



Planningram

From the Secretary/Treasurer ...

Our annual conference is over, and it certainly was an eyeopener! A full article on events at the conference is included in this newsletter. Suffice it to say that we really did get a good "snapshot" of North Dakota!

It's time to renew your membership in NDPA. The new dues structure has only two categories: full membership at \$40 and organizational membership at \$30 per listing. Due to a suggestion at the annual meeting, we will offer multiple *Western Planner* subscriptions to organizations, for an extra \$20 each. This is below the cost of the magazine (\$30 per individual subscription).

Please make sure we have your name and address correct. Mailing lists have a way of becoming out of date very quickly.

I am working on a listing of all the documents available in our library, and hope to have that available in the next *Planningram*.

Barbara Owens



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SHARP Database Growing to Meet User Needs

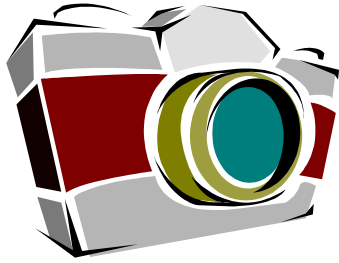
The Statewide Housing Assessment Resource Project (SHARP) data base and web site are currently being updated and expanded. The sponsors have contracted with Dr. Richard Rathge and the North Dakota State Data Center to build and maintain the database.

Demographic updates include 1998 population estimates at the state, region, county and city levels. Population by race estimates as of 1997 will be available for state, region and county. Age distribution and per capita income estimates through 1997 will be available down to the county level. **Housing updates** include housing units in 1998 for the state, region, county and city levels. **Economic updates** will go down to the county level, and will include overall Employment and Employment by Industry for 1997, and Poverty Levels as of 1995.

New additions to the database will include building permit data for all geographic levels as of 1998. Mobile home data as of 1998 will also be added for all geographic levels. Population projections down to county level will be available for 2005, 2010, and 2015. We will be adding taxable sales and purchase data from 1998 at all geographic levels (including only top 200 cities). An assisted housing inventory will be added, identifying Section 8, Tax Credit, and Rural Development 515 properties. We will also be adding a feedback section so users can offer suggestions on additional data sets and profiles that would be useful.

You can find us 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. We appreciate your interest in SHARP. Please visit the site frequently. Let us know how you are using the site and what you would like to be able to use the site for. Our goal is to make it as useful as possible. We are also looking for good links to add to the site. 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) 258-2240.



NDPA Focuses on The Big Picture in North Dakota

The NDPA's annual conference focused on the CERA initiative, training on Geographical Information Systems and snapshots of statewide planning activities. These three seemingly disparate topics blended together to give a picture of North Dakota preparing to enter the next decade as well as the new millennium.

The CERA (Communities of Excellence in Rural America) Project, an initiative supported by the Western Governors Association and spearheaded by Lt. Governor Rosemarie Myrdal, assists communities in using technology to plan their future. Mr. Veeder, from Watford City, said the concept has created new jobs, and urged attendees to turn their thinking upside down. He urged people not to think of what they *can't* do and think of what they *can* do instead. In addition, he noted that the planning group included many experts in technological fields, which added more creativity in approaching the issue.

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) provide layers of information to many aspects of planning. Dr. William Gribb, Ph.D, AICP, presented a 3-hour session introducing the basic concepts of GIS and its importance to planners, to identify and examine the linkages between local government agencies and their spatial information, and provided a demonstration of ways to integrate the Census 2000 and USGS information into the planning process. He used an example of developing a rural addressing system in showing the power of GIS. Mark Luther, from Kadomas, Lee and Jackson, followed Dr. Gribb's presentation with a demonstration of systems already in place in North Dakota.

Eight agencies reported on current and future planning efforts. Lee Klapprodt, from the State Water Commission talked about the adoption this past legislative session of the updated State Water Management Plan. This plan established a list of future goals, with specific projects identified and authorized as immediate needs. The new Water Development Trust Fund, which will receive 45% of the State's Tobacco Settlement, will provide a source of funding for these projects. Additional information and resources are available on the web at www.swc.state.nd.us.

Jack Olson, from the Department of Transportation, talked about state road planning. Initially the state plan was called "TranSpirit 95" and grew out of ISTEA 91. Mr. Olson noted we are now in the "post-TranSpirit" phase in North Dakota. This new plan considers road functions and their connection to the rest of the world as a result of the NAFTA corridor and Internet commerce.

Ken Jarolimik, from the Division of Emergency Management, discussed the state's Emergency Management Workplan for Fiscal Year 2000. Local program coordinators are supporting the development of county Multi-Hazard Mitigation plans, which should be half completed by the end of FY 2000. This process includes identifying hazards at the local level, as well as developing accompanying present and future activities to mitigate these hazards. This could include such activities as moving people out of flood plain areas and addressing the impact of rural fire emergencies.

Tom Decker, of the Department of Public Instruction, presented numbers on declining school enrollments and changing state demographics. He noted that the state needs to make fundamental decisions about long-term school siting plans as communities and counties do their strategic planning.

Rich Gray, from the Division of Community Services (DCS), talked about the Renaissance Zone as a new community planning tool. He described how the process is taking shape, with the final documents to be available by the end of November.

Michael Spletto, also of DCS and president of NDPA, talked about the strategic planning initiative known as Leadership Initiative for Community Strategic Planning (LICSP) and what is available to help communities develop a strategic plan. He noted that many of the presenters are part of the resource team to assist communities in their development of a strategic plan. This plan can be found on the Division of Community Services web site at www.state.nd.us/dcs.



Looking at 2000

The 1999 year for the NDPA was a very successful one. Our membership grew and we sponsored and co-sponsored very successful planning conferences. The 1999 Annual NDPA conference was no exception. More than 50 people attended the conference and comments from the participants were very good. (See *NDPA Focuses on the Big Picture for specific details on the conference.*) We are now considering what the members would like to see for training in the year 2000, building on comments that were received during past meetings. Ideas for upcoming training include workshops on manufactured and modular housing; explanations of the various development zones that are going on in North Dakota (i.e., REAP Zones, Enterprise Zones and Renaissance Zones); "SmartGrowth" and zoning 101 to include river front land use setbacks, housing and feedlots. These are just some of the possibilities and we want to hear from you if you have others. Feel free to phone, write or e-mail your comments to any one of the Executive Board.

The 2000 NDPA Annual Conference could be a change from the usual. The membership agreed to research the idea of joining forces with South Dakota for their annual conference. This will take place at the site of the 25th Annual Western Planner Conference in Spearfish S.D. I have been in touch with the South Dakota Planning Association and they are excited about joining forces, and are checking to see if any more of our neighboring states would like to join in on this adventure. This conference promises to be a unique and fun time. Some of the possible topics being discussed are sure to attract the interest of our members.

The year 2000 will only be successful if we all join together and voice our opinions. To do this you need to become an active member of NDPA. Remember that you are the NDPA. Come and join our group, to be with other planners as we help shape the changes we will face in the new millennium.

Michael Spletto

A Leadership Initiative Community Strategic Planning Progress Report

Cavalier County graciously agreed to be a pilot community for the LICSP project. Since Cavalier County completed the first three phases of BUILD, we were able to utilize the community and BR&E surveys for community data. The process started with a meeting of the steering committee on October 11. This served as an organization meeting to explain the process and time line. November 10 was chosen as the leadership workshop meeting day. It was decided early on that we would have to wait for "fall's work" to be completed before we could expect any kind of attendance at the leadership workshop. We also decided on an evening meeting with a meal provided rather than a full day of activities as recommended by the "Strategic Planning" manual.

The facilitators arrived excited and ready. Those assisting with the meeting included Carol Goodman (Cavalier County JDA - Local Coordinator); Wanda Moos (Cavalier County JDA); Mike Spletto (DCS); Mark Wax (Rural Development- Bismarck); Tracy Henningsgard (Rural Development - Devils Lake); Melanie Dukart (Rural Development - Dickinson); JoAnn Rivera, (Rural Development - Park River); and Kathy Tweeten (NDSU Extension Service). The evening meeting followed a very tight and full agenda but was worth it. The participants were enthused and discussion was abundant. By the end of the evening, the community came up with eight issues to be addressed. Many participants volunteered to be on a Strategic Action Team and other members are currently being assembled. It is anticipated that the Strategic Plan will be written by the first of the year. The agenda utilized for the evening meeting can be obtained from either Don Longmuir or myself.

Denise Hendrickson