

COUNTY PLANNING



American Planning Association
County Planning Division
Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the County Planning Division
of the American Planning Association

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The 2011 American Planning Conference will be April 9-12, 2011 in Boston, Massachusetts.

OUR MISSION: The County Planning Division of the APA seeks to strengthen relationships among county planners, county elected officials, and other county personnel by facilitating the sharing of technical information, encouraging continuing professional development of its members, researching county planning issues, and building strong ties with other planning issues, and building strong ties with other organizations and disciplines with related interests.



[Future County Planner](#)

From the Chair:

The County Planning Division had a very successful national planning conference in New Orleans. County planning and county planners were well represented on the conference agenda, including sessions sponsored by our division and other divisions, such as the Small Town and Rural Planning Division. Over 30 members and interested persons attended our joint annual meeting of the County Planning Division and National Association of County Planners. Since the conference we've had a small spike in memberships for both organizations.

Last year a main subject of conversation around the conference was the economy and how perhaps it will lead to long term changes in how we build communities. This year much of the conversation was centered on the new administration in Washington. APA leaders are very enthusiastic with the administration's approach to program development and planning. Since President Obama has taken office, APA leaders have had over a dozen meetings with his staff where they have been able to promote the value of including good planning processes in program development and implementation. Perhaps we are beginning to see the change in how we build communities.

Dennis Sandquist, Chairman

NEWSLETTER Schedule

SPRING

Submittal deadline: March 15

SUMMER

Submittal deadline: June 15

FALL

Submittal deadline: September 15

WINTER

Submittal deadline: December 15

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION: This newsletter is published by the County Planning Division of the American Planning Association. Circulation is to the APA members of the County Planning Division (CPD). The CPD Executive Committee welcomes submission of original articles, editorial letters, and any other information of interest to County planners. Submissions should be made to the newsletter editor:

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County Planner Profile

Short profiles of our members

County/Employer: Story County Planning and Zoning Department, Story County, Iowa

Name: Leanne Lawrie Harter

Job Title: Director

Years in position: 10

Education: Bachelor's from Central College in Pella, Iowa; Master's (Community and Regional Planning) from Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

What did you do before going into planning?

For a brief period of time, I worked in local politics and also took coursework in architecture. My father was diagnosed with terminal cancer shortly before I graduated from Central College; before going into graduate school full-time, I lived with my parents to spend time with my father and help my mother provide in-home care for him.

Is your county considered urban or rural?

The unincorporated jurisdiction (over which our department has jurisdiction) is rural, however, the entire county includes Ames and Iowa State University, with more urban levels of development and growth pressures from the Des Moines metropolitan area to the south.

Accomplishments during your current position:

Transitioning from a paper-dominated department to one where we've almost finalized scanning in over 50 years of documents and integrating a paperless action plan.

Developing a Box City Festival that can be done in a one-day format or hosted over several days. We've established partnerships with the local school district to introduce planning and zoning concepts at the elementary levels.

Engaged in food systems planning emerging in Story County. The Story County Local Food Systems initiative promotes the consumption of local foods to reduce the County's carbon footprint in the processing and transportation of imported foods.

COUNTIES IN THE NEWS

2010 WESTERN PLANNER CONFERENCE

August 10-13, Vancouver, Washington

You won't want to miss the 2010 Western Planner Conference, hosted by the Planning Association of Washington, August 10-13 in Vancouver, Washington. The Conference Theme is "Lasting Legacies and Living Landscapes." Four tracks will be offered, Lasting Legacies, Transportation, Living Landscapes, and Tools of the Trade-Plans and Implementation. Several Mobile Tours will also be available. Conference coordinators will apply for over 30 CM credits, and law and ethics sessions will also be offered.

Please visit the Western Planner Web site at www.westernplanner.org to view the preliminary Conference Schedule and registration information.

WPR and PAW are also looking for sponsors and presenters. If you are interested in sponsoring or presenting for the conference, please contact Brian Frampton at BFrampton@wenatcheewa.gov or 509-888-5253.

You will also find 2010 Western Planner Award nomination information on the WP Web site. Think about a planner or a project you would like to nominate for the *Western Planner of the Year*; the *Sheldon D. Gerber Award for Environmental Excellence*; or the infamous *Lester award*.

For more information on *The Western Planner* journal, please contact WP Editor Debbie Ehlers at dseconsulting@msn.com or 307-234-9442.

COUNTIES IN THE NEWS

LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS WINS AWARD

Lake County Illinois was awarded a 2010 National Association of Counties Achievement Award for its work in facilitating the Wind Energy Taskforce of Lake County Communities. With the recent rapid growth in wind energy technology, Lake County and many of its municipalities felt that they needed more information and resources if they were to be ready for the permitting and regulation in their own jurisdictions. The challenge was how to promote responsible alternative energy resources, while protecting the well-being of the neighbors at the same time. Staff from Lake County, over 20 municipalities and two consulting firms met monthly over 9 months to research wind energy systems, share resources through Google Groups, and develop their own Resource Guide to answer common questions and concerns about wind energy systems. They developed a Model Ordinance for Wind Energy Systems that could be adapted to fit the needs of the County and its different communities.

Contact:

David Husemoller, AICP

Senior Planner

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COUNTIES IN THE NEWS

Brookings County SD Uses Grant Opportunities to Protect Local Transmission Pipelines

Written by James Davenport, Program Manager
NACo

The pipeline system is considered the most efficient and safest way to transport natural gas and petroleum products across the country. Over the past several decades, most of the pipelines in the transmission system were placed in rural and isolates areas in order to better protect the pipeline and assure minimal impacts to local communities. However, continuous economic growth that brings with it expanded housing and commercial development prompts a need for even more pipelines in order to meet growing energy demands.

With the increased developmental pressure on communities, the proximity of people to transmission pipelines becomes more of a reality. Thought this many pose some safety challenges to county officials, staff and other stakeholder, county governments have the resources and tools to help them address these impacts and reduce the risk of pipeline incidents while at the same time reducing the chance of damage to transmission pipelines.

Several years ago, Brookings County, South Dakota was awarded a technical assistance grant through the U.S Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) office to assist them in addressing the challenges related to protecting existing natural gas and transmission pipelines in the county and the residents who live adjacent or near these pipelines.

Through this opportunity, Brookings established two objectives:

- Develop a Pipeline Risk Reduction Overlay District
- Disseminate a safety brochure from Brookings County detailing the procedures to apply for a building permit and the applicable setback requirements from transmission pipelines.

Transmission Pipeline Risk Reduction Overlay District

The Pipeline Safety Appendix was added to the current ordinance for the purpose of developing a Transmission Pipeline Risk Reduction Overlay District. The purpose of the overlay district was to clarify the uncertainties of pipelines to the residents of Brookings County. The final overlay district was approved on November 17, 2009 as amended to the 1997 Revised Brookings County Zoning Ordinance.

Brookings County consulted several parties while developing the overlay district including representatives from

- State of South Dakota Public Utilities Commission;
- City of Brookings and Volga Officials;
- Brookings County Commission and its Geographic Information System (GIS) Coordinator,
- Planning Commission,

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- Emergency Management, Sheriff's, Highway, and Planning Departments;
- The Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad Company;
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Northern Natural Gas Company, Northwestern Energy, and Northern Border Pipeline Company; and
- Cycla.

The county chose to develop the overlay zone instead of establishing set back standards designated for each land use classification including lake properties and parks, natural resource areas, commercial districts and agricultural sites. The overlay zone was developed similar to the aquifer protection district already in place in the County.

The overlay district consisted of communication and planning approaches recommended by a pipeline planning guidance document. This document is currently in draft form and is to be published and released through PHMSA as the Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) document.

Safety Brochure

A safety brochure was developed and made available to the public. In addition, the brochure was distributed to specific landowners informing them that their property was near a transmission pipeline along with an invitation to attend a public meeting that discussed procedures to apply for a building permit and the applicable setback requirements. The brochure was also available online and it is anticipated that the same type of brochure will be developed for pipelines that are to be sited in the county at a future time.

Dissemination of Technical Findings

The two pipeline operators in Brookings County, Northern Natural Gas Company and Basin Electric Power Cooperative participated in the development of the overlay zone and assisted by providing data when requested and reviewing the documents as they were being prepared.

Two public meetings were held.

The first meeting was held on October 6, 2009 at a regularly scheduled Brookings County Commission Meeting. Officials from the City of Brookings were in attendance along with members of the public.

The second meeting, October 27, 2009 was in the City of Volga's Community Center which is the approximate half way point of the Northern Natural Gas Company pipeline in Brookings County.

In these meetings, maps were displayed showing the setbacks and procedures were explained for obtaining a building permit. In all the discussions, it was explained that the major goal of the overlay district was related to communications among homeowners of sites near pipelines, developers, and the pipeline operators. A PHMSA contractor, Cycla, assisted Brookings County by providing personnel to review the document and providing helpful feedback.

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For more information on the Brookings County Pipeline Risk Reduction Overlay District, please contact Robert Hill, Brookings County Zoning & Drainage at 605-696-8350 or email rhill@brookingscountysd.gov. For more information on the draft PIPA report, please contact James Davenport, NACo at 202-661-8807 or email jdavenport@naco.org.

Pipeline safety is a concern throughout the nation. The best place to start looking for information is:

<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline>

Do you know if you have a pipeline running through your local jurisdiction?

<http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov/>

NEWS

2011 APA National Conference Proposal Formats

General Session

Deadline to Propose: August 24, 2010

Sessions are the most traditional form of proposal and create the bulk of the conference content. Topics cover a wide area of information, and can be organized in many different ways.

Research Individual Presentation

Deadline to Propose: August 24, 2010

Proposals on planning research related to sustainability are invited. A special track of this academic research will be created from the selected proposals.

Technology Showcase

Deadline to Propose: August 24, 2010

The Technology Showcase consists of demonstrations and discussions regarding software, project applications, and case studies of visioning software, databases, GIS, and other planning information technology.

Training Workshop

Deadline to Propose: August 24, 2010

These full or half day training workshops provide practical skill development for planners and officials as they perform their jobs. Workshops incorporate lectures, hands-on experience, extensive interaction, and useful resources for participants.

Facilitated Discussion

Deadline to Propose: August 24, 2010

Facilitated discussions allow for informal, more intensive discussion among groups of people who share ideas or have situations in common.

Poster

Deadline to Propose: August 24, 2010 (non-students)

Deadline to Propose: October 12, 2010 (student members)

Poster presentations highlight individual presentations on planning research, case studies, and planning projects. The mounted posters are displayed in the exhibit hall Saturday through Monday, with a special time on either Saturday or Sunday for informal discussion with attendees.

Mobile Workshop

Deadline to Propose: July 27, 2010

Local Host Committee Track

Deadline to Propose: July 27, 2010

The Local Host Committee creates a special track focusing on local and regional planning initiatives and programs in Boston.

All above information was borrowed from the APA's website.

If you are interested in proposing a session the County Planning Division (CPD) contact person is:

Judy M. Francis, AICP

NC DENR-Ashville Regional Office, Office of Conserv. & Comm. Affairs

2090 US 70 Highway Swannanoa, NC 28778 Telephone: (828) 296-4500 FAX: (828) 299-7043

EMAIL: Judy.Francis@ncdenr.gov

Important Contact Information

Feel free to contact any of the following individuals with your ideals and suggestions, as well as your willingness to volunteer to assist the Division in any capacity:

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