

## **AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **ITEM #15: FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

#### **A. COASTAL MANAGEMENT NEWS**

Attached is a copy of the October 2010 issue of **Coastal Management News**, a monthly newsletter published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coastal Program Division and distributed throughout the coastal states and territories. This issue highlights Virginia's and HRPDC's efforts to promote regional and local green infrastructure planning. The lead article features the HRPDC Green Infrastructure Program, noting that it serves as the basis for similar efforts in other coastal regions.

Attachment

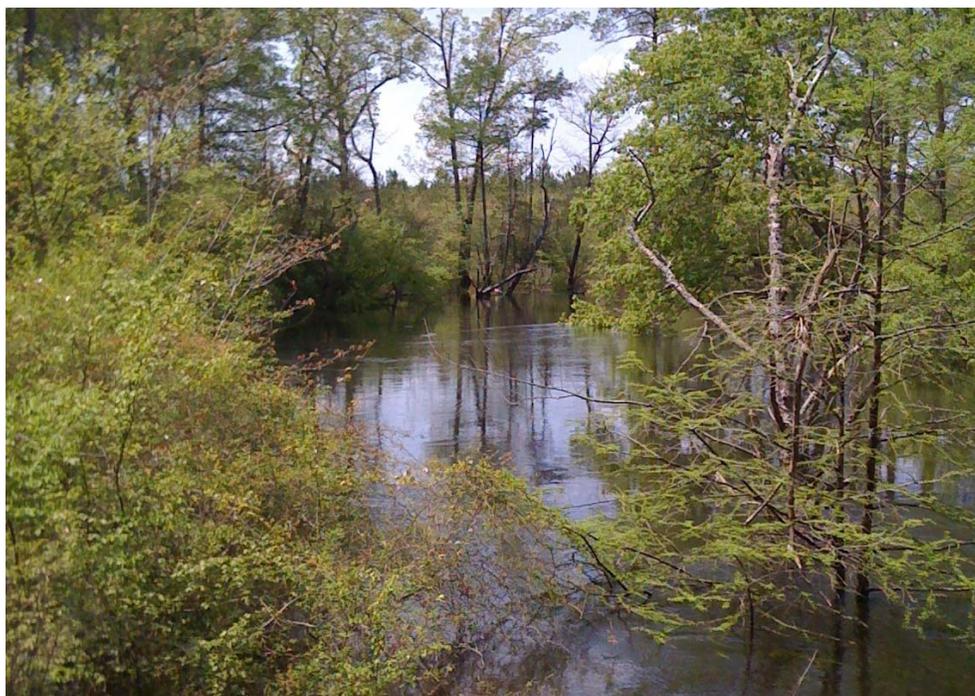
#### **B. NIPP NEWS**

Attached is a copy of the October 2010 issue of **NIPP News**, published by the Department of Homeland Security to support the national critical infrastructure protection program. The article on the bottom of page three highlights the HRPDC Critical Infrastructure Protection Program.

Attachment

# COASTAL MANAGEMENT NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 4, October 2010



*The identification and protection of conservation corridors provide multiple benefits, such as habitat protection, drinking water supply protection, stormwater management, and recreational opportunities.  
Credit: HRPDC*

## Virginia Promotes Green Infrastructure in Regional and Local Planning Efforts

Development pressures, use conflicts, climate change impacts, and new and changing regulatory requirements are among the natural resource management challenges facing the Hampton Roads region in southeast Virginia. To help meet these challenges, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), in partnership with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program and a broad range of stakeholders, established a green infrastructure network, the first and most fully realized regional conservation planning effort of its kind in the state, and is actively engaged in an ongoing effort to incorporate green infrastructure into

local and regional land use and conservation planning.

The goal of the initial green infrastructure project was to identify and prioritize a network of valuable conservation lands in order to achieve multiple benefits for both humans and the environment. The origin of the effort can be traced back to 1992 and the Southern Watershed Area Management Program, a Virginia CZM Program special area management plan that resulted in a number of products, including an initial designation of conservation corridors.

Introduced in 2006, the region's green infrastructure network has

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*Green Infrastructure (Continued from pg. 1)*

recently been updated to incorporate new information and to enhance the usability of the network for planning purposes. To help planners identify lands for conservation, the update includes the following four primary components:

- An updated **green infrastructure network and change analysis** reflects new information as well as changes in the ecological value of the green infrastructure (as it pertains to habitat and water quality) over the last four years, noting where value increased, decreased, or stayed the same.
- A **vulnerability to development model** projects where future growth is likely to occur in the region (based on population growth, employment growth, distance to roads, and distance to existing development) and how such growth may impact the network.
- A **vulnerability to sea level rise assessment** is a preliminary effort to identify the areas that are most at risk from the combined effects of sea level rise and storm surge.
- A **regional parks and recreation inventory** centralizes information about conservation and recreation lands in the region that are vital to creating linkages between conservation areas and are already protected and identifies where they are located and where there are gaps in connectivity.

The analyses suggest that the Hampton Roads region is losing ecological value (although some areas have increased in value), several areas are vulnerable to development pressure over the next 25 years, a significant amount of green infrastructure is vulnerable to development, and climate change is a threat to the region and the network. Together, the network, the analyses, and the parks and recreation inventory can help local and regional planners make informed



*This map depicts the final green infrastructure network for the Hampton Roads region. The areas in green show land that is valued highly for both habitat and water quality. Credit: HRPDC*

decisions about how to allocate their resources and prioritize acquisitions and other conservation activities.

Using the Hampton Roads model as a starting point, the Virginia CZM Program has taken steps to expand the initiative to the other coastal planning districts. Efforts are also underway to refine the available data and provide more information on estuarine coastal resources ("blue" infrastructure). The ultimate outcome will be a network of identified and locally accepted conservation corridors throughout Virginia's entire coastal zone.

*A Green Infrastructure Plan for the Hampton Roads Region* is available online at [http://hrpdcva.gov/PEP/PEP\\_Green\\_Infras\\_Plan.asp](http://hrpdcva.gov/PEP/PEP_Green_Infras_Plan.asp). To learn more about protecting green and blue infrastructure and related projects funded through the Virginia CZM Program, visit [www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal). For more information, contact Sara Kidd with the HRPDC at [skidd@hrpdcva.gov](mailto:skidd@hrpdcva.gov) or Shep Moon with the Virginia CZM Program at [shep.moon@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:shep.moon@deq.virginia.gov).

## Indiana Develops Onsite Sewage System Tracking Program

Each summer, thousands of people visit Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana Dunes State Park, and other public and private sites with access to Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline. And, every year, officials occasionally close beaches because of high bacteria counts. As in many coastal areas, onsite sewage systems (septic systems) are a contributing source of nonpoint pollution within Indiana's Lake Michigan watershed. When properly planned, designed, installed, operated, and maintained, septic systems can effectively treat wastewater contaminants such as nutrients and pathogens. However, septic systems fail for a variety of reasons. Common limitations that contribute to failure

include poor soil conditions, inadequate maintenance, and illicit connections.

Indiana's watershed management efforts have been hampered by the lack of site-specific information on the location of areas with high septic system vulnerability. When developing the Lake Michigan Shoreline TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load), *E. coli* loads were estimated based on census data and average daily discharges. The Lake Michigan Interagency Task Force on *E. Coli* identified the need for a database inventory for onsite sewage systems in the Lake Michigan watershed to assist with developing and implementing

*(Continued on pg. 3)*

*Indiana Tracking (Continued from pg. 2)*

water quality improvement projects throughout the watershed.

In response, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), in partnership with Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP), developed a web-based tracking tool for onsite sewage systems for use by county health departments in the Lake Michigan watershed. This innovative tracking tool, called iTOSS (Indiana's Network for Tracking of Onsite Sewage Systems), is based on the Wastewater Information System Tool (TWIST) developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Wastewater Management. Using TWIST as a starting point, Indiana streamlined and customized the input screens and altered the flow of data to more closely follow standard practices used in the state. In addition, the TWIST Microsoft Access-based format was converted to an Oracle web-based database to allow for easier county-level utilization of iTOSS.

The iTOSS tool provides for a centralized database and user interface containing parcel, facility, soil evaluation, onsite system, permit, and permit violation information. State and county health department staff can associate

permit violation and complaint data to a specific parcel, as well as attach site images and other supporting documentation. While the Lake Michigan region is the driving force behind the development of iTOSS, the remainder of the state benefits from the program development as well. Completed in early 2010, iTOSS is already being used by 12 Indiana counties, including all 3 coastal counties bordering Lake Michigan. In addition, two other states, including one Great Lake state, have expressed an interest in adapting the system for their use.

ISDH is working to further refine the system's query and reporting capabilities with plans for the development of a mapping module that will allow iTOSS data to be more easily imported into GIS systems and support modeling and analysis of cumulative and secondary impacts. The LMCP Technical Assistance Planning Program staff will also be utilizing iTOSS data to assist local communities with refining watershed management plans and developing local ordinances addressing onsite sewage systems.

For additional information regarding iTOSS, contact Mike Mettler at [mmettler@isdh.in.gov](mailto:mmettler@isdh.in.gov).

## NOAA To Designate Wisconsin National Estuarine Research Reserve

A 16,697-acre area of freshwater marshes, uplands, and river on the shores of Lake Superior in Wisconsin will become the 28<sup>th</sup> member of NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System in a designation ceremony at Superior, Wisconsin, on October 26. The new reserve is located in Douglas County, in the northwestern corner of Wisconsin where the St. Louis River flows into Lake Superior.

The designation means that the unique St. Louis River freshwater estuary will serve as a site to study natural

resource management techniques and apply what is learned to challenges facing coastal communities, such as maintaining clean water, protecting wildlife habitat, and preventing and controlling invasive species. The University of Wisconsin-Extension will manage the reserve and will work in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Superior to provide long-term facilities, staffing, and programming for the reserve. The Lake Superior reserve is the second to be established in the Great Lakes and the first in the upper Great Lakes.

Official designation of the Lake Superior reserve culminates a six-year process beginning with site selection and continuing with development of an environmental impact study and a comprehensive management plan. This multiyear process was done in partnership with scientists, agency land managers, public officials, and citizens representing local, regional, and tribal interests. The Wisconsin Coastal Management Program has been instrumental in the designation process, providing program staff support as well as funding for a feasibility study, outreach materials, and a Lake Superior freshwater estuary outreach coordinator position.

For more information about the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve, visit [www.nerrs.noaa.gov/Reserve.aspx?ResID=LKS](http://www.nerrs.noaa.gov/Reserve.aspx?ResID=LKS) or contact Patrick Robinson at [robinsonp@uwgb.edu](mailto:robinsonp@uwgb.edu).



*Oliver Marsh will become part of the new Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve, which will be designated by NOAA on October 26.*

## New England Develops Regional Coastal and Estuarine Lands Initiative

In 2009, the New England Governors passed a resolution establishing a Blue Ribbon Commission on Land Conservation (CLC) to build a lasting conservation legacy for future generations of New Englanders. The governors recognized that New England's land resources face serious challenges from the impacts of climate change, sprawling development, and other economic, fiscal, and demographic changes and tasked the CLC with developing integrated regional initiatives focusing on the following priorities:

- Keep Farmlands in Farming
- Keep Forests as Forests
- Connect People to the Outdoors
- Protect Wildlife Habitat
- Safeguard Coastal and Estuarine Lands

In the months following the 2009 resolution, the CLC established five working groups to develop each of these thematic initiatives. While each working group had a specific focus, a number of cross-cutting themes united all of the initiatives: support of working lands; enhancing economic, environmental, and social resilience; cultivation of a public conservation ethic; and



*The New England Governor's Lands Initiative will incorporate climate change adaptation strategies into CELCP and other regional land conservation plans such as those for this recent CELCP acquisition in Maquoit Bay, Maine.*

making the landscape more accessible to underserved populations.

The Safeguard Coastal and Estuarine Lands Initiative was built from the foundation established through the NOAA-administered Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP). Each of the New England coastal zone management programs are participating on the group as are staff from the Nature Conservancy and NOAA. The initiative is working to develop a regional demonstration project that would integrate state CELCP plans, wildlife action plans, climate plans, and other plans to establish regional conservation priorities, strategies, actions, and measureable outcomes with a particular focus on incorporating climate change adaptation and wildlife habitat protection strategies into active land conservation programs.

The Northeast Regional Ocean Council will serve as the sponsor of the Safeguard Coastal and Estuarine Lands Initiative's demonstration project, which will prepare an inventory and analysis of priority regional ecosystems vulnerable to sea level rise and the impacts of climate change and develop regional assessment criteria for identifying the highest priority conservation areas that will achieve protection of agreed-upon, regionally significant resources. NOAA and other federal partners have pledged assistance with planning and GIS-based mapping and analysis services.

The Safeguard Coastal and Estuarine Lands Initiative's work to date is further described in the CLC's July 2010 Report "A Lasting Legacy: Recommendations of the New England Governors Blue Ribbon Commission on Land Conservation." This report summarizes the five initiatives as developed by the regional working groups.

For additional information regarding the New England Safeguard Coastal and Estuarine Lands Initiative and the other initiatives, read the report, which is available online at [http://efc.muskie.usm.maine.edu/docs/2010\\_clc\\_report.pdf](http://efc.muskie.usm.maine.edu/docs/2010_clc_report.pdf) or contact Jim Connors at [Jim.Connors@maine.gov](mailto:Jim.Connors@maine.gov).

## Great Lakes Managers Meet in Indiana

The week of September 20, representatives from the Great Lakes coastal zone management programs participated in the 2010 Great Lakes Managers' Meeting in Chesterton, Indiana. Also in attendance were staff from NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, nongovernmental organizations, Sea Grant, and other entities.

The conference afforded attendees the opportunity to meet in-person with various coastal partners to enhance regional coordination and foster productive dialogue on emerging issues in the Great Lakes region, such as coastal land conservation, lake-based wind power, and climate change adaptation. For additional information, contact Josh Lott at [Josh.Lott@noaa.gov](mailto:Josh.Lott@noaa.gov).

## New National Ocean Council to Guide National Ocean Policy Planning

On July 19, President Obama signed the Executive Order establishing an integrated National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and Great Lakes. The order adopts the recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force and directs executive agencies to implement those recommendations under the guidance of a new National Ocean Council (NOC).

The policy includes a set of guiding principles for management decisions and actions toward stewardship. These nine priority objectives provide a bridge between policy and specific actions. The NOC will be responsible for developing strategic action plans for these priority objectives that identify specific and measurable actions, performance measures, outcomes, key lead and participating agencies, gaps and needs in science and technology, potential resource requirements and efficiencies, and steps for integrating or coordinating current and out-year budgets. The nine objectives are:

### Overarching Approaches

- **Ecosystem-Based Management:** Adopt ecosystem-based management as a foundational principle for comprehensive management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.
- **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning:** Implement comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning and management in the United States.
- **Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding:** Increase knowledge to continually inform and improve management and policy decisions and the capacity to respond to change and challenges. Better educate the public through formal and informal programs about the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.
- **Coordinate and Support:** Better coordinate and support federal, state, tribal, local, and regional management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great

Lakes. Improve coordination and integration across the federal government and, as appropriate, engage with the international community.

### Areas of Special Emphasis

- **Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification:** Strengthen resiliency of coastal communities and marine and Great Lakes environments and their abilities to adapt to climate change impacts and ocean acidification.
- **Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration:** Establish and implement an integrated ecosystem protection and restoration strategy that is science-based and aligns conservation and restoration goals at the federal, state, tribal, local, and regional levels.
- **Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land:** Enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by promoting and implementing sustainable practices on land.
- **Changing Conditions in the Arctic:** Address environmental stewardship needs in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent coastal areas in the face of climate-induced and other environmental changes.
- **Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure:** Strengthen and integrate federal and nonfederal ocean observing systems, sensors, data collection platforms, data management, and mapping capabilities into a national system, and integrate that system into international observation efforts.

To find out more about these priority objectives, read *Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force*, which is available at [www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF\\_FinalRecs.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf). More information about the National Ocean Council can be found at [www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans).

## NOAA Announces Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Opportunity

In mid-September, NOAA announced the availability of an FY 2011 competitive grant opportunity to support the NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program. The national competition (which is subject to congressional appropriations) is focused on advancing effective coastal and ocean management through regional ocean governance and the goals for national ocean policy set out in the *Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force* (see article

above), which includes a national coastal and marine spatial planning framework.

The Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program will support two categories of activities: 1) implementation of activities that contribute to achieving the priorities identified by regional ocean partnerships while also advancing coastal and marine spatial planning as envisioned in the national framework and 2) regional

(Continued on pg. 6)

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Funding Opportunity (Continued from pg. 5)

ocean partnership development and governance support for administration and operation of existing regional ocean partnerships and for start-up costs of those regions beginning partnerships.

For purposes of this funding opportunity, NOAA will generally use the regions defined by the Ocean Policy Task Force for consideration in the funding proposals. A total of nine regions are eligible for funding under this opportunity. Where possible, NOAA has identified a potential existing lead regional ocean partnership or planning body for each region. Existing partnerships include the Council of Great Lakes Governors, Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean, Northeast Regional Ocean Council, South Atlantic Governors' Alliance, and the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health.



The nine regional planning areas as defined by the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force are illustrated here.

Regional ocean partnerships are voluntary, usually multistate, governor-established forums that develop shared priorities and take critical action on a broad array of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes needs, as relevant to their region. They have different structures and employ varied methods and approaches to enhance the ecological and economic health of the region. Their efforts involve nongovernmental stakeholders and all of the multiple state and federal agencies involved in coastal and ocean management.

The full grant announcement includes details on the funding priorities, eligibility, review process, and how to apply. Applications must be received by December 10, 2010, in order to be considered. The announcement and application can be found at [www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=57212](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=57212).

This funding opportunity is being jointly managed by NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) and the NOAA Coastal Services Center. Direct technical questions to Becky Smyth at [Rebecca.Smyth@noaa.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Smyth@noaa.gov) and general questions to one of the following regional OCRM representatives:

#### Alaska/Arctic Region

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[Matt.Gove@noaa.gov](mailto:Matt.Gove@noaa.gov)

#### Caribbean Region

Dana Wusinich-Mendez

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#### Chesapeake Bay Region

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#### West Coast Region

Kris Wall

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## OCRM Announces CZM Information Systems Awards

As directed by Congress in FY 2010, NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) held a competitive grant competition to provide state coastal zone management (CZM) programs with funds to modernize and improve their state CZM information systems to support coastal decision making pertaining to permitting and land use. The program was highly competitive: 21 eligible applications requesting a combined total of \$4 million vied for \$1 million in available funding.

Six applications were selected for funding, and on October 1, grants were awarded to the following (in alphabetical order):

- **California**—Modernize and Upgrade the Information Management Systems for the California Coastal Commission and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**—Modernizing the Permit Application Process and Permit Tracking Database
- **Georgia**—Modernizing Georgia's Coastal Permits Management Database
- **Maine**—The Maine Coastal Data Integration Tool
- **Massachusetts**—Expanding, Modernizing, and Improving the Massachusetts Ocean Resources Information System
- **Ohio**—Modernization of Historic Aerial Imagery in Support of Regulatory Programs

To learn more about the Modernizing and Improving State Coastal Zone Management Information Systems program, contact Liz Mountz at [Elizabeth.Mountz@noaa.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Mountz@noaa.gov).

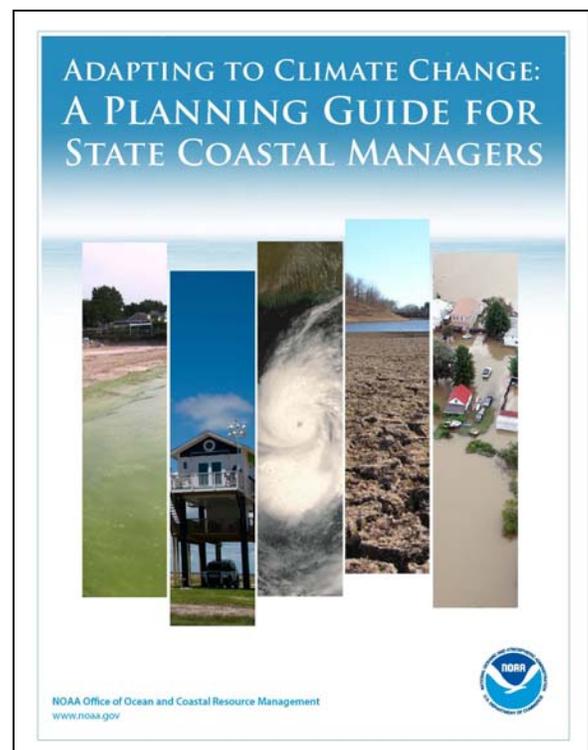
## OCRM Releases Climate Change Adaptation Planning Guide

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) has released a coastal climate adaptation guide to help state and territory coastal managers develop and implement adaptation plans to reduce risks of possible climate change impacts. *Adapting to Climate Change: A Planning Guide for State Coastal Managers* was written in response to requests from state coastal managers for NOAA guidance on adaptation planning.

Created specifically for state-level coastal management programs, the guide is intended to be an aid, not a prescriptive directive, for developing and implementing adaptation plans. States may use individual steps or chapters or the entire guide, depending on their needs. The guide provides science-based information on climate change to set the context for adaptation planning and includes steps for setting up a planning process, assessing vulnerability, devising a strategy, and implementing the plan. It compiles information from a number of sources and includes techniques currently being used successfully by coastal managers to address other coastal management issues such as coastal hazards, habitat loss, and secondary and cumulative impacts.

The guide is available online only at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/climate/adaptation.html> and can be downloaded in its entirety or by chapter. A separate 10-page document containing all the key resources

noted in the guide is also available. For more information, contact Josh Lott at [Josh.Lott@noaa.gov](mailto:Josh.Lott@noaa.gov).



The goal of this new planning tool from OCRM is to help coastal states prepare for climate change along their coasts.

## CELCP Updates NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

### FY11 Ranked List of CELCP Projects

In early September, CELCP released the competitively ranked list of projects eligible for CELCP funding for FY 2011. Each fiscal year, projects are ranked for selection based on an independent, competitive, merit-based evaluation. In total, coastal states and territories submitted 42 proposals requesting over \$71 million in land conservation project funds for the FY 2011 competition.

This list prioritizes projects that are ready and eligible for funding in FY 2011, subject to the amounts appropriated for the program. The projects included have not yet been selected for funding. Once NOAA receives final funding levels for FY 2011, CELCP will use the list as a guide in selecting projects for funding under both CELCP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, within the amounts available for project grants. The list has been transmitted to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and the offices of other interested members of Congress.

The list of ranked projects can be found at [http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp\\_fundingop.html](http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp_fundingop.html) under the heading "FY 2011 Projects." For more information, contact Elaine Vaudreuil at [Elaine.Vaudreuil@noaa.gov](mailto:Elaine.Vaudreuil@noaa.gov).

### Recent Closings

On July 28, the town of Bayfield, Wisconsin, acquired 77 acres, including more than 2,200 feet of Lake Superior shoreline, along the south shore of the Bayfield Peninsula known as "Houghton Falls." This property will be managed as a natural area, and the public will be able to access the property for low-impact recreational activities such as bird watching and hiking. This project was supported through the EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Lake Metroparks purchased the Shorehaven property in Lake County, Ohio, known as "Lake Erie Bluffs" on July 7. The 95-acre acquisition protects more than 1,000 feet of Lake Erie shoreline and provides habitat for seven state-listed plant species. This project was also supported through the EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Douglas County, Wisconsin, acquired 3,995 acres in the Nemadji River watershed on September 3. This property includes more than six miles of river frontage



*The Houghton Falls acquisition was funded through EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative's supplemental funding to CELCP. Credit: Travis Olson, Wisconsin Department of Administration*

and high priority mesic habitat as well as boreal hardwood forests.

On September 28, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources acquired the 6,860-acre Rayonier Tract, located along 12 miles of the Altamaha River in Long County, Georgia. This property, along with the adjacent 7,180-acre Rayonier Phase One Tract used as match for the federal funds, is part of a 41,350-acre contiguous block of permanently protected land located in the lower Altamaha River Corridor.

### 2010 Land Trust Alliance Conference

CELCP program staff led two workshops at this year's National Land Conservation Conference, also known as the "LTA Rally," in Hartford, Connecticut, October 2-5. The annual LTA Rally is one of the nation's leading land conservation meetings. The workshops focused on CELCP and principles to guide strategic coastal land acquisition, such as blue and green infrastructure and coastal smart growth concepts. More than 1,800 participants, including land trust staff and volunteers, land conservation professionals, and local, state, and federal agencies attended the rally.

## – Spotlight on NOAA Resources –

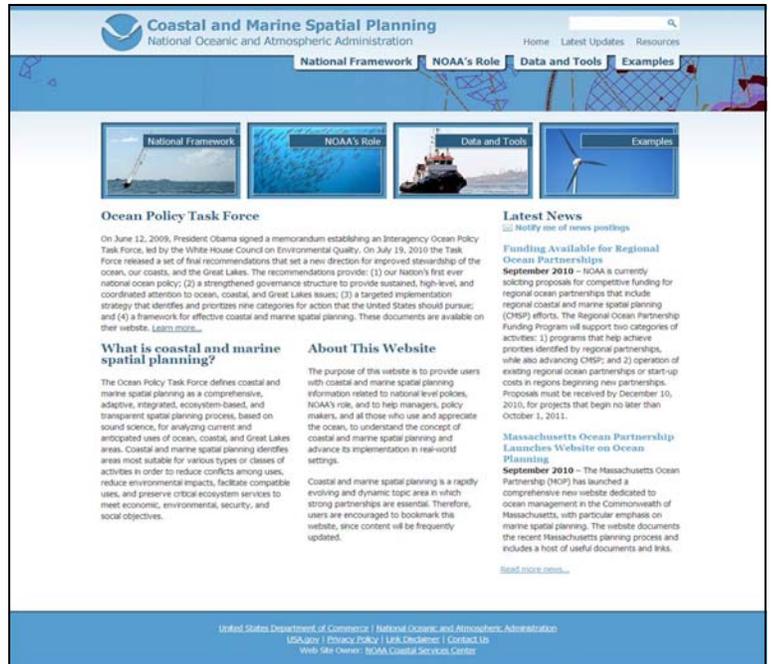
### NOAA Website Aims to Advance Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

Coastal and marine spatial planning is a subject receiving a lot of attention lately, due in part to the world's increasing interest in alternative energy. This interest is reflected within NOAA and Congress, which is why coastal and marine spatial planning is an important component of the nation's new National Ocean Policy (see article on page 5).

The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force defines coastal and marine spatial planning as a comprehensive, adaptive, integrated, ecosystem-based, and transparent spatial planning process, based on sound science, for analyzing current and anticipated uses of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes areas. Coastal and marine spatial planning identifies areas most suitable for various types or classes of activities in order to reduce conflicts among uses, reduce environmental impacts, facilitate compatible uses, and preserve critical ecosystem services to meet economic, environmental, security, and social objectives.

A new NOAA website is designed to help resource managers, policy makers, and other stakeholders understand coastal and marine spatial planning and advance its implementation. Content on the site includes the following.

- **Data and Tools** provides links to some of the most relevant resources to help states implement coastal and marine spatial planning.
- **Examples** provides concise descriptions of where coastal and marine spatial planning is being implemented, how it is being done, and who is participating.
- **National Framework** summarizes the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force's final framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning and provides links to important documents such as the executive order establishing the National Policy for Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes.



NOAA's new Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning website aims to help resource managers and others understand and implement coastal and marine spatial planning.

- **NOAA's Role** describes NOAA's commitment to the effective implementation of coastal and marine spatial planning, detailing the general approach, resources, and capabilities NOAA will use to make this initiative a reality in the nine regional planning areas.
- **Latest Updates** helps users stay on top of the latest coastal and marine spatial planning news, developments, and upcoming events. Content is updated regularly, and users can sign up to receive e-mail alerts when content is added.

Visit the NOAA coastal and marine spatial planning website at [www.cmsp.noaa.gov](http://www.cmsp.noaa.gov). For more information, contact Brian Smith at [Brian.M.Smith@noaa.gov](mailto:Brian.M.Smith@noaa.gov). This site is continually evolving, and user feedback is encouraged.



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The quarterly *Coastal Management Program Newsletter* was developed in response to state requests for assistance in improved communication/lesson sharing among the state and territory coastal management programs. Please let us know about interesting things going on in your coastal zone you would like to share with others. If you have any projects that you would like to highlight, please send a brief description to [Christa.Rabenold@noaa.gov](mailto:Christa.Rabenold@noaa.gov). The submission deadline for the next newsletter is January 1, 2011.



Homeland  
Security

# NIPP NEWS

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION PLAN

ISSUE 55: OCTOBER 2010

## Critical Infrastructure Activities and Events

### Assistant Secretary Keil Delivers Remarks to U.S. Chamber of Commerce National Security Task Force



Todd M. Keil, Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection (IP), delivered remarks and fielded questions before the U.S. Chamber of Commerce National Security Task Force on September 22, 2010. The Task Force seeks to collaborate with lawmakers and officials to develop policies that shape public and private sector efforts to strengthen homeland security. Assistant Secretary Keil discussed the evolution and future direction of IP while highlighting the importance of partnerships and public and private sector participation.

The Assistant Secretary believes his experience in both the public and private sectors has shaped his approach to IP's mission. As a result, Keil told the crowd that he has "a better understanding of the needs and capabilities of our many stakeholders," which helps him to engage with those partners more effectively.

Keil explained how the IP mission was conceived when the idea for a "Homeland Security Agency" was

proposed by the Hart-Rudman Commission prior to September 11, 2001. The Commission emphasized the importance of establishing a "Critical Infrastructure Protection Directorate" as an integral part of an endorsed homeland security agency and supported the idea of Regional Directors.

Keil explained how the thinking on resilience has evolved to be more applicable to interconnected assets and systems. He said that IP has led the way in the promotion of resilience through initiatives such as the Regional Resiliency Assessment Program (RRAP), which evaluates critical infrastructure on a regional level and identifies opportunities to make systems more resilient. Keil believes RRAP is headed in the right direction as a result of its regional focus and benefit to public and private sector stakeholders.

Keil also discussed the Private Sector Preparedness Accreditation and Certification (PS-Prep) Program. Components across DHS support this voluntary program that enables private sector entities to become certified by a third party as conforming to DHS-adopted preparedness standards. These standards focus on organizational resilience, business continuity management, and emergency management.

IP is planning to collaborate with critical infrastructure partners to develop an implementation plan for the National Infrastructure Protection Plan that identifies milestones for IP and its partners to more effectively track progress in executing agreed-upon goals that are developed in partnership. The Assistant Secretary also described how IP has collaborated with Canada and Mexico over the last year and plans to become more engaged with other international partners. These recent interactions have resulted in a better understanding of interdependencies from a global perspective.

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## New and Improved ACAMS 3.0 Now Available

The ACAMS Project Management Office (PMO) within the Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP) recently finalized the release of ACAMS Version 3.0. The migration of ACAMS users from the previous system to 3.0 took place in a staggered approach over the summer, allowing developers to validate asset and user information to strengthen data integrity within the new system. This latest version includes a variety of system upgrades and added features designed to streamline processes and improve the overall user experience. Below is a summary of a few notable changes that have been incorporated within this release.

### Redesigned Interface and Workflow

ACAMS users will notice a change in the way they navigate through the system. The redesigned layout, reorganization of data, and the integration of collapsible menus will make it easier for users to access specific views. The introduction of a new Asset Creation wizard also guides users through a step-by-step process to create and submit an asset for approval, or continue with additional data entry for an existing asset.

In addition, ACAMS 3.0 includes a robust workflow process that enables users to effectively determine the current state of any asset. A detailed workflow history allows users to identify who created, submitted, and approved/rejected an asset, as well as when that action took place. Within this new workflow process, assets will be identified in one of three distinct states of data entry: Asset Assessment (AA), Asset Manager Questionnaire (AMQ), or Buffer Zone Plan (BZP). The various data groupings that existed in the previous versions will also be available; however, Inventory (INV), Initial Asset Visit (IAV), and Rapid Action Assessment & Deployment (RAAD) have been pooled into the new draft type “Asset Assessment,” allowing data to be populated in the INV, IAV, or RAAD tabs and submitted for approval in one step.

### Enhanced Viewing and Reporting Capabilities

In an effort to distinguish PCII from non-PCII information, ACAMS 3.0 now has specific asset screens that display only information designated strictly as non-PCII. These data include general asset information such as an asset’s address and the associated responding police, hospital, and fire departments, which have been deemed publicly available data by the DHS PCII Office.

The new system also will improve reporting capabilities by giving users the ability to view relevant data in an organized and exportable format. When required, PCII designations have been added to these reports to allow users to print with minimal effort. In addition to the legacy reports, new reports such as Inventory, AMQ, Options for Consideration, and MSHARRPP+V Analysis are available as well.

### Asset Types

The identification of asset-specific types in release 3.0 will allow users to enter additional information for schools, hospitals, police stations, and fire departments. This will help ACAMS users collect and display relevant asset data and establish better situational awareness.

In addition to the many system enhancements that help streamline the data entry, search, and reporting capabilities, a flexible security model has also been implemented to aid in the management of users, roles, teams of users, and groups of assets. New baseline data requirements will also ensure the continuity of data collection efforts across the country.

The ACAMS PMO will continue to collaborate with the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Government Coordinating Council (SLTTGCC) to identify, validate, and prioritize requirements for future upgrades. We encourage users to provide suggestions and feedback on current or recommended capabilities to support our stakeholders in the infrastructure protection community. If you have any questions or would like additional information on ACAMS 3.0, please contact [acamshelp@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:acamshelp@hq.dhs.gov).

**ACAMS Help Desk**  
E-mail: [acamshelp@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:acamshelp@hq.dhs.gov)  
Helpline: 1.866.634.1958

**ACAMS Project Office**  
E-mail: [acams-info@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:acams-info@hq.dhs.gov)

**ICAV Project Office**  
E-mail: [icav.info@dhs.gov](mailto:icav.info@dhs.gov)

**PCII Program Office**  
E-mail: [pcli-info@dhs.gov](mailto:pcli-info@dhs.gov)  
Phone: 202.360.3023

Recall that by utilizing the ACAMS tool, you have expressly acknowledged and declared that you understand and will protect the confidential nature of this information.

## SLTTGCC Fall Plenary Features Assistant Secretary Keil

The State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Government Coordinating Council (SLTTGCC) held its 2010 Fall Plenary meeting September 14-16 in Washington, DC. The SLTTGCC is the cross-sector coordinating council for State, local, tribal, and territorial governments and includes representatives from jurisdictions across the country.

Addressing the Plenary, IP Assistant Secretary Keil stated, “We all agree that State, local, tribal, and territorial governments represent the front lines of critical infrastructure protection and are essential to enhancing the resilience of their communities.”

The SLTTGCC drafted a white paper entitled “Aligning Federal CIKR Capabilities to Meet Needs in the Field,” which identifies areas where IP can provide the greatest support to State, local, tribal, and territorial governments. One of the paper’s chief recommendations is to incorporate the State and local perspective into the entire cycle of CIKR program identification and development. Assistant Secretary Keil recognized that this recommendation “is at the core of the reason behind the creation of the SLTTGCC,” and provides “a better understanding and appreciation for where IP needs to go.”

In order to ensure that stakeholder concerns are being heard and considered, Keil announced that IP is conducting a “Stakeholder Input Project” to provide an opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to give feedback to IP in order to build on best practices and make improvements.

In closing, the Assistant Secretary acknowledged the value of the SLTTGCC and the importance of maintaining an ongoing exchange of information. “Continued engagement and frank, open discussions of this type are essential to maintaining an effective and sustainable partnership.”

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## Hampton Roads Initiates a Regional Critical Infrastructure Protection Program

The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) held a workshop in July to explore the benefits, costs, and risks of creating a regional critical infrastructure protection plan. Hampton Roads is home to one of the largest ports in the world, multiple bridges and tunnels that carry millions of people annually, and a thriving regional economy heavily dependent on the defense industrial base.

Recognizing this unique risk landscape, the Hampton Roads region has initiated the Hampton Roads Critical Infrastructure Protection Program (HR CIPP). The workshop was held in conjunction with the Governor’s Office of Commonwealth Preparedness and in collaboration with the University of Virginia Center for Risk Management of Engineering Systems and the James Madison University Institute for Infrastructure and Information Assurance.

The workshop brought together more than 60 partners from local, State, and Federal government, higher education, nonprofits, and owners and operators with a stake in the resilience of the region’s critical infrastructure. The Office of Infrastructure Protection’s (IP) Protective Security Advisor (PSA) for Hampton Roads was instrumental in bringing representatives from U.S. Joint Forces Command and Langley Air Force Base to the workshop.



The HR CIPP workshop offered three sessions designed to familiarize participants with the benefits of working together to develop a sustainable approach to critical infrastructure protection in the Hampton Roads region. The sessions focused on making a value proposition for critical infrastructure protection; identifying key assets, leveraging existing regional organizations, and measuring progress; and setting initial steps, goals, and milestones. In addition, representatives from the Governor’s Office for Commonwealth Preparedness presented the Virginia Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resiliency Strategic Plan. IP representatives from the NIPP Program Management Office and the PSA Program also attended the workshop.

The workshop culminated in participants agreeing to formalize the HR CIPP under the leadership of HRPDC. The University of Virginia Center for Risk Management of Engineering Systems has offered to draft an initial strategy for HR CIPP members to review this fall. In the interim, HRPDC will continue to facilitate regular HR CIPP meetings aimed at producing a regional infrastructure protection strategy that provides value to the region, its businesses, and its citizens.

For more information on the HR CIPP, please contact Richard Flannery, Emergency Management Administrator for HRPDC at (757) 420-8300, or Megan Samford, Critical Infrastructure Coordinator for the Governor’s Office of Commonwealth Preparedness at (804) 371-2602.

## Public-Private Partnerships Enhance Critical Infrastructure Protection Efforts in American Cities

Cities from across the Nation are establishing partnerships to enhance business continuity and information sharing between their public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Representatives from Denver, Dallas, and New York City were chosen to share their partnership experiences in a forum co-sponsored by the Partnership Programs and Information Sharing Branch within the Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP) at the 2010 National Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Conference in June. Denver, Dallas, and New York City were chosen because of the ongoing success of their business partnerships, including open and transparent lines of communication and continual identification and engagement of new partners. The common element of success in all three partnerships was ensuring that they continue to provide meaningful benefits to the private sector.

In 2008, Denver formed the Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership (CEPP) in preparation for hosting the Democratic National Convention. CEPP coordinates training and exercise programs for the private sector, manages an all-hazards public alert tool, and leads a virtual Business Emergency Operations Center that businesses use to respond to and communicate during critical events. CEPP also has initiated a private sector resource registry to catalog private sector assets for use by emergency managers during a declared disaster.

Dallas established the Dallas Emergency Response Team (DERT) after a tornado killed five people and caused more than \$500 million worth of damage in Fort Worth in 2000. DERT partners with city business leaders to pre-issue emergency perimeter passes to property managers and operates the city's public alert notification system. DERT remains an important mechanism for the public and private sector to collaborate on security and emergency response plans for next year's Super Bowl in nearby Arlington, Texas.

New York City facilitates public-private partnerships through its Office of Emergency Management (OEM). OEM works closely with private sector organizations to ensure that they have the resources and information they need to make decisions before, during, and after an emergency. NYC OEM maintains seats in the City's Emergency Operations Center for private sector umbrella organizations that help coordinate the private sector's planning role as well as response and recovery efforts of specific industries. OEM provides free email alerts to the private sector on non-sensitive emergency situations through a dedicated business portal known as CorpNet.

IP will continue to highlight innovative approaches to public-private partnerships that enhance critical infrastructure protection and resilience. The experiences shared by Denver, Dallas, and New York City at the UASI Conference will be used by IP to assess the effectiveness of its programs in promoting public-private partnerships in the field.

For more information on the three cities' business partnerships, please visit: Denver: <http://www.thecepp.org>; Dallas: <http://dallasalert.org>; New York City: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/businesses/businesses.shtml>.

**CEPP**  
Colorado  
Emergency  
Preparedness



## News from the Sectors

### TSA's I-STEP Moving Full Speed Ahead

**I-STEP** | Intermodal Security  
Training and  
Exercise Program

It has been a busy fiscal year for the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Intermodal Security Training and Exercise Program (I-STEP), which provides exercise, training, and security planning tools and services to the transportation community.

I-STEP made impressive progress toward its goal of planning and facilitating 20 exercises in Fiscal Year 2010. To date, the I-STEP team has supported the following exercises:

- **Freight Rail:** Two workshops in St. Louis and one in Memphis to introduce TSA's new Freight Rail Infrastructure Assessment Tool.
- **Highway and Motor Carrier:** Five exercises, including a tabletop exercise on infrastructure in Rutgers; tabletop exercises on school bus security in Albany and Los Angeles; a motor coach tabletop in Northern Virginia; and an advanced tabletop involving critical manufacturing companies that was conducted simultaneously in four locations.
- **Mass Transit:** Three exercises, including a tabletop and seminar in Cleveland focusing on improvised explosive devices (IEDs); and a working group session with transportation representatives from throughout the National Capital Region.

- **Pipeline:** Three tabletop exercises in Boston, Baltimore, and New York City, and an upcoming planned tabletop with the Alyeska Pipeline in Anchorage, AK.
- **Port and Intermodal:** Three joint exercises with the U.S. Coast Guard, including a recovery tabletop in Baltimore, an isolation-and-quarantine tabletop in Boston, and a hazardous materials train derailment tabletop in Long Island.

I-STEP also provided program manager support at the 9th Annual Security Seals Symposium in Houston, TX. The joint TSA and Department of Defense symposium brought together participants from across the country to exchange strategies for enhancing intermodal security. The I-STEP team has worked on several mode-specific initiatives, such as the Ferry Watch Program for Port and Intermodal, strategic planning for Highway and Motor Carrier, and a bridge risk tool for Freight Rail.

Additionally, I-STEP is currently developing multi-modal resources for all transportation security stakeholders, including a comprehensive matrix outlining transportation security training resources. TSA recently convened a working group to update and enhance I-STEP's exercise planning and tracking tool, the Exercise Information System (EXIS). Once released, EXIS will provide a suite of scalable resources designed to serve transportation partners in all modes. To learn more about I-STEP products and services, email a TSA modal representative at [ISTEP@dhs.gov](mailto:ISTEP@dhs.gov).

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## GridWise Global Forum Highlights IP's Support to the Energy Sector

On September 22, 2010, Assistant Secretary Keil gave a speech at the GridWise Global Forum in Washington, D.C. Mr. Keil discussed the Office of Infrastructure Protection's (IP) ongoing initiatives to protect and enhance the resilience of the electric grid. Specifically, Mr. Keil spoke about the Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP), which provides funding to State and local law enforcement to increase the preparedness of jurisdictions responsible for the safety of communities surrounding high-priority critical infrastructure assets. IP has conducted assessments of 623 Energy Sector assets and has allocated approximately \$45 million in BZPP grant funds to first responders in jurisdictions surrounding critical Energy Sector assets. To help mitigate the all-hazard risks facing the Energy Sector, IP also sponsors security clearances for private sector representatives so they can participate in classified threat briefings and working group meetings.

Through its collaboration with the Energy Sector, IP has helped to provide an effective arena to identify and discuss vulnerabilities as well as to assess, compare, and manage risks.

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## The Education Facilities Subsector: Supporting Infrastructure Protection for K-12 Schools and Higher Education

Many protective efforts for the Education Facilities (EF) Subsector involve two key programs that support infrastructure protection, the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) and the Emergency Management for Higher Education (EMHE) discretionary grant programs. These protective programs are aligned with EF's goal that all schools have comprehensive, all-hazards emergency management plans based on the four phases of emergency management to enhance school safety, minimize disruption, and ensure continuity of the learning environment. These grant programs also build on over a decade of school emergency management efforts by the Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools (OSDFS), where the EF Subsector-Specific Agency is housed. Following are updates on these key protective programs for FY 2010.

### Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Discretionary Grant Program

The REMS discretionary grant program is the primary program administered by OSDFS that supports infrastructure protection for K-12 schools. On August 19, 2010, OSDFS announced the REMS grant recipients for FY 2010, comprising 98 grants totaling \$28.8 million. On September 30, 2010, OSDFS announced an additional five grant awards under this program, bringing the total amount awarded in FY 2010 to \$30,117,179.

The REMS grant program provides funding to local educational agencies (LEAs) to create, strengthen, or improve emergency management plans at the district and school building levels through training for school personnel and coordination with local community partners. Grantees must agree to develop plans that consider the communication, transportation, and medical needs of students and staff with disabilities and support implementation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). In addition, grantees must develop plans for communicating emergency policies to parents and guardians; improving LEA capacity to sustain the emergency management process; and preparing the LEA for a possible infectious disease outbreak, such as pandemic influenza.

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Additional grant requirements include coordinating with the State or local homeland security plan and developing a written food defense plan that is designed to safeguard the school district's food supply. Since the establishment of this discretionary grant program in FY 2003, the Department of Education has awarded over \$230 million in grants to 820 school districts, many of which support a large number of schools in their emergency management efforts.

For more information on the REMS discretionary grant program, please visit: <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-awards-288-million-school-districts-improve-readiness-an>

### **Emergency Management for Higher Education (EMHE) Discretionary Grant Program**

In 2008, OSDFS, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), developed a new discretionary grant program to assist institutions of higher education in developing their emergency management plans. On September 27, 2010, OSDFS announced the EMHE grant recipients for FY 2010 (<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-awards-more-92-million-institutions-higher-education-eme>). OSDFS awarded 17 grants, totaling \$9.2 million. On September 30, 2010, OSDFS announced one additional award of \$424,624, bringing the total FY 2010 awards to \$9,667,817.

Specifically, the EMHE grant program provides funding to institutions of higher education to develop (or review and improve) and fully integrate all-hazards, campus-based emergency management planning efforts. EMHE grantees must agree to do the following:

- Train campus, staff, faculty, and students in emergency management procedures;
- Coordinate emergency plans with all campus offices and departments, as well as with local and State emergency management efforts;
- Develop a written plan that incorporates medical, mental health, communication, and transportation needs to include those with disabilities, special needs, and other circumstances into emergency protocols;
- Develop or update a written plan that prepares the campus for a possible infectious disease outbreak;
- Develop or enhance a written plan for preventing violence by assessing and addressing the mental health needs of students, staff, and faculty who may be at risk of causing harm to self or others; and
- Develop or update a written continuity of operations plan that would enable the campus to maintain and/or restore key educational, business, and other essential functions following an emergency.

Since the establishment of this discretionary grant program in FY 2008, the EMHE program has awarded over \$28 million in grants to 61 higher education institutions.

#### **> Resources Available for DHS Critical Infrastructure Partners**

Infrastructure Protection (IP) sponsors a free online NIPP training course at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>. IP also has a trade show booth available for sector use. Please contact [NIPP@dhs.gov](mailto:NIPP@dhs.gov) for information on IP participation and/or exhibition at an upcoming sector event or to schedule a trained speaker for your event.

#### **> Implementation Success Stories**

IP continues to seek NIPP and/or SSP implementation success stories from the sectors to be shared with other critical infrastructure partners. Please submit suggestions or brief write-ups to [NIPP@dhs.gov](mailto:NIPP@dhs.gov).

#### **> NIPP News**

The NIPP News is produced by the Office of Infrastructure Protection. NIPP partners are welcome to submit input. To submit information for inclusion in upcoming issues, please contact [NIPP@dhs.gov](mailto:NIPP@dhs.gov). Recipients of this newsletter are encouraged to disseminate it further to their critical infrastructure partners.

- > Learn more about the DHS critical infrastructure protection program at [www.dhs.gov/criticalinfrastructure](http://www.dhs.gov/criticalinfrastructure).