



# Planningram

April 2000



## ***Update from the Secretary/Treasurer ...***

I have finished updating the Western Planner mailing list. We now have 63 subscriptions! You should be receiving your magazine under this new list as of this month. Please watch for it - if the address is wrong or you don't receive it, call me!

I also have an updated membership roster, and we have 88 members as of mid-April. I have not sent out any more reminders, so if this comment jogs a member-memory, please call me and I will send out a membership form. If you want a copy of the membership list, let me know.

The Strategic Planning facilitator's meeting, held March 27, 2000, demonstrated an eagerness for the process that kept everyone's attention. Both Stanley and Cavalier County found that the process coordinated previous planning efforts - avoiding reinventing the wheel. Both communities also noted how a "community" spirit developed, and that all ages were being involved.

You'll note that a copy of *Getting Online* is included with this mailing. This internet guide is courtesy of the National Center for Small Communities and the North Dakota Rural Development Council.

*Barbara Owens*

Michael Spletto  
President  
Phone (701) 328-2695  
Email  
[mspletto@state.nd.us](mailto:mspletto@state.nd.us)

Denise Hendrickson  
Vice President  
Phone (701) 662-8131  
Email: [ncpc@stellarnet.com](mailto:ncpc@stellarnet.com)

Barb Owens  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Phone (701) 328-2386  
Email: [bowens@state.nd.us](mailto:bowens@state.nd.us)

Don Longmuir  
Past President  
Phone: (701) 852-4988  
Email: [sbpc@minot.com](mailto:sbpc@minot.com)

## **REMEMBER THE SHARP WEB SITE!**

You can find it by visiting the State Data Center web site at <http://www.sdc.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu> then choosing **Online Information**, then select the **Housing** button, then choose **Statewide Housing Assessment Resource Project (SHARP)** under the **Online Data Sets** heading.

**Then bookmark it!!** We want you to be able to find it again and use it often. We are always looking for other good links to incorporate into the site as well. Project sponsors are the Affordable Housing Developers, Inc., the Eastern Dakota Housing Alliance, and the North Dakota Community Action Association. If you or your organization are interested in becoming a partner in building this information database, please contact Lisa Rotvold (701) 232-2452, or Will Laintz (701) 258-2245.



## President's Report



The North Dakota Planning Association has been strongly involved with several projects this year. The first is the Leadership Initiative For Community Strategic Planning (LICSP). As your President, I have been involved with the writing of the plan and working with the pilot projects. These communities have already made major steps in the planning process. There is now funding available for this planning process. For more information on funding, go to

[www.state.nd.us/dcs](http://www.state.nd.us/dcs) and click on flood response activities. For

more information on the planning initiative, click on strategic planning. The NDPA also helped sponsor a successful facilitator workshop held on March 27 (see related article for more details).

The executive board is planning for a summer NDPA conference. We are using ideas that were requested from our 1999 annual conference. We will keep you up to date as more details are available. If you have any specific areas you would like additional training on, please give one of the executive board members a call.

We are also working on the annual conference. Together with the states of South Dakota and Wyoming, we are working on a multi-state annual conference to be held in conjunction with the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Planners conference in Spearfish, SD. A tentative agenda and registration is enclosed for your review. We are looking at the possibility of renting a bus to drive down to Spearfish for the conference. Before any firm commitments are made, we need to know how many would be interested in travel by bus to the annual conference. Either call me at 701-328-2695 or complete the survey below and return it to us by **May 15, 2000**, so we can get an idea on numbers. Completing the survey does not guarantee anyone a space on the bus; we just need to know if there is enough interest to warrant the costs.

*Michael Spletto*

---

### Travel Survey

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes, I am interested in going to the Annual Conference in Spearfish.  
 No, I am not interested in going to the Annual Conference in Spearfish.
- I would prefer to drive down in my own vehicle.  
 I would prefer to travel with the group in a bus and (#)\_\_\_\_\_ people would be going.  
 I would be willing to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$0 – \$50.00) per person for the costs of the transportation.

## Is your community ready for the challenges and opportunities of the new Millennium?

(A report on the Strategic Planning Process)

The face of rural North Dakota is changing and community leaders will continue to play an important role in that change. In an effort to assist North Dakota communities with these planning activities, a planning model needed to be developed so that any size community could use it. That is why the Leadership Initiative for Community Strategic Planning Model was developed. By following this planning model, communities can complete **one** strategic plan to meet the requirements of many agencies. It can also help guide the community as they shape their future.



In November of 1998, a group of development agencies and entities representing various communities met to discuss community concerns across the State of North Dakota. Most of the concerns were similar, ranging from the poor agricultural economy to the outmigration of the state's population. The group members settled on a single strategic planning process which would meet most of the various parties' needs. An additional benefit is that the process creates a high level of community involvement.

This process has a couple of unique features that other strategic plans do not have. It already has involvement and support from nearly 30 organizations representing all levels of government, as well as a number of private organizations. All of these entities have signed off on a memorandum of understanding, and have agreed to provide necessary resources to help this process. These resources range from technical and financial assistance to facilitation expertise to this process. Also, several individuals have already been trained to help facilitate this process and annual additional facilitation training will take place.

Dina Butcher, Director of the Division of Community Services, says that the planning process isn't an unfunded government mandate, since funds have already been secured to help. Starting in 2000, nearly \$250,000 is available from the North Dakota Division of Community Services to assist this process. Also, the North Dakota Association of Regional Councils has secured \$110,000 from the Economic Development Administration to assist this process.

Even though several State and Federal programs may require planning or recommend planning as a prerequisite for limited funds, state community planners say this shouldn't be the sole reason communities are planning. Communities need to create a vision of their community's future, and develop a road map so they can achieve their goals.

At this time, three communities are "pilot" locations, trying out the process. They should be completed in the spring of 2000. The first round of applications will be accepted until April 16 by the Division of Community Services, and a second round of applications will begin after that on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The Division of Community Services has been designated as the point of contact for this process. If you would like any additional information, you can contact Michael Spletto at 701-328-2094 or go to the DCS web site at [www.state.nd.us/dcs](http://www.state.nd.us/dcs).