

News!

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ACHP VOTES TO SUPPORT HPF FULL FUNDING

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation held its fall meeting on December 4th in Washington D.C. Ruth Pierpont, NCSHPO President, is a member of the Council. The meeting opened with the Chairman announcing this would most likely be his last meeting and then he presented The Chairmen’s award to the Army Corp of Engineers for their use of Recovery Act funding to promote historic preservation. The Preserve America Award was given to the Department of Transportation of its support of the Preserve America program

Also highlighted at the meeting was the “National Park Service Second Century Report,” which included the recommendation to fully fund the Historic Preservation Fund and Land and Water Conservation Fund. NPS Director, Jon Jarvis discussed the report and how historic preservation plays a role in the major recommendations. Director Jarvis and DOI Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Will Shafroth, both acknowledged the need for additional HPF funding.

During the discussions, councilmember and chair of the Preservation Initiatives Committee, Ann Pritzlaff, submitted a motion on behalf of her Committee for the Council to endorse full funding of the Historic Preservation Fund. Members who were able to vote on federal funding issues voted in unanimous support of the motion.



PRESERVATION ACTION 2010 GRASS-ROOTS SURVEY OPENED

Every year Preservation Action uses the results of their grassroots survey to shape their legislative agenda and learn about their members’ priorities. Increased funding for SHPOs and fully funding the HPF have consistently

ranked at the top of Preservation Action’s agenda and we hope that will be the case again!

If you or your SHPOffice are a member of Preservation Action (36 SHPO offices are members so ask us if you are unsure) please take the survey which can be accessed at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Z6NT6P6>

The survey will be open until December 31, 2009.



CONSERVATION TAX INCENTIVE UPDATE

Members of the Conservation Tax Coalition, (NCSHPO is a member), are still working diligently to pass H.R. 1831, a bill that would make permanent the conservation tax incentive. Coalition members hoped to attach the bill to the estate tax legislation considered by the House this week but were unable to due to a House rule that allowed no amendments. Attention will now be focused on attaching this legislation to the Senate estate tax legislation.

A one year extension of the conservation tax incentive is included in a House tax extenders bill that may come to the floor next Wednesday. The bill includes a one year extension of virtually all tax laws due to expire December 31st. However, passage of this bill is far from certain given the end of 2009 is quickly approaching. Even if the incentive expires December 31st, proponents believe there is a good chance it will be extended retroactively at some point in 2010.

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DOT SAYS STATES TO SOON FACE 30% SAFETEA DECLINE

In the continuing saga of the next transportation reauthorization, the Department of Transportation warned Congress that continued simple extensions of an expired surface transportation law will soon cost states 30 percent of their transportation money

According to Roy Kienitz, under secretary of Transportation for Policy, "If we have continued extensions of the continuing resolutions as we are doing now the authority to spend would move forward but the new contracting authority given out would be about 30 percent below last year's level. Most states have not felt that decline yet but at some point they will."

The implications for recreation and preservation are the same as they are for all surface transportation programs – a 30 percent reduction in the upcoming year. Kienitz said the 30 percent cut would hit states at different times and said most wouldn't be affected until spring.

CONGRESS CONSIDERS EXPANDING FLTFA LAND ACQUISITION LAW

The Obama administration endorsed legislation (HR 3339) last month that would expand a law allowing for the sale of federal land for the purpose of acquisition of conservation land. The existing law only allows the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to sell lands cleared for disposition by land management plans completed prior to 2000. HR 3339 would authorize BLM to also sell lands cleared by post-2000 land use plans and would extend the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) indefinitely.

The money is used to acquire conservation lands for four agencies, including the Park Service. The law, FLTFA of 2000, has produced more than \$100 million for the government this decade. Most of the money from sales is used to acquire private property in or near federal lands managed by NPS, BLM, the Forest Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

HR 3339, introduced by Rep. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), would change FLTFA by allowing BLM to sell land cleared by all land use plans completed after 2000, as well as those completed before 2000. Senate Energy Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) introduced a counterpart bill (S 1787) October 14.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- January 13-14, 2010 – NCSHPO Executive Committee Meeting: Washington, DC
- March 2-4, 2010 – NCSHPO annual meeting and Advocacy Day: Washington, DC
- March 3-5, 2010 – National Historic Tax-Credit Conference: Washington, DC
- July 28-30, 2010 – NCSHPO Summer Board Meeting: Grand Rapids, MI
- November 10-13, 2010 – NCSHPO Winter Board Meeting: San Diego, CA