



President's Report

July 1, 2008—June 30, 2009

Michigan Association of Planning President's Report

Jane Fitzpatrick, MAP President

2008 – 2009 proved to be another successful year for the Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) as we advanced policy development, strengthened partnering and advocacy efforts, and improved our educational offerings to both citizen and professional planners.

MAP Board Initiatives

The MAP board operates under the Policy Governance model of organizational management. Its primary focus is to develop and adopt the land use and planning policy that drives MAP's educational programming, advocacy and information dissemination, and to "link with the owners". Ownership linkage includes outreach and communication with our members and other land use stakeholders to identify the issues and challenges facing Michigan's planning community, and to respond through the creation of policies and initiatives that meet those identified needs.

In 2008 - 2009 the MAP board completed and adopted the Linkage Plan that was drafted during 2007-08 and set about implementing the recommendations included therein. Board linkage activities for 2008-09 included a meet and greet reception with elected and appointed officials and increased board presence at the MAP booth during the 2008 Annual Conference; serving as ambassadors for MAP at nearly 40 other organization's events; the creation of a board scholarship committee that provided its first scholarship for an official at the 2009 Annual Conference; initiation of a board survey committee which crafted, disseminated, collected and analyzed a survey to help the board learn about member's awareness and understanding of MAP land use policy.

Policy Development

The MAP Government Relations Committee is a board committee that researches policy topics and provides the board with background information, alternatives, and draft policy language. During 2008 – 09 the board and

government relations committee studied wind energy and Right to Farm Act. The wind energy policy was adopted – after many drafts and vetting with members and wind professionals – on January 26, 2009. The board asked the Government Relations Committee to create an on line resource library for wind energy and announce the policy concurrent with the launching of the web resources. The policy and web resources were officially announced in July 2009.

Right to Farm Act policy development continued through the 2008 – 09 fiscal year, with a committee focus on vetting the policy with the Department of Agriculture and the Farm Bureau. Several meetings were conducted with planning experts and the stakeholder groups. Adoption is anticipated by the end of 2009.

Education Programming 2008 - 09

Professional Planners

- Annual Conference in fall 2008 (555 attendees) at the Kalamazoo Radisson
- ◆ Spring Institute (131 attendees) focused on economic restructuring and highlighted many national speakers

Partner Programs

- CNU – Form Based Codes (81)
Wind Symposium (150)

Elected and Appointed Officials

- 2009 Spring Basic Training was held in Lathrup Village (88); Lawrence (20); Traverse City (81) in partnership with NWMCOG; and Mt. Pleasant (26)
- Citizen Planner Program offered at 2008 fall conference, more than 30 attendees
- Local Officials Institute, Spring 2009, Capital Improvements Planning (175)
- Twelve On Site Programs have educated more than 274 attendees

Students

- Student Conference, February 2009 (144)

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Information and Resources

The *Michigan Planner* magazine is published 8 times per year, and is an excellent source for relevant, high level information for both professional planners and officials. *MAP Notes and News*, initiated in February 2008, is a bi-weekly e-newsletter that has been very well received. The [Zoning Board of Appeals Toolkit](#), a companion publication to the [Planning Commissioner's Toolkit](#), was completed and launched in Spring 2009.

Advocacy, Partnering and Special Projects

MAP has established itself as the "go to" source for land use and planning information and expertise, and as our credibility and reputation grows our expertise is requested by other associations, state agencies, and legislators. During 2008 – 09 MAP worked with many organizations and state agencies on various initiatives, including:

- Land Use Action Team (LUAT) - Michigan Development Impact Study, in partnership with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Mott, and Americana.
- Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) - Centers for Regional Excellence, Cities of Promise, Land Use Executive Committee, Sense of Place Council.
- Safe Routes to School Program (SR2S) - Create and launch SR2S and MDOT Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) training.
- Michigan Suburbs Alliance - Charter member of the Re-development Ready Committee.
- Land Information Access Association - Partnerships for Change steering committee.
- Congress for New Urbanism/Michigan Chapter - Advisory board member.
- Healthy Kids/Healthy Michigan - Chair, land use committee.
- People and Land (PAL) - Grant recipient with partner organization LIAA to provide training and other services.
- Michigan Rural Partners - Coalition of experts seeking solutions to rural challenges.
- Michigan Department of Transportation - Member community Engagement Committee.

MAP has strong relationships with MML, MTA, MAR, MAC, MI-CNU, CEDAM, DEQ, LPI, Sea Grant, in addition to those noted above, and we are called upon frequently as a resource. MAP also serves as land use expert to legislators and frequently testifies at House and Senate committee meetings.

MAP Committees

MAP actively staffs nearly a dozen committees composed of hardworking professionals who help MAP advance its mission:

- ◆ Government Relations Committee focused on wind energy and RTFA policies.
- ◆ Law Committee updated legislative policy platform, and refocused legislative interest in economic development.
- ◆ Education Committee programmed Spring Institute and new Capital Improvements Plan program, among other professional development events and programs for elected and appointed officials.
- ◆ Information Resources Committee recently completed the [Zoning Board of Appeals Toolkit](#), and updates to the [Planning Commissioner's Toolkit](#).
- ◆ Conference Committee identified venue, selected theme, speakers and sessions, and programmed specialty events for 2009 Soaring Eagle conference.
- ◆ Conference Host Committee assisted with mobile tours for annual conference, and provided local perspective for events.
- ◆ Student Conference Committee responsibilities shift to different universities annually: 2009 was hosted by Wayne State University.
- ◆ Social Equity Committee is devising new policy, programming speakers for MAP events, researching PAS report.
- ◆ Officials Committee is brand new and is composed of elected and appointed officials to provide guidance to the organization about the programming and policy needs of this segment of the membership.

American Planning Association

MAP continues to strengthen its relationship with our parent organization, the American Planning Association (APA) in many ways including participation at the national level on the Chapter President's Council, implementing APA's Certification Maintenance (CM) program, and leading the Chapter Administrators group. MAP programmed a webinar for the APA Friday series on Transportation.