



MACPZA

Minnesota Association of County
Planning & Zoning Administrators

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Jane Starz, Morrison County Zoning Administrator, MACPZA President

September 2008

Stand up and take a bow zoning colleagues, I have a great compliment for all of you!

The other day I was in a conversation with one of your county peers and that zoning administrator expressed a heartfelt thanks to other zoning administrators who regularly share their collective wisdom by email or through the message board when a question goes out. Knowing that we have that tool available (and that it is used) is a tribute to all of you. Keep it up! I am sure that all of us have been in situations where we step back, take a deep breath and know that someone in the world of zoning has faced this issue before and could provide some much needed advice or direction.

I hope that everyone has had a productive summer. I have heard many comments that permit applications are down – but somehow the workload has remained constant. I know that landowners are getting much more “creative” in their requests and questions. Today and tomorrow I have the opportunity to help with our local children’s water festival. Sometimes it is fun to step away from the day to day tasks of the zoning world and get a new perspective by working with kids.

Our Fall Conference is another great opportunity to gather and share more of that collective wisdom. It is also a great time to reconnect with old friends and welcome new zoning colleagues. I hope that you are able to take advantage of this great opportunity.

See you in Red Wing.

Jane Starz,
MACPZA President



MACPZA Fall Conference

See page 2 for additional information on
the MACPZA Fall Conference
October 1-3, 2008

Treasure Island Resort & Casino, Red Wing

Share Your Experience & Post Your Planning & Zoning Questions
on the MACPZA Message Board

Click on the link on the MACPZA website: <http://www.mncounties3.org/macpza/>
If you need the password e-mailed to you, send an e-mail to werner@mncounties.org

COUNTY NEWS

Chisago County

Chisago County Government Center Stormwater Retrofit Project

The Chisago County Government Center is located on a beautiful peninsula between North Center and Pioneer Lakes. One can look out from almost any window and see people enjoying the lakes.



Photo: Chisago County Government Center

One of the things many of us may have noticed is that North Center and Pioneer lakes are not in the healthy state they once were. Excess nutrient runoff has caused North Center Lake to be placed on EPA's 2008 list of Minnesota Impaired Waters. Placement on the Impaired Waters list triggers a series of steps which include increased water quality monitoring, identification of sources of nutrient pollution, and the development of an action plan. This process typically takes several years to complete. Then we begin the hard work of correcting the problem.

One of many sources of pollution is stormwater runoff from hard surfaces such as streets, sidewalks, driveways and roof tops. In many cases, this stormwater runoff is conveyed, via a series of storm drains, into the nearest lake, river or stream. In the case of the Chisago County Government Center, stormwater runoff flows off the streets, sidewalks, roof and parking areas directly into storm drains and then into North Center and Pioneer Lakes.

There is over 142,000 square feet of hard surface at the Government Center.

Send in your county news for our next newsletter!

E-mail submissions to werner@mncounties.org

This means that a typical one inch storm event produces 88,000 gallons of untreated runoff. That's 2.6 million gallons of untreated stormwater runoff each year. This untreated runoff contains pollutants which include sediment, oil, grease, metals, fertilizers, pesticides, garbage, leaves, grass clippings, road salt, pet waste and cigarette butts – all flowing into North Center and Pioneer Lakes.

Taking steps to begin to address this problem, Chisago County is pleased to form a partnership with Great River Greening and Minnesota Conservation Corps to install a series of infiltration practices which will cause portions of the stormwater to be diverted from the storm drains and infiltrate into the ground rather than runoff into the lakes. These practices include:

- ◆ installation of a rain garden
- ◆ an erosion control wall
- ◆ a shade planting and,
- ◆ an infiltration swale.

In addition, invasive weeds along the shoreline will be replaced with native plants. Installation is anticipated to be completed in 2008.

The practices were designed by Great River Greening, will be installed with help from Minnesota Conservation Corps, and the majority of funding is being generously provided by the Bush Foundation and Clean Water Legacy. **No county levy funds are being used for this project.** The Chisago County Board of Commissioners approved this project on July 17, 2008. Construction is expected to take place late August through September 2008.

If you have any questions on this please contact Jerry Spetzman, Water Resource Manager, at 651-213-8383, or jpspez@co.chisago.mn.us

Sherburne County

Sherburne county adopted an Interim Use Permit ordinance after the State adopted language in State Statutes which allows Counties to utilize Interim Use Permits. The State language mirrors the language that cities have had for years. To view our adopted ordinance, it can be found at www.co.sherburne.mn.us/zoning under the Zoning Ordinance Section 16.2. Many of our conditional use permits have been deleted and moved to an interim use permit.

Nancy Riddle, Sherburne County

Retirement News

On February 29, 2008, I submitted my letter of retirement notice to Mower County, informing them that my last day of work would be April 11, 2008. It seemed that after 36 years, 9 months, and a few days, it was time. I started with Mower County on July 5, 1971. From my perspective, this was the "correct move." I was pleased that the county advertised for the position and encouraged me to place it with MACPZA. The board has now hired Angie Knish as my replacement. My e-mail address is dwfrank1@smig.net

Daryl Franklin, Retired Director, Mower County Environmental Services.

District F to Host the MACPZA Annual Conference in Red Wing



The 2008 MACPZA Annual Conference will be held October 1-3 at Treasure Island Resort and Casino in Red Wing, MN.

Highlights of the conference include:

- ◆ Panel of Issues Concerning Flooding in SE Minnesota
- ◆ Community Wastewater Facilitation
- ◆ Shoreland Rules Update
- ◆ Land Rents and Agriculture
- ◆ Updates from APA and AMC
- ◆ MACPZA Annual Meeting
- ◆ Legal Review
- ◆ Archaeological Considerations in Planning and Zoning
- ◆ Choices for the Future of the Hiawatha Valley
- ◆ Clandestine Meth Labs

The full conference schedule is available on the MACPZA website at: http://www.mncounties3.org/macpza/MACPZAannual08_brochure.pdf

Community Conservation Assistance Grants Available

If your community is planning to grow but wants to conserve its natural amenities at the same time, this program can help you.

DNR's Metro Greenways Program announces a Request for Proposals for its Community Conservation Assistance Program. The purpose of this matching grant program is to assist local governments with the integration of natural resources information and data into local development and conservation plans and policy decisions. DNR's Metro Greenways Program is especially interested in supporting local efforts that seek to address challenges associated with the conservation of remaining natural habitats in rapidly changing communities.

The DNR Metro Greenways Program plans to assist four to six communities with this round of funding. This program is made possible by a 2008 appropriation from the Environmental Trust Fund to the Metro Conservation Corridor partnership (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/greenways/index.html>) DNR's Metro Greenways Program is one of several partners in the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership.

Eligibility:

Cities, townships, and counties: soil/water conservation districts; and watershed districts/management organizations in the 12-county region (7-county metro core and Chisago, Isanti, Sherburne, Wright, and Goodhue counties).

Examples of Fundable Projects:

Grants will be made to assist local governments with conservation approaches other than acquisition, restoration, and land management. Examples of projects that will be considered for funding include:

- ◆ Land cover inventories to develop comprehensive baseline natural and cultural resources information;
- ◆ Collection and analysis of natural resources information to develop land use decision-making models;
- ◆ Integration of natural resources information and/or analysis into local plans, practices, and policies;
- ◆ Crafting policies that conserve natural habitats and guide development;
- ◆ Intensive workshops for local government staff and elected/appointed officials on conservation and development approaches;
- ◆ Cooperative, interjurisdictional efforts to plan for or manage a shared, vital natural resource.

Evaluation Criteria:

Applications from local governments will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- ◆ A demonstrated need for a land cover inventory to identify sensitive natural areas in need of conservation;
- ◆ Existence of already identified regionally important native habitats in need of protection or restoration and within Metro Conservation Corridors' focus areas (see <http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/nrplanning/community/metroconservationcorridors/map.pdf>);
- ◆ Presence of sensitive wetland, shoreland, or aquatic habitats that require protection to prevent water quality impairment;
- ◆ Evidence of growth pressures on sensitive natural resources;
- ◆ Demonstration of collaboration across municipal boundaries to identify, plan for, or develop policies or practices to conserve shared natural habitats;
- ◆ Consideration of how the deliverables produced under the grant will be used by local government;
- ◆ Ability of the applicant to provide at least a 1:1 match, with the match being non-state cash or in-kind support to the proposed project;
- ◆ Ability to complete work within 12-15 months;
- ◆ A qualified project manager to assure on-time project completion, announcement and/or dissemination of final products, and budget management;
- ◆ If selected for a grant, assurance that a resolution of support can be submitted within 4 weeks of award notification.

For more information, contact:

Marybeth Block, Metro Greenways Coordinator
Marybeth.Block@dnr.state.mn.us
651.259.5835

Sharon Pfeifer, Community Assistance Manager
651.259.5790
Sharon.Pfeifer@dnr.state.mn.us

Submission Deadline:

October 24, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

E-mail proposals by the deadline to the e-mail address above. Also, mail one hard copy of the proposal by the deadline to: Marybeth Block, DNR Central Region, 1200 Warner Road, St. Paul, MN 55106.

DNR NEWS



Shoreland Rules Update

With the completion of the twelve open houses in June and the formation of the three geographically focused advisory committees in August, work is now progressing on developing alternative approaches to the issues that were identified during Phase I of the project. The Issue Identification Report due out the end of September provides a comprehensive list of all information gathered during Phase I and can be found at the following Web site: <http://mndnr.gov/waters/shoreland.html>

Peder Otterson,
Shoreland Rules Update Project Manager

Rulemaking by the DNR

A new home for public information on DNR rulemaking has been created on the DNR Web site at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/rules/rulemaking.html>.

Features include:

- ◆ DNR's public rulemaking docket (a status list of all active permanent rulemaking projects)
- ◆ Reference lists of all DNR rulemaking completed during Fiscal Years 2009 and 2008
- ◆ Links to rulemaking project Web pages and other rulemaking links and information. The docket is updated weekly with any new information.

The DNR Rules Coordinator is Beth Carlson, Strategic Planner in OMBS Policy, Research, and Planning Services.

Rule writing and records retention are done by lead staff in the responsible divisions. See the Web site for contact information.

Beth Carlson
OMBS Policy, Research, & Planning Services
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Visit the MACPZA website:
<http://www.mncounties3.org/macpza/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MDA Releases Updated Version of Website

The MN Dept of Agriculture (MDA) recently released an updated version of the interactive website that illustrates township and county zoning ordinances and land use controls that regulate feedlots in Minnesota. This website was originally released back in early 2006. The website is a work in progress and it is estimated that approximately 200 townships in the state have some form of feedlot zoning regulations. To access or view the data, visit the website below or contact Rob Sip of the MDA at 320-255-2428.

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/animals/aodisclaimer.htm>



Save the Date: Strategic Animal Ag Conference

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission invite you to save the date for the 2009 Strategic Animal Ag Conference.

The conference will be held in Willmar, Minnesota at the Holiday Inn/Willmar Conference Center, January 15-16, 2009. The theme this year is "The Health of Animal Agriculture."

Hotel reservations must be made before December 16, 2008 to guarantee the discounted conference room rate of \$74.99 + tax, just say you are with the Animal Ag Conference. Toll free 1-877-405-4466.

More announcements and items of interest are posted throughout the year on the MACPZA Message Board

Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Update

The EQB has posted revised versions of the EAW form and the Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) process guidance at its website. These versions supersede all previous versions and should now be used when initiating an EAW or AUAR (except for feedlots EAWs which have their own custom form). The new EAW form and AUAR guidance can be accessed and downloaded from: www.eqb.state.mn.us/EnvRevGuidanceDocuments.htm. The EAW form is available in two formats: as an rtf file for electronic preparation or as a pdf file that can be printed and filled out as a paper form.

The guidance document *EAW Guidelines* has not been updated at this time. Although some of its content is outdated, that document (February 2000 edition) still contains useful information and should be consulted when completing the EAW form. It is available at the same website location as the EAW form. An updated version is planned to accompany the next revision of the EAW form (date uncertain).

Any questions about the new form or guidance should be directed to the EQB staff at 651-201-2492.

Website of Interest: Minnesota Planners Network

Fellow Planners,

My name is Jeff Sargent, City Planner for Columbia Heights. I've always thought that planners in the metro area, and state-wide for that matter, should have a place to congregate to gather information, bounce ideas off one another, and to NETWORK! So, I created a website to do just that called Minnesota Planner's Network.

My idea is that we, as planners, can use this site as a tool to gain insight into the field of planning. If it's asking for certain zoning requirements from planners of other cities, to asking for advice on a planning issue, this site can be very useful. I've also discovered how very important it

is to have social and professional networks with people in the planning field. Hopefully, this site can get us all a little more acquainted as well.

If you are interested, the site address is: http://z4.invisionfree.com/MN_Planner_Network/index.php?

Membership is free, but you will need to register to gain access to the site.

Click on "Register" near the top-left of the page to access the site. Follow the directions to register. I used my last name as the username, but you can choose whatever you want. You will need to input both your username and password to access the site each time.

CCLD Review Newsletter

The **CCLD Review** is a quarterly publication of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. Its purpose is to promote safe, healthy work and living environments in Minnesota and to inform construction and code professionals about the purpose, plans and progress of Construction Codes and Licensing Division.

Since December 2006, this publication has served as a replacement for CCLD's three former online newsletters (*The Standard*, *The Connector* and *The Catch Basin*) which are no longer published.

Sign up for the **CCLD Review**. Subscribers will receive an e-mail notification

each quarter when a new edition is available online. They will also receive periodic updates about CCLD activities and seminars.

[Sign up for e-mail notification](#) -- To receive e-mail notification when a new edition of *CCLD Review* is available online, click on [subscribe](#), select "CCLD Review" e-mail list for the options given, provide your e-mail address and click "submit."

Municipal Building Officials: Besides subscribing to *CCLD Review* e-mail notification list, please send any changes to your phone number or e-mail address to dli.communications@state.mn.us.

MPCA WaterFront Bulletin Available Online

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/waterfront/index.html>

MPCA SSTS Staff: Who To Call?

MPCA's regional SSTS staff are the front-line staff for ordinance questions and technical assistance with the statewide staff assisting as backup and technical support. The table below lists all the MPCA's SSTS staff, their contact information and areas of responsibility. Note that the area which each staff serves is a little different from the MPCA regions – use the list of counties in the table to determine who is the contact for your area. Until the vacancy in the southwest region is filled, Gretchen Sabel will be the first point of contact for ordinance and technical assistance questions in this area and Ron Swenson will be the first point of contact for business and licensing complaints.

Name and Location	Phone and E-mail	Area of Expertise
Clarence Manke St. Paul	651-296-4941 clarence.manke@pca.state.mn.us	Metro Area: Ordinance & Technical Assistance, SSTS Business Complaints, Rule Interpretation (<i>Chisago, Anoka, Washington, Ramsey, Hennepin, Carver Counties</i>) also Statewide Tank Fee audits
Pat Shelito Brainerd	218-828-2493 pat.shelito@pca.state.mn.us	Central MN: Ordinance & Technical Assistance, SSTS Business Complaints, Rule Interpretation (<i>Cass, Wadena, Crow Wing, Todd, Morrison, Mille Lacs, Benton, Stearns, Sherburne, Wright Counties</i>)
Brian Green Marshall	507-285-7302 brian.green@pca.state.mn.us	South East MN: Ordinance & Technical Assistance, SSTS Business Complaints, Rule Interpretation (<i>McLeod, Sibley, Scott, Dakota, Nicollet, Le Sueur, Rice, Goodhue, Wabasha, Brown, Watonwan, Blue Earth, Waseca, Steele, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona, Martin, Faribault, Freeborn, Mower, Fillmore, Houston Counties</i>)
Heidi Lindgren Detroit Lakes	218-846-0468 heidi.lindgren@pca.state.mn.us	North West MN: Ordinance & Technical Assistance, SSTS Business Complaints, Rule Interpretation (<i>Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Beltrami, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk, Clearwater, Norman, Mahnommen, Clay, Becker, Hubbard, Wilkin, Otter Tail, Grant, Douglas, Traverse, Stevens, Pope Counties</i>)
Ben Wiener Duluth	218-723-4786 ben.wiener@pca.state.mn.us	North East MN: Ordinance & Technical Assistance, SSTS Business Complaints, Rule Interpretation (<i>Koochiching, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Aitkin, Carlton, Pine, Kanabec, Isanti Counties</i>)
Ron Swenson Brainerd	218-825-3053 ron.swenson@pca.state.mn.us	Statewide Enforcement Supervisor, South West MN SSTS Business Complaints (<i>Big Stone, Swift, Meeker, Kandiyohi, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Redwood, Lyon, Lincoln, Pipestone, Murray, Cottonwood, Rock, Nobles, Jackson, Counties</i>)
Mary West St. Paul	651-296-7769 mary.west@pca.state.mn.us	Statewide: Program Administration; Technical, Soils and General Ordinance Assistance (backup to regional staff); Annual Report
Barb McCarthy Duluth	218-723-4710 barbara.mccarthy@pca.state.mn.us	Statewide: SSTS Tank and Product Registration, Soils and Technical Assistance (backup to regional staff)
Mark Wespetal St. Paul	651-296-9322 mark.wespetal@pca.state.mn.us	Statewide: Program Administration, Technical Assistance (backup to regional staff)
Gretchen Sabel St. Paul	651-296-7773 gretchen.sabel@pca.state.mn.us	Statewide: Program Administration, Legislative Issues, General Ordinance Assistance (backup to regional staff); South West MN Ordinance and Technical Assistance (<i>Big Stone, Swift, Meeker, Kandiyohi, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Redwood, Lyon, Lincoln, Pipestone, Murray, Cottonwood, Rock, Nobles, Jackson, Counties</i>)
Bill Priebe St. Paul	651-282-9884 bill.priebe@pca.state.mn.us	Statewide: Policy and Planning Supervisor
Jane Seaver St. Paul	651-297-1605 jane.seaver@pca.state.mn.us	Statewide: Individual Certification & Business Licensing

Note: All MPCA staff will be getting new phone numbers beginning in fall 2008 as part of a phone system modernization project. If the numbers listed no longer work, please check the Minnesota White Pages at <http://www.mail.state.mn.us> for more information, or phone MPCA's general number at **651-296-6300** or **1-800-657-3864** and ask to be connected.