

# State leaders visited eastern Ohio to discuss shale boom and Model Road Use Maintenance Agreement for local governments

**Lloyd MacAdam, District 11 Deputy Director**

This year's State of the State Address brought the Governor's cabinet members as well as the state's legislature to eastern Ohio on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. That provided an opportunity for state leaders to get together with local officials and industry representatives to discuss the shale boom and grass roots partnerships

Photo by Becky Giauque, District 11 Communications



Left to right: ODOT Director Jerry Wray, ODOT District 11 Deputy Director Lloyd MacAdam, and Asst. Policy Director for Governor Kasich Craig Butler

developed to create the statewide Model Road Use Maintenance Agreement (RUMA) to be used during exploration efforts.

ODOT Director Jerry Wray, ODNR Director Jim Zehringer, Ohio EPA Director Scott Nally, and Craig Butler, Assistant Policy Director for Governor Kasich met with key stakeholders who participated in the RUMA process and worked so hard to see it to fruition for the rest of the state. Participants shared their experience in the process and discussed the importance of the RUMA with state leaders.

The Model RUMA, which can now be found on the County En-

gineers Association of Ohio Web site at: [www.ceao.org](http://www.ceao.org), should be useful as local governments begin pursuing agreements with companies involved in oil and gas drilling in order to maintain their local roads.

This model agreement was developed with input from county and township officials, railroads, the oil and gas industry, ODOT, ODNR, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, and other stakeholders. Many of you were part of this consensus process. State leaders thank you for your efforts to help define a process that can be applied across Ohio and provide certainty and clarity about how our rural roads will be

maintained during the unprecedented oil and gas exploration activity in our state.

As you know, Ohio is experiencing significant new development in areas thought to be rich in oil and gas, and this development will create thousands of new, needed jobs. As we have seen, and as we have learned from other states experiencing similar activity, many rural roads used by the industry to move heavy equipment to and from well sites

to better and safer roads.

Addressing these concerns in a unified way will allow communities often with limited resources to benefit from the research, legal and analytical ability of the state as a whole. Similarly, a single, unified agreement allows for a strength-in-numbers approach that allows local communities to better achieve beneficial outcomes for their citizens. Just as important, providing consistency and certainty for the oil and gas industry helps eliminate costs, distractions and barriers that can stand in the way of their ability to create jobs and maximize their positive impact on Ohio and local communities.

After you review the model road use agreement, we believe

you will agree that it is a solid and useful tool, and the best approach to reaching agreement with the oil and gas industry on road use and maintenance issues. To make sure it remains a useful tool, we will periodically host meetings to invite your feedback and modify it as necessary.

Lastly, please know that changes are being made to the ODNR Division of Oil and Gas permit to link, when necessary, the RUMA to the permit application.

If you have questions on the document, please contact me at (330) 308-3950. ☎

Photos by Becky Giauque, District 11 Communications



Left to right: Jefferson Co. Commissioner Tom Gentile, Jefferson Co. Engineer James Branagan, Harrison Co. Engineer Robert Sterling, and Carroll Co. Engineer David Miskimen



Left to right: Belmont Co. Engineer Fred Bennett, Sr. Policy Analyst for CCAO Josh Hahn, Columbiana Co. Engineer Bert Dawson, Holmes Co. Engineer Chris Young, and Holmes Co. Commissioner Robert Ault



Photo provided by Chesapeake Energy

From left to right: ODOT District 11 Deputy Director Lloyd MacAdam, ODOT Communications Director Melissa Ayers, OEPA Assistant Director Laura Factor, ODNR Chief of Communications Carlo LoParo, ODNR Director Jim Zehringer, ODOT District 11 Communications Becky Giauque, ODOT Director Jerry Wray, OEPA Director Scott Nally, Ohio Dept. of Commerce Industrial Compliance Supt. Dave Williamson, and Ohio Dept. of Commerce Director David Goodman

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