



COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter



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United States House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee Approves Ozone, Nuclear Waste Policy and Brownfields Bills

On June 15, the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on the Environment approved three bills of interest to county governments.

The "Ozone Standards Implementation Act" passed the subcommittee by a vote of 12-8. This bill would delay implementation of the 2015 NAAQS for Ozone until 2025. The 2015 ozone rule tightened the current standard of 75 ppb to 70 ppb last set in 2008 and only implemented nationally in the last two years. On June 6, EPA Admin. Scott Pruitt announced the EPA will delay implementation of the 2015 rule for one year to allow the agency to review criteria for the rule and give the states more time to develop air quality plans based on the 2015 rule. The second measure approved, "Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017", would reform the Nuclear Waste Policy Act by moving forward with the construction of a primary nuclear waste facility at Yucca Mountain in Nevada and authorize an interim storage facility while the Yucca Mountain is being developed. The final bill approved was "Brownfields Enhancement Redevelopment and Reauthorization Act of 2017" which would reauthorize EPA's brownfields program and would extend liability protections for local governments that did not cause or contribute to the contamination.



~Click here for more by NACo writer Julie Ufner.



Cumberland County Commissioners Appoint Jim Gailey as County Manager

At their June 12, 2017 meeting, the Cumberland County Commissioners appointed Jim Gailey as County Manager in a unanimous vote, 5-0. Gailey, who came to Cumberland

County in August 2016 as Deputy County Manager and had been the interim County Manager since April 2017. "We are very excited to have Jim on board full time as the County Manager," Cumberland County Commissioner Chair Susan Witonis said. "We look forward to what the future holds for Cumberland County Government, its employees and its citizens."

Prior to coming to Cumberland County, Gailey was the South Portland City Manager for nine years. Gailey also held several municipal positions in South Portland over his nearly 30-year career with the city. In 2001, he received a master's degree in public policy and management from the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine. In 2014, the Maine Town, City and County Management Association recognized Gailey as the Linc Stackpole Manager of the Year.

Cumberland County is located in Southern Maine and is comprised of 28 local municipalities encompassing over 283,000 residents over 853 square miles. Cumberland County is committed to providing quality services to all citizens equitably, in a responsive and caring manner. Five Commissioners are the chief elected officials of the County. Their primary role involves setting policy and approval of the county budget. This process allows the commissioners to assess county operations for both efficiency and effectiveness. In 2010, voters in Cumberland County approved a first-ever Charter for the County. The Charter defines how County Government organizes itself, selects officers, officials and employees, and establishes departments, agencies and boards.



The sun is out in Cumberland County and we are excited summer. I appreciate the opportunity to highlight some of the work we are doing here in Cumberland County and the ability to share with the members of MCCA.

Cumberland County continues its efforts on how best to provide county services in support of the 28 communities that make up the County. As we brainstorm new ideas and work with the communities on the development of regional services, we continue to build on those services that we currently provide. Recently the Town of North Yarmouth joined eighteen other towns who share regional PSAP/dispatching services through the County's Regional Communication Center in Windham. The Center absorbed the call volume within its existing space and staffing level. North Yarmouth's move to the County will annually reduce the cost of dispatching, while increasing the level of service.

On June 12, the Town of Gorham joined the County's Regional Assessing program. Gorham joins Casco, Falmouth and Yarmouth as the member communities. Gorham is a growing community and a large land area and they will keep our staff busy. To absorb Gorham, the County needs to hire a half-time administrative assistant and an additional appraiser. Even with the program staffing up, Gorham's move to regional assessing will save the town over \$60,000 a year.

Both the regional communications and assessing services create efficiency of service delivery, translating into a terrific service to member communities for less cost than if the community did the service on their own. We continue to work off this model as we look to co-develop new services with the communities within the county.

Over the last few years, Cumberland County has had an identity issue. A marketing project the County undertook a few years back resulted in a new County logo. This logo was seen as a fresh look for the County, replacing the anchor logo that historically was used and only really represented the coastal communities. Some departments used the anchor as some used the newly developed logo, resulting in inconsistency from one department to the next. In addition, there are departments that need to use their own logos, like DA's, Probate, Sheriff and EMA. Confusing at best. We have been working with a graphic artist to move away from the anchor and incorporate the new logo. We hope to create consistency from one department to the next and when the public sees our letterhead, envelope or business card there is an understanding that we are all one team.

I end by announcing the Cumberland County Commissioners appointed me as the next County Manager effective June 12, 2017. It is an honor to take over as only the third county manager in Cumberland County history and I look forward to the challenges of the job. I also look forward to working closely with the other counties, as we are all one team when it comes to issues effecting county government. Have a great summer. ~Jim Gailey, Cumberland County Manager



Mobile Modular Testing Lab Acquired In 2017 the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office acquired a 2004 Pierce Lance Mobile Command Vehicle through the US Government Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) 1033 Program. This is a program that allows Law Enforcement Agencies, enrolled in the program to acquire US Government equipment being decommissioned. The Command Vehicle is currently to be used as a Mobile Modular Testing Laboratory and was assigned as part of Air Force One's Response Team. The plan is to retrofit the Command Vehicle as a Mobile Communications ALL Hazards Response Vehicle for the County; the Sheriff's Office is working on acquiring Grant monies to assist in that endeavor. A Committee has been formed that includes members from the Sheriff's Office, Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency (CCEMA) & Regional Communications Center (CCRCC).



Community Development Block Grant Notified of U.S. Housing and Urban Development Funds

"These funds will go towards public infrastructure and facility improvements, housing rehabilitation, economic development, planning, and public services throughout many communities of Cumberland County," Maeve Pistrang, Cumberland County CDBG Director said. Cumberland County will be receiving \$1,390,296 and plans to fund local projects.

While individual municipalities and states receive these funds - Portland receives their own funds and Brunswick participates in the State program - Cumberland County is the only county in New England that receives CDBG, enabling us to offer a unique and valuable resource to the communities of Greater Portland, the Lakes Region, the islands, and coastal communities in our jurisdiction. Nationwide, the program has been in place since 1974 and Cumberland County has been participating since 2007. Over those 10 years, Cumberland County has invested over \$15 million of CDBG into the community.

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