

Northwest

Your Source for Everything Northwest Commission!

NEWS

May

2018

Business Financing

The Northwest Commission Loan Review Committee closed a loan for the following client:

- **K & B – SLH LLC** of Crawford County closed on a \$100,000 loan to purchase the real estate and existing business of the Sugar Lake Hotel. The company will retain 2 jobs and create 4 jobs as a result of this project.

Loan Funds Available

The Business Financing Program currently has funds available for land and building acquisition, construction and renovation projects, as well as new or used machinery and equipment purchases and working capital. Loan interest rates are fixed for the term of the loan and are currently as low as 3.75%. For more information, contact Lisa Beach, Loan Closing Coordinator, at (814) 677-4800 x121 or lisab@northwestpa.org.

Government Contracting (PTAC)

State Representative Partners with Commission's PTAC for "Part 2" Workshop

Last May, the Commission's Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), in partnership with State Representative Lee James of the Commonwealth's 64th Legislative District, presented a free training workshop covering aspects of the COSTARS Cooperative Purchasing Program for business suppliers. This year, on May 4th, the groups joined again to offer another COSTARS workshop, this time for the buying organizations.

The PTAC was happy to host the May 2018 event which featured guest speaker Kim Bullivant, COSTARS Marketing Manager, from Harrisburg. The conference room was at



full capacity with attendees representing various local public procurement units and state-funded organizations.

Representative James said of the COSTARS program and the May 4th workshop, "Municipalities can save real money for taxpayers by placing procurement orders through the COSTARS program and enjoying lower pricing. The Department of General Services can deliver a real benefit to even the smaller municipalities. Attendees can gain valuable insight to this process."



Left & center photos: Kim Bullivant, COSTARS Marketing Manager, spoke on "Simplifying Local Procurement" to a full room of attendees representing local public procurement units & state-funded organizations. Right photo: PTAC staff pictured with Rep. James and Ms. Bullivant (center).

Businesses seeking assistance on how to become a COSTARS Supplier, and organizations interested in utilizing the program as COSTARS buyers, are welcome to contact the Commission's [PTAC office](#) for information and guidance.

PTAC Staff Invited to Participate in Small Business Event with U.S. Sen. Bob Casey

Recently, Robyn Young, PTAC Manager received an invitation from the office of U.S. Senator Bob Casey for an upcoming small business summit in Erie, PA. The federal contracting event, presented by Sen. Casey and the Erie NAACP, will include a special panel discussion and workshop session featuring the federal and local services that are available to minority, woman and veteran business owners. The speakers will highlight best practices, offer tips and provide the tools for successfully applying and competing for federal government contracts.

The PTAC is honored to be invited & very proud to be a part of this event. A date in June is to be determined. The PTAC office will post news & announcements as more information becomes available.

The Buy American Act and Trade Agreements Act: Understanding Federal Domestic Preference Requirements

This webinar is hosted by the NW Commission PTAC and presented by PilieroMazza PLLC law firm. It will take place on June 7th from 1:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Given the Trump administration's intent for stricter enforcement of domestic preference requirements, government contractors need to stay abreast of the relevant laws and regulations, such as the Buy American Act ("BAA") and the Trade Agreement Act ("TAA"). Topics to be discussed include:

- The general requirements of the BAA and TAA
- The applicability of the requirements and exceptions to their applicability
- Tests for determining a product's country of origin
- Relevant FAR clauses and certifications
- The potential penalties for non-compliance
- Practical tips and strategies for compliance

There is no fee for this webinar but registration is required. Please Register online at <https://nwpaptac.ecenterdirect.com/events> or contact Melissa Becker at melissab@northwestpa.org, (814) 677-4800 x124.



Save the DATE!

Dynamic Networking for Small Business

Don't miss this chance to interact with all the key players in the government contracting world!

On August 23rd, the Northwest Commission Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) and the Gannon Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will present **Dynamic Networking for Small Business**, a federal contracting and subcontracting event, with the support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Small Business Administration. This event will give businesses in the region the opportunity to:

- ◆ **Participate in a Great Networking Event!**
- ◆ **Meet face-to-face with government agencies, prime contractors and business resources all in one day and one location!**

This year's event will host the U.S. Navy's Office of Small Business Programs from Washington D.C. As the Keynote speaker for the event, the Navy will discuss its future shipbuilding plan and the need for a larger U.S. fleet.

Thursday, August 23rd

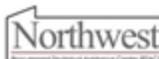
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Courtyard Erie Ambassador Conference Center
7792 Peach Street, Erie, PA 16509

To pre-register for the event, please visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018DyNetNorth>

Sponsored By:



With the Support of:

U.S. Small Business Administration



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
(Pittsburgh and Buffalo Districts)

International Marketing

Ohio-Pennsylvania Stateline Export Initiative (OPEI) hosts Export Compliance Conference

The Northwest Commission in partnership with the Ohio SBDC Export Assistance Network at Youngstown State University hosted an Export Compliance Conference on April 25 & 26, in West Middlesex, PA. This was the first export training event offered by the OPEI

and was aimed at helping companies identify what has changed and the steps necessary to be in full compliance.

Fifty four individuals from Ohio and Pennsylvania companies attended the 2-day event aimed at covering Export Controls under the EAR (Export Administration Regulations) and ITAR (International Traffic in Arms Regulations.) Mr. Bob Imbriani CGBP, Executive Vice President at International Team Worldwide (Corporate) presented.

Topics for the event included: Responsibility for Compliance, Knowing Your Customer, Overviews of EAR and ITAR, Export Control Reform, Registration, Technical Assistance Agreements, Manufacturers Licensing Agreements, the U.S. Munitions List, Licensing, Violations & Penalties, as well as Record Keeping.

The event also featured presentations from Yolanda Gantlin, Kirk Bennett and Brian Rissing of the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls: U.S. State Department on Export Licensing, Policy and Compliance.

Robyn Young of the Northwest Commission's Government Contracting Program was also there to provide an overview of the PTAC (Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Centers) program.

Special thanks to all who attended and the sponsors for making the event a success!

About the OPEI:

Through the OH-PA STATELINE EXPORT INITIATIVE (OPEI), the Ohio SBDC Export Assistance Network at Youngstown State University, Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber (YWRC), Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission (NWC) and Youngstown State University (YSU) have joined forces to expand export opportunities in a 10-county regional area. Comprised of Ashtabula, Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties in Ohio and Beaver, Butler, Crawford, Erie, Lawrence and Mercer counties in Pennsylvania, these counties form the eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania borders.

2017-2018 Global Access Program Updates

The Pennsylvania Global Access Program (GAP) is designed to enhance the capability of small to mid-sized Pennsylvania companies to increase export sales. GAP is administered by the Pennsylvania Office of International Business (OIBD) and provides up to \$5,000 per award period to qualifying Pennsylvania companies to reimburse 75% of eligible expenses associated with specific export promotion activities. The program is funded in part through a grant with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

As of May 7, 2018, 20 applications from the Northwest region have been approved for GAP funding, totaling \$62,706. Funds are limited and subject to availability. Once submitted, applications are reviewed by a panel that convenes weekly. Funding decisions are rendered on a first-come, first-served basis.

As a reminder, companies must submit their applications for consideration 45 days prior to the event. Once GAP funding is approved, the approved amount will be held for a company even if the event is taking place later in the year. For more information and guidelines to the GAP, please click [here](#).

Save the Date – Exporting to Mexico Webinar

The Northwest Commission will be hosting the next webinar in its monthly series at providing an overview of the markets Pennsylvania's Authorized Trade Representatives

serve throughout the world. The webinar will take place on May 24th from 9:00 A.M – 10:00 A.M. EST via Go To Meeting.

The series continues with a webinar covering the Mexican market. The webinar will be approximately 45 minutes – 30 minutes of presentation followed by 15 minutes for Q&A for those in attendance. Mr. Efred Flores, Pennsylvania's Authorized Trade Representative Mexico | Director of Global Business Partners Mexico will be presenting for the webinar.

More details and a link to register coming soon.

Transportation

Transportation Advisory Committee March Meeting

The next meeting of the Northwest TAC is scheduled for 1:00 P.M. on June 26th at the PennDOT District 1-0 office in Oil City. The public is encouraged to attend. Anyone interested in being placed on the agenda or mailing list for the Transportation Committee meetings should contact Sue Smith at sues@northwestpa.org or by phone at (814) 677-4800 x131. The 2019 Draft TIP will be on the agenda for approval.

Transportation Set-Aside Awards Announced

Governor Tom Wolf and PennDOT Secretary Leslie S. Richards announced the approval of funding for 82 projects statewide in the amount of \$66.8 million through the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program.

The following is a list of awards received within the northwest region:

Crawford

- Pymatuning State Park – \$958,461 to improve and extend the Pymatuning State Park Spillway Rail Trail nearly four miles, resulting in safe visitor access to park visitor centers, schools, and connection with the PA Route 6 and Bicycle PA Route Y near Linesville.

Erie

- City of Erie
 - \$1,000,000 for updated signing, pavement markings, traffic control devices, and sidewalk improvements that will enhance the safety of student walking routes in the city of Erie.
 - \$250,000 to add bike lanes, crosswalks, and a way-finding signage system throughout the city's trail network.
- Borough of Edinboro – \$429,480 to install a multi-modal pathway along the east side of State Route 699 to provide a safe space for pedestrians, users of wheelchairs, and bicyclists.

Forest

- Jenks Township – \$1,196,169 to construct a six-mile segment of trail and a trail hub that will serve cyclists, snowmobiles and equestrians. The project will provide a link to several trails, including the North Country Trail, Knox to Kane Trail, and the Allegheny National Forest trail system.

Lawrence

- Shenango Township – \$920,000 to construct a dedicated trail lane for North Country Trail users along Sankey Hill Road.

Mercer

- Greenville Borough – \$748,600 to construct sidewalks, retaining walls, and drainage improvements along Alan Avenue to provide a safe pedestrian connection between Thiel College and the Borough Park. This funding supplements a \$240,000 TA Set-Aside award from the Shenango Valley Transportation Study MPO.
- Springfield Township – \$574,920 for the second phase of a multimodal trail along State Route 208 connecting multiple land uses, including the municipal building, future township park, the airport, and numerous hotels and commercial developments.

Venango

- Venango County – \$1,000,000 for construction of a multi-use trail along the Route 8/US 62 corridor in coordination with a PennDOT safety project.
- City of Franklin – \$966,760 to rehabilitate and install new lighting, sidewalk, curbing and driveway aprons in downtown Franklin.

2019-2022 Draft TIP

A copy of the 2019-2022 Draft TIP will be on public display from May 11, 2018 through June 11, 2018 at the Northwest Commission's office located at 395 Seneca Street in Oil City, PA, Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM; on the website at <http://www.northwestpa.org/transportation/>; at each of the five counties' planning offices; at the offices of the two transit agencies (Crawford Area Transportation Authority and the Transportation Authority of Warren County), the following townships (Brady, Clarion, Monroe, Paint, Piney, Redbank, Richland, Salem, Washington, Beaver Crawford Co., Conneaut, East Fairfield, East Fallowfield, East Mead, North Shenango, Randolph, Rockdale, Rome, South Shenango, Sparta, Steuben, Union, Venango, Vernon, West Fallowfield, West Mead, West Shenango, Green, Harmony, Howe, Jenks, Kingsley, Tionesta, Allegheny, Clinton, Frenchcreek, Oakland, Rockland, Sandycreek, Brokenstraw, Cherry Grove, Columbus, Deerfield, Freehold, Limestone, Sheffield, Southwest, Spring Creek, Sugar Grove, Triumph and Watson); the Boroughs of Callensburg, Clarion, East Brady, Hawthorn, Knox, New Bethlehem, St. Petersburg, Shipperville, Sligo, Strattanville, Cambridge Springs, Centerville, Cochranon, Conneaut Lake, Conneautville, Saegertown, Spartansburg, Springboro, Woodcock, Tionesta, Barkeyville, Clintonville, Emlenton, Pleasantville, Polk, Rouseville, Sugarcreek, Utica, Bear Lake, Clarendon, Sugar Grove and Youngsville; and the cities of Meadville, Titusville, Franklin, Oil City, and Warren. This TIP Update is also available for review at the following eight tribal nations: Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Delaware Tribe and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

A public informational meeting will be held at the Northwest Commission office at 395 Seneca St., Oil City on June 11, 2018 from 1:00 P.M -3:00 P.M.

Contact Information - State Roadway Concerns

PennDOT reminds motorists that they can report pothole and other roadway concerns on state roads by calling 1-800-FIX-ROAD or by visiting www.penndot.gov and clicking on "Submit Roadway Feedback" near the bottom of the page.

Entire 2018 LTAP Schedule Available

The Local Technical Assistance Program is underway and the Commission is looking for more attendees to make sure all classes are held. Sign up for a class near you today!

- 5-17-18 | Engineering and Traffic Studies | 8am-3pm | Clarion, PA
- 5-24-18 | Stop Signs and Intersection Traffic Control | 8am-12pm | Meadville, PA
- 6-14-18 | Roadside Vegetation Control | 8am-3pm | Saegertown, PA
- 9-6-18 | Asphalt Roads: Common Maintenance Problems | 8am-12pm | Scandia, PA
- 9-27-18 | Salt & Snow Management | 8am-3pm | Meadville, PA
- 10-3-18 | Warm Mix Asphalt | 8am-12pm | Hermitage, PA
- 10-4-18 | Salt & Snow Management | 8am-3pm | Scandia, PA
- 11-2-18 | Project Overview: Monitor Quality by Asking the Right Questions | 8am-12pm | Clarion, PA
- 11-5-18 | Drainage: The Keys to Roads That Last | 8am-3pm | Meadville, PA
- 11-20-18 | Speed Limits & Speed Management | 8am-12pm | Clarion, PA
- 11-29-18 | Road Safety Audit | 8am-11pm | Erie, PA

As always, these classes are free of charge but pre-registration is required. To register, please contact Travis Siegel at traviss@northwestpa.org or by phone at 814.677.4800 x123.

Regional Planning

Regional Planners' Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Regional Planners' is scheduled for 10:00 A.M. on Friday, May 18th, at the Northwest Commission office in Oil City. A training is scheduled for that day on ARC's Local Access Road Program.

Greenways, Trails Recreation Program Seeking Applicants

The Commonwealth Financing Authority is seeking grant applicants for its Greenways, Trails and Recreation program. Grants must not exceed \$250,000 and require a 15 percent match of the total project cost.

Act 13 establishes the Marcellus Legacy Fund and allocates funds for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks and beautification projects.

Applications are being accepted through May 31st. Click [here](#) for more information & to apply.

Update to Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

PennDOT announced that the updating of the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan has begun and they are seeking public input to the plan through an [online survey](#).

Once completed, the Pennsylvania Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan will be a resource for Municipal Planning Organizations (MPOs), Regional Planning Organizations (RPOs), and municipalities throughout Pennsylvania, providing guidance to local governments on best practices for developing and implementing regional and local bicycle and pedestrian plans. The plan also will develop a set of goals, objectives and performance measures to guide PennDOT's efforts to support a complete multimodal network.

Greenways, Trails Recreation Program (GTRP)

Act 13 of 2012 establishes the Marcellus Legacy Fund and allocates funds to the Commonwealth Financing Authority (the "Authority") for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks and beautification projects. Applications will be accepted from Thursday, February 1 to Thursday, May 31, 2018. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.

Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP)

Act 13 of 2012 establishes the Marcellus Legacy Fund and allocates funds to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for watershed restoration and protection projects. The overall goal of the Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP) is to restore, and maintain restored stream reaches impaired by the uncontrolled discharge of nonpoint source polluted runoff, and ultimately to remove these streams from the Department of Environmental Protection's Impaired Waters list. Applications will be accepted from Thursday, February 1 to Thursday, May 31, 2018. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.

CFA – Multimodal Transportation Fund

Applications will be received between Thursday, March 1 and Tuesday, July 31, 2018. All applications and all required supplemental information must be electronically submitted by close of business on July 31st for hopeful consideration at the November CFA board meeting. The required, complete two (2) hard copies of the application must be postmarked no later than July 31st.

Funds may be used for the development, rehabilitation and enhancement of transportation assets to existing communities, streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancement, pedestrian safety, connectivity of transportation assets and transit-oriented development. Click [here](#) for more information.

Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank (PIB) is a PennDOT program that provides low-interest loans to help fund transportation projects within the Commonwealth. The goal of the PIB is to leverage state and federal funds, accelerate priority transportation projects, spur economic development and assist local governments with their transportation needs. The current PIB Interest Rate is 2.25%. For more information click [here](#).

DEP Announces Funding Round

The 2018 Round of the Growing Greener Plus Grant Programs will be open from May 14, 2018 until July 13, 2018. Eligible applicants can apply via the [Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Electronic Single Application website](#).

Politely take my address off your mailing list

Northwest Commission 395 Seneca Street , Oil City, PA, 16301, USA