

Livable Regions and Communities in Appalachia

Date: May 15, 2012

Location: Clarence Brown Conference Center, Stilesboro Hall
5450 Georgia Hwy 20, Cartersville, GA 30121

Purpose: The purpose of this workshop is to share information about opportunities available to Appalachian communities to consider strategies that can enhance community vitality and economic competitiveness. The goals are to share resources and discuss opportunities and challenges for Local Development Districts, local governments, and their partners to support long-term community goals.

Agenda

8:15 a.m. Registration and Networking

8:45 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

- James Thompson, Georgia State Program Manager, Appalachian Regional Commission
- Bill Steiner, Executive Director, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
- Earl F. Gohl, Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission

9:15 a.m. Introduction to Livable Communities Concepts

This session will give an overview of approaches to linking economic development strategies with land use planning, natural resources management, and transportation systems in rural and small town settings to support long-term resiliency. Learn about techniques available for Appalachian regions and communities interested in implementing livable communities approaches. *1.25 AICP CM credits requested*

- Kathy Nothstine, Associate Director, National Association of Development Organizations
- Anne Keller, Senior Sustainability Advisor, U.S. EPA, Region 4
- Ed Fendley, Environmental Specialist, U.S. EPA, Office of Sustainable Communities
- *Moderator: Greg Faulkner, Program Analyst, Appalachian Regional Commission*

10:30 a.m. BREAK

- 10:45 a.m. Case Studies: Applications of Livable Communities Concepts in Appalachia**
 Three panelists will describe how they are working with communities in Appalachia to think through short- and long-term strategies for quality economic development and an integrated approach to community development issues. *1.25 AICP CM credits requested*
- Joe McKinney, Executive Director, Land-of-Sky Regional Council (NC)
 Joe will discuss GroWNC, a listening and planning process to develop regional and local strategies for economic prosperity, quality growth, and sustainable development in the Asheville region.
 - Beth Jones, Executive Director, Southeast Tennessee Development District (TN)
 Beth will describe the Regional Growth Planning Process, a citizen-led process spanning Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama to create a comprehensive 40-year plan to ensure the best stewardship of the region's financial, civic, and environmental resources.
 - Amy Goodwin, Principal Planner, Atlanta Regional Commission (GA)
 Amy will describe the Livable Centers Initiative, a program of the Atlanta Regional Commission to help local governments devise strategies that reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.
 - *Moderator: Kathy Nothstine, Associate Director, National Association of Development Organizations*
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Presentation: Supporting Small Town Revitalization**
 Hear about opportunities for helping small town communities identify those positive assets that can support initiatives for enhancing quality of life, broader economic prospects in the community, and a better place to live. *1.0 AICP CM credit requested*
- Cheryl Morgan, Director, Auburn Urban Design Studio
- 1:30 p.m. Leveraging and Integrating Available Resources**
 Local Development Districts and communities in Appalachia can access a variety of funding streams and other resources available to help implement community-led growth strategies. A panel of experts will discuss these options and lead a discussion with participants about how to access and leverage public and private resources.
- Quinton Robinson, Acting State Director (Georgia), USDA Rural Development
 - Ed Fendley, Environmental Specialist, U.S. EPA, Office of Sustainable Communities
 - Ann Arnold, Downtown Development Director, Rome, GA
 - Nathan Walldorf, Greater Chattanooga Association of Realtors
 - *Moderator: Greg Faulkner, Program Analyst, Appalachian Regional Commission*
- 2:30 p.m. Putting it All Together: What Works in Appalachia and What Doesn't?**
 In small groups, attendees will participate in a facilitated discussion about their reactions to the materials presented today. Participants will outline challenges and opportunities in applying livability concepts in their regions and communities. This session will end with a report back of the highlights to the full group.
- 3:20 p.m. Closing**
- Earl F. Gohl, Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission
- 3:30 p.m. Adjourn**

This workshop was convened by the Appalachian Regional Commission, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities, and USDA Rural Development, in partnership with the NADO Research Foundation and the Development District Association of Appalachia. It is the first of a series of three workshops to be convened in Appalachia in 2012. Workshop materials and additional information will be posted on www.NADO.org/arcworkshops and at www.ARC.gov.

For more information, contact Greg Faulkner at Appalachian Regional Commission at gfaulkner@arc.gov or Kathy Nothstine at NADO Research Foundation at knothstine@nado.org.



arc.gov



epa.gov/smartgrowth



ddaa-idd.org



nado.org