Date Submitted: November 13, 2015
Name of Committee Chairs reporting: Andrew Mack & Paul Mogush – Co-Chairs Legislative/Law Committee

Information Only Items
1. Briefly describe committee activities since your last report.
   - Legislative & Law Committee met last month to finalize its work on the 2016 Annual Work Plan and discuss other pertinent items of interest to the committee and chapter. Approval is requested.
   
   - The committee is again recommending Tom Jensen to serve in the capacity of Legislative & Law Education Coordinator. Tom continues to provide an outstanding level of service for the committee and organization. The new level of service with the legislative overview webinar was repeated again this year and Tom did a great job on pulling things together again this year for the presentation. We collaborated with the PDO’s and put together another good program which was attended by over 60 members from our organization. He will take the lead on putting this together, authoring the bills tracking, and newsletter articles along with other duties again in 2016. The committee recommended a small increase of $500 in the annual contact amount due to his level of expertise, significant amount of time committed to the work, and his tenure in this position. The recommended increase will not affect the total annual committee budget amount request with minor adjustments to the budgeted work plan request. Approval of the renewed annual contract is requested.

   - Planner’s Day at the Capitol program for the 9th year in a row will again be planned for the new legislative session. It starts later next year, but we expect to roll out our new legislative platform ahead of this time once the platform is approved and work to begin implementing approved strategies by the chapter at the capitol next year.

   - The new 2016 chapter legislative policy platform is being developed. 5 topical areas were sorted from the outstanding feedback received from the committee’s ‘Back to the Future Theme’ at the fall conference in Bemidji. We’ve met twice now on the project and expect to have a final draft of the platform ready for review by the board and membership at the annual retreat in January.

Items for which you are requesting action by the Chapter Board
Please describe the type of action you are requesting (letter of support, approval of a budget line item, approval of work plan, etc.) Please provide background information for each item on which you are requesting Board action.

1. Action you are requesting of the Chapter Board (should be one sentence):
   Approve 2016 Legislative & Law Committee Annual Work Plan.
   
   a. Background information for your request:

   Consider for approval the 2016 Annual Legislative & Law Committee Work Plan. There are a few minor changes in the recommended work plan for this year, but essentially the mission of the committee remains unchanged. Provide a high level of membership information with an active volunteer base.

2. Action you are requesting of the Chapter Board (should be one sentence):
   Approve 2016 Legislative & Law Education Coordinator Contract.
   
   a. Background information for your request:

   Approve annual contract for Legislative & Law Education Coordinator Contract with Tom Jensen. No changes in contract duties are planned for the 2016 agreement. Committee recommends a small annual increase of $500.
 APA MN Legislative & Law Committee
2016 Work Plan & Budget
November 2015 Board Meeting

The Legislative Committee is pleased to present the following work plan of activities for the period December 2015 through November 2016.

1. **Adopt New 2016 APA MN Policy Positions.** The board adopted a chapter policy platform in 2009. The goal of this activity is to adopt a completely new policy platform as we move into the new 2016 legislative session. A full chapter platform process began at the 2015 state planning conference. The proposed new platform will be circulated for membership comment and then reviewed at the annual chapter retreat in January. Once approved by the board, the platform will be provided as information where appropriate to interested parties and appropriate actions initiated according to the approved policy. Board action is required for updating of the platform which is anticipated to occur at the chapter board meeting in January of 2016.

2. **Communicate regularly with the APA MN Board of Directors on Legislative Committee activities.** The goal of this activity is to keep the official body of the Chapter informed of Legislative & Law Committee activities to ensure oversight. This activity will involve Legislative & Law Committee reports at all regular APA MN Board meetings and communication on issues that arise between board meetings, and development and approval of a yearly committee work plan.

3. **Organize a Planner’s Day at the Capitol during the Minnesota legislative session.** The goals of this activity are: familiarize APA MN members with the legislative process and lobbying limitations; establish contacts between members and legislators; raise awareness of legislative issues of interest to planners. The committee will invite members, arrange for legislative speakers, and work with legislators and other interested organizations to put on another successful event. This activity would require funding to pay for various incidental expenses to put on the event. These expenses were off-set in 2015 with a required charge for the program at $20 per person registration fee. The requested budget amount remains unchanged from 2015 and the same program registration fee will be the same.

4. **Educate APA MN members on potential legislation and introduced legislation of interest to planners.** The goal of this activity is to keep members informed in a timely manner about legislative issues upon which they may choose to act (not intended as an avenue for lobbying on specific issues). This activity will continue to involve tracking legislative activity, including pre-bill introduction efforts, creating e-alerts, creating content for the APA MN website and newsletter. The Legislative Education Coordinator is the primary committee member responsible for providing this very high level of service for the chapter and its membership over the past several years. The committee co-chairs asked Tom Jensen, who served in this capacity for 2010 - 2015 to maintain this role for 2016. He has agreed to renew his contract services again this year. The committee requests that the APA MN Chapter Board authorize a new contract for 2016 with a recommended $500 per year increase in the contract amount. The committee felt very strongly that Tom’s work has been exemplary over the past several years and that the amount of time and work devoted to this duty should be rewarded with a modest increase given the level of service provided. Board action is required for renewal of this contract for services.

5. **Educate APA MN members on pertinent case law of interest to planners.** The goal of this activity is to keep members informed of Minnesota case law and other relevant court cases in the U.S. which affect planning practice in Minnesota. Planning for a partial conference track devoted to land use law case decisions and pending cases will again be planned for the 2016 Conference. Three events were held during the 2015 conference and they were very well attended. The chapter presented an amicus in the RDNT, Inc. vs. City of Bloomington CUP case in 2014. It was ruled on by the Minnesota Supreme Court in the spring of 2015. This case was featured at the
2015 state conference with a presentation from land use attorneys on both sides of the case to approximately 125 attendees. The Reed vs. Town of Gilbert which was ruled on by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015 was also presented by the committee during the 2015 webinar. In consultation with the APA MN Chapter Executive Committee and Board, the committee will continue to file amicus briefs for relevant court cases when deemed appropriate.

6. Legislative & Law Committee Update Webinar. The committee, in collaboration with the chapter PDO, presented webinars in 2014 & 2015 with 80 & 65 participants 4-6 weeks prior to the state conference. This has allowed the legislative overview information to be provided sooner to members with increased access to the information both from the webinar, and then archived on the committee web page. The committee intends to continue this program service to membership, provided a webinar platform service continues to be made available for use by our chapter.

7. Build and strengthen coalitions with other associations (e.g. LMC, MAT, AMC, and MACPZA; EDAM, NAHRO, the Minnesota chapters of the Local Public Health Association, ASLA, and AIA; and industry and non-profit groups such as the ULI and LSP) and participate in efforts relating to developing legislation and rulemaking (e.g. Planning Enabling Reform, Shoreland Rulemaking, etc). The goal of this activity is to establish/build relationships with associations that are active on legislative issues of interest to planners. The committee will represent APA MN in official efforts that may affect planners. Coordination with the Chapter Executive Committee and Board will be maintained. This activity will involve inviting association representatives to observe Legislative & Law Committee activities, meeting with association representatives, tracking activities of legislation and rulemaking efforts, and requesting appointment of official APA MN representatives to relevant task forces and impromptu meetings on legislation where possible. Chapter Board positions on how to respond to roles outside the organization’s sphere of influence will be carefully assessed on an on-going basis. Past examples over the last few years included Shoreland, Feedlot and Airport Zoning rulemaking initiatives from state agencies.

8. Solicit input from members on key pieces of legislation. If legislation is proposed that is of interest to a large number of APA MN members, the Legislative & Law Committee will provide an email conduit for input from the membership and relay comments to other organizations (LMC, AMC, MAT, EDAM, NAHRO, etc.) that are working closely with the Legislature. This activity will provide a channel for members to provide input on key bills and raise APA MN’s profile as the “go-to” organization for planning matters in Minnesota. It will also allow the APA MN membership to be an important resource to other organizations.

9. Continue and enhance APA MN presence at the Minnesota Legislature. The Legislative & Law Committee will continue to serve as the chapter’s organizational resource to its members by working with key representatives at the capitol. The committee will work to maintain and enhance the organization’s role as the state’s professional planning entity. APA MN offers broad expertise in policy and technical matters related to the planning profession. The committee will exercise continued caution in this regard. The efforts will include continued communications such as written letters of introduction, information about APA MN, and what the general platforms of the organization are, etc.

**2016 Budget Request for Legislative & Law Committee**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Coordinator</th>
<th>$5,000 (including 4,500 12 mo. contract &amp; 500 expenses)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Legislative Reform Outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planner’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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