

APA MN Legislative Committee Meeting
4th Meeting of 2010 Legislative Year
Friday, April 9, 2010, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Meeting location: SEH Office, Vadnais Heights

Present: Co-Chair Bob Patton, Andrew Mack (by phone), Cynthia Kirchoff, Jon Sevald, Andy Gitzlaff, John Shepard (by phone)

Meeting convened at 2:20 p.m.

- Agenda approved
- Planners' Day at the Capitol meeting notes approved

Discussion Items:

1. Comments on APA-National transportation policy guide to go to Lance (at National Conference)

2. Transportation for America (T4A) policy – should MN sign on as a state to what looks like a national issue? Andy: this will be influential at the state level. John Shepard would like to read the platform before endorsing. Bob suggested waiting until we review the material, then decide whether to support the campaign as a “partner” and which tasks to commit to. Andrew noted the need to comment on consistency with APA-MN’s own platform.

Andy volunteered to prepare draft recommendation and circulate for member comments prior to next Board meeting; put in Committee report to Board. Material will be e-mailed to Committee members to review

3. Planners' Day at the Capitol recap – discussed successes, potential risks in moving forward.

- Thanks to Jeff Smyser for obtaining CM law credits for the whole program.
- Next newsletter article should focus on what’s happening at the legislature, maybe on legislative reform initiative
- Need for a brochure for similar events to give to legislators – part of work program – get hold of membership brochure and refine it? Suzanne volunteered to get that brochure. Use committee funds for printing (\$500?)

4. Highlights at the Legislature:

- **H.F. 3502:** (not in matrix) establishes an account to cover the costs of establishing and maintaining a groundwater monitoring program in the 11-county metropolitan area – has DNR and PCA support – Clean Water Council – seems to be moving ahead – fees based on actual use of groundwater
- **Annexation bills** are not moving ahead, indicating the difficulties of reaching consensus on annexation issues.
- **HF 2695:** Job creation bill, includes historical structure rehabilitation credit establishment and appropriation; changes to TIF, including a “compact development district” as a new type of TIF district and local TIF authority modifications (passed 4/1/10).
- **HF 3079, Environmental Review** – establishes permitting efficiency goals for the Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, and the Pollution Control Agency and modifies environmental review provisions. Bill was “laid over” – pieces moved into larger policy bill.
- **HF 3469, Appeal of Local Zoning Decisions** – may surface on House floor – if approved, Senate takes action (made deadline in Senate last year, made House deadline this year), different language in each bill. Now HF 1557)

5. Enabling Law Reform:

- APA-MN needs to involve Greater Minnesota District Directors in issue identification
- Bob suggested that we need to create white papers – offered to facilitate a first meeting using a specific work planning module – a mini-strategic planning process – to assign tasks to people
- Suzanne suggested we might begin by brainstorming problems / ideas with planning statutes
- Discussed difference between a “clean slate” approach and a phased approach reserving bigger issues until later (Mark’s preference)
- Andrew: MACPZA has put their effort to compare 462 and 395 on hold so as not to “get ahead” of the joint effort
- Bob explained that the strategic planning process starts with:
 - vision of success
 - “Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Risks” analysis
- Andrew suggested that APA-MN still needs to focus on issue identification, rolling up sleeves, beginning white paper process, etc.
- Discussion of various state models – Michigan, etc.
- Decided that we can work on issue identification without choosing a course of action (clean slate approach vs. phased approach)
- Andrew to share material on state models
- Interested in legislative reform subcommittee work: Andrew, Bob, Cynthia, Suzanne, Jon,
- John Shepard can assist as an associate MACPZA member

6. Planning and Law Committee: Cynthia is trying to organize happy hour for the last week in April – Committee has been dormant – need to keep members up to date on court cases; figure out what committee wants to do. There are at least seven cases this year involving planning, including cases from Minnetonka, Cook County, St. Louis Park, etc. An annual session on ‘staying out of court’ procedures at state conferences would be helpful – i.e. notices, findings.

Next meeting date: May 14 in Golden Valley – May try to schedule joint meeting for that day with MACPZA. (Mark has work group of 3-4 people assigned to legislative reform already.) Suggest holding APA-MN meeting at 1:00 pm, then 2:00 for joint meeting

[NOTE – MEETING DATE NOW CHANGED TO MAY 21 TO WORK WITH MACPZA SCHEDULE]

Meeting adjourned 4:05 p.m.