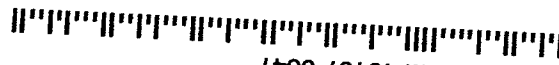
SEMCOG is a regional planning partnership of governmental units serving 4.9 million people in the seven-county region of Southeast Michigan striving to enhance the region's quality of life. *Regional Update* is a publication of SEMCOG, financed through funds from state and federal grants and dues from member communities.

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REGIONAL UPDATE

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