



## Capitol Connection E-Newsletter- September 2015

- **Registration for 2015 Fall District Meetings Now Available**
- **Reminder: Appoint Your County Voting Delegate by Friday, September 25**
- **P3 Summit to Be Held in Atlanta/Fulton County**
- **GA Board of Natural Resources Accepting Public Comments on Proposed Changes to Dam Safety Rules**
- **Georgia EPD Accepting Applications for Non-Point Source Implementation Grants**
- **Reminder: GTIB Grants Available**
- **Counties Respond to Court Decision to Temporarily Block “Waters of the U.S.” Rule**

### **Registration for 2015 Fall District Meetings Now Available**

County officials may now register for the 2015 Fall District Meetings. Join your fellow county colleagues and the ACCG policy team for discussions with area legislators on what to expect for the upcoming session of the Georgia General Assembly. The meetings will take place in each of ACCG’s 12 districts around the state. The first meeting is set for Monday, October 26 in Stewart County. Click [here](#) to view the full schedule and to register for the meeting(s) of your choice.

All questions or concerns regarding District Meetings can be directed to ACCG Legislative Policy Coordinator Ines Owens at [iowens@accg.org](mailto:iowens@accg.org) or (404) 522-5022.

### **Reminder: Appoint Your County Voting Delegate by Friday, September 25**

ACCG is asking for each county to designate a voting delegate to represent their local government during the business session of the 2015 Legislative Leadership Conference. Voting delegates will vote on the final Amended County Platform, the document that guides the association’s legislative advocacy efforts, during the business session. Counties have until **Friday, September 25**, to appoint their respective delegate.

Click [here](#) to obtain the voting delegate form. Once completed, all forms must be submitted to Rhonda Ligons via fax at (404) 525-2477 or scanned in an email to [rligons@accg.org](mailto:rligons@accg.org).

### **P3 Summit to Be Held in Atlanta/Fulton County**

With recent legislation impacting public-private partnerships in Georgia, making them a more viable financing option for local government projects, county officials are encouraged to attend [The Future of P3s in Georgia summit](#) on **Thursday, September 24**, at the Georgia International Convention Center in Atlanta/Fulton County, Ga. Hosted by the American Council of Engineering

Companies of Georgia and the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships, the one-day event will take place from 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

ACCG is an official partner of the event and Associate Legislative Director Shaun Adams will serve as a panelist during one of the sessions. Local government officials and staff receive a substantially discounted registration fee of \$25. The P3 Summit will help answer all questions regarding public-private partnerships in Georgia. Be sure to attend this event if you are interested in learning more!

Click [here](#) for event details and to register.

### **GA Board of Natural Resources Accepting Public Comments on Proposed Changes to Dam Safety Rules**

The Georgia Board of Natural Resources is currently considering revisions for Georgia's Rules for Dam Safety. This rule will greatly impact counties that own dams, particularly Category 1 dams – those that would potentially cause loss of life in a failure. Dam owners will have additional responsibilities in inspecting dams, repairing them if necessary, and creating emergency action plans, among other measures. The Board will be receiving any comments until **Thursday, September 24, 2015**. To read more about this rule, the public hearing and how to submit comments, please click [here](#).

Please direct any questions regarding this matter to ACCG Associate Legislative Director Todd Edwards at [tedwards@accg.org](mailto:tedwards@accg.org) or (404) 522-5022.

### **Georgia EPD Accepting Project Applications for FY16 Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants**

The Watershed Protection Branch of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is now accepting project applications for FY16 Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants. Funding is distributed via a competitive process to projects that will lead to direct reductions in pollutant loads and measurable water quality improvements. The maximum amount of individual Federal awards is \$400,000, over a maximum timeline of three years. Public agencies such as local, regional, or state governments; authorities that operate service delivery programs (e.g. sewer, water); regional development centers; agricultural conservation councils; and school and university systems qualify for grants.

The deadline for pre-application meetings is October 15, 2015.

The deadline to submit program applications is November 2, 2015.

Visit the [Georgia EPD website](#) for additional information.

### **Reminder: GTIB Grants Available**

The State Road & Tollway Authority (SRTA) is now accepting grant applications for transportation infrastructure improvement funding. The SRTA announced in early August that \$29 million in

grant and loan funding is available for local governments and community improvement districts through the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank program. The deadline to submit grant applications is **Monday, October 5**.

The official press release containing additional information can be viewed [here](#).

Any questions regarding this grant opportunity can be directed to Malika Reed Wilkins at [mwilkins@georgiatolls.com](mailto:mwilkins@georgiatolls.com) or (404) 893-6103.

### **Counties Respond to Court Decision to Temporarily Block “Waters of the U.S.” Rule**

In late August, federal judges ruled to temporarily protect counties in at least 13 states – Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming – from the implications of the “Waters of the U.S.” rule. The decision temporarily stopped the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Corps of Engineers from enforcing the new rule.

There has been debate about the scope of the ruling and whether it only applies to the said 13 states or nationally. The National Association of Counties has issued additional information on this issue since the initial ruling. Click [here](#) for further information.