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VIEWPOINT

Appalachian Council of Governments Quarterly Newsletter

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Low-Interest 30-Year Loans Available for Water & Sewer Projects

The Office of Local Government at the South Carolina Budget and Control Board is again offering low-interest loans for water and sewer projects through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) for Wastewater and the SRF for Drinking Water.

The SRF for Wastewater is sponsored by EPA under authority of the Federal Clean Water Act. For FY 2015, over \$200 million is available for wastewater projects. An amendment to the program this year allows for a 30-year term. Municipalities, counties, and special purpose districts are eligible to apply for loans to construct all types of wastewater facilities, including relocation of sewer lines due to highway widening, storm water, and "green" projects. The program allows up to 100 percent financing of all eligible costs. Projects must be on the DHEC priority list to be eligible for a loan, but projects may be added to the list at any time by submitting a completed project questionnaire to DHEC.

The SRF for Drinking Water funds are available for drinking water supply or distribution system improvements, including relocation of water lines due to highway widening, "green" projects, and radio-read meters. The SRF for Drinking Water operates virtually the same as the SRF for Wastewater. For FY 2015, \$39 million is available through this program.

The interest rates are:

Standard Rate – 2.00% for Wastewater projects; 2.2 % for Drinking Water projects

Small System Rate – 1.50% for Wastewater projects; 1.7 % for Drinking Water projects

Hardship Rate – 1.0%: for Wastewater projects; 1.2 % for Drinking Water projects

These low-interest rates significantly reduce

annual debt service costs, as well as the total amount paid over the life for the loan. Such savings directly benefit the rate paying customers and the system.

For more information on either loan program, contact Ms. Trish Comp at the S.C. Budget and Control Board in Columbia (803-737-3808 or comp@olg.sc.gov), or Dirk Reis at the ACOG. Additional information is also available on the Budget and Control Board's website found by a search for olg.sc.gov.



ACOG Welcomes New Regional Transportation Planner

The ACOG welcomes Lance Estep as its new Regional Transportation Planner. Lance has 12 years of experience in the planning field, both in the public and private sector. His career has taken him from Greenville to Raleigh, to Dallas, and back to Greenville again.

His diverse planning background includes urban and regional planning, transportation planning, travel demand modeling, and NEPA planning. Most recently, Lance worked as director of the Planning and Code Compliance Department at Greenville County. His interest and experience in transportation planning and analysis has brought him to a position with the COG that suits his unique skills and abilities.

Lance has degrees in Economics, Geography and Public Administration from Arizona State University and East Tennessee State University, respectively. He and his wife Erin live in Greenville and have a 4-month-old daughter named Madeleine. Lance enjoys being outdoors with his family, woodworking, traveling, and tinkering around the house.

Regional Aging Service Providers Receive Grant Funds from the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging

On February 4, 2015, several aging service providers from around the state were invited to The State House by Lt. Governor Henry McMasters to receive grant funds for senior center repairs and construction. In the Appalachian Region, Senior Solutions and Pickens County Meals on Wheels were selected to receive these funds. The Senior Solutions executive director, Doug Wright, received \$90,000 for much needed repairs to the adult day care center located in Seneca. Meta Bowers, Pickens County Meals on Wheels executive director, received an additional \$45,000 to be utilized at the new McKissick Center for Senior Wellness, presently under construction at the site of the old Liberty Middle School. Senators and representatives from around the region were also in attendance at the event.

Lt. Governor McMasters made one of his first priorities, following his inauguration in

January, to address the need for repairs and expansion of many senior centers in the state. Along with the new director of the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging, former Senator and interim Lt. Governor Yancey McGill, the Lt. Governor has been very active in trying to increase awareness at the state level regarding the needs of senior and disabled populations.

These grant funds supplement the State of South Carolina's Senior Center Permanent Improvement Program, which finances construction projects that assist the efforts of the state's Area Agencies on Aging to provide vital services for the elderly and disabled throughout the state. The ultimate goal is to provide seniors with a safe and comfortable setting where they can receive much-needed services while interacting socially with other seniors and local citizens.



Left to Right:
Director Yancey McGill, Lt. Governor Henry McMasters, Senator Larry Martin, Meta Bowers, Karen Carter, Representative Davey Hiott, and Senator Thomas Alexander



From Left to Right: Meta Bowers, Senator Billy O'Dell, Doug Wright, Karen Carter



ACOG Develops Method For Showcasing Upstate Industrial Properties to the World

In an effort to provide increased nationwide exposure for the region's available industrial space, ACOG economic development staff has developed a method for submitting industrial property information to the National Excess Manufacturing Capacity Catalog (NEXCAP). NEXCAP is comprehensively cataloging vacant manufacturing facilities around the country. The goal of the project is to promote business expansion and innovation, regional economic development and job growth by matching companies looking to relocate, expand or diversify with the vacant manufacturing sites or facilities cataloged through an online system.

In order to support this effort, staff was charged with the task of developing an efficient method for submitting Upstate property information to NEXCAP on an ongoing basis. This presented a number of challenges. Firstly, NEXCAP requires a specific template for submitting property information that is different than our current formats. This required staff to develop a system that would transfer local information into a format appropriate for the NEXCAP template. In addition, with 200 to 250 properties at any given time in the regional database, updating this information regularly would require manual input of data that was time intensive and not efficient from a staff standpoint. Staff worked to develop an automated system that minimizes the manual data entry portion of the tasks. Through the efforts of staff, all properties submitted through our economic developers in the Upstate will now be marketed through the NEXCAP Catalog and help further promote business expansion in the region.

The creation of this information submittal tool is just one of the many ways in which the ACOG Economic Development Services Department is working to support the efforts of Upstate economic developers. For more information, please contact David [Shellhorse \(dshellhorse@scacog.org\)](mailto:dshellhorse@scacog.org) or Beth Lewis (blewis@scacog.org).

Quick Search

Attribute		Importance
State	Alabama Alaska Arizona	3 = Important
City		3 = Important
# Structures	≥	3 = Important
Floor Area: All	≥ m ²	3 = Important
Land Area: All	≥ ha	3 = Important

Search the Catalog

