



125 Charles Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55103

# MACPZA

## Minnesota Association of County Planning & Zoning Administrators

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*By Jane Starz, Morrison County Zoning Administrator, MACPZA President*

Hopefully by the time you read this Minnesota will be out of the deep freeze. Some people seem to thrive at 40 below wind chills but maybe that is a north woods legend? In my farming days we used to say you can always put more clothes on when it gets cold but you can never take enough off when it gets hot. Let's just bottle the cold and bring it out in July!

As we gear up for spring many questions come to mind:

- When the legislators drop the final gavel for this year, what issues will county zoning offices be left to interpret?
- What will the 2008 construction season look like?
- How will the new SSTS rules change the workload for counties?
- How will the possible state budget crunch affect your county office?
- Will the Twins have a winning season? (One cannot focus on work ALL the time!)

If you can answer any of these questions, please share it with everyone on the MACPZA message board. Just another unbiased plug to use this tool when you have a zoning related question and need to tap into the brain power of many talented zoning administrators.

A couple of reminders:

- Please remember to renew your MACPZA membership for 2008. As of January 28, 2008 we had 57 members and 29 affiliates. Keep up the good work!
- Tentative plans for the fall conference are in the works. At this time it looks like the fall conference will be held in Red Wing, MN, Oct 1-3, 2008. Look for more information in the future.
- Be an active participant in MACPZA by attending your district meetings.

Have a safe and productive spring! ■

## SAVE THE DATE!

# MACPZA's Annual Legislative Update & Training June 12 - 13, 2008

### MACPZA Staff Contacts:

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## Climate / Energy Partnership Grants

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) invites applications from cities and counties for projects that will strengthen and encourage partnerships between citizens and local government in reducing community greenhouse gas emissions and energy use.

Small grants of up to \$10,000 may be awarded by the MPCA's Prevention and Assistance Division (through its Program Development and Implementation Technical Assistance Grants) for selected projects. As funds are very limited for this program, it is recommended that applications be sent in as early as possible in calendar year 2008. Additional funds may be available for these grants in future fiscal years.

The purpose of these grants is to increase cooperation between citizens and local governments, and to foster the development of local models and approaches that will effectively address climate and energy challenges. MPCA will share information and success stories from these projects with other communities.

Technical assistance may also be provided by the Minnesota Climate Change Corps (CCC) an initiative of the Minnesota Retired Engineers Technical Assistance Program (see <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/retap>). The CCC is comprised of skilled, retired professionals who work on either long or short-term assignments to help reduce a community's carbon footprint. City and county governments are the Corp's priorities for assistance, which is provided without cost to the community.

The MPCA seeks to support a variety of approaches involving citizens working in partnership with their local government. Examples of projects that may be submitted are:

- Creating or strengthening a citizen climate and/or energy task force for a city or county.
- Preparing a climate and/or energy action plan with active citizen involvement that will be formally adopted by the community.
- Supporting ongoing partnerships between neighborhoods/blocks and city government that will address climate and energy issues.
- Creating or using a network of block or neighborhood leaders to address climate and energy issues in a city.
- Other activities through which citizens will partner with a city's or county's climate and energy activities and which will result in concrete outcomes.

Projects should strive to meet the goals of the Next Generation Energy Act that was signed into law in 2007. For more information about this legislation see [http://www.nextstep.state.mn.us/res\\_detail.cfm?id=4034](http://www.nextstep.state.mn.us/res_detail.cfm?id=4034).

Eligibility: Only city or county governments are invited to submit applications under this category. Cities or counties that have signed the US Mayor's Climate change

To obtain a copy of the Request for Proposals, contact Martina Cameron at [Contracts@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:Contracts@pca.state.mn.us) (Subject line: "Technical Assistance Grants, CR 986"). Please be sure to look at the Questions & Answers and also Addendum 3 for more details about these grants. In order for MPCA to provide you with any RFT addendums or updates, please provide your name, e-mail address (preferred) and/or mailing address, and phone number. Visit <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/grants/index.html#program> for a general description of these grants. ■

## Happenings in Fillmore County

Have you ever thought of what it would be like if Minnesota had the same climate as south Florida? We would have construction season all the time. No breaks at all. It's kind of nice having winter. At least the number of customers coming in the office slacks off and we take a breather.

One of the biggest issues to be discussed this winter has been campgrounds. Fillmore County has no lakes; only rivers. With the beautiful limestone cliffs and scenic river valleys, campers seem to flock to the campgrounds come summer. To be sure, the best campsites are those found along the river. Everyone wants to camp as close to the river as they can.

Last summer, southeast Minnesota experienced some very strong storms and heavy rains. Rivers over flowed their

banks and people lost their lives. Many campgrounds suffered extensive damages. We were fortunate in Fillmore County in that no people residing in campgrounds in our county lost their lives. However, it did raise the issue of safety and camping along the river.

"How much should county government do to protect people from themselves?" That is the question. I don't know as I have the answer but our PC and County Board have undertaken the task of trying to sort it out. We have just adopted a new Campground Ordinance. The county will no longer allow RV's in the floodplain. All campgrounds must be closed during December, January, and February and no one may occupy a camper when the campground is closed. Other changes will be discussed in the next few months. It will be very interesting to see how this all turns out. ■

### **Register TODAY for this FREE Workshop!** **CREATING & IMPLEMENTING GREEN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

**March 5, 2008 - 8 AM-2 PM**  
**New Amherst H. Wilder Center, St. Paul**  
**Includes continental breakfast and lunch**  
**Cost: FREE; prior registration required**

Barbara Batshalom, Executive Director of The Green Roundtable in Boston, MA, will be conducting training for local government officials on March 5th at the new, sustainably-designed Amherst H. Wilder Center in St. Paul. Ms. Batshalom, a national expert on green building and development, will address how communities can successfully prepare and position themselves for the numerous opportunities that green development provides. Topics to be covered (among others) include: financial incentives for green development, processes for planning and implementing programs, addressing stakeholder interests, creating cross-departmental teams, and overcoming external and internal barriers.

**Contact Erin Barnes-Driscoll (651-215-0211) or Laura Millberg (651-215-0219), the MPCA Green Building Team, for further information.**

# Workshops on Agriculture Emergency Response

The Department of Agriculture, the University of Minnesota, and the Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management are hosting a series of regional workshops to assist counties as they work to integrate agriculture into county-level emergency response plans. The purpose of these workshops is to:

1. Provide county emergency preparedness and planning with a broad picture of agriculture in their county/region
2. Provide tools to supplement agricultural emergency preparedness and response planning, and
3. Identify agriculture emergency preparedness and response resources available at the county, state and federal level.

A number of counties have formed Local Agriculture Emergency Preparedness Workgroups. Others have added Agriculture to pre existing Local Workgroups. These workgroups meet regularly to discuss agriculture emergency preparedness and response issues, provide technical expertise and assist the Emergency Management Director in emergency response planning and building out county Agriculture emergency response capabilities and capacities.

County staff that should attend the workshops includes emergency managers, feedlot officers, and solid waste officers.

**Remaining workshop dates and locations are:**

**March 4-Grand Rapids**

**March 18-Thief River Falls**

**March 20-Marshall**

For more information contact:

Michael Starkey, MDA, 651/201-6286

or Katherine Waters, U of M, 612/625-4781. ■



## Wetlands Restoration Strategy for Minnesota

# FAST FACTS

**Purpose:** A wetlands restoration strategy can provide guidance for strategic decision making about which of the many potentially restorable wetlands should be prioritized for public and private investment.

**Co-sponsors:** BWSR, DNR, PCA, MDA, Mn/DOT

### Key elements of strategy:

1. Prioritize wetland restorations for greater benefit.
2. Enhance coordination of wetland restoration efforts across state and federal agencies, local government units, and non-governmental organizations.
3. Aim funding towards prioritized wetland restoration outcomes.

### Participatory process:

- Strategy development through a small design team.
- Prioritization approach (GIS-based) is currently being developed and tried out in two watersheds through meetings with local contacts (including county staff).
- Web-based stakeholder feedback surveys.
- Not relying on large meetings with stakeholders to get it done.

### Project Web page:

Sign up for project listserv and find more information at:

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/nrplanning/wrs/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/nrplanning/wrs/index.html)

### Timetable:

July 2007 through June 2008

### Contact:

Beth Carlson, Project Coordinator, Wetlands Restoration Strategy Project

651-259-5531 or [Wetlands.Rest.Strategy@state.mn.us](mailto:Wetlands.Rest.Strategy@state.mn.us) ■

## *The Association of Minnesota Counties encourages you to attend Minnesota's only* **JOINT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE**

April 9 - 10, 2008

Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront

Register on-line today at [www.mncounties.org](http://www.mncounties.org)

# REMEMBER TO VISIT THE MACPZA WEBSITE FOR MEETING MINUTES AND MORE!

[www.mncounties3.org/macpza](http://www.mncounties3.org/macpza)

*And don't forget to check the message board for the latest information and use it to easily communicate with your fellow ZA's...it's a great resource!*

**Are you updating your comprehensive plan or zoning ordinance?**

Please send your updates to Rebecca Brazys [brazys@mncounties.org](mailto:brazys@mncounties.org) so we can update the web site!

## MACPZA District Map

