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Another New Year has officially begun, and as we all set our personal resolutions, I thought I would share with you some of my resolutions vis-à-vis the Minnesota Chapter of APA. Consider the below list my mission statement for helping our chapter stay successful and improve in 2014.

1) Improve communication and ties with our national organization. Most Minnesota Chapter members are also members of national APA, therefore, I take seriously the matter of serving as a representative for anyone needing or wanting to communicate with national APA. You no doubt have seen your annual bill and know the financial investment you and/or your employer are making to the organization. So, in 2014, I will represent you by volunteering with committees and conferences nationally, keeping current on national happenings within the organization and communicating those to our board and to our members, and being an advocate for you, should you encounter problems with the organization.

2) Increase interest and membership in our chapter and in board positions. Minnesota is one of the strongest, most active chapters in the organization. Because of our strong and dedicated volunteers, we are able to offer members conferences, seminars, brown bags, and networking opportunities that compare to organizations with much more staff and financial resources. In 2014, I hope our organization can increase membership and volunteer base by reaching out to planning schools and students and building connections between students and professionals in a networking capacity and retain and attract new professional members.

3) Offer relevant (and fun) professional development and networking opportunities. Resolutions shouldn’t always be about doing things differently or better. This resolution is to maintain the high level of event offerings, CM credit opportunities, training sessions, networking events…and to add some new, innovative ideas. Our organization relies on you as members to contribute to the cause, and I sincerely thank you to all the volunteers to have helped make our organization so successful. I encourage you to make one of your 2014 resolutions to contribute to APA-MN’s success! Check out our events calendar and the rest of this newsletter to discover how.

Breanne Rothstein, AICP
President, APA-MN

Our organization relies on you as members to contribute to the cause, and I sincerely thank you to all the volunteers to have helped make our organization so successful. I encourage you to make one of your 2014 resolutions to contribute to APA-MN’s success!
Welcome New Board Members

The APA Minnesota Board wishes to welcome its new members:

**Tracey Kinney, Metro Director**
Tracey is a planner at Landform Professional Services, where she specializes in city involvement and public engagement for land use planning in urban and regional areas. She recently served as the co-chair of the programming committee for this year’s Midwest Planners’ Conference, where she led efforts to solicit presentations and organize the conference schedule.

**Jason Gilman, Southeast Director**
Jason is the planning director for Winona County in Southeast, Minnesota. Jason has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin in Landscape Architecture. He also completed additional graduate coursework. He has served on the Wisconsin APA board as well as the Wisconsin Action Council board of Directors.

**Leila Tripp, Student Representative.**
Leila Tripp is a first-year student working toward her master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

These new members will take office for their two year terms on January 17, at the Board retreat in St. Cloud. The Board also wishes to extend its thanks to retiring members Andy Gitzlaff, Greg Kruschke, and Aubrey Austin for their years of service to the chapter. We could not function without dedicated volunteers who give of their time as Board members. And thanks to all the chapter members who voted in this election!

Groundwater Mgmt.

The image of Minnesota as a water-rich state has begun to change, with severe drought conditions and water supply shortages in various parts of the state in 2012, most notably in White Bear Lake.

The legislature responded in 2013 by appropriating $10 million to support enhanced water management programs and statewide mapping and establishment of groundwater management areas. These investments are beginning to bear fruit. A draft strategic plan for groundwater management is available for public review and comment, at [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gwmp/planning.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gwmp/planning.html).

In addition, three pilot groundwater management areas have been identified, in the North and East Metro (the White Bear Lake area), and two heavily irrigated agricultural areas: the Straight River in Becker County, and the Bonanza Valley, which straddles Kandiyohi, Stearns, and Pope counties. Plans will be developed for each area over the next year.

The key question, according to a recent report by the Freshwater Society, is whether the DNR will take the next step of limiting groundwater pumping by large-scale water users.
America is full of brilliant people, many of them devoted to improving our cities and the lives of those that live in them. The most brilliant innovations in building cities, however, won't come from the current generation of politicians, professionals and advocates. That brilliance is already embodied in the traditional development pattern, a fool proof approach to building places that was developed the hard way: slowly and incrementally over time. If we want build strong towns, we should once again embrace that hard won wisdom.

The Fool Proof City
By Charles Marohn

After working for five years as an engineer, I returned to graduate school to get a master's degree in urban and regional planning. My inspiration -- particularly as I was prompted to start my own planning company during my first months there -- was to get out in front of the bad engineering projects I had done up to that point. If we only did a better job of planning (or so I thought) then we wouldn't need to do these heroic and expensive engineering fixes.

After working about the same amount of time as a professional planner as I had a professional engineer, I started to have serious doubts about the ability of better planning to solve anything. I had recruited and trained a firm of very intelligent and skilled planners yet we were besieged by all the same shortcomings I had seen others struggle with. In the end, we were just as incapable of doing things any better even though doing things better was the central mission and obsessive focus of our organization.

In the dark nights I lay awake pondering what to make of it all, I found myself echoing things I had heard my parents say. They were teachers -- good people -- and when they (and to be fair, their colleagues, whom I also was around a lot while growing up) were frustrated with how things we going, their laments were predictable. It was parents' fault for not having their kids ready to learn. It was administrators' fault for putting so many obstacles in their way. It was the states' fault for cutting their funding or voters' for not approving that referendum. If only these other things would go the right way, they could do their job successfully.

Like them, I was doing everything I could with all the best intentions, but I was not getting the results our cities needed. We'd put together that awesome plan and then it wouldn't get implemented (blame the incompetent people at city hall). We'd set up the perfect zoning code and the first application in the door would challenge its underlying principle and the city council would give out a variance (blame the politicians). We'd work on a new development and get it all approved and then it would sit empty for a decade (and still counting) while the city plowed snow off the road so the realtors could show the lots (blame the market or the developer).

Worse yet, when things did work out, we credited our own genius for the success. We aren't alone. Go to any American Planning Association conference and you'll experience a lineup of stunning success stories. Session after session tout success after success, sterilizing any unsavory details to create a narrative that is proactive and affirming, as if the unique brilliance of the firm
The Fool Proof City (Cont.)

or planner presenting will create outcomes elusive to the rest of us. If only we were all so gifted or could just follow their approach.

Here’s the important question: Was our success a byproduct of our genius or simply dumb luck? In other words, if we subsidize a hundred businesses, build a hundred business parks, install a hundred miles of pipe, will we not have a success story or two we can point to, one where all the random variables lined up in our favor? One where the voters and the staff and the politicians and the market all randomly came together to birth a victory?

Is that really success? In reality, isn’t it more like holding up the Powerball winner as a model of how to do things just because they claim to have a scientific system? (Note that one man’s superstition is another man’s scientific approach.)

These are thoughts that turned me towards what eventually became Strong Towns. I could accept the fact that my failures were the byproduct of bad luck; things that were outside of my control. Could I also accept the fact that my successes were quite likely a byproduct of random fortune as well? And if so, what does that really mean in terms of what I should be doing or can actually hope to accomplish?

Those are not very comforting questions. As planners or engineers, as politicians or advocates, we want to believe there is a certain amount of control we can exercise, that our efforts and dedication constitute the determining factor in our success or failure. The entire **you need to spend money to make money** meme set me off earlier this year (and continues to make my blood boil) because of the sheer arrogance of the no-
tion. I'm a brilliant professional who knows best so I'm going to spend your money and, if it doesn't work out, I'm just going to blame the failure on your inadequacy or some other factor outside of my control. After all, you need to spend money to make money, sucker, and I did my part.

What would a different approach look like, one that didn’t rely so much on either sheer genius (real or imagined) or on dumb luck? It just so happens that the traditional development pattern is such an approach and, as you will see, it has the breathtaking genius always found in a natural ecosystem that has evolved over thousands and thousands of years.

For millennia, around the world, in different cultures, different continents and different climates, we built places scaled to people. It has only been the last 60+ years that we in North America gradually stopped walking and started driving. For thousands of years prior, we walked everywhere, and so our places were built around people who walked. While there were many variations on the theme, the spacing, scale and proportions of these places were very similar to one another.

They key insight here is that the knowledge for how to build this way -- those fundamental underpinnings of spacing, scale and proportion -- does not descend from a theory or a brilliant individual but from a collection of natural experiments that occurred over and over again for thousands of years. In other words, people suffered and even died trying different things, figuring out how to build places that would endure. The places that endured long enough to be copied were the ultimate strong towns. They were resilient politically, socially, culturally and financially.

It is that last point I want to demonstrate today. The financial strength of the traditional development pattern is still visible today because the remnants of places built in that style still exist in many of our cities. Joe Minicozzi, one of today’s most brilliant communicators, has taken data from all over the country and created amazing maps that show the financial productivity of different development patterns.

He and I did some work in North Carolina earlier this year where he presented this map of High Point. The map shows financial productivity -- total value per acre -- of each parcel in the city with the height of the line representing the comparative productivity. You’ll never guess where the traditional downtown is at. (Hint: the purple in
The Fool Proof City (Cont.)

The thing that is most stunning about this is how dramatically more productive the traditional development pattern is. It is not just marginally more productive, it is many, many multiples more valuable than everything else on the map. (See map below.)

Let's look a little deeper. Some of that low productivity stuff on the edge of town includes the new, marquee investments in this area. For example, here is the value of the Big K and the Wal-Mart, both new facilities that represent large investments made in the auto-oriented style. You can picture the planners, engineers, economic developers, politicians and everyone else involved in making these happen touting them as sound investments. Jobs, growth and opportunity.

Here's one of those high-yielding properties in the traditional development pattern: Jimmy's pizza. Jimmy's pizza is likely nobody's idea of success and probably is never held up as a model for High Point (until Joe came to town, that is), yet the numbers don't lie. It is vastly more productive than the K-Mart or the Wal-Mart. Vastly more productive.

Jimmy's Pizza (see photo next page) represents the base unit of development in the traditional development pattern. It is the cheap little box that was the first increment of investment for cities everywhere. It is so simple to build that you literally couldn't mess it up. And look at how productive it is.

You take 14-acres and build a Big K, you'll have a site worth $5.4 million. You take 14-acres and build in the most basic increment of the traditional development pattern, an approach embodied in Jimmy's pizza, and that same area is worth $48.3 million.

It is so simple you can't screw it up.

Of course, I could pile on here. How do you expand and improve a Big K? You don't, but there are thousands of ways to improve Jimmy's pizza (few that require professional "expertise" or even more than a moderate level of competence). If your Big K fails, we can blame whoever we want, but we still have an economic disaster. If Jimmy's pizza fails, well....that building can be transformed into about anything. Give it some time and a surrounding neighborhood full of people on foot and that invisible hand will figure it out (if our antiquated zoning codes don't prevent it).

The traditional approach is, in a sense, fool proof.

America is full of brilliant people, many of them devoted to improving our cities and the lives of those that live in them. The most brilliant innovations in building cities, however, won't come from the current generation of politicians, professionals and advocates. That brilliance is already embodied in the traditional development pattern, a fool proof approach to building places that was developed the hard way: slowly and incrementally over time. If we want build strong towns, we should once again embrace that hard won wisdom.

According to Joe Riley, mayor of Charleston, South Carolina, "Good planners can make a world of difference to a community. The AICP credential says you're working with solid professionals." This is why the nearly 300 MN APA members who have obtained the AICP credential have taken on the obligation to obtain a minimum of 32 CM credits every two years. But the educational and training events offered are not just for AICP members; we want to make sure planners all over Minnesota can participate in these opportunities.

In 2013, there were more than 20 educational opportunities provided for a total of 111.5 CM credits. This included 33 free credits, the 6 credit spring conference and the September conference with 68.5 credits. We also partnered with the Government Training Services (GTS) for the 4 CM credit Advanced Planning and Zoning for Professional Planners Workshop. Not included in this number are the educational opportunities provided by the District Directors.

**Continuing Education Opportunities**

We are working to offer as many continuing education opportunities as we can in 2014. So far, the following events are planned:

- **January 15\(^{th}\)**, Administering Zoning Codes (1.5 CM) at Kimley-Horn and Associates in St. Paul
- **June 4\(^{th}\)**, Introducing New Density to the Neighborhood (1.5 CM)
- **October 1\(^{st}\)-3\(^{rd}\)**, 2014 Fall Conference in Duluth, MN

Watch for announcements about locations and other training opportunities throughout the year.

**Calling All Planners**

Do you have an exciting new project or development you would like to share with other planners in your area or in the state? Why not volunteer to host a Brown Bag session? This is a great way to present your ideas, projects and successes to other planners. Please contact Matthew Parent at matthew.parent@co.anoka.mn.us for more information about hosting a Brown Bag session.

**AICP News**

Congratulations to the APA Minnesota members on their successful completion of the AICP exam in 2013! Watch for their names on the website.

**2014 AICP Exam**

Now’s the time to think about earning your AICP designation in 2014. The application window for the May 201 AICP exam is now open. Candidates have until January 23, 2014 to apply. Qualified candidates will be able to take the exam between May 12\(^{th}\) and May 27\(^{th}\).
Legislative Update

Minnesota Supreme Court Decides on Non-Conforming Campground Land Use & Municipal Heritage Preservation Cases In 2013

By Andrew Mack, AICP
Co-Chair Legislative & Law Committee
And Tom Jensen, AICP
Legislative & Law Education Coordinator

White vs. City of Elk River
Case Number A12-0681

Case Decision
The Minnesota Supreme Court overturned a decision by the Court of Appeals last spring. In effect, it ruled that the business use of property in the City of Elk River for a campground cannot be ended. The City revoked a conditional-use permit (CUP) and the landowner sued. The District Court ruled in favor of the landowner and then an appeal was filed. The Supreme Court decision ruled that a municipality may terminate a nonconforming use of land in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 462.357, subdivisions 1d-1e and section 465.01, but that a municipality lacks the authority to terminate a nonconforming use by requiring the property owner to obtain a conditional-use permit to continue the use; and then later revoking it due to a failure to meet imposed conditions of approval. They did cite, however that the City was entitled to require a new interim use permit (IUP) in order for reconstruction of a damaged structure to be permitted.

Case Background
In 1973 Wapiti Park Campgrounds, Inc. opened a campground on 52 acres of land in the City of Elk River prior to enactment of zoning controls. In 1980 the City then adopted a zoning ordinance which prohibited such uses in the district established for the property. Three years later in 1983 the City amended the original ordinance and made campgrounds a conditional use. Wapiti Park then obtained a CUP from the City to address other specific licensing needs at. In later years the zoning controls were again revised and the use became a use permitted via IUP standards. In 1999 the campground main building was destroyed by fire and the City then approved an IUP in order to permit reconstruction. In 2010 the IUP then expired and the City refused to re-issue or renew the IUP as a result of the landowner’s inability to satisfy various permit conditions and meet basic life safety code requirements. The City then finalized its denial of the IUP renewal and went further to also revoke the original conditional-use permit and asserted that Wapiti Park was no longer authorized to operate the campground. Subsequently, Wapiti Park sued the City, seeking declarations that its operation of the campground was a nonconforming use; that it did not need to obtain the conditional-use permit to continue that use; that the
Legislative Update (Cont.)

conditional-use permit was no longer in effect and enforceable against it; and that, even if the campground had not been a nonconforming use, the City’s revocation of the permit was unreasonable and arbitrary. Lorraine White, trustee for the campground ownership also sought a declaration that it had a right in 2000 to replace the original building and resume its use without obtaining the interim-use permit because the building was an accessory to the campground and the value of its destruction was less than 50 percent of the value of the campground. The City filed a counter-claim to temporarily or permanently enjoin Wapiti Park from operating the campground until it complied with the conditional-use permit.

The district court determined that Wapiti Park’s operation of the campground was a nonconforming use that could not be terminated by revocation of the conditional-use permit. The court of appeals reversed. The Supreme Court upheld the reversal of the appellate court, holding (1) The City lacked the statutory authority to terminate Wapiti Park’s nonconforming use as a campground by revoking the conditional-use permit. The court went on further to examine the fact that there are both constitutional and statutory limitations on that authority. The court went on further to cite as follows: “One such limitation covers the authority of a municipality to terminate nonconforming uses. A nonconforming use is a use of land that is prohibited under a current

campground under the assumption they had a right for continuing to operate based upon the original nonconforming use of the property.

Closer Look at the Pertinent Planning Enabling and Case Laws

In addition to several case law precedents examined by the high court, close review of the Municipal Planning Statutes afforded the following cite “As a general matter, a municipality may regulate the use of privately owned land within its borders to guide the development of the community. This authority to regulate land use is granted to municipalities by the Legislature through the state’s zoning enabling act; therefore, the scope of that authority is defined by statute. See Minn. Stat. §§ 462.351-.365 (2012); see also Minn. Stat. § 462.357, subd. 1 (“For the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare, a municipality may by ordinance regulate . . . the uses of land . . . .”). We have long upheld a municipality’s authority to enact zoning ordinances as a legitimate exercise of its police power.” The court went on further though to examine the fact that there are both constitutional and statutory limitations on that authority. The court went on further to cite as follows: “One such limitation covers the authority of a municipality to terminate nonconforming uses. A nonconforming use is a use of land that is prohibited under a current
In September, the Minnesota Supreme Court decided a case relating to the applicability of the so-called “60-day” rule to an application for a certificate of appropriateness made to the City’s Historic Preservation Commission by the developer, 500, LLC, in order to alter a property designated as a historic landmark. The question raised was if the application constituted “a written request relating to zoning” under Minnesota Statutes section 15.99, subdivision 2(a) and was therefore subject to the law’s 60-day determination requirements.

The proponent submitted a plan to the City of Minneapolis for review. Prior to the city council’s review, the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission nominated the property for designation as a local historic landmark. The use of the designation provided for interim protection for the property, which prohibited “destruction or inappropriate alteration during the designation process” without a obtaining a “certificate of appropriateness” from the City.

In a case decided by the Minnesota Court of Appeals, Advantage Capital Management v. City of Northfield, it was ruled that section 15.99 does not apply to building permits. Using this decision, the district court held that because the certificate of appropriateness for the proposal was a request to make alterations to the building, it was not a request related to zoning and, therefore, not subject to section 15.99. The Minnesota Court of Appeals agreed.

The Supreme Court reversed the decisions of the state’s district and appellate courts by finding that the application for a certificate of appropriateness constitutes a “written request relating to zoning.” As a result, the Court held the City “failed to approve or deny the application within 60 days...”

In its opinion, the Court explained how the enabling laws that created the “Minnesota Historic District Act” and the “Municipal Heritage Preservation Act” for municipalities relate to zoning and the facts it weighed in

Legislative Update (Cont.)

zoning ordinance but nonetheless is permitted to continue because the use lawfully existed before the ordinance took effect. Krummenacher v. City of Minnetonka, 783 N.W.2d 721, 726 (Minn. 2010). To protect the landowner’s interest and investment in the existing lawful use, a nonconforming use generally is allowed to continue even after an adverse zoning change. Hawkins v. Talbot, 248 Minn. 549, 551, 80 N.W.2d 863, 865 (1957); see also Minn. Stat. § 462.357, subd. 1e(a). Nonconforming uses are protected by Minnesota’s zoning enabling act. More specifically, Minn. Stat. § 462.357, subd. 1e(a), provides, in relevant part: Except as otherwise provided by law, any nonconformity, including the lawful use or occupation of land or premises existing at the time of the adoption of an additional control under this chapter, may be continued, including through repair, replacement, restoration, maintenance, or improvement, but not including expansion . . . . Consistent with section 462.357, subdivision 1e(a), we have repeatedly acknowledged that although a “zoning ordinance ‘may constitutionally prohibit the creation of uses which are nonconforming, existing nonconforming uses must be permitted to remain.” This was very clearly decided by the court, especially given the fact that the City did not pursue other means to condemn and/or initiate eminent domain proceedings to acquire the property for public purposes under separate provisions of the statute. Further details of Minnesota Statute and other cases pertinent to the issue from both Minnesota and other states were examined in detail.

Full details of the court’s decision and opinion can be viewed at


500, LLC vs. City of Minneapolis

Case Number A11-1705

(Filed September 25, 2013)
determining how the City itself established the application of a certificate of appropriateness as a request relating to zoning.

Justice Page noted in his concurrence statement that points to how “agency” is defined under § 15.99, subd. 1 (b). It defines “Agency” as a "Statutory or Home Rule Charter City." Thus, the agency here is the City of Minneapolis. He added: "What is unclear to me, on the record presented, is whether the application submitted by 500, LLC (500 LLC), to the Heritage Preservation Commission constitutes “[a] request . . . submitted in writing to the agency as required by Minn. Stat. § 15.99, subd. 1(c) (2012).”

Justice Page continued, “The Commission denied the application on June 2, 2009. The application was submitted to the City Council on June 12, 2009, when 500 LLC filed its notice of appeal. In late July, the City Council’s Zoning and Planning Committee considered 500 LLC’s appeal and recommended that the City Council deny the appeal. On July 31, 2009, the City Council adopted the Committee’s recommendation to deny 500 LLC’s appeal. The City Council then rejected that appeal within 60 days of its submission to the City Council. However, the City has conceded that, if the application for a certificate of appropriateness constitutes a written request relating to zoning, its denial of the application was outside the 60-day limit. Therefore, I concur in the result."

The standard for the types of applications that relate to zoning and subject to section 15.99 may continue to challenge planners. In the meantime, the Supreme Court decision and opinion can be viewed at http://mn.gov/web/prod/static/lawlib/live/archive/supct/1309/OPA111705-0925.pdf

A Final Look Through the Planners’ Lens

As planners we continuously deal with regulating various types of challenging land uses. We must be careful and diligent when developing and imposing new regulatory standards. Especially when, in the White case, it may impact non-conforming land uses. These are further lessons to be examined with the Supreme Court’s careful analysis of the case in relation to Minnesota State Planning Statutes. Another important example of planning subjects being examined by your APA MN Legislative and Law Committee.

The Krummenacher Case was a similar important example of where provisions involving the lack of clarity and consistency between various city and county planning & zoning laws. Uncertainty can, and often does result. We as professional planners must always remember to first consider and/or re-examine the state enabling laws as they pertain to the practice of planning in Minnesota.

Some of the recent decisions by the various levels of Minnesota’s Courts also show the value of the White Paper’s summary of the various statutes that exist and how they may be partly in conflict within various sections. They are not always easy to understand, especially when actions are considered or decided—and believe it to be true; this is not just the planners.

What these cases may also show is another example of where planning and zoning topics find direct correlation to Minnesota Planning Enabling Laws. This directly includes those under chapters 462 and 394, and other sections. They can and will cause confusion where multiple decision points involve planning, development reviews, conditional and interim uses, and other zoning actions. Your chapter Legislative & Law Committee will continue to be diligent in examining such case law situations - especially in relation to how Minnesota Planning Laws work for communities across our state. But, first they must be more fully understood – both in terms of applying the law; and in what implications they hold for shaping planning laws in the future.

Legislative Update (Cont.)

Minnesota Legislative Outlook For 2014

When the 88th Minnesota Legislature reconvenes on February 25th, it will be meeting in session with several important actions to consider before its adjournment on May 19th. In the meantime, legislators will be busy contending with issues leftover from 2013 and activities leading up to February 25th. Pre-filing of bills for introduction during the session is scheduled to begin on January 13th. The week of January 27-30 is expected to be the starting point for committee meetings.

The Unsession

According to records maintained and analyzed by the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library and House Research, between 1857 and 1878, the legislature met annually. From 1879 through 1972, it met only during odd years. Since 1973, as a result of the passage of a constitutional amendment, it is permitted to meet in flexible biennial sessions. The even years have been intended to serve as sessions to pass a bonding bill and correct or refine previously passed legislation. For 2014, the governor has said; “I suggest making next year’s legislative session the first ‘Unsession’.” He also stated: “Except for responding to a fiscal or other emergency and passing a bonding bill, the session would be devoted to eliminating unnecessary or redundant laws, rules, and regulations; reducing the verbiage in those that remain; shortening the timelines for developing and implementing them; and undoing anything else, which makes government nearly impossible to understand, operate, or support.”

In August, the governor asked for suggestions to be considered by his administration. Legislators also began soliciting ideas. Those ideas are being reviewed for possible action. Governor Dayton’s web site is still looking for ideas. Ideas may be emailed to gov.ideas@state.mn.us or to individual members of the Legislature. If you need to locate your Minnesota House or Senate member, try using the search tool located at http://www.gis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts/.

November Economic Forecast Improves Budget Outlook

According to Minnesota Management and Budget, the November Economic Forecast “increased the projected balance for FY 2014-15 from $47 million to $1.086 billion. Forecast revenues have increased $787 million (2.0 percent), while projected spending is $247 million (0.6 percent) lower. A net reduction in general fund reserves added an additional $5 million to the bottom line.” Several proposals to address reserves will be debated, including tax refunds, adjustments to existing tax policies, funding capital requests, and applying reserves to programs. No legislative budgeting and spending actions will be taken until the release of the next outlook in February. Additionally, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis released its Beige Book for the Ninth District on December 4th. The December report noted the District’s “economy grew at a moderate pace” since its previous report on October 16th.

Capital Requests

In 2013, legislation was passed that provided over 100 million dollars for the completion of renovation work for the State Capitol and its complex. Another 20 million dollars was provided to the Department of Natural Resources that provides for a match for flood hazard mitigation grants that were awarded to local government projects. Additionally, around eight million dollars was approved for the Public Facilities Authority to use as a match for receiving federal funds for Minnesota’s clean water and drinking water revolving loan fund. Funds were also approved for the restoration and repair work that has been needed at the Minneapolis Veterans Home. Funding for what some hoped would be a much larger bonding bill did not materialize. In July, the preliminary capital budget requests were submitted by agencies and political subdivisions.
Legislative Update (Cont.)

for consideration during the 2014 Legislative Session. The preliminary requests totaled $2.8 billion: $2.1 billion were submitted by state agencies and $682 million were submitted by local governments. Minnesota Management and Budget will refine and prepare the state agency requests for transmittal to the Legislature on January 15th.

Legislative Auditor Releases Program Evaluations

The Legislature will have two new program evaluation reports to consider when it reconvenes.

MnDOT Noise Barriers (October 22, 2013): The Legislative Auditor’s report “examined the activities and policies of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) regarding highway noise barriers.” The Legislative Auditor recommended that “MnDOT: (1) change how it assesses public support for noise barrier projects; (2) establish a pathway for communities outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area to become eligible for state-funded noise barriers; and (3) revise its method of prioritizing state-funded noise barrier projects.” The report “also suggested MnDOT pay greater attention to maintenance needs and make its policy-making process more transparent.”

Sustainable Forest Incentive Program (November 18, 2013): The report “found that the incentive payments made to landowners under the program are not tied to program goals, nor is there sufficient assurance that participants comply with program requirements.” The report concludes, “If the program is retained, we recommend that the Legislature tie the incentive payment amount to property taxes or program goals. We also recommend that the Legislature increase oversight and monitoring of participants and expand and clarify the program’s penalty options, among other recommendations.”

Legislation Introduced In 2013 and Not Passed Into Law

Although many bills were introduced and not acted on in 2013, the following represent some of the bills that will be watched in 2014.

Annexation Procedures and Subdivisions of Parcels (HF 1425 / SF 1353): The legislation was designed to address conflicts over annexation procedures in cases more than one city is positioned to annex land and restrict annexations by ordinance for land that is subdivided from parcels exceeding 120 acres was introduced just before the first policy committee deadline on March 11th. The bill was given a hearing on May 2nd in the House Government Operations Committee after all policy committee deadlines had passed. The Senate companion bill, SF 1353, was introduced on March 13 and referred to the Committee on State and Local Government. Although no action was taken in the Senate this year. Andrew Mack followed the House Government Operations Committee Hearing on this subject in St. Cloud last October. The Committee leadership wanted more background on the subject and to hear from various local government representatives on how cooperation amongst neighboring entities resulted in good long-range planning decisions for the area’s region as a whole. Andrew explained to the committee, in response to a committee question about what the Minnesota Legislature can do to improve local decision making, that effective Intergovernmental Cooperation is one very important aspect of planning in Minnesota. Additionally, there are several other important aspects representing the broad practice of planning in Minnesota which must also be considered. This is an especially important consideration when examining all related aspects of Minnesota’s Planning & Zoning Enabling Laws for the future good and prosperity of our state (please see APA MN White Paper). Annexation procedures will likely once again be discussed in 2014.
Partial Discharge of Easements (HF 752 / SF 480): In 2010, the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that section 177.225 allows for the discharge of an entire easement that is acquired through a condemnation process. In response to the Court’s decision, the bills amend section 177.225 by allowing the property owner to petition for the discharge of the portion of the easement that is not being used for the purpose it was acquired. Similar legislation was introduced in the 87th Legislature. No action was taken on either HF 752 or SF 480 in 2013.

Municipal Street Improvement Districts: (HF 745 / SF 607): If passed, the bill would have permitted municipalities to designate a district (vs. a traditional 429 property frontage assessment proceeding) to collect fees from property owners in order to finance street construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and upgrades. Addressing the long-term needs of our existing country and state’s declining infrastructure needs continues to be an important consideration to many citizens and government leaders across the board.

Economic Development Tax Increment District Job Creation Time Extension (HF 706 / SF 669): If passed, the bill would have extended the time that a district would have the authority to establish a new job creation district and to use surplus increments. The 2010 legislation that was passed in response to the severity of job losses caused by the economic collapse in the construction industry allowed economic development districts to be created for projects, including office and retail projects, that local governments determined would add new jobs in the state before 2014 that would otherwise not be created.

Prohibiting school construction near former landfills (HF 957 / SF 775): The bill prohibits school construction within one-quarter mile of a former landfill. The bill also requires schools located within one-quarter mile of a former landfill to mail an annual notice within 60 days of when school starts, informing students’ parents and school employees about its location. Mailed notices will require including a map of the former landfill location. The school would also be required to post a location map on its web site. HF 957 is scheduled to be discussed at the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee meeting on January 28th.

The chapter Legislative and Law Committee will again be monitoring these and other bills related to and affecting the practice of planning in Minnesota. Periodic updates will sent to membership through the end of the 2014 Minnesota Legislative Session.
Upcoming Events and Announcements

Conference Planning Time
As we look ahead to 2014, we are gearing up to plan another great state conference. The 2014 APA-MN State Planners Conference will be held in Duluth, MN on October 1-3, 2014 at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC).

Please join us on January 10 to help establish a conference theme and volunteer for one of our conference committees.

**When:** Friday, January 10, 2014 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
**Where:** WSB & Associates (St. Louis Park - click [here](#) for a map)

Please RSVP to Hilary Holmes at hilary.e.holmes@gmail.com by January 6th.
Lunch will be provided.

Sincerely,
Hilary Holmes and James Gittemeier
2014 APA-MN Conference Co-Chairs

Progress Minnesota 2014
The "Progress Minnesota 2014" awards program recognizes those individuals and companies who are driving business and industrial growth and economic development in Minnesota in unique and innovative ways.

The awards will encourage, promote and honor entrepreneurs and organizations from across the state who, by their investment of time, energy and ideas, are having a significant impact on job creation, business development, and the overall economic health of the Twin Cities and the entire state.

Nomination deadline: January 16th, 2014

Ways to nominate:
http://finance-commerce.com/progresstraining2014/

Event Details:
**When:** April 10th, 2014 – Heavy hors d'oeuvres and awards presentation
**Where:** Hyatt Regency Minneapolis – Downtown Minneapolis

Time: 5:00pm heavy hors d'oeuvres 6:00pm awards presentation & dessert

Advertising & Sponsorship Opportunities: Steve Jahn 612-584-1573

Administering Zoning Codes
Congratulations! Your community has adopted a new zoning code. Now you have to figure out how to administer it. In this program, veteran planning managers will discuss common implementation challenges that accompany major zoning reform efforts. How do you provide enough flexibility to accommodate creative development without undermining the new code’s vision and intent? Hear about implementing form-based codes, hy7brids and other zoning tools aimed at fixing the ills of conventional Euclidean zoning. Explore the vital role of zoning in local plan implementation, and gain practical insight into administrative issues.

**When:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
**Where:** Kimley-Horn and Associates, 2550 University Avenue West, Suite 238N, St. Paul, MN

RSVP to Suzanne Rhees at Suzanne.rhees@state.mn.us by Monday, January 13, 2013
The session is approved for 1.5 CM Credits.

APA National Conference
Planning is at the crossroads. Where will it go next? Come and find out at APA's 2014 National Planning Conference, April 26–30 in Atlanta. It's the perfect place to refresh, recharge, and remember why you love planning.

In April, all roads lead to Atlanta. This historic Southern city is the epicenter of one of the fastest-growing regions in the United States. And for planners, it’s a city with stories to tell and lessons to share.

Whether you're wrapping up your 2013 funds or budgeting for 2014, APA’s National Planning Conference is a great use of your professional development dollars. Take a can't-miss opportunity to advance your skills ... advance your career ... advance the future of your community.
Upcoming Events and Announcements

Sign up now for the biggest, boldest event in planning!

Check out the Program

Every year APA introduces more features and programs to make the conference better than ever. Find out about the trending topics, spectacular speakers, and innovative ideas waiting for you in Atlanta.

Conference Location:
Georgia World Congress Center
285 Andrew Young International Blvd NW
Atlanta, GA 30313

Holiday Gathering

On Thursday, December 19th, the APA MN Holiday Gathering was held at the Union Depot in St. Paul. About 30 planners toured the remodeled depot prior to the festivities. The tour was guided by Josh Olson, Planning Specialist for the Ramsey County Railroad Authority. Thanks Josh for providing such good information. At 4:30 pm over 50 planners and their guests joined the Happy Hour at Christos in the Union Depot. Thanks to APA MN for providing the appetizers. There will be a Spring APA MN outing to the Twins game, probably in May. An announcement will be sent out.

The Built Environment: Planning and Design in Small Cities and Towns

When: April 15 and 16, 2014
Where: Dreyfus University Center, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Keynote speaker: Duane (Dewey) Thorbeck, founder and director, Center for Rural Design, University of Minnesota
Featured speaker: Thomas R. Fisher, professor of architecture and dean of the University of Minnesota College of Design
Workshop organizers are seeking presenters on various topics related to planning and design in small towns. Among the topics:
- Planning and Design for Sustainable Communities
- Regional Planning Features
- Design for Healthy Small Cities and Towns
- Economic Development and Land Use Planning
- Downtown Redevelopment
- Inclusivity in Planning: Race, Ethnicity and Income
- Other topics

Please send proposals in abstract form to UWSP Center for the Small City: rwolensky@uwsp.edu or emiller@uwsp.edu by January 15, 2014.

Job Opportunities and RFPs

Space Available

Lunning Wende Associates an architecture and planning firm located in Lowertown, Saint Paul (275 East Fourth Street, Suite 620) has three workstations for lease. Great natural light. On the new Central Corridor light rail line. Engaged professional studio environment. Additionally: reception area, conference room, small kitchen, copier and plotter. Access to our phone system can be arranged. Workstations average size is 8x10 feet with additional storage. $300/month/each. Contact Scott Wende: 651.221.0915 or scott@lunningwende.com

Job Title: Community Development Intern

Hiring Agency: City of Hugo
Web Link: www.ci.hugo.mn.us
Deadline: January 6, 2014
Salary Range: $10.00 per hour - 40 hours per week

Job Description

The City of Hugo, a rapidly growing suburb in Washington County, is seeking a qualified undergraduate or graduate student in the urban planning or related field to work as a community development intern. The salary is $10.00/hour. We anticipate the position to run at least 6 months and estimate a 40 hour work week.

The internship program offers an opportunity to work on a wide range of areas and issues related to community development. Some of the items you will learn about and have the
Job Opportunities and RFPs

opportunity work on include:
Evaluating planning applications as they relate to the City Code and Comprehensive Plan. You will have the opportunity to be involved with all aspect of the planning process. This includes writing staff reports, providing recommendations, and giving presentations to the various Commissions and City Council.
Work on the City's water conservation efforts as well as other community-wide projects.
Work directly with residents as well as City staff in various departments.
Your responsibilities include assisting the City Administrator and Community Development Department in planning, zoning administration, parks, and economic development functions.
Applicants should have knowledge of software programs, including Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Publisher, and PowerPoint) and ArcGIS.

Application Instructions
Application and job description are available on the web site at www.ci.hugo.mn.us, or at the City of Hugo, 14669 Fitzgerald Ave. N., Hugo, MN 55038 or by calling (651) 762-6300. Application deadline is 4:00 PM, January 6, 2014.

Job Title: Executive Director
Hiring Agency: St. Cloud Area Planning Organization
Web Link: www.stcloudapo.org
Deadline: Friday, January 10, 2014, 4:30 p.m.
Salary Range: $84,106 to $119,709 DOQ
Job Description
The APO Executive Director develops and maintains all plans and programs prescribed by the Organization consistent with applicable State and federal laws. This individual is also responsible for all administrative and
managerial functions of the Organization, which acts as a completely autonomous joint powers entity from its local government member jurisdictions. This position reports to the APO Executive and Policy Boards and is responsible for supervision and coordination of all subordinate personnel work assignments.
Full description is available at www.stcloudapo.org.

Application Instructions
A cover letter and resume must be received no later than Friday, January 10, 2014, 4:30 p.m. and addressed to:
St. Cloud Area Planning Organization
Attention: Personnel Committee
1040 County Road 4
St. Cloud, MN 56303-0643
e-mail: admin@stcloudapo.org

Job Title: City Planner
Hiring Agency: City of North St. Paul
Web Link: http://www.ci.north-saint-paul.mn.us
Deadline: January 16, 2014
Salary Range: $64,255-$74,520
Job Description
To plan, direct and provide leadership for the planning function of the City of North St. Paul in a manner that will facilitate and ensure the safety and health of the community, and provide for an effective and sound development procedure/ policy consistent with council policies and established codes and regulations.
To administer all zoning and land use requests on behalf of the City, including maintaining the comprehensive plan and the official controls in which the goals and objectives of the City Council are carried out. Coordinates review of plans and proposals in order for all perspectives to be considered in the approval process. Acts as liaison to the Planning Commission and Design and Historical Review Commission and presents pro-
Job Opportunities and RFPs

posals for recommendation. Performs other duties as assigned.

Application Instructions
For an application packet contact Mary Mills at 651-747-2403 or visit the City website at www.ci.north-saint-paul.mn.us. Applicants may submit all required documents:

by email to human.resources@ci.north-saint-paul.mn.us or

by mail to City Manager’s Office, 2400 Margaret St., North St. Paul, MN 55109 or

in person at the Finance/Administration counter at City Hall

Job Title: Planning and Zoning Services
Hiring Agency: City of Little Falls
Web Link: http://www.cityoflittlefalls.com
Deadline: January 21, 2014

Job Description
The City of Little Falls is requesting proposals from individuals or firms to provide planning and zoning (P & Z) services to the City on an ongoing contractual basis. Little Falls is located in central Minnesota 30 miles north of St. Cloud and 30 miles south of Brainerd and serves as the County seat of Morrison County. It is a full service City with a population of over 8700 including an orderly annexation area set to come into the City on January 1, 2014.

The individual or firm who will be contracted to perform planning and zoning services will be expected to guide the City’s planning and zoning efforts. This includes the following: communicating with those who need assistance from the City in the area of planning, zoning and land-use; P & Z code enforcement; holding regular office hours; attending the monthly Planning Commission meetings; reviewing City Codes, ordinances and regulations relating to P & Z and recommend-
Job Opportunities and RFPs

**Job Title:** Senior Planner

**Hiring Agency:** SEH Inc.

**Web Link:** [https://careers.sehinc.com/](https://careers.sehinc.com/)

**Deadline:** TBD

**Salary Range:** TBD

**Job Description**

Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH®) is a multi-disciplined firm of engineers, architects, planners, and scientists known for our comprehensive technical capabilities and superior client service, which contribute to Building a Better World for All of Us®. We've been in business for 85 years serving both public and private clients from more than 30 offices across the Midwest, Colorado, and Wyoming.

We are looking for an individual who wants to be part of a team that provides exceptional service to our clients, and we have an immediate Full-Time opportunity for a Senior Planner within our Transportation Planning Practice Center located in St Paul, MN.

Responsibilities for this position include conducting transportation planning studies, environmental documentation and corridor studies. The environmental documentation will include state Environmental Assessment Worksheets and federal Categorical Exclusions, Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements. This position will work independently and as part of teams to prepare draft and final corridor studies, project reports, technical memos and assist in marketing all types of transportation planning consulting projects. The qualified individual will interact with clients on behalf of the company on projects including project meetings, public meetings and workshops.

**Required Qualifications:**

- Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering or Planning with an emphasis in transportation or related field.
- Minimum of eight (8) years of consulting and/or public sector experience in transportation planning.
- Licensed Professional Engineer and/or Certified Planner in the State of Minnesota or the ability to obtain registration within six months of employment.
- Understanding of Federal and State of Minnesota environmental review requirements.
- Familiarity working with traffic analyses results including operations and forecasting.
- Previous marketing/business development experience including writing proposals for transportation consulting RFPs and preparing for and attending interviews and presentations.
- Excellent verbal and written communication / presentation skills.
- Ability to travel as needed for team meetings, client consultations, on-site inspections/visits, etc.; Occasional overnight travel will be required.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

- Previous experience with multi-modal studies and analysis including bicycle and pedestrian plans.
- Previous experience with transit studies and analysis.
- Knowledge of the regional transportation planning/funding process and Federal/regional/local agency roles and interrelationships.
- Knowledge of transportation capacity analysis.
- Knowledge of travel demand forecasting methodology.

**Application Instructions**

For confidential consideration, please apply through the SEH website ([https://careers.sehinc.com/](https://careers.sehinc.com/)) or fax resume and salary requirements to 651.490.2138. Please refer to the job number when submitting your resume by fax.
Job Opportunities and RFPs

Job Title: Transportation Planner


Web Link: http://www.wsbeng.com/careers/current-openings/12

Salary Range: Varies based on experience

Job Description
Design your career with WSB & Associates, Inc., recently named to the StarTribune’s 2013 Top 100 Workplaces in Minnesota!

We are seeking an experienced Transportation Planner for our Minneapolis office.

What You Will Do: As a transportation planner, you will apply transportation methods, planning principles, standard industry evaluations and analyses to produce small- to medium-sized transportation projects. Typical analyses require an understanding of functional classification, roadway jurisdiction, crashes, future traffic projections/forecasts, capacity, benefit-cost analyses, multi-modal integration, alternatives evaluation, socio-economic data and environmental impacts. Projects will include corridor studies, bicycle and pedestrian plans, transportation plans, sub-area plans, environmental documents and components of larger community planning efforts.

You will use your excellent written communication skills to: prepare technical reports and memos; to develop materials for public and agency meetings; to correspond with internal staff and clients; to meet with stakeholders and to coordinate with multiple stakeholder groups. Your presentation and public speaking skills will help as you participate in stakeholder activities and public meetings; communicate and interact with clients and sub-consultants.

Your experience level will determine the amount of independent judgment granted, the complexity of tasks performed and direct supervision received.

What You Will Bring: A Master’s degree in transportation or urban planning, civil engineering or related field from an accredited program and a minimum of three years’ experience post graduate work is required. The successful candidate will have experience in a broad base of transportation planning practices, activities and studies and should be familiar with transportation planning requirements, data collection and performance analysis. Experience with NEPA environmental documents is desired. Our preferred candidate will have their AICP certification and/or a Minnesota PE license.

Who We Are: WSB is an energetic consulting firm with offices in Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Cloud, Rochester and Northfield. We were recently named to the StarTribune’s 2013 Top 100 Workplaces in Minnesota! Since our founding in 1995, we have focused our services on the needs of governmental agencies. WSB has more than 200 staff members providing engineering, GIS, and planning services for municipal, transportation, traffic, water resources, environmental, structural, and water/wastewater projects. We also provide landscape architecture, right of way, construction administration, survey, and construction staking services.

In addition to our excellent compensation and benefits package, you will enjoy our exceptional work environment.

WSB & Associates, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer.

Application Instructions
How To Apply: Send resume and cover letter with salary history/requirements to: hr@wsbeng.com or WSB & Associates Inc., 701 Xenia Ave S, Ste 300, Minneapolis, MN 55416. Visit www.wsbeng.com for more information.
Leadership Directory

Breanne Rothstein, AICP  
President  
WSB and Associates  
701 Xenia Ave S, Suite 300  
Golden Valley MN 55416  
Phone: 763-231-4863  
E-mail: brothstein@wbseng.com  
Cell: 612-423-5476

Tim Gladhill  
Vice President  
City of Ramsey  
7550 Sunwood Dr NW  
Ramsey MN 55303-5137  
Phone: 763-238-7946  
E-mail: t_gladhill@hotmail.com

Tina Goodroad, AICP  
Secretary  
Stantec  
2335 Hwy 36 W  
St. Paul MN 55113-3819  
Phone: 651-967-4537  
E-mail: tina.goodroad@bonestroo.com

Adam Fulton, AICP  
Treasurer & Conference Comm. Advisor  
Project Manager  
Minnesota DNR  
5351 North Shore Drive  
Duluth MN 55804  
Phone: 218-525-0853 X 226  
E-mail: adam.w.fulton@state.mn.us

Crystal Pauam, AICP  
Central District Director  
Phone: 320-237-4296  
E-mail: crystalpauam@ymail.com

Bryan Gadow, AICP  
Metro District Director, Conference Advisor  
City of Wayzata, City Planner  
600 Rice Street East  
Wayzata MN 55391-1799  
Phone: 952-404-5312  
E-mail: bgadow@wayzata.org

Tracey Kinney, AICP  
Metro District Director  
Landform Professional Services  
105 South 5th Avenue, Suite 513  
Minneapolis MN 55401  
Phone: 612-638-0227  
E-mail: tkinney@landform.net

Suzanne Rhees, AICP  
Metro Director, Park Divison DNR  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul MN 55155-4052  
Phone: 651-259-5586  
E-mail: Suzanne.rhees@state.mn.us

Wayne Hurley, AICP  
Northwest District Director  
Planning Director  
West Central Initiative  
PO Box 318  
Fergus Falls MN 56538-0318  
Phone: 218-739-2239 Fax: 218-739-5381  
E-mail: wayne@wcif.org

Bradley Chapulis  
Southwest Director  
Dir. of Community/Economic Development  
City of Winona  
309 Ninth Street  
Winona, Minnesota 55987  
Phone: 507-457-6337 Cell: 608-304-5336  
E-mail: gilgill@co.winona.mn.us

James Gittermeier, AICP  
Northeast Director  
Senior Planner  
Arrowhead Regional Development Commission  
221 W First St  
Duluth MN 55802  
Phone: 218-529-7556 Fax: 218-529-7592  
E-mail: gittermeier@ardc.org

Jason Gilman, AICP  
Southeast District Director  
Director of Planning and Environmental Services  
Winona County  
177 Main Street  
Winona MN 55987  
Phone: 507-457-6337 Cell: 608-304-5336  
E-mail: gilgill@co.winona.mn.us

Leila Tripp  
Student Representative, ex officio  
Hubert H. Humphrey School  
808 Berry St.  
St. Paul MN55114  
Phone: 651-770-1739  
E-mail: leila.tripp@umn.edu

Chelsey Armstrong  
Student Director  
Hubert H. Humphrey School  
2863 Irving Ave S, Apt. 2  
Minneapolis MN 55408  
Phone: 612-747-7576  
E-mail: chelsey.grace@hotmail.com

Lance Bernard  
APA Minnesota Past President, ex officio  
Conference co-chair  
SRF Consulting Group, Inc.  
One Carlson Pkwy N, Suite 150  
Minneapolis MN 55447-4443  
Phone: 763-249-6750; Fax: 763-576-2727  
E-mail: lbernard@srfconsulting.com

Mark Grimes, AICP  
Program Committee, ex officio  
City of Golden Valley  
7800 Golden Valley Rd  
Golden Valley MN 55427-4508  
Cell Phone: 320-420-7768  
E-mail: mgrimes@ci.golden-valley.mn.us

Loren Gordon, AICP  
Networking Committee, ex officio  
City Planner  
City of Minnetonka  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd  
Minnetonka MN 55345  
Phone: 952-939-8296 Fax: 952-939-8244  
E-mail: lgordon@eminnetonka.com

Bob Patton, AICP  
Legislative Committee Co-Chair, ex officio  
16015 26th Ave N  
Plymouth MN 55447  
Home Phone: 763-559-3961 Office: 651-201-6226  
E-mail: rtpatton@aol.com

Andrew Mack, AICP  
Legislative Committee Co-Chair, ex officio  
Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board  
Box 1100  
Bemidji MN 56619-1100  
Phone: 218-766-8993 (cell) Office: 218-759-3582  
Fax: 218-759-3591  
E-mail: andrew.mack@jpbpdba.org

Citizen Planner Committee, ex officio  
Cynthia R. Kirchoff, AICP  
Law and Planning Committee, ex officio  
Attorney at Law  
651-442-5850  
E-mail: cynthia@kirchoff-law.com

Carissa Schively Slotterback, PhD, AICP  
Faculty Liaison, ex officio  
Hubert H. Humphrey School  
U of Minnesota  
Rm. 130, HHH Ctr.  
301 19th Ave S  
Minneapolis MN 55455  
Phone: 612-625-0610 Fax: 612-625-3513  
E-mail: cschively@umn.edu

Sam O’Connell, AICP  
Minneapolis Design Team Liaison, ex officio  
Public Involvement Manager  
Southwest Light Rail Project Office  
6465 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 500  
St. Louis Park MN 55426  
Phone: 612-373-3815  
E-mail: sam.hoconnell@metrotransit.org

Jonathan Maze and Haila Maze, AICP  
Planning Minnesota Co-Editors, ex officio  
Conference Co-Chair  
New Brighton MN 55112  
Phone: 612-634-5743  
E-mail: haila.maze@minnesotaplm.gov  
E-mail: spaminnewsletter@gmail.com

Jane Kansier, AICP  
Professional Development Officer, ex officio  
Bldg and Trans Services Director  
City of Prior Lake  
4646 Dakota St SE  
Prior Lake MN 55372  
Phone: 952-447-9812  
E-mail: jkansier@cityofpriorlake.com

Thomas Jensen, AICP  
Legislative Education Coordinator, ex officio  
980 South Drive  
Circle Pines MN 55014  
Phone: 763-780-4839  
E-mail: thomashjensen@aol.com

Mandy Landkamer  
MACPZA Liaison, ex officio  
Nicollet County  
Phone: 320-523-3768 Fax: 320-523-3843  
E-mail: mlandkamer@nicollet.mn.us

Eric Schmid  
Web Designer, ex officio  
E-mail: eric@buffleheadweb.com

Cynthia Bowen, AICP, LEED AP  
APA Representative  
RW Armstrong  
300 S. Meridain St.  
Indianapolis IN 46225  
Phone: 1-317-780-7244  
Email: cbowen@rwa.com

Lee Brown, FAICP  
APA Representative  
E-mail: Brown@teskaassociates.com

Chapter Contact Information:  
Otto and Peggy Schmid  
E-mail: mapca@buffleheadweb.net