

**DRAFT – Agenda**  
**Tuscola County Board of Commissioners**  
**Committee of the Whole – Thursday, April 14, 2011**  
**HH Purdy Building**  
**125 W. Lincoln**  
**Caro, MI**

**Finance**

Committee Leaders-Commissioner Peterson and Bardwell

**Primary Finance Items**

1. **Proposed Government Reform Information (See A)**
  - **County Costs to Fund Courts Unfunded State Mandates**
  - **State Revenue Sharing**
  - **State Incentives Required to Receive Statutory State Revenue Sharing – (Applies to Counties?)**
2. **County and Local Government Fiscal Health Scores (See B)**
3. **Personal Property Tax Update**
4. **EDC Board Vacancy (See C)**
5. **Enterprise Facilitator Resignation and Corporation Liquidation (See D)**
6. **Economic Development Alternatives**
7. **Potential Health Department Sharing of Administrative Services with Sanilac County (See E)**
8. **Next Generation 911 (See F)**
9. **Apportionment Process Meeting Schedule (See G)**
10. **Courthouse Postage Machine**

Secondary/On-Going Finance Items

1. Treasurer Bank Statement
2. Thumb Regional Renewable Energy Collaborative – Meeting Next Week
3. Discussion of Potential Purchase of Purdy Building
4. Tuscola Best Practices Document (**county web site?**)
5. County Dashboard (**county web site?**)
6. Development of User Friendly Public Financial Information
7. Emergency Financial Manager Law
8. Cellular Telephones
9. Road Commission Contracting with Sheriff Department for Weigh Master Functions

## **Personnel**

Committee Leader-Commissioners Peterson

### **Primary Personnel Items**

1. **Drain Office Restructuring/Reclassification Request**
2. **Right to Work Legislation**
3. **Recycling Supervisory Proposal (See H)**

### **Secondary/On-Going Personnel Items**

1. Circuit/Family Court Personnel Policies
2. MERS Bridged Benefits Valuation
3. Labor Negotiations
4. New Hire Wage/Fringe Benefits
5. Medical Marijuana

## **Building and Grounds**

Committee Leader-Commissioners Kern and Petzold

### **Primary Building and Grounds Items**

1. **State Police Request for Maintenance Support**
2. **Probate Court**
3. **Information Request MSU Land Policy Institute - Cass River Water Shed (See I)**
4. **Airport Zoning Board of Appeals (See J)**
5. **Request to use Courthouse Lawn (See K)**

### **Secondary/On-Going Building and Grounds Items**

1. Office Space Planning – Next Steps

## **Correspondence/Other Business as Necessary**

1. **Medical Marijuana (See L)**
2. **NACo Legislative Conference (See M)**

**Public Comment Period**

**Closed Session – If Necessary**

**Other Business as Necessary**

## **Statutory Finance Committee**

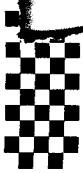
### 1. Claims Review and Approval

**Notes:**

Except for the Statutory Finance Committee, committee meetings of the whole are advisory only. Any decision made at an advisory committee is only a recommendation and must be approved by a formal meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

If you need accommodations to attend this meeting please notify the Tuscola County Controller/Administrator's Office (989-672-3700) two days in advance of the meeting.

This is a draft agenda and subject to change. Items may be added the day of the meeting or covered under other business at the meeting.



A

## MAC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

April 8, 2011

### In this week's update:

- STATE COURTS COST COUNTIES NEARLY HALF A BILLION DOLLARS IN 2009
- SENATE MAJORITY LEADER ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR JOINT GOP BUDGET PLAN
- DNR OFFICIALS PROPOSE CLOSING 23 STATE FOREST CAMPGROUNDS
- COUNTY FISCAL HEALTH SCORES
- U.S. SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE TO HOLD FARM BILL HEARING AT MSU
- LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FAX
- MACSC UPDATE
- WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW CAN HELP YOU SAVE
- SHOW YOUR LEGISLATORS WHAT YOUR COUNTY IS DOING WITH LBC
- MAC DIRECTORY CHANGES

### STATE COURTS COST COUNTIES NEARLY HALF A BILLION DOLLARS IN 2009

Data collected from counties statewide and organized by Isabella County has found that Michigan's counties funded courts in 2009 to the tune of \$470,276,089. Nearly half-a-billion dollars in county general funds was spent to run the State of Michigan's "One Court of Justice." A spreadsheet is attached for your use, broken out by county spending each year from 2004 to 2009. Although some reimbursement money is provided by the state in the form of court equity payments, it likely does not even come to half of the mandated spending on counties. Clearly, Michigan's court funding mandate on counties is out-of-control and unsustainable. Further, it puts MAC's revenue sharing request to be treated similarly to cities, villages, and townships in perspective. MAC will be requesting a breakout of court lines from counties in the near future, so some detail may be achieved in order to further discuss this mandate with the legislature. Please talk to your legislator about court funding and the importance of revenue sharing in making up for a portion of this unfunded mandate.

### SENATE MAJORITY LEADER ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR JOINT GOP BUDGET PLAN

Adding yet another twist in this year's budget process, Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville (R - Monroe County) announced this week that the Senate will not be offering a budget proposal. Instead the goal is to announce a joint GOP legislative and executive budget plan; the details are currently being worked out between Governor Snyder, Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley, House Speaker Jase Bolger, and Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville. Substantive information on the plan won't be released until all parties have agreed on a compromise with Richardville noting that most discussions are taking place regarding what to do on the revenue side of the equation. The legislature could very well meet their self-imposed deadline of May 31 if they come back from vacation and start reporting out budget bills from committee. The House will continue on course and report out two omnibus bills, but the Senate will report out individual bills. Once a compromise is agreed upon, the hard work begins as leadership must sell their respective caucuses on the plan and gain support.

### DNR OFFICIALS PROPOSE CLOSING 23 STATE FOREST CAMPGROUNDS

At a meeting of the Natural Resource Commission this week, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials proposed the closure of twenty-three "under-utilized" state forest campgrounds, mostly in the Upper Peninsula.

**General Fund Judicial Function Expenditures by Fiscal Year**

<b>County</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>\$ 447,363,300</b>	<b>\$ 463,126,231</b>	<b>\$ 460,673,390</b>	<b>\$ 483,686,554</b>	<b>\$ 486,359,564</b>	<b>\$ 470,276,089</b>
Alcona	\$ 572,776	\$ 535,536	\$ 593,067	\$ 700,483	\$ 731,589	\$ 723,233
Alger	\$ 571,334	\$ 543,841	\$ 721,480	\$ 691,809	\$ 796,304	\$ 675,783
Allegan	\$ 4,769,820	\$ 4,821,524	\$ 4,614,202	\$ 4,829,401	\$ 5,112,735	\$ 5,253,174
Alpena	\$ 1,348,002	\$ 1,261,659	\$ 1,285,759	\$ 1,551,991	\$ 1,547,787	\$ 1,641,016
Antrim	\$ 1,657,440	\$ 1,650,427	\$ 1,637,388	\$ 1,799,865	\$ 1,910,322	\$ 1,860,767
Arenac	\$ 868,489	\$ 917,656	\$ 961,280	\$ 1,021,516	\$ 1,041,101	\$ 1,025,179
Baraga	\$ 481,531	\$ 493,799	\$ 526,509	\$ 558,048	\$ 638,850	\$ 650,293
Barry	\$ 1,958,153	\$ 1,954,415	\$ 2,078,805	\$ 2,129,586	\$ 2,134,327	\$ 2,207,312
Bay	\$ 5,217,799	\$ 5,389,205	\$ 5,750,028	\$ 5,894,123	\$ 5,983,077	\$ 6,001,613
Benzie	\$ 595,460	\$ 591,177	\$ 672,784	\$ 809,585	\$ 882,258	\$ 912,194
Berrien	\$ 7,654,415	\$ 8,015,275	\$ 8,446,960	\$ 8,879,804	\$ 9,668,567	\$ 9,790,867
Branch	\$ 1,784,895	\$ 1,879,996	\$ 1,868,644	\$ 1,963,152	\$ 2,066,368	\$ 2,057,493
Calhoun	\$ 7,880,352	\$ 8,156,960	\$ 8,072,594	\$ 8,426,653	\$ 8,307,102	\$ 8,244,694
Cass	\$ 2,846,095	\$ 2,176,860	\$ 2,589,786	\$ 2,702,160	\$ 2,699,056	\$ 2,754,889
Charlevoix	\$ 1,257,387	\$ 1,198,308	\$ 1,184,130	\$ 1,233,531	\$ 1,279,419	\$ 1,208,809
Cheboygan	\$ 1,503,682	\$ 1,483,807	\$ 1,530,583	\$ 1,550,517	\$ 1,559,737	\$ 1,565,064
Chippewa	\$ 2,001,410	\$ 1,957,965	\$ 2,079,578	\$ 2,190,360	\$ 2,260,588	\$ 2,478,726
Clare	\$ 1,764,500	\$ 1,473,384	\$ 1,435,179	\$ 1,526,079	\$ 1,657,522	\$ 1,526,776
Clinton	\$ 2,367,351	\$ 2,415,871	\$ 2,467,843	\$ 2,552,963	\$ 2,599,422	\$ 2,575,916
Crawford	\$ 1,094,339	\$ 1,177,460	\$ 1,204,977	\$ 837,293	\$ 1,285,551	\$ 923,648
Delta	\$ 2,388,502	\$ 2,146,124	\$ 2,197,435	\$ 2,348,033	\$ 2,446,127	\$ 2,480,797
Dickinson	\$ 1,032,994	\$ 1,090,491	\$ 1,120,529	\$ 1,170,582	\$ 1,171,431	\$ 1,171,880
Eaton	\$ 4,897,018	\$ 5,167,280	\$ 5,222,452	\$ 5,285,445	\$ 5,440,048	\$ 5,315,972
Emmet	\$ 1,924,013	\$ 2,111,038	\$ 2,119,850	\$ 2,148,040	\$ 2,098,787	\$ 2,178,574
Genesee	\$ 26,114,483	\$ 26,180,308	\$ 17,552,698	\$ 24,152,180	\$ 25,870,013	\$ 25,950,423
Gladwin	\$ 1,288,533	\$ 1,345,606	\$ 1,486,226	\$ 1,628,105	\$ 23,869	\$ 16,011
Gogebic	\$ 792,630	\$ 818,948	\$ 813,000	\$ 848,458	\$ 981,708	\$ 914,664
Grand Traverse	\$ 2,074,401	\$ 2,159,022	\$ 2,117,889	\$ 2,135,330	\$ 2,204,318	\$ 2,438,971
Gratiot	\$ 1,398,352	\$ 1,382,450	\$ 1,402,746	\$ 1,387,474	\$ 1,386,536	\$ 1,391,398
Hillsdale	\$ 1,696,311	\$ 1,700,089	\$ 1,740,077	\$ 1,921,824	\$ 1,955,769	\$ 1,916,472
Houghton	\$ 1,318,939	\$ 1,328,268	\$ 1,303,273	\$ 1,312,955	\$ 1,270,935	\$ 1,262,821
Huron	\$ 1,526,503	\$ 1,501,724	\$ 1,570,977	\$ 1,607,289	\$ 1,694,826	\$ 1,807,725
Ingham	\$ 12,023,753	\$ 12,132,110	\$ 13,285,392	\$ 14,159,545	\$ 14,960,818	\$ 14,882,900
Ionia	\$ 2,079,179	\$ 2,170,758	\$ 2,360,948	\$ 2,369,672	\$ 2,585,403	\$ 2,539,910
Iosco	\$ 1,410,614	\$ 1,396,563	\$ 1,214,138	\$ 1,315,999	\$ 1,377,576	\$ 1,396,342
Iron	\$ 848,282	\$ 619,496	\$ 649,474	\$ 719,007	\$ 726,179	\$ 710,360
Isabella	\$ 2,279,147	\$ 2,472,964	\$ 2,669,611	\$ 2,716,174	\$ 2,953,045	\$ 2,998,381
Jackson	\$ 5,791,244	\$ 5,820,832	\$ 5,880,955	\$ 6,051,352	\$ 5,934,204	\$ 6,275,986
Kalamazoo	\$ 12,488,722	\$ 12,660,333	\$ 11,890,905	\$ 11,531,873	\$ 11,642,980	\$ 12,161,767
Kalkaska	\$ 1,160,307	\$ 1,176,653	\$ 1,156,761	\$ 1,113,009	\$ 1,083,880	\$ 927,761
Kent	\$ 22,929,264	\$ 22,726,000	\$ 22,845,370	\$ 28,059,744	\$ 21,316,266	\$ 20,745,137
Keweenaw	\$ -	\$ 178,378	\$ 178,378	\$ 204,841	\$ 218,079	\$ 198,185
Lake	\$ 763,404	\$ 778,069	\$ 771,450	\$ 744,661	\$ 783,394	\$ 727,580
Lapeer	\$ 3,212,947	\$ 3,383,182	\$ 3,475,960	\$ 3,759,549	\$ 3,677,076	\$ 3,837,743
Leelanau	\$ 1,222,406	\$ 1,117,916	\$ 1,192,352	\$ 1,139,614	\$ 1,451,697	\$ 1,345,298
Lenawee	\$ 5,483,891	\$ 5,601,156	\$ 5,741,908	\$ 5,957,352	\$ 6,285,850	\$ 6,428,243
Livingston	\$ 10,549,715	\$ 10,936,695	\$ 11,103,835	\$ 12,121,818	\$ 10,640,117	\$ 10,204,094
Luce	\$ 463,790	\$ 485,636	\$ 512,506	\$ 574,033	\$ 565,039	\$ 572,758
Mackinac	\$ 983,581	\$ 1,035,783	\$ 1,054,013	\$ 1,035,767	\$ 1,024,141	\$ 1,025,618
Macomb	\$ 19,451,435	\$ 22,779,494	\$ 23,706,731	\$ 24,196,654	\$ 24,199,572	\$ 22,854,520
Manistee	\$ 1,985,614	\$ 2,266,456	\$ 2,537,207	\$ 2,689,538	\$ 2,915,310	\$ 2,998,036
Marquette	\$ 2,949,179	\$ 2,981,706	\$ 2,964,521	\$ 3,047,780	\$ 3,179,085	\$ 3,177,378
Mason	\$ 1,154,264	\$ 1,200,047	\$ 1,278,055	\$ 1,286,615	\$ 1,345,432	\$ 1,342,135
Mecosta	\$ 1,397,205	\$ 1,643,676	\$ 1,591,597	\$ 1,713,169	\$ 1,814,419	\$ 1,952,902

Menominee	\$ 1,628,770	\$ 1,295,134	\$ 1,283,581	\$ 1,314,817	\$ 1,118,267	\$ 1,138,495
Midland	\$ 3,944,519	\$ 4,537,151	\$ 4,633,526	\$ 4,702,825	\$ 5,020,541	\$ 4,420,251
Missaukee	\$ 604,775	\$ 659,149	\$ 611,703	\$ 666,615	\$ 674,672	\$ 666,568
Monroe	\$ 6,336,103	\$ 6,620,188	\$ 6,718,107	\$ 7,510,539	\$ 7,859,105	\$ 7,415,868
Montcalm	\$ 1,847,563	\$ 1,961,098	\$ 2,129,884	\$ 2,186,804	\$ 2,264,221	\$ 2,216,201
Montmorency	\$ 602,192	\$ 571,066	\$ 577,358	\$ 696,999	\$ 644,910	\$ 640,412
Muskegon	\$ 6,204,100	\$ 6,410,348	\$ 6,943,242	\$ 6,986,989	\$ 7,086,700	\$ 7,109,157
Newaygo	\$ 2,336,494	\$ 2,397,008	\$ 2,533,075	\$ 2,590,613	\$ 2,539,674	\$ 2,607,857
Oakland	\$ 55,222,486	\$ 59,129,137	\$ 58,074,967	\$ 59,300,242	\$ 60,370,255	\$ 57,915,845
Oceana	\$ 1,286,509	\$ 1,289,816	\$ 1,279,181	\$ 1,387,670	\$ 1,439,631	\$ 1,461,083
Ogemaw	\$ 1,356,485	\$ 1,371,714	\$ 1,072,954	\$ 1,448,499	\$ 1,438,407	\$ 1,504,181
Ontonagon	\$ 407,866	\$ 578,409	\$ 599,051	\$ 665,251	\$ 981,185	\$ 678,754
Osceola	\$ 814,004	\$ 801,456	\$ 856,426	\$ 944,506	\$ 952,932	\$ 979,205
Oscoda	\$ 413,317	\$ 419,037	\$ 480,299	\$ 599,274	\$ 633,076	\$ 676,362
Otsego	\$ 4,430,022	\$ 4,115,833	\$ 3,980,434	\$ 1,778,627	\$ 1,843,041	\$ 1,843,447
Ottawa	\$ 8,428,269	\$ 8,554,677	\$ 8,754,182	\$ 9,354,626	\$ 10,060,800	\$ 9,943,059
Presque Isle	\$ 581,939	\$ 581,510	\$ 613,071	\$ 711,176	\$ 357,861	\$ 736,683
Roscommon	\$ 1,322,703	\$ 1,773,550	\$ 1,726,601	\$ 1,758,077	\$ 1,835,060	\$ 1,808,135
Saginaw	\$ 10,033,608	\$ 10,368,249	\$ 11,010,658	\$ 11,230,549	\$ 11,591,156	\$ 11,798,613
St. Clair	\$ 10,212,096	\$ 10,923,792	\$ 11,715,155	\$ 11,660,637	\$ 11,501,312	\$ 11,441,074
St. Joseph	\$ 3,406,559	\$ 3,606,874	\$ 3,584,833	\$ 3,353,612	\$ 3,517,281	\$ 3,095,198
Sanilac	\$ 1,029,105	\$ 971,838	\$ 1,128,264	\$ 1,200,845	\$ 2,274,083	\$ 1,303,930
Schoolcraft	\$ 784,424	\$ 868,322	\$ 879,685	\$ 946,671	\$ 907,360	\$ 874,421
Shiawassee	\$ 3,257,034	\$ 3,507,091	\$ 3,441,755	\$ 3,640,514	\$ 3,741,909	\$ 3,779,014
Tuscola	\$ 2,235,788	\$ 2,148,223	\$ 2,312,881	\$ 2,422,324	\$ 2,513,666	\$ 2,758,808
Van Buren	\$ 3,798,500	\$ 3,555,913	\$ 3,271,391	\$ 3,780,516	\$ 3,942,596	\$ 3,961,274
Washtenaw	\$ 14,235,820	\$ 14,916,715	\$ 16,216,012	\$ 17,316,916	\$ 17,246,115	\$ 17,229,218
Wayne	\$ 93,160,752	\$ 96,376,668	\$ 95,525,000	\$ 96,909,378	\$ 98,332,000	\$ 87,692,000
Wexford	\$ 2,165,646	\$ 2,225,889	\$ 2,289,319	\$ 2,318,043	\$ 2,286,137	\$ 2,354,788
Average	\$ 5,389,919	\$ 5,579,834	\$ 5,550,282	\$ 5,827,549	\$ 5,859,754	\$ 5,665,977
Median	\$ 1,847,563	\$ 1,954,415	\$ 2,078,805	\$ 1,963,152	\$ 2,098,787	\$ 2,057,493





## **MAC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

April 1, 2011

### **In this week's update:**

- **GOVERNOR UNDERSCORES SUPPORT FOR UNFUNDED MANDATE REFORM AT MAC CONFERENCE**
- **MAC ASKS THAT COUNTIES AT LEAST BE TREATED EQUALLY UNDER REVENUE SHARING AFTER SACRIFICING FOR THE STATE**
- **GOVERNOR WILL FOCUS ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE FALL**
- **U.S. SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE TO HOLD FARM BILL HEARING AT MSU**
- **BUREAU OF ENERGY SYSTEMS NEW WEBSITE GOOD FOR COLLABORATION**
- **MAC ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**
- **MSU EXTENSION CANCELLATION**
- **SHOW YOUR LEGISLATORS WHAT YOUR COUNTY IS DOING WITH LBC**
- **STRONGER ECONOMIES TOGETHER**
- **MSUE BEST PRACTICES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL MANAGEMENT**
- **MDOT LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS SURVEY**
- **MAC, MTA, AND MML INVITE YOU TO ATTEND "IMPLEMENTING PARTNERSHIPS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE"**
- **MAC DIRECTORY CHANGES**

### **GOVERNOR UNDERSCORES SUPPORT FOR UNFUNDED MANDATE REFORM AT MAC CONFERENCE**

Governor Snyder, in his address to county commissioners and other county officials at the MAC Conference restated his support for legislation that would require the state legislature to develop a fiscal note for future legislative mandates on local units. The fiscal note would state the cost of future "good ideas" from the legislature, and require an appropriation to accompany it. If no appropriation accompanied the bill, then the act would be voluntary only. House Bills 4038, 4039, 4040, and 4041 are supported by MAC, and would achieve the Governor's ends. MAC thanks the Governor for his support of unfunded mandate reform.

To view the Governor's speech from the conference, please visit: <http://www.youtube.com/user/MIcounties>

### **MAC ASKS THAT COUNTIES AT LEAST BE TREATED EQUALLY UNDER REVENUE SHARING AFTER SACRIFICING FOR THE STATE**

The Governor's budget proposes a 34 percent reduction for counties back in revenue sharing in fiscal year 2012. What should have been \$150 million for counties was cut under his proposal to \$100 million. Cities, villages, and townships, because of protected Constitutional revenue sharing dollars, were recommended to be cut by a little more than 10 percent, and their statutory revenue sharing will be made into an incentive pot (about 20 percent of the total). MAC learned early this week that some House Republicans want to make the entirety of the reduced county revenue sharing pot of \$100 million incentive-based, creating even more unequal treatment between counties and CVTs. MAC testified this week in House Appropriations General Government Subcommittee that treating counties equally to CVTs would result in the following for county revenue sharing.

volunteer project in their district. These won't be just any projects - they'll be your projects. Whether it's passing out newsletters door-to-door, working in a community garden, assisting with foreclosure intake, painting a house for a low-income family, or another activity, this is a chance for you to meet your legislators and show them the great work you are doing in your community.

Please visit <http://legislatorsbuildingcommunities.org> to find out more. Contact Katie Fritz at CEDAM (517.485.3588 / [fritz@cedam.info](mailto:fritz@cedam.info)) or Tom Williams at Habitat (800.467.5430 x14 / [legislatorsbuildingcommunities@gmail.com](mailto:legislatorsbuildingcommunities@gmail.com)) with questions.

## **STRONGER ECONOMIES TOGETHER**

In many counties - especially counties with smaller populations -- finding ways to create, attract, and retain jobs is a challenging process. Pursuing economic development as a single rural county in isolation from other nearby counties is oftentimes unproductive. In today's global marketplace, economic development progress is more likely to be realized when rural and metro counties work together as a multi-county region to assess, design, and implement plans that build on their assets and comparative economic strengths. That's what the Stronger Economies Together (SET) project is all about.

The Greening Institute with Michigan State University Extension invites you to apply for this project. Please contact Angela Minicuci at MAC for the application and more information about the program.

## **MSUE BEST PRACTICES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

**Date:** April 18th (9am to 5pm) and 19th (9 am to 12:00 pm), 2011

**Location:** Radisson Hotel, Downtown Lansing, MI (select number of rooms available for the conference)

**Hosts:** State and Local Government Program-Michigan State University Extension and Turnaround Management Association (Michigan Chapter)

**Cost:** \$175.00

This training workshop is designed to assist elected and appointed local officials, private sector turnaround consultants and, government managers and others who are interested in understanding the cutting edge set of best practices in running and managing a local governments and school districts during a period of fiscal strain and stress. Workshop topics that will be covered include: the new emergency financial manager law, legal contracts, health care management, turnaround plans, local finance, local government cooperation and consolidation, school law and finance and municipal bankruptcy. Speakers represent a wide range of experts from various backgrounds. Participants will walk away with a set of tools and strategies for addressing the fiscal crisis facing many local governments and school districts today. To register, visit: [bestpracticeslocalfiscal.eventbrite.com](http://bestpracticeslocalfiscal.eventbrite.com).

## **FREE SEMCOG WEBINAR: GOVERNOR SNYDER'S PROGRAMS**

**Understanding Governor Snyder's revenue sharing best practice incentives and the tools to facilitate the process: Explaining the Governor's latest programs to facilitate local government efficiencies**

Learn how to take full advantage of the Governor Snyder's incentive programs encouraging collaboration and transparency to enhance your statutory state shared revenues. See how recently updated tools on SEMCOG's Web site can help quantify and clearly demonstrate the impact on your local unit of government by these state mandated policies.

Tuesday, March 29, 2011 from 10-11:15 a.m.





## Mike Hoagland

**From:** Mike Hoagland [MHoagland@TuscolaCounty.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 01, 2011 3:39 PM  
**To:** Jerry Peterson (jerry58c@yahoo.com); Roger Allen (beetman95@yahoo.com); Tom Bardwell (tbardwell@hillsanddales.com); Tom Kern (commishkern@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** Clayette Zechmeister (Clayette Zechmeister)  
**Subject:** Treasury Fiscal Indicators  
**Attachments:** Treasury - Fiscal Indicator Scores.xls; Fiscal Indicators Local Units - Tuscola.xls  
 Commissioners

At the MAC conference I learned that the Michigan Department of Treasury annually tracks the fiscal health of local units of government including counties [http://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,1607,7-121-1751\\_47023-171423--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,1607,7-121-1751_47023-171423--,00.html). Several key factors are used to track local government fiscal health at a point in time. They are not necessarily indicators of future financial conditions. Local officials have control of some of the factors while others they have no control over. The factors reviewed by the state include:

- Population decreases
- Real taxable decreases
- Large real taxable value decreases
- General fund expenditures as a percent of taxable value
- General fund operating deficits
- Prior general fund operating deficits
- Size of general fund balances

I obtained information from their web site to determine the rating of Tuscola County and local units of government in the county.

**I am pleased to report that for year end 2009 Tuscola County was considered in good standing. The county is considered to be managing its financial circumstances appropriately.**

The state scores counties with:

- 0-4 - as no state action required
- 5-7 - local units notified of relatively high score and placed on a watch list
- 8-10 - local units notified of its high score, placed on a watch list and may be reviewed by state officials

While reviewing this information I made the attached list of how each county was rated. At the end of 2009 two counties received high scores for risk (**See attached spreadsheet**):

- Hillsdale - 7
- Shiawassee - 6

Six counties received medium risk scores (**See attached spreadsheet**):

- Alger - 5
- Alpena - 5
- Branch - 5
- Gladwin - 5
- Lake - 5
- Wayne - 5

**Local units within Tuscola County for which information was available were all rated OK except the Village of Mayville which received a rating of 6** several local units scored 4 which is still OK but it is almost a medium risk score (See attached spreadsheet).

**It will be very interesting to take a look at the rating for year end 2010 when the information becomes available because we all know the situation is worsening.**

Michael R. Hoagland  
Tuscola County Controller/Administrator  
207 E. Grant St.  
Caro, MI 48723

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## Fiscal Indicator Scores for 2009

County	Rating	County	Rating
Hillsdale	7	Manistee	2
Shiawassee	6	Mecosta	2
Alger	5	Menominee	2
Alpena	5	Oakland	2
Branch	5	Roscommon	2
Gladwin	5	Sanilac	2
Lake	5	St. Joseph	2
Wayne	5	<b>Tuscola</b>	<b>2</b>
		Alcona	1
		Allegan	1
Arenac	4	Benzie	1
Baraga	4	Berrien	1
Genesee	4	Cass	1
Gogebic	4	Charlevoix	1
Kent	4	Cheboygan	1
Luce	4	Clinton	1
Missaukee	4	Dickinson	1
Ogemaw	4	Grand Traverse	1
Antrim	3	Gratiot	1
Calhoun	3	Houghton	1
Ingham	3	Huron	1
Kalkaska	3	Ionia	1
Livingston	3	Iron	1
Midland	3	Kalamazoo	1
Monroe	3	Mackinac	1
Montcalm	3	Montmorency	1
Ontonagon	3	Muskegon	1
Presq Isle	3	Newaygo	1
Saginaw	3	Osceola	1
Schoolcraft	3	Oscoda	1
St. Clair	3	Otsego	1
Washtenaw	3	Ottawa	1
Wexford	3	Barry	0
Bay	2	Chippewa	0
Clare	2	Isabella	0
Crawford	2	Leelanau	0
Delta	2	Marquette	0
Eaton	2	Mason	0
Emmet	2	Oceana	0
Iosco	2	Van Buren	0
Jackson	2		
Keweenaw	2		
Lapeer	2		
Lenawee	2		
Macomb	2		

<b>Unit of Government</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Mayville Village	6
Fremont Township	4
Koylton township	4
Vassar City	4
Vasser Township	4
Elkland Township	3
Gilford Township	3
Tuscola Township	3
Millington Township	3
Reese Village	3
Fairgrove Village	3
Akron Village	2
Almer Township	2
Denmark Township	2
Akron Township	2
Cass City Village	2
Fairgrove Township	1
Arbela Township	1
Indianfields Township	1



157 N. State Street, Caro, Michigan 48723 Phone: (989) 673-2849 Fax: (989) 673-2517  
E-mail [tuscolaedc@centurytel.net](mailto:tuscolaedc@centurytel.net) website [www.tuscolacountyedc.org](http://www.tuscolacountyedc.org)

April 4, 2011

Tuscola County Board of Commissioners  
c/o Mr. Mike Hoagland, Controller  
125 W. Lincoln Street  
Caro, MI 48723

Dear Tuscola County Board of Commissioners,

This is to inform the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners that at the March board meeting of the Tuscola County EDC, I submitted my resignation as Executive Director of the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation. My resignation was accepted by the EDC board. I would also like to notify the Commissioners of my resignation as an EDC board member.

I will be taking a position as District Representative for the Office of State Senator Mike Green. Therefore, I will no longer be on the Tuscola County EDC Board of Directors. I thank you for all the support the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners have provided to the board and to me, as we worked together to retain and create jobs and helped to provide a better quality of life for the residents of Tuscola County and the surrounding region.

In my new position as Senator Green's District Representative, I will still have much contact with you, the citizens and, the organizations that provide services to Tuscola County, as well as the businesses that will provide jobs and future economic development to the region.

As in the past, I will continue to work with the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners. This will continue into the future in my new role as District Representative, for this is a fact that I will see the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners and other County officials on a regular basis. I thank you for the warm welcome that you gave Interim Director Don Beavers last month as we summarized our EDC reorganizational plans.

My last day with the EDC will be on April 13. I look forward to the future and I thank the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners for all your support, helpfulness and strong direction that you have given me and the EDC board over the many years that I served in my role as Tuscola County EDC Executive Director.

If you have any questions, please call me, or Don Beavers at 989-673-2849.

Sincerely,

Jim McLoskey

(D)

April 7, 2011

Brian Neuville  
Board Chairman Tuscola Enterprise

I Cy Thomas formally submit this letter of resignation to Tuscola Enterprise for the position of facilitator.

I am still very supportive of the organization and would like to continue as a board member. I am also willing to assist with any future plans.

My experience as facilitator has been very rewarding including all the wonderful people I have met.

Sincerely,

Cy Thomas

**Mike Hoagland**

---

**From:** Colleen Langenburg [colleen.langenburg@northstarathome.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 07, 2011 4:43 PM  
**To:** Brian Neuville  
**Subject:** TEF  
**Attachments:** Resignation Letter.doc

TEF Board Members,

We have regretfully accepted the resignation letter from Tuscola County Enterprise Facilitator, Cy Thomas as of April 7<sup>th</sup> and have attached a copy of the letter for you to review.

Many different options were discussed at the last meeting in regards to the future of Tuscola County Enterprise Facilitation. Based on the financial uncertainty and lack of future funding, the recommendation was made to liquidate the corporation of Tuscola County Enterprise Facilitation. After all final expenses have been paid, transfer the remaining balance of funds to Tuscola County EDC. The final decision will be made at the April 25, 2011 meeting at 12:30 p.m. that will be held at Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt & Doran office located at 715 E. Frank Street, Caro MI 48723. Please plan on attending the meeting if you have any suggestions or concerns.

Tuscola County Enterprise Facilitation

~~~~~  
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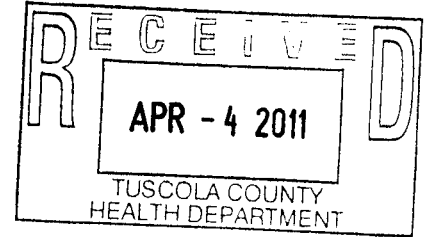
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**SANILAC COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
171 DAWSON STREET – SUITE 123, SANDUSKY, MI 48471

Dianna L. Schafer, M.P.A., Health Officer      Russell L. Bush, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director  
Telephone: (810) 648.4098      Fax: (810) 648.2646  
Protecting and Promoting Health for Sanilac County Citizens since 1937  
Visit our website at: [www.sanilachealth.com](http://www.sanilachealth.com)

⑤



March 24, 2011

Ms. Gretchen Tenbusch  
Tuscola County Health Department  
1309 Cleaver Road  
Caro, MI 48723

Dear Gretchen:

The Sanilac County Board of Health is in receipt of your correspondence offering to meet and discuss shared administrative oversight services through an associated relationship.

We appreciate your intent, however at this time the board is not interested in consolidating administrative services across county lines. Our plan is to recruit and replace the Health Officer position and look at ways to incorporate scales of efficiency in our own management system.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Jamie Daws, Chairperson  
Sanilac County Board of Health

Cc: J. Bowerman, Board of Commissioners Chairman  
D. Schafer, Health Officer



(F)

**Mike Hoagland**

---

**From:** Thomas Kern [commishkern@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 01, 2011 9:25 PM  
**To:** rklenk@tuscolacounty.org  
**Cc:** dispatchdept@tuscolacounty.org; MHoagland@tuscolacounty.org; Gerald Peterson; Thom Bardwell  
**Subject:** Re: text messages

bob, am i reading this right. they want to allow video to come across to an emergency center?? would that not tie up lines for a extended period of time??

On 3/31/11, Robert Klenk <rklenk@tuscolacounty.org> wrote:

- > Everyone,
- >
- > Attached is a statement from the Chairman of the FCC, proposing technology
- > changes to 911 calls that PSAPs receive. To summarize his statements, he is
- > proposing that PSAPs will receive over 911 trunks text messages, photos and
- > videos. For the commissioners we need to make sure that our legislators in
- > Lansing and Washington are aware that we need to receive this info in the
- > same format from all cell providers.
- >
- > Bob
- >
- >
- > Robert J. Klenk, Director
- >
- > Tuscola County Central Dispatch
- >
- > 1303 Cleaver Rd, Caro, MI 48723
- >
- > 989-673-8738 ext 7
- >
- > tccd911@tuscolacounty.org
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >



# *Tuscola County Office of County Clerk*

*440 N. State Street  
Caro, Michigan 48723  
989-672-3780  
FAX 989-672-4266  
www.tuscolacounty.org*

*Margie White  
County Clerk*

*Jodi Fetting  
Chief Deputy Clerk*



## **MEETING SCHEDULE**

The Tuscola County Apportionment Commission will be meeting the following dates:

April 14, 2011

April 21, 2011

May 5, 2011 (if needed)

All meetings will commence at 5:00 p.m. and will be held in the commissioners' boardroom in the HH Purdy Building, 125 W. Lincoln Street, Caro, Michigan



**COUNTY OF TUSCOLA**

**DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

207 E. Grant St  
Caro, Michigan 48723-1660  
(989)672-3756

**MICHAEL MILLER**  
Director

**THOMAS McLANE**  
Assistant Director

**TO: MIKE HOAGLAND/CONTROLLER**

**FROM: MIKE MILLER**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2011**

**RE: RECYCLING**

As you are aware I assumed the duties as the Recycling Director last week when Kate Neese left for her new position. During the past week I have learned quite a bit about the recycling program and that we have very dedicated employees at the Center, who really work hard to give the public the best service they can provide, and have been very helpful to me.

The issue that is front in my mind is the problem with the Centers need for more help. When the PA 511 help was discontinued the Center hired part-time help to fill in the gap. This has not worked for a few reasons, one is that the budget was never designed to handle the additional labor, and the fact that the sale of commodities has fallen. The hours for these employees were reduced in early 2009 and two of these employees have been laid off. The new union agreement will allow for the use of free labor through the use of program like Michigan works. I have learned that although these are great programs, the Center can not always rely on the daily availability of these laborers to fill the Centers needs.

According to Kate Neese's projections the estimated fund balance for 2010 will be \$327,000 and in 2016 the estimated fund balance will be \$109,000 that is approximately a 66% reduction: these numbers are based on no wage increase through 2012 and no equipment replacement or capital improvements. We need to work on correcting this, to ensure the Centers financial stability.

The County has been looking for any opportunity to save money through the use of cooperation within departments and or other Counties, such as the Animal shelter, Equalization, and most recently with the IT department.

I would like to propose to the Board that I remain at the Center as the Director, my proposal would include the following:

1. It would be a trial period of 12 months, with a review in 6 months.
2. If after a favorable 12 month review, I would remain the Director.
3. Ask to increase my compensation to 10 hours per week, from the 8 hours the Board has approved.
4. I will work to improve the budget of the Center.
5. I will work with the Recycling Advisory Committee.
6. My other duties as Building and Grounds Director would not be impaired.

I offer this because I feel I can help this County by saving the cost of not hiring another director for recycling. The starting pay for a new director is \$35,871. With the County paying me 10 hours a week to perform this position it would save the Centers budget approximately \$24,405 a year, of which a portion of might be used to pay for additional help at the Center.

I have been your Buildings and Grounds Director for almost 9 years, and think that over this time I have done my job to the best of my knowledge and ability in regards to a departments needs and the budget allowed to my department to meet those needs. I also know there could be concerns about the upcoming moves, I understand those concerns, but I want to ensure you that if I did not believe I could do both positions I would not bring this proposal to you. If at anytime I feel that I am not able to be effective then I would notify the Controller and, other options could be explored. I have discussed this proposal with Human Resource office and she is in agreement with the information I have provided and feels I am capable to handle both departments.

I am excited at the chance of this offer and I will not misplace your trust if I am granted this opportunity.

Thank You.

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

March 16, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

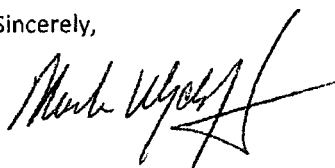
The Planning & Zoning Center (PZC) at Michigan State University, a part of the MSU Land Policy Institute (LPI) is requesting your assistance in collecting local documents for a current project involving your community. We have been awarded a grant through the EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to identify actions local governments can take through local planning and zoning to improve and protect water quality in the Saginaw Bay Watershed. This project will engage your community and other local governments and stakeholders in addressing key protection and restoration strategies for the Saginaw Bay Watershed. Our project seeks to increase awareness related to water quality issues and to improve thoughtful land use decisions. Soon we will be setting up public meetings and workshops in the Rifle River, Cass, and Pigeon/Pinnebog watersheds, which include land within your community.

To understand what your community is already doing in the way of local planning and zoning for water quality protection, we are writing to request a copy of your most recent **Land Use Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance**. A digital copy or on-line link to documents is preferred and can be emailed to [jacqueline.spry@landpolicy.msu.edu](mailto:jacqueline.spry@landpolicy.msu.edu). If digital copies are not available, hard copies can be mailed to the Planning & Zoning Center at Michigan State University, at 310 Mainly Miles Building, 1405 South Harrison Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. If there is a charge, please advise before mailing.

Along with the master plan and zoning ordinance, please also include the name, mailing address, phone and email address for the Zoning Administrator or person most familiar with planning and zoning in your community. We will follow-up by phone to be sure we have correctly interpreted your master plan and zoning ordinance.

In the next couple of months, the PZC Project Team will be holding a series of public meetings and workshops, as well as a conference early next year which we hope you will attend. We will send details for these programs over the next few months. We look forward to hearing from your community and gaining valuable input regarding the efforts of your community to protect the Saginaw Bay Watershed. We greatly appreciate your assistance and prompt response in this matter. If you have questions, please call me or Jacqueline Spry at (517) 432-2222.

Thank you,  
Sincerely,



Mark Wyckoff, FAICP  
Director, Planning & Zoning Center at MSU  
Senior Associate Director, MSU Land Policy Institute



**PLANNING &  
ZONING CENTER  
AT MSU**

**Land Policy Institute**

Michigan State University  
1405 S. Harrison Road  
318 Manly Miles Building  
East Lansing, MI  
48823-5245

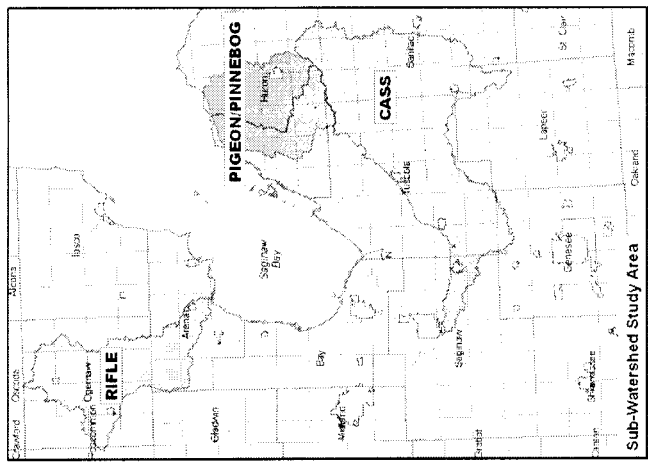
517-432-2222

FAX: 517/432-3222

[pzcenter@pzcenter.msu.edu](mailto:pzcenter@pzcenter.msu.edu)

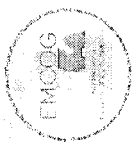
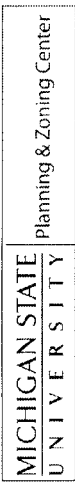
Web: [www.pzcenter.msu.edu](http://www.pzcenter.msu.edu)

# Share Your Thoughts with Us at One of Three Public Meetings



## NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN THE SAGINAW BAY WATERSHED

A Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Project underway by:



**Love the Bay? Give Us a Hand!**  
 You may, or may not, be aware that your community resides within the single largest drainage basin in Michigan; the Saginaw Bay Watershed. This impressive watershed drains an estimated 1,143 square miles of land within a variety of environments, ranging between agricultural lands, forests and urban places.

Since 1987, the Bay has been listed as an Area of Concern (AOC) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which cites numerous impairments to water quality; some are persistent nuisances, while others are more serious threats to public health. Collectively, these impairments have earned the Bay an image problem of national proportions—and it's time we redouble our efforts to work together to clean things up and prevent more pollution!

**Help Your Cass, Rifle, and Pigeon/Pinnebog Watershed**  
 While delisting the Saginaw Bay's AOC status is the overall goal of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; clean water in a sustainable Bay can only be attained by a collaborative effort involving communities, local groups, interested citizens and property owners in coordinated action! The future of the Saginaw Bay depends, in part, on the leadership and determination of your group, and members of many others to support the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs). These practices combined with thoughtful local land use and zoning decisions will prevent additional pollution and protect water quality for generations to come.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
 Planning & Zoning Center  
 Land Policy Institute  
 Michigan State University  
 310 Mainly Miles Building  
 1405 S. Harrison Road  
 East Lansing, MI 48823

## Project Overview

The Planning & Zoning Center (PZC) at Michigan State University received a grant from the EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to identify actions cities, villages and townships can take through local planning and zoning to improve and protect water quality in the Saginaw Bay Watershed. This project is designed to engage communities and other local stakeholders in the application of land use Best Management Practices to protect water quality of rivers and streams that flow into the Saginaw Bay. The highest priority communities in this project include those within the Cass, Rifle and Pigeon/Pinnebog River sub-watersheds (shown on map).

The project seeks to educate and facilitate collaboration at three public meetings; one within each of the three sub-watersheds. The first public meeting will be a catalyst for local citizens and stakeholder groups to learn how local planning, zoning and coordinated efforts among various stakeholder groups can play a larger part in protecting and improving water quality in the entire Saginaw Bay region.

### For More Information Contact:

Jacqueline Spry  
Planning & Zoning Center  
Land Policy Institute  
Michigan State University  
310 Mainly Miles Building  
1405 S. Harrison Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
517.432.2222 ext. 123  
jacqueline.spry@landpolicy.msu.edu

## Public Meetings Will Cover (Same Material at Each Location)

- Water quality problems in the watershed.
- Past projects aimed at improving the water quality of the Saginaw Bay.
- Current projects underway to address pollution within the watershed and restore damaged lands.
- How local land use planning and zoning policies can protect and improve water quality.
- How effective relationships with other groups can influence the success of improving water quality.
- An opportunity for your input on a Basin-wide Conference being planned for January 2012.
- An opportunity to voice questions/concerns about the project.

## Location

These free public meetings will be held on the following dates and times at the following locations:

Date/Time	Location
Rifle River April 21, 2011 5:30pm-7:30pm	Page Street Senior Center 130 Page St West Branch, MI 48661
Cass River April 27, 2011 3:30pm-5:30pm	Frankenmuth Scout Bldg 959 Flint St Frankenmuth, MI 48734
Pigeon/ Pinnebog April 28, 2011 5:30pm-7:30pm	Huron Expo Center 170 W. Soper Rd Bad Axe, MI 48413

## Please call or email RSVPs to:

Jacqueline Spry  
517.432.2222 ext. 123  
jacqueline.spry@landpolicy.msu.edu

## Who Should Attend

Members of the following groups are urged to send a representative:

- Watershed organizations;
- Soil conservation groups;
- County Farm Bureau chapters;
- Conservation Districts;
- Local groups working to protect or improve water quality;
- Planning commissioners and elected officials;
- County and municipal officials who work on water quality issues;
- Land owners and farmers along drains, rivers and streams in the Basin; and
- Interested citizens.

## What Can You Do?

1. Attend this meeting and learn more about what is happening and how you and your group can help.
2. Plan on attending two more public meetings over the next 15 months, plus help us plan and put on a conference next January.
3. Review material on Best Management Practices (BMPs) being prepared for this project.
4. Advocate for Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance language that promotes use of BMPs in each sub-watershed.
5. Participate on the project website (not yet live) by sharing your ideas with others.

# TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

(J)

125 W. Lincoln Street  
Suite 500  
Caro, MI 48723

Telephone: 989-672-3700  
Fax: 989-672-4011

---

**To:** Local Officials

**From:** Tuscola County Board of Commissioners

**Date:** March 31, 2011

**Re:** Appointment to Airport Zoning Board of Appeals

In late 2010, the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners adopted an Airport Zoning Ordinance. Wind energy development in Tuscola County increases the importance of having an airport zoning ordinance and to assure that the ordinance is fairly and properly enforced. A copy of the Airport Zoning Ordinance is available on the Tuscola County web site. One of the provisions of the ordinance is that an Airport Zoning Board of Appeals be appointed. The primary function of the Airport Zoning Board of Appeals is to review decisions made by local and county Airport Zoning Administrators and determine if the decision will be overturned or not. Currently, the county has three members who have agreed to serve, but five are needed.

The Board of Commissioners is requesting your assistance in recruiting individuals to serve on the Airport Zoning Board of Appeals. Per diems and mileage will be paid by the county. Your help in recruiting potential members to serve is greatly appreciated. Please forward contact information of interested individuals to Tuscola County Controller/Administrator (Michael Hoagland) at 989-672-3700.

Thank you.





## Mike Hoagland

---

**From:** Susan Rickwalt-Holder [srickwalt@tbhs.net]

**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2011 9:08 AM

**To:** mhoagland@tuscolacounty.org

**Cc:** executivedirector@carochamber.org

**Subject:** Chamber of Commerce request

Mr. Hoagland, the Caro Chamber of Commerce would like to request the use of the Court House lawn, June 3 and June 4, 2011 during the annual Cars and Crafts event. Since the Farmers Market is an event sponsored by the Chamber we will be collaborating on the use of the court house area.

Susan R. Holder, President  
Caro Chamber of Commerce  
2011

### **Mental Illness: Fighting the STIGMA. Working for RECOVERY. Finding HOPE.**

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(L)



# Push to fix hazy pot law grows

BY BILL LAITNER

DETROIT FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

1:55 AM, Apr. 3, 2011

Almost nobody likes the unwieldy Michigan Medical Marihuana Act -- right down to its spelling of marijuana with an "H."

The law is written without clarity on some key issues, such as what constitutes a bonafide doctor-patient relationship and the conditions under which marijuana cultivation is permitted.

Unless clarifying legislation is enacted, enforcement of the law will largely depend on what Michigan courts rule in cases brought by prosecutors and patients. Since 2009, lower courts have issued a multitude of sometimes-conflicting decisions about how much protection from prosecution the law provides for marijuana users, growers and sellers.

At the same time, the attitude of law enforcement officials toward medical marijuana varies widely from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

Last week, the murky law had several key state lawmakers vowing to fix it once the budget debates end, and Attorney General Bill Schuette was filing briefs with the Michigan Supreme Court and Court of

Appeals in cases of patients accused of abusing the act.

"We are getting slammed from every direction," said Steve Greene, 43, of South Lyon.

Greene is a medical marijuana patient whose home was raided twice by police. He launched a weekly radio show at noon Saturday, called "High Noon," on WDTW-AM (1310) -- on which he hopes to rally political support for wider access to the drug.

Not so fast, Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper said.

"Our concern is the crime this is causing, and our concern is the kids," Cooper said.

## Budding momentum for changing Michigan medical marijuana law

When Colorado voters passed a ballot

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proposal to allow medical marijuana in 2000, they unleashed problems like those sprouting in Michigan.

There were frequent police raids to arrest patients accused of being drug dealers. And Colorado had hundreds of medical marijuana sales outlets "popping up all over the state -- people in the cannabis business with no regulatory oversight," said Matt Cook, director of enforcement in the Colorado Department of Revenue.

That all changed in July 2010, when state lawmakers passed regulations. In the eight months since, the state licensed 816 sales outlets -- called dispensaries -- along with 1,237 growers and 321 "infused-products makers" of marijuana-laced foods, oils and ointments. Colorado has brought in \$8.2 million in fees in that time, Cook said.

"We have a very good relationship with all law enforcement in Colorado. They told us, 'As long as people are compliant with the laws, we're not going to target them,' " he said.

In Michigan, lawmakers from both parties want to make similar repairs to the Medical Marijuana Act, which was passed by state voters in 2008.

"The voters spoke (and) the first try was not quite right, but now we can get it right," state Rep. Ellen Cogen Lipton, D-Huntington Woods, said last week. She spent the last year discussing medical marijuana with a task force of stakeholders, Lipton said.

"There are situations where people have contacted the Oakland County Sheriff's Office with questions and the answer was, 'We don't have to give you an answer because the statute is so messed up,' " she said.

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard and other law enforcement officials have said repeatedly that the act is rife with loopholes, and Bouchard's investigators have testified that they found widespread evidence of drug dealing. Michigan's top law enforcer -- Attorney General Bill Schuette -- filed briefs Monday in cases against patients from Oakland and Isabella counties -- including one sent to the Michigan Supreme Court -- and issued a statement saying some Michiganders "are attempting to exploit the law to essentially legalize marijuana."

Yet patients bitterly complain of police harassment and the need for safe access to the drug.

"We need our rights spelled out, so law

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enforcement can't keep arresting people -- like me," said Adam Brook, 42, of Royal Oak. Brook -- who was prescribed marijuana for chronic back pain and thyroid cancer -- was arrested at his home in March for marijuana possession and intent to deliver the drug.

Brook served as emcee of Saturday's 40th annual Hash Bash in Ann Arbor, where thousands of pot fans gathered on the University of Michigan campus. This year, the event was to champion medical marijuana rights, Brook said.

So will a new weekly radio show called "High Noon," hosted by Steve Greene, 43, of Lyon Township. Greene grows marijuana varieties called Juicy Fruit and Super Lemon Haze in his home, which has been raided twice by police. His show launched at noon Saturday, with a live feed from the Hash Bash, on WDTW-AM (1310). "We're out to make history here" by pushing for changes in the law, Greene said.

Repealing or amending the act would require a three-quarters supermajority in both the state House and Senate, perhaps an impossible standard in the contentious Legislature.

But adding regulations to the act's existing language could be done with a simple majority, said state Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge. He is chairman of the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee and has introduced one bill with plans for more in order to fix the act.

"We've had everyone from police and

prosecutors to patients and medical personnel and the Michigan Municipal League meeting on this," he said. "It's not a quick process. It's going to take a few weeks" to pass the regulations, once the debates on the state budget end, he said.

"I want to ban medical marijuana bars. We don't have Vicodin bars or Oxycodone bars," he said, naming two addictive painkillers frequently used by drug abusers. "If you need (medical marijuana), you (should) take it home and consume it," said Jones, a former Eaton County sheriff.

"I do feel some urgency" about improving the medical marijuana act, said state Sen. Steve Bieda, D-Warren. Bieda is on the Senate Judiciary Committee and has conferred with Jones. He said he wants to model changes after those in Colorado.

Because Michigan's act is vague, "we have local governments creating a patchwork of ordinances, so it's really time for (state lawmakers) to act," he said.

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Adding regulations would also mean licensing revenues that could cover the costs of administering the law.

Before Colorado officials issue medical marijuana business licenses, "we do very in-depth background checks. Anyone going into business must be a Colorado resident for two years -- so we don't have outsiders doing this. They have to be 21. They cannot have any felony drug convictions, and must pay license fees of \$7,500-\$18,000 a year," Colorado Department of Revenue spokeswoman Julie Postlethwaite said.

It's time for similar regulations in Michigan, Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper said.

"We regulate alcohol. We regulate other medicines. There needs to be a significant regulatory apparatus" for medical marijuana, she said.

Contact Bill Laitner: 586-826-7264 or blaitner@freepress.com

## How medical marijuana laws evolved in Michigan and Colorado

2008: Voters pass ballot proposal.

2009: Michigan Department of Community Health accepts first applications to be patients and caregivers (marijuana providers).

2010: About 100 cities, townships, villages and counties pass ordinances to regulate medical marijuana, citing abuse by users and gaps in state law. Police start arresting patients after traffic stops and raids on homes, provider shops and clubs.

March 2011: After 65,000 approval cards are issued, state has backlog of 50,000 applications.

April 2011: Scores of criminal cases against patients are in courts statewide.

2000: Voters pass ballot proposal.

2001-2009: Hundreds of unregulated marijuana providers open shops, many in residential areas. Police warn of drug dealing.

2010: Lawmakers pass rules requiring background checks of providers, licensing fees of up to \$18,000 and audits to stop sales to non-patients.

April 2011: State has licensed 816 dispensaries, 1,237 growers and 321 makers of drug-laced foods and oils, receiving \$8.2 million in fees in the last eight months.

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# NACo News



## MICHIGAN SELECTED TO HOST NACO RURAL ACTION CAUCUS MEETING

The National Association of Counties' (NACo) Rural Action Caucus (RAC) recently selected Michigan as the host state for its annual steering committee board meeting. The meeting will take place this fall in Frankenmuth and will be hosted by Tuscola County and the Michigan Association of Counties.

"We are excited to bring rural leaders from across the country to showcase our region's innovations in agriculture and rural development," said Tuscola County Commission Board Chair Thomas Bardwell. Bardwell is a member of the RAC Steering Committee and chair of NACo's Rural Development Subcommittee. He also serves as second vice president for the Michigan Association of Counties.

Thirty to 40 elected county officials are expected to attend the meeting, which will take place in September or October. Exact location is to be determined.

The RAC Steering Committee meets each year to develop RAC's legislative priorities on important issues affecting rural counties and communities such as rural development programs, transportation, broadband deployment, the farm bill, and access to health care.

## RECEIVE RECOGNITION FOR RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF COUNTIES

Counties that do an exceptional job of increasing public awareness of county government during National County Government Month (NCGM) this April are eligible for recognition at this year's National Association of Counties Annual Conference

in Multnomah County (Portland), Oregon.

In trying to raise the public's awareness of county government, NACo and the National Association of County Information Officers will honor counties that do the most to explain county government or educate the public about counties. The theme for NCGM is "Serving Our Veterans, Armed Forces and Their Families," which was designated this year by NACo President Glen Whitley as part of his "County Government Works" campaign.

Programs will be judged on citizen participation, involvement of elected officials, utilization of existing resources, amount of positive media coverage generated by the event(s), and how the program was promoted by the county (i.e. press releases, social media, utility mailers, etc ).

Three counties will be recognized – rural counties (population less than 100,000); suburban (population between 100,000 and 500,000) and metropolitan (population above 500,000) during the NACo Annual Conference in Portland.

Each winning county will win two free registrations that could be used at any NACo conference. This prize is worth more than \$1,000.

Applications must be received by May 31, 2011 to be eligible for the competition. The application form can be found on the NACo website.

## APRIL MARKS NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT CELEBRATION

Counties across the country are finalizing plans to celebrate National County Month (NCGM) in April. Many counties are finding thoughtful ways to incorporate this year's theme — Serving Our Veterans,

Armed Forces and Their Families — into their plans.

Curry County, N.M has school events planned for every grade level. Pre-K through second-graders will be competing in a poster coloring contest recognizing veterans, armed services and their families. Third- through sixth-graders will be creating their own posters to honor servicemen and women, past and present. Seventh- through 10th-graders will be writing essays based on this year's NCGM theme.

Elected Curry County officials and department heads are serving as the judges.

Juniors and seniors will compete to be selected to serve as "County Manager for a Day." Students will have to fill out a "job" application and provide references. If "hired," they will accompany the real county manager to everything that is scheduled for that day.

Lackawanna County, Pa. will hold a "Local Heroes Day and Family Fair" at its

Center for Public Safety facility, which will feature live music, face painting and other children's activities. Special demonstrations will showcase the SWAT team, K-9 unit and ham radio operations. A Mobile Command Center and other emergency vehicles will be on display. The event is part of NCGM and the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania's 125th anniversary.

In Lancaster County, S.C., veterans and their families will tour the courthouse; students will compete in an essay writing contest ("The Veteran in Your Life"); flags of the different military branches will be raised during special ceremonies; the County Council will host a reception for county employees who are veterans, and the county's LearnTV program will feature interviews with local veterans and the county's veterans affairs director.

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