



# Planningram

August 2000



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

With reluctance, I turned the page on my calendar, and found fall activities just waiting to get started. As you will read in the President's report, the Western Planner Conference is September 12-15, 2000, in Spearfish, SD. The agenda looks very interesting, and I hope to see you there.

Our annual conference is scheduled for October 25-26, 2000, in Bismarck, at the Comfort Suites. We will be mailing out more information early in September, but if you want to think ahead and reserve a room, call the Comfort Suites at (701)223-4009 and ask for the NDPA conference block of rooms.

There are now 89 members in the NDPA. I hope all of you are receiving the Western Planner – if not, please call or email me and let me know. We will also be putting together an article for this publication, so if you have any news of note, or things to brag about, I'd sure appreciate you sharing your information.

*Barbara Owens*

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## **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 at (701)232-2452, or Will Laintz at (701)258-2245.



## Comments from the President



Summer may be vacation time, but that also means fall activities are not that far away. We are working on two end of the year conferences.

The first conference is the **20<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Planners Conference in Spearfish, SD**. The agenda is attached and is packed with great information. It would be great to have a strong showing from the North Dakota Planners. As your president, I will be presenting the North Dakota

Leadership Initiative for Community Strategic Planning model. Also presenting with me will be Curtis Wolfe of the North Dakota Information Technology Department. Curtis Wolfe became the 17th member of Governor Schafer's cabinet on October 15, 1999. He began the information technology consulting firm Wolfe & Associates, Inc., in 1974. Initially based in Alaska and later relocated to Albuquerque, it offered a variety of services including system planning and acquisition, custom application development, telecommunications network consulting and information technology audits. In 1996, Wolfe sold his firm to SOS Staffing Services and became president of the IT Division. As a consultant, he completed several studies for North Dakota, including a technology review of all state agencies for the Legislative Council. The 1999 Legislature elevated the former Information Services Division of the Office of Management and Budget into a new cabinet agency called the Information Technology Department. Mr. Wolfe will be discussing what North Dakota is doing to get the state wired. This task will take great planning efforts by the State and localities.

The last day to register for a discount for this conference is **August 15**. Please review the enclosed information – I hope to see you in Spearfish!

The second workshop will be our annual conference, to be held at the **Comfort Suites in Bismarck on October 25 and 26**. The first day will deal with information about Housing Trust Funds – what they are, how one can be created and how such funds could benefit North Dakota. Mary Brooks, a national expert in Housing Trust Funds, will present this session. On day two, we will discuss the different zones in North Dakota: the Renaissance Zone, Empowerment Zone, Enterprise Zone, Champion Communities and the Leadership Initiative for Community Strategic Planning. Each session will discuss why and how the zone or process was developed, and someone will present on what their community has gained by being part of the process. We will also have our annual meeting at that time to elect new officers. If you have any candidates that you would like to nominate for an office, or if you would be interested in an office, please give one of the executive board a call. **Mark your calendars for October 25-26**. Additional information will be sent to you in September.

Again, we appreciate your past and future involvement with NDPA. The organization is only as strong as its membership.