

2023 MACPZA Legislative Platform

Adopted: October 13, 2022



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. **MACPZA supports addressing solar panel end of life handling to ensure the financial burden does not fall onto local governments and local taxpayers who may or may not have benefitted from the solar energy generated.**
2. **MACPZA supports state (DNR) assistance with implementation of regional executive boards to address aquatic invasive species challenges and meet minimum standards developed by MAIRSC, MNDNR, MACPZA, and MLR.**
3. **MACPZA supports increased Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) funding.**

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 and maintained through non-county revenue sources.
- A.3. MACPZA supports increased Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) funding and continued flexibility for the use of the funding. MACPZA also supports administering and allocating current NRBG funding for mandated state programs through the Minnesota Department of Revenue, similar to County Program Aid. Allocations for mandated state programs through the NRBG should not be considered grants
- A.4. MACPZA supports renaming the Natural Resources Block Grant to Natural Resources funding, to more accurately represent the type of funding received from the State for administration of mandated programs.
- A.5. MACPZA opposes new state mandates for enforcement, administration, and implementation of state programs without additional adequate funding, and technical support from the state.
- A.6. MACPZA supports the clear and consistent application from state agencies of all mandated requirements.
- A.7. MACPZA opposes reporting to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for programs administered through other agencies.
- A.8. MACPZA supports requiring state agencies to follow the established procedures for rulemaking and/or statute amendments versus guidance creation.
- A.9. MACPZA supports working with local government partners and the newspaper association to identify and modernize state publication statutes to be more reflective of current times and meaningful readership.

Land Use

- LU.1. MACPZA supports requiring clear and consistent definitions of expected outcomes from all state agencies.
- 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. 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.4. MACPZA supports providing counties with the authority to adopt local enforcement mechanisms for local ordinances and regulations in accordance with M.S. Chapter 394

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 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency licensing standards and requirements.

WWT.3. MACPZA supports modifications to the SSTS licensing programs to ensure exams are consistent with course materials and Minnesota Rules 7080-7083.

WWT.4. MACPZA supports extending the state grant and loan assistance program to assist commercial establishments in upgrading or replacing non-compliant SSTS's.

Water Management and Protection

WMP.1. MACPZA supports continued adequate funding through the Minnesota Department of Revenue to LGU's for the administration and enforcement of the Buffer Law.

WMP.2. MACPZA supports maintaining voluntary enforcement of the buffer law and soil loss regulations.

WMP.3. MACPZA supports maintaining voluntary participation in the One Watershed One Plan water planning process.

WMP.4. MACPZA supports non-competitive state grant funding for priorities identified in completed comprehensive watershed management plans.

WMP.5. MACPZA opposes mandatory inclusion of counties in the MS4 permit program without adequate funding.

WMP.6. MACPZA supports state and federal funding to accelerate updating of floodplain maps and increased technical assistance and education.

WMP.7. MACPZA supports state funding to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for purposes of establishing ordinary high water and 100-year flood elevations on public waters.

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.

WTMP.7. MACPZA supports local approval of wetland mitigation siting outside of the established Permit to Mine boundary.

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 state 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.