

Colleagues:

Summer greetings from the Pacific Northwest, where the locals say Summer does not begin until July 5. So far, on track.

Much work has been going on with the NAPA Local Government Working Group. The following is an update on activities including highlights from our June 10 meeting. Please let me know if you are interested in getting more involved in any of these activities and I will connect you. **Please note Wednesday September 10 at 2 PM ET for our next meeting.**

At the June 10 meeting, Academy President James-Christian Blockwood attended to thank the group on organizing and the importance of focusing on local government and the need for more resources at the local level. James-Christian also discussed current state of the Academy and asked Fellows to continue their active involvement in Academy work.

Academy Director of Intergovernmental Partnerships Nancy Augustine briefed Working Group on Academy's municipal AI project funded by Google. The project focuses on AI as an economic development strategy. Academy Project Director for Strategic Initiatives Amanda Mullans updated group on Academy's [Extreme Weather Resilience Hub](#). Academy Fellow Engagement Specialist Jillian McGuffey gave an update on the Local Government 2030 initiative and its focus on workforce development projects.

The Working Group then heard reports from our four standing committees:

Citizen Engaged Governance: Committee Chair Wendy Chen discussed committee's work. The committee is reviewing work that has already been done on this topics and is working on a webinar: "Is Citizen Engagement Always a Good Thing?" The committee is also looking to start of podcast to discuss citizen engagement issues.

Fiscal Health and Sustainability: Committee Chairs Mike Pagano and Lee Feldman said the committee is focusing on the many forms of fiscal stress facing local governments. The committee is looking to collect lessons learned during the "Reagan Revolution" that may be helpful today and is looking to put together a panel with NLC and NACo. The committee also is planning to put together a series of white papers on op-ed articles on lessons learned.

Preemption / State and Federal Impacts: Committee Chairs Bev Cigler and me discussed plans to have future meetings focusing on work already done in this area by NLC and NACo as well as new work being done by Chris Koliba and colleagues at the University of Kansas.

Research: This committee made up of academics and local government association research staff is working on a seminar to be held Thursday July 31 at 2 PM ET to discuss foundations for a local government research agenda around these topics:

Citizen-Governance Disconnect
Fiscal Health and Sustainability
Emerging Technology in Local Government
Preemption/State-Federal Impacts
Recruitment and Retention of Employees

The Academy will provide Zoom link for seminar to the Working Group.

Feedback was positive from the Working Group on all this work, but concern that work of the various committees be coordinated. The committee chairs met after the June 10 meeting to do just that and will continue to meet.

Given the state of the world, it remains important that this Working Group focus on actionable outcomes and tangible results. Just talking about these important issues is not enough.

Please consider being active in one or more of these committees. Also reach out to Nancy Augustine if you are interested in writing blog posts for the Academy website on any of these issues.

Best wishes for the remainder of the Summer. Let me know if you have any questions.

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