

**MnAPA Legislative Committee**  
**3/6/09 Meeting Notes**

**Legislative Committee**  
**Fourth Meeting for 2009 Legislative Season**  
**2:00 – 4:00 pm**  
**Cunningham Group Office, Minneapolis**

**Present:** Co-chairs Bob Patton, Andrew Mack; Paul Mogush, Matt Brown, Michael Noonan, Blair Tremere, Brad Scheib, Steve Goltry, Suzanne Rhees, Andrew Gitzlaff (Washington County transit planner), Alex Conzemius, Legislative Committee Education Coordinator.

By phone: Mark Ostgarden, John Shepard

Andrew Mack, co-chair, called meeting to order at 2:05 pm

**Welcome and introductions.** Andrew introduced Alex as the new legislative coordinator.

**MnAPA Liaison Report** – Jean Coleman reported via e-mail. All MnAPA committees are now asked to submit their reports to the Board prior to the Board meeting, giving reports to Jean as Board Secretary.

**Planners Day at Capitol Update** – Arrangements are in place, including parking in the Sears lot. Presenters will include lobbyists for various organizations, including League of MN Cities, Association of MN Counties. Various legislators have agreed to ‘drop in’ during the meeting, between 2 and 4 pm, including Rep. Nelson, Senators Rest and Chaudhary. Brad will invite other legislators he has been meeting with. Bob is working with Jeff Smyser on getting certification for AICP CM credit, including the “legal” credits. Chairs will send out an e-mail blast to members with an update on legislators and other participants.

**Policy Platform Process Discussion** – Brad presented the detailed flowchart that was introduced last month. The process is intended to be an annual cycle that leads up to actual platform approval at the annual meeting. Most of the “heavy lifting” comes in development of platforms and policy positions (summer months). For topics on which there is no consensus, white papers can still be used to clarify positions.

- Discussion on whether the Chapter will actually begin drafting legislation – since much legislation is actually authored by advocacy groups. Consensus that this may be a future goal, as the Chapter gains experience.
- One minor revision to the chart is to list the first objective, “Be proactive about planning legislation in Minnesota” as the overall goal.
- Andrew thanked Brad for putting the process and chart together.
- Jean Coleman has also asked that the Committee discuss how to address this topic as a program at the Fall 2009 MnAPA Mini-Conference.

**Review of Draft Legislative Tracking Matrix** – Alex presented the current draft and an example of a more detailed matrix that AMC uses. There was agreement that the level of detail in the current draft is appropriate, but that a “Topic” column should be added and short titles of bills should be added where available. Changes should be highlighted, such as upcoming hearing dates. Blair mentioned that bills are “engrossed” at the point when they are assigned to a committee and given a formal title.

- The matrix should be made available on the Committee’s web page, as an Excel spreadsheet that can be downloaded (and probably a pdf as well). Will need a disclaimer statement that information is not guaranteed to be correct.
- Committee members need to “feed” Alex the bills they would like him to track.

- John Shepard brought up desirability of a week-by-week “blog” in future that could be posted, avoiding multiple e-mails to members. He will look into setting something up for internal Committee discussion. Discussed difference between what is posted for general membership and what is discussed internally.

### **Significant Bill Activity**

- **HF 1035** – one of several bills that use the goal of “greenhouse gas emission reduction” to accomplish other goals. This one is sponsored by Coalition of Greater MN Cities with the intent of giving cities greater authority to define orderly growth areas, changing annexation laws, limiting township and county input. School siting criteria could not include minimum acreage standards. (County and township associations oppose this bill.) Discussion of the importance of alerting the membership (e-mail blast) so that they can make their own opinions known.
- **HF 898**, “Sensible Communities” bill, requires similar planning by metro area cities; would provide some funding through University (Center for Transportation Studies) to assist in calculating greenhouse gas emissions. Local plan updates would be required by 2013 (changing to 2015?).
- **HF 1297** – Changes to annexation law to add similar considerations for greenhouse gas reduction; standards for planning for annexed areas, many other changes.
- **Green Acres revisions** – Some of the many bills in this category would simply repeal last year’s changes; others would include modest changes to the program. All will be heard at a hearing at 6 p.m. on March 17; result will likely be an ‘omnibus’ bill.
- **HF 305, Transfer of Development Rights** – Bill on behalf of Chisago County; would allow private banks or non-profits to hold development credits.
- **HF 764 – Interim Ordinances (Moratoria)** – Requires notification and hearing prior to adoption; complete applications received by adoption date must be accepted. Now modified to apply to residential and mixed use projects only.... Rep. Hosch wants consensus prior to a hearing.
- **Transportation bills** – many bills propose funding for transit studies, including studies for high-speed rail, Union Depot, etc. HF 430 would provide funding for school transportation from public transit assistance fund (metropolitan area sales tax for transit).
- **Rule-making** – Hearings are ongoing for phase 2 changes to Environmental Quality Board rules (4410); will be receiving comments through April. Changes relate to the scoping process for AUARs and shoreland rules. The Governor’s budget proposes to transfer the EQB to the Pollution Control Agency.
- Some cities are proposing **special service districts** for street reconstruction.

**Next meeting location (after Planners Day at Capitol) – TBD, possibly Golden Valley City Hall, or another active committee member will host on Friday, April 10, 2 – 4 pm**

Meeting adjourned approximately 4:10 pm.