



2017 MACPZA Legislative Platform

Adopted: October 6, 2016

Introduction

MACPZA's Legislative Platform are statements of support or opposition to a variety of issues facing county planning and zoning administrators. Any MACPZA position will be consistent with those adopted by AMC, with a list of Association Priorities forwarded for AMC's Platform development. Adoption of these positions in no way bind any member county zoning administrator from supporting a position different from the Association's Legislative Platform.

Goals

MACPZA's legislative goals are to promote the health, safety, morals, and general welfare to better serve Minnesota citizens as well as local, state and federal government. Through these legislative positions, MACPZA will support efficient and effective land use management and promote environmental protections for present and future generations. Finally, Federal and State agencies should respect the role of counties in land use management and environmental protection by treating counties as equal partners, while working toward common goals, in all discussions affecting county responsibilities during law, statute, rule and policy making processes.

Legislative Priorities

1. Subdivision of Land Legislation. Move legislation to seek the same subdivision of land review authority already afforded municipalities and townships to ensure that land is divided in a way that doesn't prevent a future or current owner from building on the land or using it in the way they intend to.
2. Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) Reporting. Partner with the Board of Water and Soil Resources to see exemption of duplicative reporting on NRBG funding from the Office of Grants Management or through a legislative solution. MACPZA Members will continue current annual reporting practices on individual programs within the NRBG such as SSTS, WCA and the Shoreland programs.

Objectives

1. Buffer and Soil Loss Law. Actively pursue clarification from both the DNR and BWSR on local responsibilities and program requirements.
2. Farm Disposal of Solid Waste. Actively pursue clarification from MPCA on M.S. 17.135.

Legislative Positions

Administration

- A.1. MACPZA supports requiring its inclusion during all federal and state agency discussions affecting county land use and environmental responsibilities.
- A.2. MACPZA supports requiring all state mandates be adequately funded through non-county revenue sources.
- A.3. MACPZA opposes new state mandates for enforcement, administration and implementation of state programs without additional adequate funding, and technical support from the state.
- A.4. MACPZA supports the clear and consistent application from state agencies of all mandated requirements, reports, reviews and audits throughout all regions of the state.
- A.5. MACPZA supports requiring State Agencies to follow the established procedures for Rule-making and/or Statute Amendments versus Guidance creation.

Land Use

- LU.1. MACPZA supports requiring clear and consistent definitions of expected outcomes from all State Agencies and sufficient state funding that covers the costs to LGU's in implementing state mandated rules and programming.
- LU.2. MACPZA supports requiring townships that elect to adopt any level of land use regulations, to assume all land use control responsibilities outlined within Minnesota Statute Chapter 394.
- LU.3. MACPZA supports amending Minn. Statutes to provide counties with the same authority as cities and townships to require subdivisions of land to be in compliance with county zoning ordinances prior to being recorded.
- LU.4. MACPZA supports federal funding to accelerate updating of floodplain maps and increased technical assistance and education.
- LU.5. With respect to Minnesota's geographic and cultural diversity, MACPZA supports the locally controlled development, adoption, and implementation of comprehensive land use plans to serve as the foundation for the county's zoning ordinances.
- LU.6. MACPZA supports state funding to assist units of local government in planning, zoning, and Geographic Information System (GIS) efforts.

Wastewater Treatment

- WWT.1. MACPZA supports an ongoing state grant and loan assistance program to assist landowners in upgrading or replacing non-compliant SSTS's.
- WWT.2. MACPZA supports enforcement of Pollution Control Agency licensing standards and requirements.

Water Management and Protection

WMP.3. MACPZA supports clarification of local responsibilities, and funding to LGU's for the administration and enforcement of the Buffer and Soil Loss Law.

Wetland Management and Protection

WTMP.1. MACPZA supports the training and the voluntary certification of wetland program administrators.

WTMP.2. MACPZA supports simplifying federal and state wetland regulations.

WTMP.3. MACPZA supports the de minimis exemptions as they were in 2006.

WTMP.4. MACPZA supports maintaining WCA as a conservation program rather than a preservation program.

WTMP.5. MACPZA supports the review of the potential use of wetland replacement incentives to encourage wetland mitigation outside of those counties that contain 80% or more of their pre-settlement wetlands.

WTMP.6. MACPZA supports county approval of project specific wetland mitigation sites.

Non-Metallic Mineral Resources

NMMR.1. MACPZA supports the adoption of policies by the state and local governments that provide for the reclamation of non-metallic mineral mines when mining ceases.

NMMR.2. MACPZA supports increased funding to accelerate the state-mapping program to accurately identify non-metallic mineral deposits that have the potential to be economically mined.

NMMR.3. MACPZA supports updating the Department of Natural Resource's Aggregate Mining Reclamation Manual including the development of reclamation standards for non-metallic mineral mines.