

Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



August 18, 2017

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**Friendly reminder from ODOT.
Feel free to share on your township websites!**

**DON'T HAVE AN
ECLIPSE IN JUDGMENT**

- Don't stop along the interstate or park on the shoulder during the event.
- Exit the highway to safe location to view and/or photograph the eclipse.
- Don't take photographs while driving!
- Don't try to wear opaque eclipse glasses while operating a vehicle.
- Turn your headlights on -- do not rely on your automatic headlights
- Watch out for pedestrians along smaller roads.
- Prepare for extra congestion
- Avoid travel during the eclipse or in the area of the main path if you can.

Does Your Township Have An Agritourism Operation?

Last year, the Ohio General Assembly passed legislation pertaining to agritourism operations in Ohio (SB 75, 131st GA). Among other things, the new law defines agritourism, states a county or township may regulate certain factors pertaining to agritourism and addressed immunity of said operations in certain circumstances. The bill went into effect in August 2016.

The OTA is looking for feedback from townships that have zoning and have an agritourism operation in their township. Do you have any issues? If you do, please contact the State Association at 614.863.0045.

Waters of the U.S. Rule Update



The EPA and the Army Core of Engineers are extending the comment period by 30 days for the proposed first step of the review of the definition of 'Waters of the U.S.' to provide additional time for stakeholders to weigh in. The comment

period, as now extended, will close on September 27, 2017. The proposed rule was signed by Administrator Scott Pruitt and posted to EPA's website on June 27th and published in the Federal Register on July 27th.

With this extension, the public will have more than 90 days to review the proposal. When finalized, the proposed rule would replace the 2015 Clean Water Rule with the regulations that were in effect immediately preceding the 2015 rule.

For more information on the proposed rule, see: www.epa.gov/wotus-rule. For the comment extension notice, please [click here](#).

Promoting Recycling at Venues and Events

Managing waste materials at events is challenging because of the large amounts generated in a short period of time. Also, these events are often away from the home office or the operating base of the organizers. Still, with proper planning and resources, most events can set and reach zero waste goals.

The Zero Waste International Alliance defines zero waste as a goal to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for future use.



A zero waste event minimizes the amount of waste going to a landfill by diverting materials for re-use, recycling or composting. An event is typically considered to be zero waste if at least 90% of the waste generated is diverted. While a 100% landfill diversion rate is the ultimate goal, simply applying zero waste strategies to event planning can make an important difference and lead to significant waste reduction, cost savings and a positive guest experience. Any reduction in landfill generation through composting, recycling or source minimization adds value to the event and host organization.

Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) has a variety of ways to help communities, businesses and other organizations plan to reduce or recover waste at special events. To get started, check out the Zero Waste Special Event Planning Guide, developed to help small, medium and large events reduce waste through source reduction, recycling and composting. Sustainable materials management specialists can help you plan for waste recovery options at your special events and provide guidance throughout the planning process. Contact OEPA at (614) 644-2798 to learn more about how they can help you meet your zero waste goals.

Ohio EPA also offers financial assistance to local governments and non-profit organizations to help establish and implement recycling and litter prevention programs. Through a partnership between Ohio EPA and Keep Ohio Beautiful, government agencies or non-profit organizations can apply for a Zero Waste Event Partnership Grant to receive recycling bins, containers and bin liners. For more information and to apply, please visit [Keep Ohio Beautiful](#).

Register Now for the 2017 Ohio Environmental Leadership Program

"Developing Leadership in Ohio's Urban Environmental Landscape"

The Ohio Environmental Leaders Institute provides environmental, natural resource and sustainability professionals (and professionals-in-training) with the skills needed to better address complex environmental issues in our state.

This annual, cohort-based program seeks participants from the private, public, non-profit sectors. Individuals who lead, or who aspire to lead, collaborative planning and decision-

making processes that integrate science and public values will benefit the most from participating in OELI. Each annual Institute cohort joins an expanding leadership network to advance civil, constructive policy discussions in Ohio. Sessions are designed to increase your knowledge and skills in communication, negotiation, civic engagement, collaborative problem-solving and leadership.

This year's program will focus on urban environmental issues, including (but not limited to) local foods, safe drinking water, environmental justice and climate adaptation. Participants will learn through a diverse offering of activities, including case studies, small-group and panel discussions, role-plays, and presentations from subject-matter experts and environmental leaders from around Ohio.

Session Dates: October 10, November 9 and December 5.

**Optional dinner and discussion events are held the evening before each session.*

Registration deadline: September 22, 2017

Registration fee: \$300.00 (includes materials and meals) Single session: \$125.00

For more information: Please click [here](#) or contact Mary Slyby at 614.688.3421.

Registration is Now Open for the Ohio Electronic Records Commission's (OhioERC) 2017 Fall Workshop

"To Scan or Not to Scan: That is the Question!"

This FREE workshop will investigate the pros and cons of scanning various types of records, as well as demonstrate a new feasibility tool developed by the OhioERC for evaluating records for digitization. Following the presentation, there will be 4 session rotations that will allow attendees to take a fun, hands-on, small group, deeper dive into uncovering the hidden costs and variables before, during, and after digitizing, as well as utilizing the feasibility tool and touring the Delaware County Records Center and Archives reformatting operations.

This training has been certified for:

- * 2 hours toward NAGARA's Local Government Archives and Records Administrator's certificate in the core competency of Reformatting
- * 1 credit toward the Ohio Records Association professional development
- * 2.5 certification maintenance credits for CRMs and CRAs through the Institute of Certified Records Managers

Again, this workshop is free to attend, plus a travel stipend for mileage is being sponsored by our partner organizations.

Date: Friday, October 6, 2017

Time: 9:00-11:30 a.m. OR 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Location: Delaware, Ohio

**Seating is limited to 50 per session, so register early.*

For more details, the agenda, physical location, and travel stipend information, please visit <http://ohioerc.org/>. To register, please click [here](#).

Questions can be directed to:

OhioERC@ohiohistory.org

Nathan Owens, MLIS Records Manager
Office of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine
Phone: 614-728-5462
nathan.owens@ohioattorneygeneral.gov

BWC Safety Innovation Awards



The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) is seeking entries for the 2018 Safety Innovation Awards. Winners will receive \$1,000 to \$6,000 in cash awards and be recognized at the 2018 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo. Your innovation must demonstrate reduction in safety or ergonomic risk factors, or occupational health exposures. The deadline to apply is Sept. 30, 2017. Learn more and apply [here](#) today!

Ohio Township Association

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