



# Planningram

December 2002



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## From the President:

Have you ever felt like you had just spent some worthwhile time at an activity? That's what I felt like on the drive home from the fall conference. The sessions, the attendance and the future prospect of providing a training resource for the people who need it most as well as a plan in place for the fall 2003 conference. What a busy day!

Looking back at my terms as Vice President and President, I had agreed to take the challenge on as long as I could also bring in some of my viewpoints. I have always believed that there is more to North Dakota than large cities with professional planners. Many cities are fortunate to have volunteer or lay planners and still others have some "volunteered" planners. It was my goal to offer training at conferences that could be utilized by all and taken home and put to use in some manner. I hope that you also view this as an accomplishment.

On that drive home I also realized that I need to thank a few people: Don Longmuir for his guidance; Mike Spletto for always jumping in to help in any way needed; Steve Miller for filling in when it storms in my part of the world and nowhere else as well as being full of experience; Barb Owens for really taking care of the day-to-day tasks of this organization in such a comprehensive manner and making sure all the rest of us stay on task; and of course all of the members of the NDPA for the wonderful encouragement and enthusiasm!

I know that under Steve's tutelage the organization will continue to move up the ladder of professional development and memberships and I will relax and enjoy being part of the "behind the scenes" executive board as past-president.

*Denise Hendrickson, President*

## Annual Conference ...

The 2002 annual NDPA conference is now history, and already there is work to be done! We have some marching orders to guide us through the next few years: we are looking into updating the planning manual put together in the 1980s; establishing a website for NDPA; working on providing educational sessions possibly through the League of Cities workshops; and gearing up for the upcoming legislative session.

We have new officers (as of January 1, 2003)!

President	Stephen Miller
Vice President	Mark Sovig
Secretary/Treasurer	Barb Owens
Past President	Denise Hendrickson

The annual conference for 2003 will be in Fargo, at the Doublewood Inn. We are working with Clyde Forrest from the University of Illinois as our main presenter. He will focus on "Avoiding Zoning Law Pitfalls". Mark your calendars for **November 5-6, 2003!**

It's also time to think about renewing your membership in NDPA. I will be sending bills out soon to the existing membership who have not yet renewed. Included in this newsletter is a membership form for those who are not yet members. We need you!

***Barb Owens, Secretary/Treasurer***

### **Welcome!**

Susan Stockert has been named the new Community Planning Specialist for the North Dakota Forest Service. She assumed her duties on November 1 in Bismarck. State Forester Larry Kotchman made the official announcement. Stockert will be responsible for assisting communities, counties, and tribal governments and fire districts with community action plans assessment, planning and implementation efforts. She will help with identifying opportunities to create and diversify economic options in local communities using small diameter forestry material and/or traditionally underutilized wood products from hazardous fuels reduction. In addition, Stockert will also provide assistance to local governmental entities with wildland urban/interface assessment, planning and implementation efforts.

A native of Devils Lake, Susan has degrees in history and social science education from Valley City State University. She comes to the Forest Service with experience in emergency management. She worked for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance Program where she processed grants, performed damage assessments on public infrastructure, and coordinated with state and federal organizations on historic and environmental compliance. Recently, she worked for the ND Division of Emergency Management in Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation and Homeland Security sections managing grants.



### ***New NDPA Windshirts!***

NDPA has new 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**

January 15, 2003	3rd Annual Inventors Congress 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Alerus Center, Grand Forks
January 16, 2003	MarketPlace 2003 Alerus Center in Grand Forks
February 5-6, 2003	Annual Housing Conference Seven Seas, Mandan

### ***FROM THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE:***

We promised to make available the link for the Economic Profile System. Here it is:

<http://209.145.203.111/eps/help.html>

This takes you to the opening help page, which will step you through the download process. The program works from within Excel.