



Capitol Connection E-Newsletter – May 2016

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Register for ACCG Policy Committee Meetings

ACCG's first round of Policy Committee Meetings is scheduled for June, so register today!

Through the policy committee process, Georgia counties identify issues, debate options and form a consensus on positions that ACCG should pursue at the local, state and federal levels. For ACCG to effectively represent the interests of all 159 counties, we need county officials from throughout the state to actively participate. Those that are unable to attend the physical meeting may listen in via webinar.

Click [here](#) for the Policy Committee Meeting dates, locations and times as well as the corresponding registration links.

Any questions or concerns regarding the meetings may be directed to ACCG External Relations Director Kathleen Bowen at (404) 522-5022 or kbowen@accg.org.

ACCG Final Legislative Update Now Available

Each year, ACCG compiles a final Legislative Update to summarize legislation of importance to counties passed by the Georgia General Assembly. This Legislative Update is designed to serve as your guide to legislation from the 2015 session of the Georgia General Assembly and includes a brief summary, effective dates and the county impact(s) for each bill and resolution. Please not

that major pieces of legislation impacting counties have a more detailed summary in the Appendix.

The final Legislative Update can be accessed [here](#).

Gov. Nathan Deal's Veto Messages

By the May 3 deadline after the 2016 legislative session, Georgia's governor had vetoed 16 bills that had passed both chambers and landed on his desk. Click [here](#) for a full list of all of Gov. Nathan Deal's vetoes during the 2016 legislative session and the statements he released with them on his website.

GASB 77 Webinar Available on ACCG Website

ACCG recently hosted part two of the webinar on GASB 77 regarding disclosures relative to the abatement of taxes. County officials may now access the webinar PowerPoint presentation on the ACCG website by clicking [here](#).

Any questions regarding the information presented in the webinar may be directed to ACCG Legislative Director Clint Mueller at cmueller@accg.org or (404) 522-5022.

U.S. Department of Labor Releases New Overtime Pay Rule

The U.S. Department of Labor recently released a rule updating overtime pay regulations for executive, administrative, and professional employees. The rule was released under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and expands overtime coverage to approximately 4.2 million employees.

More details on this rule change may be found in a [recent article published by Holland and Knight](#).

ACCG also published a Counties and the Law article in the spring Georgia County Government magazine outlining this issue. Click [here](#) to access the article.

The Public Private Facilities and Infrastructure Guidelines Committee seeking comment

The Public-Private Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2015 ("PPFIA"), O.C.G.A. § 36-91-110 *et seq.*, creates a process that allows counties to partner with private entities to build and finance a wide range of projects for public use. Private companies can propose projects to the county, and, if the county determines that there is a need for the project and that private involvement may provide the project to the public in a timely and/or cost-effective fashion, then the county may contract with the company. Before executing a comprehensive agreement for the construction or operation of a project, the PPFIA requires that the county adopt guidelines that comply with the requirements of the PPFIA. Either the county can develop its own guidelines or it can adopt the model guidelines developed by the PPFIA Guidelines Committee.

The PPFIA Guidelines Committee consists of ten members from state and local government, private entities, and other interested parties – including Polk County Vice Chair Jason Ward and City of Hinesville Mayor Jim Thomas. They have worked to prepare model guidelines for local governments in the implementation of the PPFIA. The final draft of model guidelines will be adopted no later than July 1, 2016.

At this time, the PPFIA Guidelines Committee is soliciting public comment to the draft model guidelines from all interested parties.

The [Public Private Facilities and Infrastructure Guidelines Committee](#) seeks comments from county officials on the [Draft Model Guidelines](#) (on pages 13-24). The draft guidelines should be reviewed by county attorneys, managers, administrators, purchasing officials or project managers. Comments, concerns or suggested changes must be submitted to the committee no later than May 31, 2016 at: PPFIA@opb.georgia.gov.

If you have any comments to the proposed model guidelines or questions, please e-mail them to PPFIA@opb.georgia.gov prior to May 31, 2016.

Georgia EPD Offers Training for Online Services

There are two different training courses occurring Thursday, June 9, 2016 for Georgia's Environmental Protection Division. Both training sessions will take place at Chattahoochee Technical College's North Metro Campus, located at 5198 Ross Road in Acworth, Georgia. Courses will be held in Building D, Room 417.

The first session is the EPD GEOS Training, which will take place from 9 a.m. until noon. This training is for the Georgia DNR Environmental Protection Division's Online Permitting & Reporting Services, known as GEOS. The purpose is to familiarize users with the functionality and features of the GEOS system. Please note that this training does not cover EPD specific requirements for data entry within the permit application or any EPD policy or regulation information. It is a technology training session to familiarize users with how to use the GEOS online portal.

Click [here](#) to register for the EPD GEOS Training.

The second session is the EPD NetDMR Training from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. This is for the EPA NetDMR online tool. NetDMR is a web application that can be used to enter and submit data required to meet NPDES permit reporting requirements. Permit holders currently submit compliance monitoring data on Discharge Monitoring Report forms (DMRs) that are signed and mailed to a designated EPD office. Use of NetDMR rather than submitting paper forms will be required by EPA starting December 21, 2016.

Click [here](#) to register for the EPD NetDMR Training.

Local Government Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement Program

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division is offering a scrap tire reimbursement program to local governments and solid waste authorities funded through the Solid Waste Trust Fund. This fund covers the costs of transporting and processing scrap tires that have been removed from identified, state-listed scrap tire dumps. To apply for reimbursement, complete the application found at <http://epd.georgia.gov/scrap-tires>.

Please call 404-363-7027 with any questions or concerns.

Updates to GDOT MS4 Process

There are two new requirements in a recent update of the GDOT MS4 process. This process should be used on all GDOT projects located within MS4 areas. [Click here](#) to see the letter from Meg Pirkle, the chief engineer, about the process changes, some of which will go into effect as early as July 1, 2016.

Federal News: 2016 NACo Resolutions Process Begins

NEW! This year, we are including a section for relevant federal news that pertains to Georgia counties, so be on the lookout for the information under this section!

In preparation for the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2016 [Annual Conference and Exposition](#), NACo members may submit policy resolutions and platform changes to be considered at the conference.

All resolutions and platform changes must be submitted online through NACo's [NEW Resolutions Submission Portal](#) by June 22, 2016. IMPORTANT REMINDER: If you plan to submit a policy resolution or platform change, you (or a designated representative) must appear in person at the designated steering committee meeting at the 2016 Annual Conference to introduce and explain the resolution.

Further details on the NACo policy process and the steering committees can be accessed [here](#).

Interested in serving on a NACo policy steering committee? Contact Kathleen Bowen at kbowen@accg.org or (404) 522-5022. Committee details found [here](#).