



MACPZA

Minnesota Association of County
Planning & Zoning Administrators

125 Charles Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55103

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MISSION:

It is the mission of the Minnesota Association of Planning and Zoning Administrators 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.

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www.macpza.org

PRESIDENT'S BRIEF

By Mark Erickson, Renville County Zoning Administrator, MACPZA President

It is difficult to predict what changes will be in store for county government during the 2010 legislative session. All indications are that the state budget situation will continue to deteriorate which ultimately will lead to cuts in program aid. The current economic climate has made it difficult for planning and zoning administrators to continue to administer current levels of land use and environmental programming with the resources they have been provided. The idea of implementing mandated programs and new rules with fewer resources is difficult to justify.

The MACPZA Board of Directors continues to participate and address issues relating to the development of planning policy and legislation that affect the planning and zoning profession. Issues the Board has been working on include:

◆ Moving forward with a MACPZA/ APA Minnesota joint initiative to study reform of planning enabling laws MN Statute 394 and MN Statute 462. A draft outline of action steps has been completed by APA Minnesota that includes solicitation of input from the planning community and city, county and township government officials, drafting elements of enabling law reform, identification of bill sponsors and participation in the legislative process in support of passage of a reform bill. The reform process has been designed to move slowly, in order to build trust and relationships with township and city government entities, with a tentative time line to complete this effort no earlier than the 2012 legislative session.

◆ Continued review and discussion of the issues regarding SSTS rule adoption. The Board has concluded that there are varying differences of opinion amongst counties, throughout the state, regarding the impact of the SSTS technical standards on local resources. The Board supports each county's reason for and decision to adopt or oppose portions of or all of the SSTS rule amendments. The Board has identified several issues common to all counties, which they will be working on during the upcoming year, including discussion regarding changes addressing the general rule making process and the future funding of County SSTS Programs.

In closing, there has not been a better time for our membership to join efforts and work together during these difficult economic times. We need to recognize that there will always be planning and environmental issues that all counties will not have agreement on. I ask that we not let these few issues come between our individual member relationships or the mission of MACPZA.

Mark Erickson

MACPZA President

*"In the middle of
difficulty lies
opportunity"*

- Albert Einstein



COUNTY NEWS

Hubbard County

Welcome Jeff Woodford

Jeff Woodford is our new Environmental Specialist who filled the vacancy created by Laird Hensel's passing away last December. Jeff served in Iraq as a medic with the Minnesota National Guard and started work for us on Tuesday, March 16th.

SSTS Ordinance Update

We are in the process of returning to our old SSTS ordinance after having adopted a new ordinance per the February 4, 2008 SSTS Rules. A public hearing on the matter is set for April 7th with action to rescind the new ordinance and return to the previous ordinance anticipated to follow. The Board is waiting to see what happens with the MPCA's rulemaking and the current legislative initiative before proceeding further with any new regulations.

Stearns County

Land Use and Zoning Ordinance Update

Stearns County has been in the process of updating the Land Use and Zoning Ordinance for the last two years. The next step in the process is to hold public hearings to get input from citizens. Some of the proposed changes to the Land Use and Zoning Ordinance include:

- ◆ Agricultural Conservation Design Overlay district to allow for more development flexibility in the Agriculture 40 zoning district
- ◆ Natural Resources Conservation Design Overlay district
- ◆ Transfer of Development Rights program
- ◆ Lot size in the Agriculture 40 zoning district
- ◆ Commercial kennels standards including limiting the maximum number of animals to 40

Performance Standards Developed

In 2009, Stearns County faced a proposal for the largest photo voltaic (PV) solar array in Minnesota. The County amended

the Ordinance by developing performance standards. The array sits on four acres of land near the campus of Saint John's University and has a power rating of 400kW.



The above pictures are of the photo voltaic (PV) solar array near Saint John's University in Stearns County.

Wright County

County Employees Recognized for Years of Service

Wright County holds an annual employee recognition ceremony at a County Board meeting early in March. The County Board has adopted official policy which states that "It is the policy of Wright County to recognize that employees are a valuable asset in service-oriented county government and to commend employees who have shown loyalty, dedication and performance exceeding their job requirements." This has become a popular annual event which includes recognition of employees for years of service, and also the announcement of achievement awards to one employee and one group of employees every year. Employees are recognized with a service award for each five-year interval of continuous permanent full-time or part-time Wright County employment. Service awards include a coffee mug with the years of service imprinted on the Wright County logo, a certificate and gift certificates with value amounts increasing with the years of service. Five-year awards are given by department heads within each department. Awards

for 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service are presented by the County Commissioners during a ceremony in the County Board meeting, and generally are well-covered by the local newspapers. It is a good morale boost for all employees, and good public relations besides. At the ceremony in March of 2010, MACPZA member Tom Salkowski was recognized by the Wright County Board for completing 30 years of service to Wright County in 2009.

District D to Host MACPZA 2010 Annual Conference

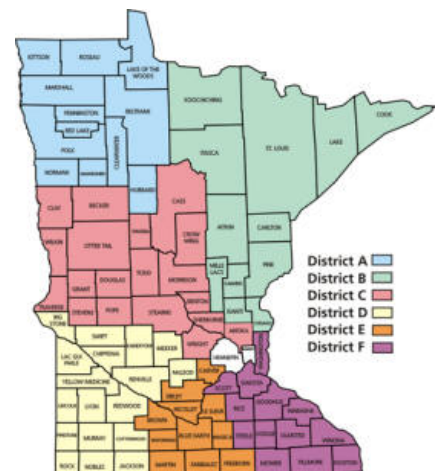
The 2010 MACPZA Annual Conference will be hosted by District D. The conference is tentatively scheduled for October 6-8, 2010 at the Holiday Inn in Willmar, MN. Watch for more details to come this summer!

We Want to Hear What's Happening Around the State

Please send us your county and district updates for the next newsletter! Not sure what to send? Consider these ideas:

- ◆ Is your county or district working on an interesting or innovative project?
- ◆ Have you recently adopted a new ordinance or updated an existing ordinance?
- ◆ What are your county planning and zoning best practices?
- ◆ Do you have a new member of your staff to introduce or a retirement to announce?
- ◆ Have you or members of your staff recently participated in training that was beneficial?

Please send your county or district news to: slavik@mncounties.org. Photos are also welcome!



Send in your county news for our next newsletter!

Email submissions to slavik@mncounties.org



Board of Directors

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Alternate: Pam Flitter, Martin County

District F

Dale Oolman, Steele County

Alternate: Tracy Pooler, Wabasha County

AMC

Annalee Garletz

MACPZA Board of Directors Updates

Vacancies Filled

At the December 2009 Board Meeting, Eric Buitenwerf, Hubbard County, was appointed the Alternate District Representative for District A on the Board of Directors.

At the February 2010 Board Meeting, Tim Nelson, Cook County, was appointed to fill the Past President term on the Board of Directors.

2010 Meeting Dates:

The MACPZA Board of Directors will meet on the following dates during 2010:

Meeting Date:	Location:
February 5, 2010	Kelly Inn, St. Cloud
April 9, 2010	Kelly Inn, St. Cloud
June 4, 2010	Kelly Inn, St. Cloud
August 6, 2010	Kelly Inn, St. Cloud
October 6, 2010	Annual Conference
December 6, 2010	AMC Conference

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the MACPZA Board of Directors meetings can be found on the MACPZA website: www.macpza.org.

Professional Development Committee Update

The Professional Development Committee is off and running in 2010. We're planning to meet quarterly and our most recent meeting was in St. Cloud on March 5th. The group's focus has been to develop a comprehensive outline of Planning & Zoning Administrators' areas of expertise, so we can formulate worthwhile resources and explore the possibility of a certification program. The outline of our professional functions will likely include upwards of 30 programmatic areas of competence. Some of the core functions obviously include Planning Commission, Board of Adjustment, enabling legislation, ethics, and zoning administration. However, on a statewide basis, county zoning administrators are required to be experts in all of the mandated and localized issues you can think of. The list is somewhat daunting as it includes everything from SSTS & feedlots, to water & environment, to solid waste & hazardous waste, to building code & economic development, to floodplain & shoreland, to wind

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& alternative energy, to platting & subdivisions the list goes on. We intend to use the MACPZA website as efficiently as possible. Once we have developed a comprehensive outline chart ("dashboard" of what we do and who we are), we're planning to post it on the website with hyperlinks to statutes, rules, resources, training opportunities, ordinances, etc. The use of technology and online services will hopefully provide us with direction as we explore the development of a MACPZA certification program. Our initial thoughts on a certification program is that it would need to be cost effective, voluntary and flexible, but it would also need to be meaningful and accredited. The Committee is planning to meet at the June conference with the goal of finalizing the "dashboard". If anyone has questions or would like more information, please feel free to e-mail sjust@co.carver.mn.us. The Committee's mission is as follows:

The MACPZA Professional Development Committee will...

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

A draft of the "dashboard" coming soon to the MACPZA website:



Visit the MACPZA website:

www.macpza.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Symposium on Small Towns and Rural-Urban Gathering: Finding Solutions and Redefining Communities



The theme for this year's Symposium on Small Towns will focus on leadership, capacity building, and practical solutions for improving small-town communities and strengthening rural-urban connections. In tough economic times, the importance of connecting with people and ideas outside of our local situations becomes vital.

Topics include:

- ◆ Saving money by reducing energy costs and waste
- ◆ Filling empty storefronts
- ◆ Creating effective partnerships and collaborations to address issues facing rural communities.

The University of Minnesota, Morris Center for Small Towns and Minnesota Rural Partners, Inc. and their Rural Urban Connections project are pleased to co-host this event. The Symposium will be a one day event on June 10, 2010. The Rural-Urban Gathering will be held on the evening of June 9, 2010 hosted by Minnesota Rural Partners, Inc. The focus of the gathering will be on the newly developing Rural-Urban Partnership Council with its emphasis on education, workforce and entrepreneurship to increase innovation and wealth creation. Both events will be held at the University of Minnesota Morris campus. Scholarships are available to those who might need assistance with the already low cost to attend.

For more information about the Symposium and the Rural-Urban Gathering, check out: www.centerforsmalltowns.org
www.minnesotaruralpartners.org
or call 320-589-6451

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

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.

Sewage Tank Registration Info Session

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recently held a question and answer meeting regarding the new sewage tank registration process and water-tight testing requirements.

According to Minn. R. ch. 7080, only sewage tanks that are listed with the MPCA may be used after February 2011. To guarantee listing by this date, all tank registrations must be submitted at least 90 days before this date. If the registration is submitted after the 90-day deadline, the MPCA may not be able to list those tanks by the February deadline; thus, the manufacturers would not be allowed to sell sewage tanks until they are listed.

The forms needed for information and registration are located at the following internet addresses:

How to be Placed on the "7080 Acceptable Tanks" List:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/wq-wwists1-17.pdf>

Application for Sewage Tank Listing:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/wq-wwists3-65.pdf>

Annual Water-tight Testing Certification Form:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/wq-wwists3-66.pdf>

Those who were unable to attend this meeting in St. Paul may view the meeting via webcast at: www.pca.state.mn.us/streams/tank_registration. The entire meeting will be available for viewing for one year (until March 2011) at this link.

Public Participation Tip Sheets Available

The University of Minnesota Extension has developed a series of tip sheets about public participation.

Topics include:

- ◆ Why should decision-makers involve others?
- ◆ How do we engage the public successfully?
- ◆ What type of facilitator will help most?
- ◆ How do we plan for an effective meeting?

- ◆ How can we support more productive discussions?
- ◆ What's the best decision-making method?
- ◆ How can we benefit from consensus decision-making?

Tip sheets can be found at the following website:

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/citizenship/00018.html>

MPCA WaterFront Bulletin Available Online

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

More Announcements on Page 6 of this Newsletter

MACPZA Legislative Update & Training: June 10-11, Kelly Inn St. Cloud
Bicycle Tourism Summit: April 29, Breezy Point

The SSTS Annual Report—Data Summaries

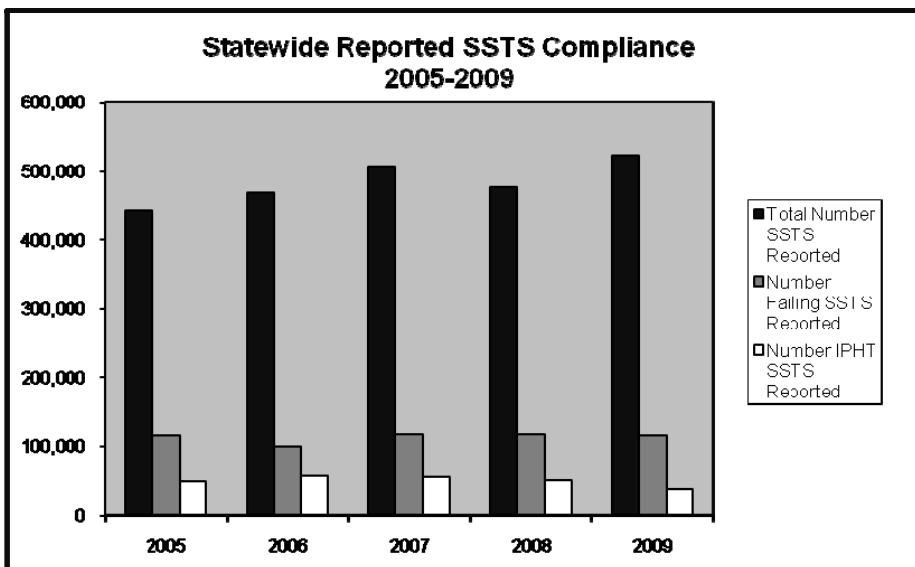
By Mary West, PSS, MPCA

Each year since 1996, Local Government Units (LGUs) have answered the SSTS Annual Report survey that MPCA has distributed. The Annual Report data provides MPCA and the Minnesota Legislature with information on statewide trends in Minnesota's SSTS industry. A few examples of analysis done on the data collected from the 500,000 SSTS in Minnesota are shown below.

MPCA has collected this data since 1996, however due to space limitations and ease of reading, information from the past 5 years was selected for two of the following charts.

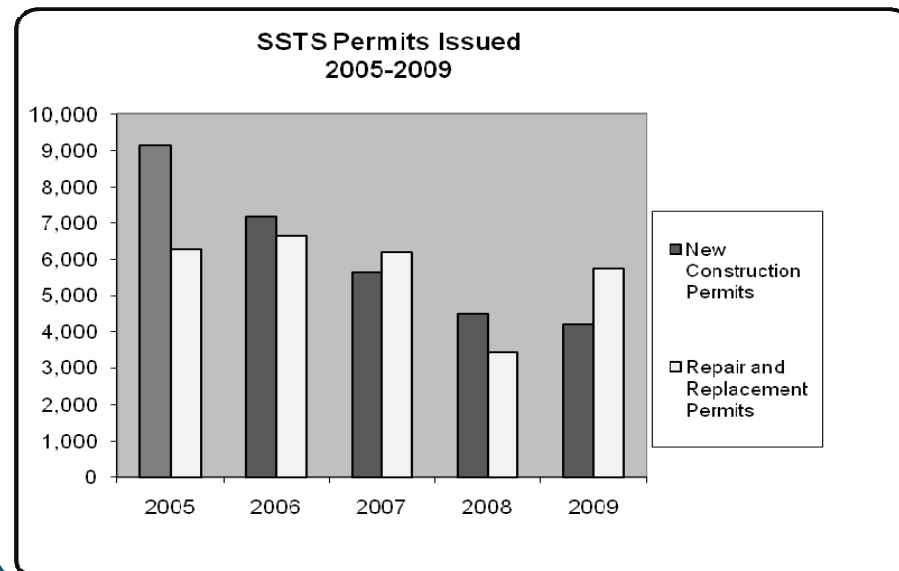
Statewide Reported SSTS Compliance

The largest number of reported Imminent Public Health Threat (IPHT) SSTS occurred in 2006; this was the same year the Minnesota Legislature passed Chapter 224, The Straight Pipe Act, allowing penalty fees to be assessed to homeowners who do not correct identified straight pipe discharges within 10 months. Since the Straight Pipe Act was passed, the reported number of IPHT systems has steadily decreased.



SSTS Permits Issued

SSTS permits can be grouped into two broad categories; permits for New Construction SSTS and permits for Repair or Replacement SSTS. The decreasing number of New SSTS over the past 5 years mirrors the decline of the housing boom. The increasing number of Replacement/Repair SSTS can be attributed to enforcement of local upgrade timeframe requirements for existing SSTS, as well as local inventory projects.



MPCA UPDATE

Numbers and Other Concerns

By Gretchen Sabel, MPCA

This has been a busy legislative session. As I write this on March 25, 2010, the bills to extend the deadline for SSTS ordinance adoption have been incorporated into larger bills and are moving ahead. We will all learn what happens to these bills in the month to come so I won't comment further on that now.

In hearings on the bills, there has been testimony from counties about MPCA and our working relationship with counties; a number of letters sent from counties to the MPCA Commissioner also shared problems and concerns. We take these comments very seriously, and want you to know that we are committed to working counties to build an effective statewide SSTS program. Our regional staff are on hand to attend local meetings and to work with counties on resolving both technical questions and licensing non-compliance. Those of us in St. Paul are also available – give us a call and invite us out. We are all on the contractor meeting circuit and speaking at workshops in this busy spring season, but want to do as much as we can to reach out.

And what about the numbers? First, I want to thank all the counties for sending in their data in the Annual Report. 2009 is probably the most complete data set that we've gathered in this program. We used the information to put together the article you've probably seen already in the MOWA or MNLCA newsletters; it's also included at the end of this newsletter.

This data is public information, and MPCA is obligated to provide it to anyone who requests it. We used this data to answer specific questions from Representative Wagenius for a county-by-county tally of the number of noncompliant systems. We are asked this question in various forms from year to year, and in our conversations with the legislators we inform them the figures are estimates.

Thanks in advance for your patience with us and for your continued efforts in the SSTS arena.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MPCA SSTS Annual Report—Data Summaries (continued from page 5)



Save the Date: June Legislative Update and Training

The 2010 Legislative Update and Training will be held June 10 and 11, 2010 at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud.

Be sure to watch your email and the MACPZA website for a tentative agenda and registration materials

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).

Enter your password to log in (if you need the password sent to you, please send an e-mail to Maria Slavik at slavik@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](#)

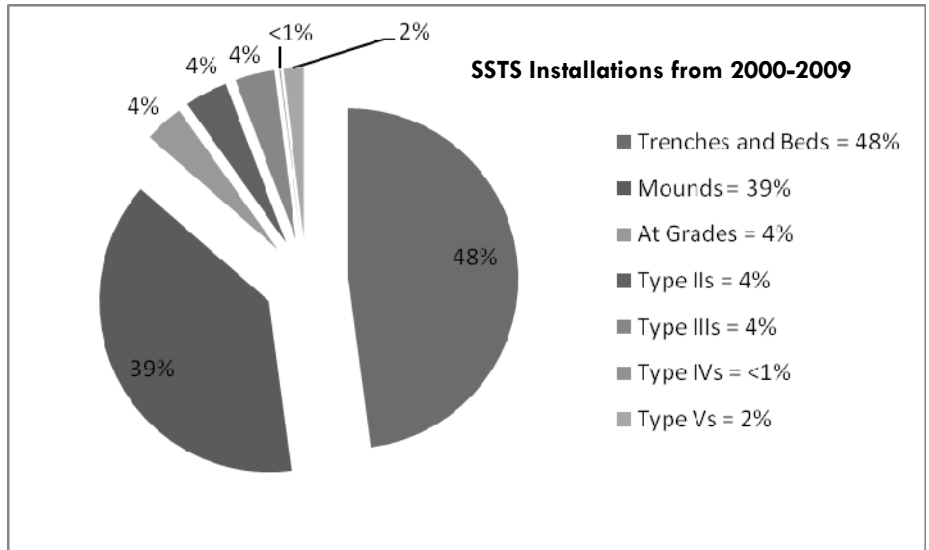
4. You will then be prompted to fill in your contact information.

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

SSTS Installations from 2000-2009

The Trenches/Bed data includes all rock, gravelless, and chamber media; Type II Systems are the old Alternative System category, which includes holding tanks; Type III Systems are the old Other System category; Type IV systems are the new Registered Product category added in 2009; Type V systems are the old Performance category.



SSTS Permits by Flow Volume

This data was not requested prior to 2008.

Year	Residential and Other Establishment Permits 1-4999 gpd	Residential and Other Establishment Permits >5000 gpd
2008	6510	1
2009	8569	1

For further information about the SSTS Annual Report, please contact Mary West at the MPCA. 651-757-2818 or mary.west@state.mn.us



Bicycle Tourism Summit

Thursday, April 29, 2010

A one-day educational and networking event on generating bicycle tourism will be held at Breezy Point Resort near Brainerd. Topics include: creating bicycle tours and events; using area trails and bicycle routes to increase tourism; and success stories from bicycle tour operators, lodging properties and businesses that are already capturing this market.

Explore Minnesota Tourism is planning the Bicycle Tourism Summit in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota, National Park Service and the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota.

Details on speakers and topics are at:

<http://industry.exploreminnesota.com/2010-bicycle-tourism-summit/>.

To register online go to:

<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=54c0437d-f7a3-4333-ba41-f76540521f07>