



Agenda

All sessions take place in the Minnewaska Room, unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, June 6

- 10:00 a.m. MACPZA Board Meeting - All MACPZA members are welcome to attend!**
Boardroom Two – Second Floor
- 12:00 p.m. Registration Open**
Main Lobby
- 1:00 p.m. Welcome and Introductions**
Minnewaska Room
- Dave Rush, Land & Resource Management Director | Douglas County
MACPZA Professional Development Committee Chair*
- 1:05 p.m. Land Use Case Law Update**
The session will include a case law and time for an interactive conversation with attendees about how your counties handle these issues.
- Jason Kuboushek, Partner | Iverson Reuvers*
- Jason is a Partner at Iverson Reuvers and has been with the firm since its inception. His practice involves helping clients throughout Minnesota, including cities, counties, townships, individuals, and businesses. He has handled numerous trials and appeals involving individual owners, contractors, subcontractors, and design professionals. Jason enjoys working with companies and entrepreneurs with a broad range of business-related services and advises clients on business law, start-up assistance relating to the formation of an entity, the protection of a trademark or license agreement and assist with buying or selling a business and estate planning.
- 2:00 p.m. Variance Findings: You can lead a horse to water, or...you can let the horse find its own way**
This panel will share different ways that they develop findings of fact for/with their respective BOAs.
- George Leary, Senior Land Use Planner | Blue Earth County*
- George has been with Blue Earth County for 24 years. He and his wife have four children and five grandkids.
- Neva Maxwell, Planning & Zoning Administrator | Cook County*
- Neva is the Cook County Planning & Zoning Administrator. She is in her eight year of land use regulation in Minnesota's Arrowhead region, with previous zoning experience at Lake County. Her work focuses on variances, CUPs/IUPs, rezones, subdivisions, annual gravel pit reviews, updating ordinances, and various planning efforts.
- Lynn Waytashek, Planning & Zoning Administrator | Sherburne County*
- Lynn was the Assistant P & Z Administrator for Sherburne County from 1999 - 2021. She has been the Zoning Administrator since 2021. She graduated from St Cloud State University with a major in Industrial Studies and a minor in Environmental Studies.
- Jason Kuboushek, Partner | Iverson Reuvers*
- 3:00 p.m. Break**

3:15 p.m.

County Zoning Enforcement Process

This panel discussion will discuss innovative approaches to getting results and an inside look at District Court.

[Chris Pence, Environmental Services Manager | Crow Wing County](#)

Chris has worked in planning zoning for over 18 years primarily in Cass and Crow Wing County. Mr. Pence also manages the Solid Waste Program and Public Land Management.

[Adam Ossefoort, Division Director | Todd County](#)

Adam attended St. Cloud State University and received a degree in Environmental Studies. After interning for a short time with Rock County, Adam moved to Pipestone SWCD and worked feedlots, septic, and conservation practices. Adam began work with Todd County in 2019 as the Division Director overseeing P&Z and the SWCD.

[Judge Michelle L. Clark, 7th District Court Judge | State of Minnesota](#)

Judge Clark worked in private practice, and then in the Douglas County Attorney's Office, prior to her appointment to the bench in 2018. She handled a variety of land use issues before appointment to the bench.

4:30 p.m.

County Land Use Technology Showcase

Various counties/consultants will demonstrate their permitting software and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) with opportunities to interact and ask questions.

Permitting Software

[Meghan Bajula-Hagen, Permitting Specialist | Blue Earth County \[CityView\]](#)

Meghan graduated from Minnesota State University Mankato with a degree in Environmental Science and did her internship with Blue Earth County Planning and Zoning and never left, which was almost 6 years ago. Outside of work her family (4 boys and my husband) enjoy camping and fishing.

[Connor Plagge, Zoning Officer | Aitkin County \[RTVision\]](#)

Connor has worked for the Aitkin County Planning & Zoning Department for a little over two years. He was born and raised in Aitkin, where he has a small farm. Connor has a background in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Geoscience.

[Amelia Meiners, Sr Environmental Specialist | Houston County \[GeoPermits\]](#)

Amelia has been an Environmental Specialist with Houston County for just over six years, primarily overseeing the feedlot and septic programs, but is always prepared to assist in other areas as needed, She enjoys the challenge of learning the diverse set of programs handled by our small department.

[Kristi Gross, Sr Planner & Floodplain Administrator | Olmstead County \[Acella\]](#)

Kristi has been in Planning and Zoning for 20 years. She has been with Olmsted County since 2015. Kristi is a certified planner as well as a certified floodplain manager.

GIS

[Katie Reiter, GIS Coordinator | Douglas County](#)

Katie Reitter is the GIS Coordinator for Douglas County, MN. She spends her days creating and maintaining custom widgets and apps, managing databases, and keeping up with the changing technologies in GIS. Katie is also a licensed FAA drone pilot and enjoys using the drone for data collection and analysis.

[Other Presenters TBD](#)

5:30 p.m.

Adjourn for the Day

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Mystery Bonfire

Friday, June 7

7:00 a.m. Registration Open

Breakfast Buffet

Osakis Room

8:10 a.m. Welcome

Minnewaska Room

[Dave Rush, Land & Resource Management Director | Douglas County](#)
MACPZA Professional Development Committee Chair

8:15 a.m. MACPZA 101: So what is MACPZA? What can it do for me? Why is there no pizza?

Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) staff will share what the organization has to offer County Zoning Administrators.

Members of MACPZA with leadership roles will explain the organizational structure and describe their involvement.

[Bob Libal, Affiliate Project Manager | AMC](#)

Bob is the Affiliate Project Manager for the Association of Minnesota Counties. In the role, he supports the Minnesota Association of County Planning & Zoning Administrators (MACPZA), Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA), Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB), Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers (MAPCED), and Minnesota City/County Facility Management Association (MCCFMA). Bob previously worked for the Public Health Law Center and Rural Health Research Center while completing a master's in public health.

[Brian Martinson, Environment & Natural Resources Policy Analyst | AMC](#)

As Environment & Natural Resources Policy Analyst for the Association of Minnesota Counties, Brian also serves as government relations staff for the Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA), Minnesota Association of County Planning & Zoning Administrators (MACPZA), Minnesota Association of County Feedlot Officers (MACFO) and the Minnesota Association of County Agricultural Inspectors (MACAI). Brian has a strong background in state legislative and policy work with 16 years as a Minnesota Senate staff member and two years as Director of State Government Affairs for an agriculture cooperative.

[Garry Johanson, MACPZA President & ESO Director | Norman County](#)

Garry has served in the public sector for over 28 years and worked in the private sector for 13 years. He is the Norman County Environmental Services Director with management of Departments: Emergency Management, Solid Waste, Planning & Zoning, Flood Plain Management, Public Safety, Courthouse Safety, Buffer Management. Additionally, Garry serves on the AMEM (Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers) Board of Directors as Past President, Former Chairman, Former Region 3 Representative Government Affairs Committee, and former member of the Conference Committee. He is the MACPZA Current President and Board of Directors Chairman and the NW Minnesota Representative to the SWAA (Solid Waste Administrators Association) Board of Directors.

[MACPZA Leadership](#)

9:15 a.m.

Legislature 101

An overview of the Minnesota Legislative Process and how AMC/MACPZA is involved, or...*How the sausage is made.*

[Brian Martinson, Environment & Natural Resources Policy Analyst | AMC](#)

[Garry Johanson, MACPZA President | Norman County](#)

[Jean Christoffels, Zoning/Environmental Administrator | Murray County](#)

As the Zoning/Environmental Administrator for Murray County for the last 25 years, Jean has issued many zoning permits ranging from the typical garden shed on a lake lot, to wind and solar developments. She has served MACPZA as Secretary, Vice President, President, and twice as the Legislative Chair. As a Member of MACPZA, Jean has represented the Association by testifying on multiple occasions before legislative committees on issues important to the work we do as Zoning Administrators.

[Tim Nelson, Director of Land Services | Cook County](#)

Tim Nelson has a combined total experience in excess of 30-years as the department head for land use offices in three different counties across Minnesota. During this time, Tim has worked with AMC Staff, County Commissioners, State Agency Personnel, and Legislators in the development and passage of legislative initiatives in topics ranging from Planning & Zoning issues to Solid Waste and Emergency Management. Tim has also served on several legislative and State Agency driven committees focusing on Environmental Review Rules, Shoreland provisions and a possible merging of Minnesota enabling statutes 394 and 462.

10:00 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m.

Cannabis Planning & Zoning

Update on cannabis legislation and administrative rules from the Office of Cannabis Management and a primer on AMC's "Cannabis Planning and Zoning for Minnesota Counties" guide to local cannabis zoning issues.

[Sophie Leininger, Government Relations Director | Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management](#)

Sophie has been serving as the Government Relations Director for the Office of Cannabis Management since January 2024. Prior to this role, she served as Advisor to the Lt. Governor in the Office of Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan for over four years.

[Eric Taubel, General Counsel | Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management](#)

Eric Taubel is the General Counsel for the newly created Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management. Prior to that he served as the first General Counsel for the Minnesota Department of Education, and as a staff attorney in the General Counsel's office at the Minnesota Department of Commerce. He has also worked as an attorney in private practice.

[Mary Lyon, AmeriCorps Public Health Project Coordinator | Association of Minnesota Counties](#)

Mary is serving her second year as the AmeriCorps Public Health member for the Association of Minnesota Counties. Her work has focused on assisting counties with opioid settlement logistics, cannabis legalization research, and public health nuisance research.

11:30 a.m.

Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Legislative Update

[Brian Martinson, Environment & Natural Resources Policy Analyst | Association of Minnesota Counties](#)

12:00 p.m.

Adjourn