

MnAPA Legislative Committee

2010 Work Plan & Budget

11/6/09 Final Draft

At its 11/6/09 meeting, the members of the MnAPA Legislative Committee approved the following work plan of activities for the period December 2009 through November 2010. As noted, several of the activities are dependent on funding.

1. **Create policy positions on legislative topics of interest to planners.** The goal of this activity is to create a policy platform for MnAPA. This activity will involve identifying topics, developing draft positions by the Legislative Committee, seeking approval on draft positions from the MnAPA Board of Directors, and publishing the positions. It is anticipated that this activity would start slowly and develop over time. The Legislative Committee anticipates drafting positions on 2 or 3 topics over the next year. No funding is required for this activity.
2. **Communicate regularly with the MnAPA Board of Directors on Legislative Committee activities.** The goal of this activity is to keep the official body of the MnAPA informed of Legislative Committee activities to ensure oversight. This activity will involve Legislative Committee reports at all regular MnAPA Board meetings, an official liaison to the Legislative Committee from the Board, communication on issues that arise between board meetings, and development and approval of a yearly committee work plan. No funding is required for this activity.
3. **Organize a *Planner's Day at the Capitol* during the Minnesota legislative session.** The goals of this activity are: familiarize MnAPA members with the legislative process and lobbying limitations; establish contacts between members and legislators; raise awareness of legislative issues of interest to planners. This activity will involve organizing a program in cooperation with the MnAPA Program Committee, inviting members, arranging for speakers, and working with legislators & other interested organizations to create a successful event. This activity would require funding to pay for various incidental expenses to put on the event. Estimated Cost - \$500.
4. **Educate MnAPA members on potential legislation and introduced legislation of interest to planners.** The goal of this activity is to keep members informed in a timely manner about legislative issues upon which they may choose to act. It is not intended to be used as an avenue to organize for lobbying on specific issues. This activity will involve tracking legislative activity, including pre-bill introduction efforts, creating e-alerts, creating content for the MnAPA website and newsletter. This activity requires increased funding to pay for the on-going services which were provided by the Legislative Education Coordinator. An intern role was used in this capacity for the first year and was very effective. The amount of time and effort required to meet expectations for the position demanded more time than estimated. The committee requested the coordinator to provide feedback on the new role established and was attached to this work plan. Estimated Cost - \$4,000.

5. **Build coalitions with other associations (e.g. LMC, MAT, AMC, MCPZA) and participate in efforts relating to developing legislation and rulemaking (e.g. Shoreland Rulemaking, Annexation Task Force, Main Street Task Force, Agriculture and Open Space Task Force).** The goals of this activity are to establish relationships with associations that are active on legislative issues of interest to planners and to represent MnAPA in official efforts that may affect planners. This activity will involve inviting association representatives to observe Legislative Committee activities, meeting with association representatives, tracking activities of legislation and rulemaking efforts, and requesting appointment of official MnAPA representatives to selected task forces. Assess Chapter Board position on how to respond to outside organization inquiries to support positions of interest to the planning profession. No funding is required for this activity.
6. **Create an increased MnAPA presence at the Minnesota Legislature by initiating various forms of contact and communication with legislators.** The Legislative Committee intends to enhance the chapter's ability to serve as an organizational resource to legislators and their appointees, as the professional organization in the Minnesota with broad expertise in policy and technical matters related to the planning profession. The committee will also work with APA National to support the chapter's role to initiate and maintain these efforts. This is not intended to create a lobbying position or activity on behalf of the chapter. The efforts will include increased communications such as written letters of introduction, information about who MnAPA, and what the general platforms of the organization are, etc. We anticipate preparing professional handout information pertinent to the platforms and other approved communication efforts by the chapter board. Estimated Cost - \$500.
7. **Initiate CPC Grant Application.** Investigate and draft APA Chapter President's Council grant application for board approval. Funding will be sought from APA to assist the Chapter and Legislative Committee in pursuing new program initiatives.