



MACPZA

Minnesota Association of County
Planning & Zoning Administrators

125 Charles Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55103

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PRESIDENT'S BRIEF

By Mark Erickson, Renville County Zoning Administrator, MACPZA President

Many counties are anticipating changes in the operation of their planning and zoning departments as we patiently await to see the final state budget numbers as a result of the Governor's unallotment plan. The State's financial crisis has provided the stimulus for the Board of Director's to review the current direction of our organization and redesign and implement changes to strengthen it. During the first half of 2009 the Board has taken the following actions.

- ◆ Drafted a mission statement for MACPZA to be acted on at our annual meeting.
- ◆ Adopted goals for 2009-2010 regarding membership support, professional development, legislation and rulemaking and service delivery.
- ◆ Provided new direction to the legislative, curriculum and bylaw committees.
- ◆ Set up a budget task force to recommend a 2010 budget to be acted on at our annual meeting.
- ◆ Began a conversation with MnAPA to discover areas in which our organizations can collaborate including professional development and legislative efforts.

The changes in direction implemented by the Board will take time and a lot of extra effort from those members who serve on our committees. I

believe the direction we are heading will strengthen our organization for the future.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those members who have volunteered their time and talent to serve on the Board or a committee. For those members that are new to the organization or for those members that have not served on the Board or a committee, this is a great opportunity to meet your peers and share and learn new ideas. Please consider volunteering your time to serve on the MACPZA Board or a committee.

Mark Erickson
MACPZA President



SAVE THE DATE:

MACPZA Fall Conference

See page 2 for additional information on
the MACPZA Fall Conference

October 7-9, 2009

Sugar Lake Lodge, Grand Rapids, MN

Please Note MACPZA's New Website Address!

You can now find us at www.macpza.org.

COUNTY NEWS

Chisago County

Septic Pilot Program is Successful

The Chisago County septic pilot program came to an end on June 30, 2009. Chisago County inspectors have completed the evaluations of the eight townships and two cities where the County has septic jurisdiction. Chisago County inspectors were able to locate about 90% of the onsite septic systems.

To date the county has evaluated more than 4,500 properties and found over 400 to be identified as an imminent threat to public health (sewage that is either surfacing to the ground, entering surface waters, or backing up into a dwelling). With replacement of over 400 systems to date, the county and its citizens are preventing 189,000 gallons of raw sewage from entering the environment untreated EVERY DAY. That amount is equal to 31.5 milk trucks each carrying 6,000 gallons each day, or the amount would fill an Olympic swimming pool every 3.5 days.

The program was a great success by not only cleaning up the environment, but helping homeowners reduce the financial burden of the cost to replace their septic systems. Various grants and loan programs were available to Chisago County residents to pay for all or part of the installation cost. For more information on the pilot program, contact County Sanitation Kelly Strobel at 651-213-8373, or by email at krstob@co.chisago.mn.us, or Environmental Service Director Mary Darragh Schmitz at 651-213-8374, or by email at mdschmi@co.chisago.mn.us.

Fillmore County

Fillmore County Welcomes New Zoning Administrator, Chris Graves.

As of December 1st, 2008 I started working for Fillmore County as the new Zoning Administrator. I am replacing 24-year zoning veteran Norm Craig. I wish him the best in his retirement!

Prior to my employment with Fillmore

Send in your county news for our next newsletter!

E-mail submissions to werner@mncounties.org

County I was a Community Development Specialist and Planner/Revolving Loan Fund Manager for the Northeast Council of Governments (NECOG) based out of Aberdeen, SD. During my 6 years of working for NECOG I covered a 12-county region and my functions included assisting towns and counties with putting new municipal and zoning ordinance in place as well as researching and re-writing existing ordinances. I also worked on creating new comprehensive plans, as well as ensuring periodic updates. Part of my functions included ensuring each municipality and county I worked with abided by State laws in regards to compliance of the ordinances as well as ensuring proper adoption and related processes.

I was also the Mayor of Warner, SD for just over 2 years prior to moving to Minnesota. Warner is a small town just located south of South Dakota's third largest city, Aberdeen. Besides my normal duties as a Mayor I was also the Zoning Administrator. I am happy to be back into this arena and I look forward to helping the residents of Fillmore County.

I reside in Rochester, MN with my wife Michelle, and children Maegan and Tristan, 14 and 8 respectfully.

District B to Host the MACPZA Annual Conference in October

MACPZA Annual Conference



The 2009 MACPZA Annual Conference will be held October 7-9 at Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids, MN.

Highlights of the conference include:

- ◆ Mining
- ◆ Tour of Hill Annex Mine State Park
- ◆ Bonfire
- ◆ Native Shoreland Buffer Incentives
- ◆ Conservation Design
- ◆ Conservation Easements
- ◆ Transfer of Development Rights

- ◆ Annual Meeting
- ◆ Legal Review
- ◆ Annual Banquet
- ◆ Jay and Scott Mixer
- ◆ WCA Rule Updates
- ◆ Shoreland Rule Updates
- ◆ SSTS Rule Updates
- ◆ GIS

Registration and the full conference agenda are now available. Visit the MACPZA website (www.macpza.org) for registration materials and more information

Oh Bunny Barf!

In Memory of Tina Rosenstein



As many of know, Tina Rosenstein passed away on June 18, 2009 in San Antonio, Texas from ALS. Two weeks prior, Tina's husband Bob, lost his battle with cancer.

Tina and Bob moved to San Antonio last summer to live with her sister Mary who is a nurse. Tina mentioned Mary would be able to care for her as the disease progressed but it also meant she would never have to experience another Minnesota winter. She thought ice and her wheelchair would be a bad combination!

As the news spread of Tina's passing, many thoughts and stories were shared of experiences with Tina. To be sure, everyone will remember Tina in their own unique way.

If you would like to send condolences to the family, please send them to the following address:

Mary Wade
9223 Brae Moss
San Antonio, TX 78249

MACPZA Board of Directors Updates



2009-2010

Board of Directors

President

Mark Erickson, Renville County

Vice President

Mandy Landkamer, Nicollet County

Secretary

Jean Christoffels, Murray County

Treasurer

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Vacant

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Bill Patnaude, Beltrami County
Alternate: Vacant

District B

Bruce Benson, Carlton County
Alternate: Terry Neff, Aitkin County

District C

William Mayland, Benton County
Alternate: Lynn Waytashek

District D

Larry Gasow, McLeod County
Alternate: Mike Hanson, Cottonwood Co.

District E

Steve Just, Carver County
Alternate: Pam Flitter, Martin County

District F

Dale Oolman, Steele County
Alternate: Tracy Pooler, Wabasha County

AMC

Annalee Garletz

MACPZA Board Goals/Actions 2009-2010

1. Membership Support

- A. Increase communication and membership participation amongst MACPZA members.
- B. Revitalize MACPZA website to provide more informational and educational resources.
- C. Create an "experts contact list" of MACPZA members viewed as specialists in specific fields of planning and zoning.

2. Professional Development

- A. Explore the development and implementation of a certification program for planning and zoning administrators.
- B. Explore the feasibility of creating an area and use variance education cd based on the new findings for "practical difficulties" and "particular hardship."
- C. Enhance educational opportunities for MACPZA members.
- D. Create a planning and zoning administration resource manual for MACPZA members.
- E. Strengthening relationships and increase communication with groups that share similar goals and mission statements.

3. Legislation and Rulemaking

- A. Explore ways to better update MACPZA members of pending legislation and rulemaking issues.
- B. Actively participate in the development of legislative statute and rulemaking amendments that support AMC land use goals and policies.
- C. Work with other organizations with like goals regarding legislative and rulemaking policy.
- D. Create policy and legislative platforms for issues facing planning and zoning administrators.

4. Service Delivery

- A. Conduct and publish the findings of a survey of the MACPZA membership to explore new more efficient ways of providing, combining or sharing planning and zoning services.

MACPZA NEWS

MACPZA

Mission Statement

The following draft mission statement will be considered for adoption at the 2009 MACPZA Annual meeting at the Annual Conference in October:

It is the mission of the Minnesota Association of Planning and Zoning Administrators (MACPZA) to:

Promote and advance the art and science of environmental and land use planning by promoting quality education and professional development, providing a network for the exchange of ideas, and participating in the development of planning policy and legislation.

Sign Up for Message

Board Notification Emails

MACPZA members can sign up to receive notification via email whenever a message is posted to the MACPZA message board. Below are the step-by-step directions to sign up for these notifications.

1. Access the MACPZA message board through the link on the MACPZA website (www.macpza.org).
2. Enter your password to log in (if you need the password sent to you, please e-mail Maria Werner at werner@mncounties.org).
3. Scroll down to the very bottom of the left hand side of the screen. Below the list of messages, you will see the following statement:

To be automatically notified of new messages [Click Here](#)
4. You will then be prompted to fill in your contact information.

Once this process has been completed, you will receive an email whenever a message is posted to the MACPZA message board. Please note that the notification is only sent once per day. If more than one message is posted in a day, you will only receive one email notification. The notification will include a list of all messages that have been posted during the past 24 hours.

Visit the MACPZA website:
www.macpza.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wastewater Collection Maintenance for Small Systems



Midwest Assistance Program is offering a class in maintaining wastewater collection systems for small systems on Wednesday, July 29, 2009, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The class will be held at the Byron City Hall, 680 Byron Main Court, NE (10th Avenue NE and 7th Street NE) in Byron, Minnesota.

For certified operators, MPCA will award 4 credits for the training.

Topics on the agenda include:

Initial WW assessment: Checklist for operators and system owners.

Introduction to WW collection systems: Concepts and design factors for gravity, vacuum, grinder, STEP, and STEG systems.

Components of WW collection: Downspouts, cleanouts, sump pumps, service lines including forms (service line installation, minimum service line requirements, inspection forms, application forms), main line, manholes (manhole inspection form), and lift stations (inspection logs, tank testing form)

I&I: Definitions, identifying the cause (visual identification, smoke testing, television, building inspections, dye tests).

Correcting I&I: Private property solutions, replacing service lines, raising manholes, relining or replacing main lines.

Internal Reporting: Communicating with the Board and what information the Board needs to know. Developing historical data (flow data, tank tests, electrical loads, SSO's).

Operational Manual: Why you need it and what does it do.

For more information or to register, please contact Jeff Goldy at jgoldy@map-inc.org or 952-738-2499

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

The Minnesota Conservation Funding Guide

The Minnesota Conservation Funding Guide is a new "one-stop" resource that landowners, professionals, and policy makers can use to learn about conservation practices, programs, and payments. The tool is accessible from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) home page at www.mda.state.mn.us under the

"Do it online" heading. To learn more, see the news release at www.mda.state.mn.us/news/releases/2009/nr-2009-04-08-cfg.htm and a "Note to Ag & Conservation Professionals" at www.mda.state.mn.us/news/publications/protecting/conservation/cfgmemo.pdf.

House Public Information Services

House Public Information Services has published the 2009 New Laws publication, which summarizes newly enacted laws, vetoed bills, and some proposals that did not pass into law during a given legislative session.

The publication is available at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/whatsnew.asp>

Resource for Vacation Home Rental Property Owners

Explore Minnesota Tourism has created a resource for vacation home rental owners in Minnesota on the Web at: <http://industry.exploreminnesota.com/industry-communications/vacationhome/>. This website is a summary of information from regulatory and enforcement agencies across the state—and is a valuable resource to help vacation home owners sort through the rules and regulations that

affect the short-term rental of their properties, and understand who to contact if they have questions or concerns.

A press release regarding this new page is available at: <http://pres.exploreminnesota.com/explore-minnesota-tourism-offers-advice-for-minnesota-vaction-home-rental-owners/>. Please feel free to share this with your local newspapers and radio stations.

Minnesota Environmental Initiative

Non-Ferrous Mining in Minnesota: Issues and Opportunities

The Minnesota Environmental Initiative (MEI) is hosting a Policy Forum on Thursday, September 10, 2009 to expand the dialogue around the issue of non-ferrous mining in Northeastern Minnesota.

This Policy Forum brings together national experts and important stakeholders to explore key questions surrounding the potential economic opportunities and environmental impacts of non-ferrous mining. Presenters will overview recent economic impact analyses, projected environmental concerns, and protections that are currently in place through existing state regulations. The program will conclude with a facilitated stakeholder dialogue designed to help policy makers ensure that Minnesota is able to capitalize on the benefits offered by this new industry

while adequately protecting our citizens and valuable natural resources.

Non-Ferrous Mining in Minnesota:
What are the Issues and Opportunities?
Thursday, September 10, 2009
11:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
North Star Ballroom
U of M Saint Paul Student Center

Registration and buffet lunch begin at 11:00 a.m.

Location and parking information is available at: http://www.sua.umn.edu/reservations/directions/spsc_directions.php

Visit <http://www.mn-ei.org/events/upcoming.html#ferrous> for more information and to view the forum agenda.

MPCA WaterFront Bulletin Available Online

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

SSTS Program Update from MPCA

Advanced Design and Service Provider Classes and Tests

By Gretchen Sabel and Jane Seaver

Three new certification categories were added when MR 7083 became effective in February 2010 – the Service Provider, the Advanced Designer and the Advanced Inspector. Classes for Service Provider began first; two trainings for this certification have been conducted. The two-part Advanced Designer/Inspector class has been offered once so far. Additional classes in both disciplines will be offered this coming fall.

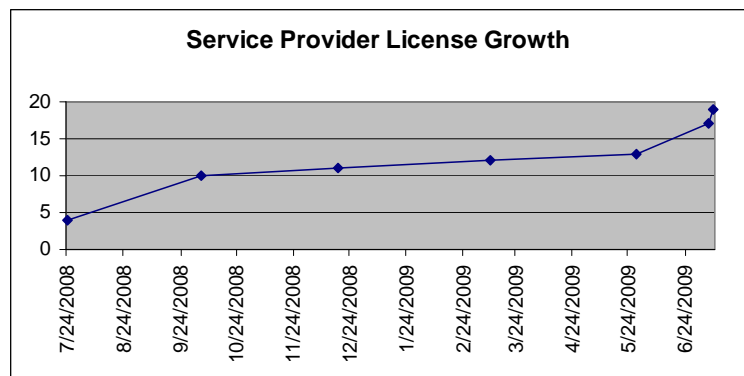
The tests associated with these classes are the new, competency-based exams that look at what the practitioner actually needs to know to do the job, not just at the rules that apply to their discipline. Eventually, all the SSTS disciplines will have competency-based exams that lead to certification. As competency-based exams, these tests are more rigorous than the previous regulation-based tests. MPCA follows a detailed process in developing first the Need to Know (N2K) for each certification – this N2K establishes the required framework for both the training and the test that follows. Practitioners from various aspects of the onsite industry participate in the N2K process to ensure that both the training and the test are practical and reflect the knowledge needed for successful work in that discipline.

Once the test has been taken, another review of the questions, based on how the test takers performed on the test, is conducted and some questions are eliminated after review by the Exam Development Team. For example, in the review of the 106-question Advanced Designer/Inspector test, eight questions were eliminated from the scoring before the final scores were assigned. Other questions were reviewed and adjusted or clarified. More information on testing procedures and results will be included in the upcoming issue of the MPCA's **SSTS REPORT**.

SSTS businesses are beginning to seek licensure in these areas as their DCI's earn new certifications. We have seen a steady growth in the number of Service Provider licenses as shown in this graphic

Looking more broadly, as of July 9, 2009, there are:
19 Service Provider businesses
1 Advanced Designer business
1 Advanced Inspector business

(Are you curious about the name of the first Advanced Designer/Inspection business? Check it out on the MPCA website at: http://www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/ists/search_SSTS.cfm?tab=business)



Curtain Drain Systems, Standards for Rock Trenches and MORE

MPCA has new policy on the use of curtain drain systems. This policy says that new SSTS that are proposed to use drainage methods to meet the required vertical separation distance will require a National Pollution Discharge Elimination (NPDES) permit issued by the MPCA, and would need to be operated by an MPCA-certified wastewater operator. Permitting and license fees are required for NPDES permits. For more information on this policy, please see: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/wq-wwists4-04.pdf> .

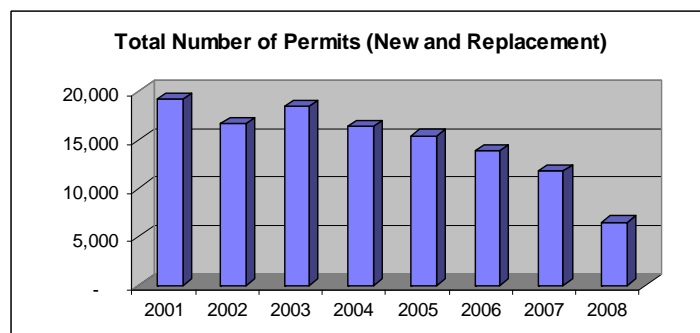
As you know, the standards for construction of rock trenches were removed from the rule and now exist in guidance issued by MPCA. You can find this guidance at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/wq-wwists4-40.pdf> .

If you haven't explored the MPCA's SSTS Webpage recently, you should take time to see what's there. These are just examples of the documents that have recently been posted. The main page is located at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/ists/index.html>

Permit Numbers Decline from 2003 High

MPCA has assembled some statistics based on the Annual Report data that you all send to MPCA, here's a quick peek at what we have.

(Continued on next page ...)



SSTS Program Update from MPCA

(Continued from previous page)

Visit the Local Government Page on the MPCA's SSTS website at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/ists/localgovernment.html> for more interesting statistics and detail.

Speaking of reporting... requirements for data reporting will be changing this year based on new legislative requirements. The deadline for the Annual Report data will move up, probably to January 1, and MPCA will be adding some additional questions to better answer the questions the legislature has laid out to be answered in years to come.

Vacancies on the SSTS Advisory Committee

Three voting positions are now open (Professional for both the SW and NW regions and a statewide township inspector). Visit the Advisory Committee's website at: <http://septic.umn.edu/events/sstsac/index.html> to learn more about the committee and refer contractors and others in your area who may be interested in serving to the site.

Funding for Sewage Programs and Projects

By Gretchen Sabel and Bill Dunn, MPCA

Reprinted from the AMC Newsletter, July 2009

Despite the challenging economic situation of the past half year, funding for sewage programs and projects has seen a significant increase in Minnesota this year due to the Clean Water Legacy sales tax amendment and federal stimulus funding. Counties can directly use some of these funds, and other funds are available to individual communities to improve wastewater treatment.

Funding for County SSTS Programs and Special Projects:

- ◆ Base Grants through BWSR's Natural Resources Block Grants (NRBG): \$9,931 per county per year (slight reduction from \$10,000/year due to reduction in one of the MPCA funding streams that helps to support this grant)
- ◆ Educational stipends for counties that have sent or will send their SSTS staff to the Advanced Design/Inspection class: \$750/year, maximum grant of \$1,500 for biennium; funding provided by MPCA and distributed through BWSR
- ◆ County SSTS Challenge Grants through BWSR: Total of \$2.017million for the biennium; funding through the Clean Water Fund, and
- ◆ County SSTS Inventory Grants through MPCA: Total of \$750,000 for the biennium; 50% non-state match (either funds or in-kind) required, funding through the Clean Water Fund.
- ◆ The NRBG grants have already been advertised; note that the SSTS base grants funds can be approved now as part of the grant but this portion will not be available in calendar 2009 because most of the funds in this pool come from the Clean Water Fund. The other three grants will be advertised in fall, 2009, so stay tuned!

Funding for Community Sewage Upgrades:

- ◆ Grants to assist municipalities in meeting added requirements to comply with wasteload reductions to meet TMDL implementation plans: total of \$21.175million for the biennium; and
- ◆ Small community grants and loans: includes technical assistance grants to help the community determine the appropriate wastewater treatment alternative for their situation (\$10,000 plus \$500/household up to \$40,000 per community) and construction funds to remove straight pipe discharges and upgrade other wastewater treatment problems (up to \$500,000/year per community, can be funded in phases for up to three years, 50-50 grant/loan for communities below Minnesota's average Mean Household Income).

Both of these pools of funds are distributed through the Public Facilities Authority. To be considered for either of these funding programs, projects must be included on the MPCA's Project Priority List. Application will be accepted in the month of July 2009. Funds are potentially available by mid to late August.

Funding for Individual SSTS Upgrades:

The Public Facilities Authority has made additional funds available for loans to homeowners through the AgBMP and Clean Water Partnership programs. In addition, a new pool of grant funds for upgrade (\$1.8 million for the biennium) was made available to BWSR through the Clean Water Fund; specifics on this funding will also be provided in the fall.

Notice of grant availability will come to counties as soon as the specifics are determined and processes in place – look for this in September. We are excited to have this opportunity to continue to work with counties to address sewage treatment problems. The work we do here will go far in helping to protect the health of Minnesotans and our waterways from pollution.