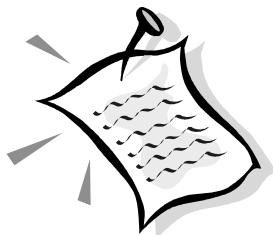




Planningram

April 2003



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From the Vice President: Executive Board Activity Update

This year the North Dakota Planning Association executive board is focusing on updating existing tools and developing new tools to help planning practitioners across the state. We are currently developing the NDPA website, which we want to be a tool to enhance communications with our planning audience. We have contracted with Darin Scherr, to construct the site. It's anticipated that the site will be on the web sometime in May. The web address of the new site will be NDPlanning.org.

Another tool we will update is the training manual for new planning and zoning board members. We are preparing an RFP to determine the cost of the updating the manual, which should go out in the next 30 to 60 days. NDPA will more than likely look for partners to share in the cost of the update. If you have any ideas as to potential partners to help with funding the work, please let one of the executive board members know.

NDPA contracted with the North Dakota League of Cities this year to provide legislative bill tracking, bill posting and coordination of testimony on bills pertinent to the planning community. The information is posted on the League of Cities website. NDPA will continue to work with the League of Cities and the ND Association of Counties to develop a stronger partnership relationship between the organizations and to expand NDPA's audience.

In lieu of a spring NDPA conference, Mike Spletto, Mark Wax, Don Longmuir and others will be providing Leadership Initiative Community Strategic Planning training at the six regional League of Cities meetings that will be held on April 29th through May 8th at various locations throughout the state. (April 29 – Hillsboro, April 30 – Casselton, May 1 – Linton, May 6 – Rolla, May 7 – Stanley, May 8 – New Salem).

The fall conference is scheduled to be held on November 5th and 6th in Fargo. The key presenter is from the American Planning Association and will present a program entitled "Avoiding Zoning Law Pitfalls". **Mark your calendars now!** There will be more information on the conference in the future.

Mark Sovig, Vice President

Ramblings from the President

I am honored to be able to serve as the NDPA President. I look forward to the opportunity to help NDPA grow during the next two years. We are moving to join the 21st century with the development of a North Dakota Planning web site. We hope to be able to provide planning information and resources to everyone in the state. It is still “under construction” but should be up and running by the time we send out the next Planninggram. If there are ideas for links or information that you think would be useful to others that we should include on the web site, please let me know.

The other new adventure this year was linking with the North Dakota League of Cities to provide current tracking information regarding Legislative activities. I trust that this proved to be useful to you in tracking bills that affected your communities. Let us know if you used the service and if it was useful to you. (And should we do this next session?)



January, 2003: Denise Hendrickson, Paul Gleye and Brad Gengler at the NDPA booth during MarketPlace 2003 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks.

We have always had a goal of increased membership and increased retention of members. I feel that one way to do that is to provide additional services that make you membership worthwhile. The web site and legislative tracking are just a couple ways we are trying to provide additional services to you. Watch for our web site and plan to attend the annual fall conference in Fargo – note it is not in Bismarck for a change. Maybe we have run out of fun things to do here!

Stephen Miller, president



NDPA Windshirts!

NDPA has black microfiber windshirts with the logo on the front. Larry Weil was gracious enough to model his new shirt. These come in small, medium, large, X-large and XX-large, and will be \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members. If you're interested, contact Barb Owens at 328-2386.

Upcoming events:

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|---------------------------------|--|
| April 29, 30,
May 1, 6, 7, 8 | League of Cities Regional
Meetings
See CityScan magazine |
| August 5-8, 2003 | Western Planner Conference in
Las Vegas |
| November 5-6, 2003 | NDPA annual Conference
Doublewood Inn, Fargo |