

APA - Wisconsin Newsletter



American Planning Association
Wisconsin Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association

Upper Midwest Returns to Wisconsin: 2012 is Joint APA and CNU Conference



September 26-27, 2012 in Madison, Wisconsin

Every four years, Wisconsin hosts the APA Upper Midwest regional conference. This four-state conference rotates among the APA chapters in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa. In addition, this year APA-WI has joined with the Wisconsin Chapter of the Congress for the New Urbanism to offer a joint conference.

The conference theme this year, Planning for the Next Generation, will offer two full days of plenary sessions, smaller breakout presentations, and mobile workshops.

Among the plenary speakers being invited to this year's conference are APA President Mitch Silver. Mr. Silver will open the conference on the first day. In addition to serving as APA president, Mr. Silver is also the Chief Planning &



Development Officer and Planning Director for Raleigh, North Carolina. Mr. Silver is an award-winning planner with over 27 years of experience in the public and private sectors. He is nationally recognized

for his leadership in the planning profession and his contributions to contemporary planning issues.

Other plenary speakers include former Milwaukee mayor and President of the Congress for

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www.wisconsinplanners.org

The WAPA Newsletter is published electronically four times each year by the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association to facilitate discussion among its members of planning issues in Wisconsin. Correspondence should be sent to:

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Change of Address: WAPA Newsletter does not maintain the address lists for any APA publication. All lists are maintained at the national APA office and are updated and mailed to the chapters each month. If you have moved, please contact Member Services Coordinator, APA National Headquarters, 122 S. Michigan Street, Suite 1600, Chicago, IL 60603-6107 or call (312) 431-9100 or FAX (312) 431-9985.

Membership Information: To become a member of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association, simply become a member of the APA. An application form is provided on the back of this publication. Or you may opt for Wisconsin Chapter only membership.

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Submission of Articles: WAPA News welcomes articles, letters to the editor, articles from the WAPA districts, calendar listings, etc. Please send anything that may be of interest to other professional planners in Wisconsin. Articles may be submitted by mail, fax, or email. Articles may be edited for readability and space limitations prior to publication. Content of articles does not necessarily represent the position of APA, the WAPA Executive Committee, or the editor.

Submit articles by email attachment. Graphics are encouraged

Deadlines:

Winter issue: submit by January 15.
Spring issue: submit by March 15
Summer issue: submit by June 15
Fall issue: submit by September 15

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Visit the APA - Wisconsin webpage for up-to-date news and information between issues of the the APA-WI Newsletter.

the New Urbanism, John Norquist, and Shelley Poticha, Director of the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities at HUD.

**Visit the Upper Midwest
on Facebook**

For the first time, APA-WI has created a Facebook page just for the conference.

Please [visit the page](#) and hit the Like button to help spread the word about this great event.





Name:
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Mr. Norquist had a distinguished career in government service in the state legislature and as mayor of Milwaukee prior to being selected to head the Congress for the New Urbanism. He is perhaps best known for his successful effort in Milwaukee to remove almost a mile of elevated freeway that bisected the north side of Milwaukee's downtown. He is also the author of the *The Wealth of Cities*. During his term as

mayor, he was both an insightful critic of some of the Milwaukee area's worst urban design and a visionary leader in bringing about a renaissance in design quality in Milwaukee.

Ms. Poticha is an expert in growth management and leads HUD's interagency effort to integrate housing, environment, and transportation in federal policy in order to improve affordability and increase choices while improving the environment. Ms. Poticha is recognized as responsible for the first regional Transit-Oriented Development in the San Francisco Bay area and is co-author of the excellent book on TODs, *The New Transit Town: Best Practices in Transit-Oriented Development*.

In addition to these and other plenary speakers, the conference will offer a full array of breakout sessions exploring how planners across the Midwest are planning for the needs of the next generation.

Mobile workshops include a bike tour—Madison has been recognized as a Gold Bike Friendly city. In response to its application to the League of American Bicyclists, reviewers were "impressed with Madison for the ongoing quality of efforts to promote bicycling and enthusiasm in the community to be a shining example of what can be done in a four season climate" (<http://www.cityofmadison.com/bikeMadison/about/platinumBiking.cfm>).

Another conference opportunity is a walking tour down Madison's historic State Street with Mayor Paul Soglin.

Save the date: September 26-27!

New Plan Commission Handbook Available

By REBECCA ROBERTS, LAND USE SPECIALIST,
CENTER FOR LAND USE EDUCATION

A new Plan Commission Handbook is now available from the Center for Land Use Education. The handbook is designed to orient new members to the roles and responsibilities of the plan commission and to serve as a handy reference for veteran members of the plan commission. Planning and zoning staff, elected officials, and citizens will also find the handbook useful. Chapters in the new handbook include:

1. Introduction to the Commission
2. Procedural Responsibilities
3. Community Planning
4. Public Participation
5. Plan Implementation
6. Ordinance Administration
7. Zoning Regulations
8. Subdivisions Regulations

Each chapter is illustrated with examples from Wisconsin communities, references to

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applicable state statutes and case law, and worksheets and forms that can be downloaded and modified by local communities.

The handbook is over 200 pages in length and is printed on 100% post-consumer, chlorine-free paper. It is bound in a three-ring PVC-free

binder to facilitate easy updating and insertion of local resources.

To order a printed copy of the handbook, please contact us with the information requested below. The handbook may also be downloaded and printed for free from the [CLUE website](#).

HANDBOOK ORDER FORM

Title	Price Each	Quantity	Total Cost
Plan Commission Handbook, 2nd Edition, 2012	\$15		
Zoning Board Handbook, 2nd Edition, 2006	\$15		

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APA-WI Endowment Gift Card

The APA-WI board established an endowment fund to support scholarships for students attending either of the accredited masters degree programs in planning in Wisconsin: UW - Madison and UW - Milwaukee.

APA-WI invites members to contribute to the endowment fund as a way to support the next generation of planners in Wisconsin. Just return this pledge form to APA-WI Treasurer Connie White with your contribution.

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Meet Sparkles the Water Spaniel

A watershed collaboration in southeast Wisconsin is going to the dogs—Sparkle the Dog, that is. The Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc. (aka Sweet Water) along with its partners, the Root-Pike WIN and a consortium of municipalities, has launched a new public education (or should I say “training”) campaign to reduce storm-water pollution.



Eichenbaum Associates produced five 30-second TV ads that are airing on WITI Channel 6 in Milwaukee. But you can see these informative and fun spots on YouTube. As Sparkles says at the end of each spot, “Clean water is all about proper training.” Sparkles trains people to pick up their dog litter, manage their yard waste, reduce the use of lawn chemicals, and take care of leaking fluids from cars.

You can help train others by visiting the [YouTube](#) site and clicking the Like button on one or all of the videos.

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Law Update

Court Decisions

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Wisconsin Supreme Court Opinions

Public Record Fees Do Not Include Cost to Remove Nondisclosable Information

In *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel v. City of Milwaukee*, 2012 WI 65, the Wisconsin Supreme Court determined that the Wisconsin Public Records Law does not allow public authorities subject to the law to impose a fee for the cost of deleting nondisclosable information. The case involved a request by reporters from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for dispatch records and related incident reports from the City of Milwaukee Police Department. The City provided the requested documents and charged fees for locating and copying the documents and a fee for staff time spent reviewing and redacting nondisclosable information such as Social

Security Numbers, and victim identification information. The Journal Sentinel refused to pay the fee related to the staff time for redaction and brought this lawsuit.

In the Wisconsin Public Records Law, (Wis. Stat. §§ 19.31-.39) the Legislature details the tasks for which an authority may impose fees on a requester. An authority may impose a fee that does not exceed the “actual, necessary and direct” cost of performing the following four tasks: reproduction and transcription of the record; photographing and photographic processing; locating a record; and mailing or shipping of any copy or photograph of a record.

Wis. Stat. § 19.35(3). The City argued the cost to remove the nondisclosable information was included in the statutory authorization to recover the cost of locating and reproducing the documents. In an opinion written by Chief justice Abrahamson, the Wisconsin Supreme Court rejected this interpretation finding that the Legislature did not include these costs in the Law. Four of the justices joined in a concurring opinion written by Justice Roggensack that expressed concern about passing the costs of redacting nondisclosable information on to the taxpayers and encourages the Legislature to amend the Public Records Law to address this issue.

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Lessee Entitled to Share Condemnation Award

In *The Lamar Company v. Country Side Restaurant*, 2012 WI 46, the Wisconsin Supreme Court reviewed an unpublished decision of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals that affirmed an order by the Winnebago County Circuit Court disbursing to Country Side Restaurant, Inc. (Country Side) \$120,000 on deposit with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Winnebago County.

The case involved the use of the power of eminent domain by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) to acquire a 76,628 square foot parcel of land owned by Country Side. Country Side leased a portion of the parcel to the Lamar Company, LLC (Lamar) for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a billboard. As compensation for the taking, the DOT issued to Country Side and Lamar an award of damages totaling \$2,000,000. Country Side and Lamar agreed that all proceeds would be transferred to Country Side, save for \$120,000 deposited with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Winnebago County for eventual distribution.

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Thereafter, Lamar applied for and received from the DOT a relocation payment of \$83,525.

Country Side and Lamar were unable to agree on a division of the \$120,000. Consequently, Lamar filed a claim for partition, seeking the full amount on deposit, plus interest. Country Side responded by petitioning the circuit court for an order disbursing to Country Side the full amount on deposit, plus interest. The circuit court granted Country Side's petition and ordered the \$120,000 to be disbursed to Country Side. The circuit court determined that the DOT had already justly compensated Lamar for the value of its

billboard and that Lamar had lost its right to seek a share of the award of damages issued to Country Side and Lamar by failing to join in Country Side's appeal of the award. The court of appeals affirmed, though on slightly different grounds.

Lamar petitioned the Wisconsin Supreme Court for review of the Court of Appeals decision. The Wisconsin Supreme Court granted the petition and reversed the decision of the court of appeals. The Supreme Court held that Lamar had not lost its right to seek a share of the award of damages issued to Country Side and Lamar. The circuit court therefore improperly dismissed Lamar's claim for partition. The Supreme Court concluded that Lamar did not lose its right to seek a share of the award of damages by failing to join in Country Side's appeal of the award. In addition, the Court concluded that Lamar did not lose its right to bring a claim for partition by accepting payment from the DOT for relocation expenses. According to the Court, the DOT's payment for Lamar's relocation expenses is distinct from the DOT's award for the fair market value of the property taken. Lamar has a right to seek both.

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Wisconsin Court of Appeals Opinions

Government Immunity for Independent Contractors

In *Showers Appraisals, LLC v. Musson Bros., Inc.*, the plaintiff sued Musson Bros., Inc., and the City of Oshkosh for damages suffered in the floods of 2008. At the time of the floods, Musson was working as a private contractor for the State of Wisconsin to replace the storm sewer in front of Showers' building. Musson claimed that it is entitled to governmental immunity under *Estate of Lyons v. CNA Ins. Cos.*, 207 Wis. 2d 446, 457-58, 558 N.W.2d 658 (Ct. App. 1996), a case extending governmental immunity to independent contractors when certain conditions are met. Wisconsin Statutes, section 893.80(4) provides governmental immunity for certain actions. That statute states, in part: "No suit may be brought against any governmental subdivision or any agency thereof for the intentional torts of its officers, officials, agents or employees nor may any suit be brought against such subdivision or agency or against its officers, officials, agents or employees for acts done in the exercise of legislative, quasi-legislative, judicial or quasi-judicial functions."

Under the *Lyons* case, an independent contractor who follows official directives is an agent entitled to governmental immunity when: (1) the governmental authority approved reasonably precise specifications; (2) the contractor's actions conformed to those specifications; and (3) the

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Iowa	\$34	\$11	Ohio	\$45	\$15			
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Md.	\$27	\$5	R.I.	\$25	\$15			

¹Round percentages of APA National Dues to the nearest dollar.

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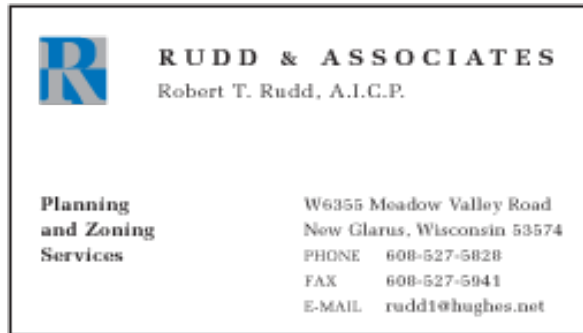
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contractor warned the supervising governmental authority about the possible dangers associated with those specifications that were known to the contractor but not to the governmental officials.

In *Willow Creek Ranch, LLC v. Town of Shelby*, 2000 WI 56, 235 Wis. 2d 409, 611 N.W.2d 693, the Wisconsin Supreme Court differentiated between the government's discretionary acts and its ministerial duties when applying governmental immunity. Discretionary acts are protected by the statute, but ministerial duties are not. A ministerial duty is defined as one that "is absolute, certain and imperative, involving merely the performance of a specific task when the law imposes, prescribes and defines the time, mode and occasion for its performance with such certainty that nothing remains for



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judgment or discretion.” In some cases, a known and compelling danger may give rise to a ministerial duty, when the danger is of such force that the public officer has no discretion not to act in a particular way.

The plaintiff in the present case claimed that the contract with Musson did not include reasonably precise specifications and that Musson did not comply with specifications to provide “adequate” drainage at all times and did not take “reasonable” precautions to prevent damage. The Court of Appeals did not agree. The Court also did not agree that even if Musson met the Lyons test, Musson had a ministerial duty to maintain a system of drainage.

The case is recommended for publication. One appellate court judge dissented in the case expressing concern that the decision expanded the Lyons case to provide blanket immunity to all governmental contractors.

Challenge to Sewer Service Area Plan Untimely

City of Kaukauna v. DNR is an unpublished decision of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals (meaning it has limited precedential value) but is included in the monthly case law summary because it deals with a sewer service area planning dispute, a topic where Wisconsin does not have a lot of case law.

The case involves an appeal by the City of Kaukauna a circuit court judgment affirming a decision by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conditionally approving amendments to a regional sewer service plan proposed by the Towns of Harrison and Darboy Sanitary District

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No. 1. Under the amendments, Kaukauna lost the right to service 89 acres.

City of Kaukauna, several surrounding villages and the Harrison and Darboy Sanitary District are part of the Heart of the Valley Metropolitan Sewerage District. The Heart of the Valley is part of the Fox Cities 2030 Sewer Service Area Plan prepared by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission and approved by the DNR.

The Commission's Community Facilities Committee designated certain areas in the plan as "hold areas." In these areas, ongoing land use or service provision issues make public sewer extensions unsuitable. Accordingly, the Commission does not approve any extensions in these areas and recommends against any development proposal until the issues are resolved. One such hold area is located in the Town of Harrison near county road KK and highway 55. The plan noted that it was undetermined whether the Darboy Sanitary district or the City of Kaukauna would serve the area.

Shortly after the plan was completed, Darboy, anticipating commercial development, requested that the Commission designate 134 acres in the Town of Harrison for sewer service.

Darboy proposed that 45 acres be processed as a "swap," in which 45 acres would be added to the service area, while a separate 45 acres would be removed. Darboy also requested that the hold designation be lifted for the 37-acre area in Harrison near county road KK and highway 55. Implicitly, Darboy also sought to service a 52-acre area between the swap area and the hold area that had been previously designated for service by Kaukauna.

The Facilities Committee held a hearing on the proposal on March 14, 2007. Ultimately, the Committee approved Darboy's request, contingent on the developer's submission of a letter of commitment to Harrison. No letter was submitted, however, and the Committee later reconsidered and denied Darboy's amendment proposal. Darboy appealed to the full Commission, which upheld the Committee's decision.

On November 19, 2007, Darboy and Harrison petitioned the DNR to review the Commission's denial of the amendment proposal. The DNR held an informational public hearing, after which it issued a Notice of Intent to Disapprove and Modify the Heart of the Valley Sewer Service Area.

The notice largely approved Darboy's amendment proposal. Kaukauna then requested a public hearing, which was held on August 21, 2008. No contested case hearing was held.

On February 24, 2009, the DNR issued a decision conditionally approving Darboy's amendment proposal. The DNR noted it had not received comments on the proposal from Heart of the Valley, nor did it believe it had received a comprehensive analysis of the effects of the servicing options on downstream sewers. Accordingly, the decision contained the following condition:

1. That the amendment area identified in this approval be successfully annexed into the Heart of the Valley Metropolitan Sewerage District. If the annexation is denied, the Department will review the basis for the denial and subsequently issue a letter to either reaffirm this approval or to designate the entire (134 acre) amendment area as having a "hold status." As described in the Fox Cities 2030 Sewer Service Area Plan Update[,] a "hold status" means the area has unresolved planning issues and sewer extensions will not be approved until the issues are resolved.

The DNR's decision concluded, "If you believe you have a right to challenge this decision made by the Department, you should know that Wisconsin statutes, administrative codes and case law establish time periods and requirements for reviewing Department decisions."

In December 2009, Heart of the Valley approved annexation of the amendment area. Kaukauna petitioned for judicial review of the DNR's decision on January 7, 2010. The Court of Appeals dismissed Kaukauna's appeal as untimely. According to the court of Appeals, the February decision of the DNR was a final



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decision. Under Wisconsin administrative law, a appeal to a final agency decision must be brought within 6 months of the decision. Kaukauna's appeal was four months too late. Kaukauna argued the conditions placed on DNR's decision meant it was not a final decision until the conditions were fulfilled. The Court of Appeals disagreed so Kaukauna lost the right to challenge the sewer service area plan amendment.



APA-WI Executive Committee members hard at work at a recent meeting. (From left) President Larry Ward, Southeast District Representative Maria Pandazi, and Vice President for Chapter Affairs Brian Ohm. Our thanks to Home Savings Bank for offering its community room for our meetings. The building was the first LEED Silver bank in Wisconsin.



The rain garden at the East branch absorbs rainfall and keeps water and pollution out of Madison lakes. Each year it absorbs as much water as if you left your shower running for 28 days.

[Learn more](#) about the building's green features.

Supplement Spring-Summer 2012

APA - Wisconsin Newsletter



American Planning Association
Wisconsin Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association

Wisconsin's First Statewide Orthophotography Project Receives "Best of State" Award

SUBMITTED BY DENNIS LAWRENCE, AICP, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Believe it or not none of Wisconsin's State Agencies coordinates a statewide airphoto flight. Although some agencies, such as DOT and DNR, fly parts of the state on a project basis there is no wall to wall uniform leaf-off coverage that is collected. Instead over the years counties and municipalities have done this on their own, but those are all flown at different times and using various specifications and controls.

That all changed in 2010, as the Department of Military Affairs Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) agency needed a consistent state leaf-off coverage to develop a uniform platform for various emergency management and disaster recovery applications. The flight also coincides with the 2010 Census, which was useful for a variety of planning applications as well. The State turned to Wisconsin's regional planning commissions, led by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC), to bring together the various players and secure funding. What resulted was the largest mapping project in the state's history.

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Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC) was created as an informal organization to accomplish the task. WROC is a public-private partnership based on a bottom-up approach in which local governments partnered and worked closely with regional planning commissions, state and federal agencies, and private sector firms to achieve a statewide imagery. The WROC project involved acquiring leaf-off aerial imagery of the entire state and providing customized orthophotography and related services to more than 100 local, state and federal governments in a single flying season.

The goal of WROC was to improve the often expensive and inefficient way governments and agencies were acquiring mapping products. Rather than entities going it alone, a consortium approach is more cost-effective and encourages cooperation among multiple levels of government as well as with the private sector. Participating governments saved an average of 30 percent and benefitted from data-sharing opportunities. Residents and businesses will benefit from highly detailed, up-to-date, accurate imagery, and local governments will use it for infrastructure improvement projects; emergency responders anywhere in the state have access to it for situational awareness; and agencies have consistent orthophotography available that goes beyond jurisdictional boundaries.

Imagery can be accessed online at: www.wisconsinview.org.

Earlier this year, as a result of those efforts, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin presented a "Best of State" award to the NCWRPC for coordinating, managing, and securing funding for Wisconsin's first statewide Orthophotography Project - WROC.

WROC established a model for future airphoto efforts. Hopefully the cooperative momentum that helped WROC succeed continues into the future. Already there are some discussions occurring at the State level to undertake this effort in 2015.

Northwest District News

SUBMITTED BY DENNIS LAWRENCE, AICP, APA-WI NORTHWEST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Last year the Northwest District held a "Developing Sustainable Communities" workshop that was attended by over 35 planners and community leaders. The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness and provide information for those communities working toward achieving sustainability locally. Several speakers spoke on subjects from the Natural Step Framework, to Wisconsin's land use Megatrends, and local planning efforts. Lisa M. MacKinnon, Sustainability Consultant and Natural Step Associate, explained how The Natural Step is a scientific and systems based approach to environmental sustainability. Lynn Markham with the Center for Land Use Education at UW-Stevens Point provided an overview of Megatrends in Land Use. Bob Colson, Dunn County Planner, explained how Dunn County developed a sustainability action plan. The process focused on using the Natural Step framework to develop five key planning elements: Education, Support, Eco-County Designation, Sustainability Action Plan Charter,

and Sustainability Action Plan. Andrew Dane, Community Development & Sustainability Specialist with Short Elliott Hendrickson, presented along with Jim Resick, Community Resource Development Educator, Outagamie County UW Extension, and Eric Anderson, planner with West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Each shared their experiences working with communities as they developed sustainability plans.

Planning is just beginning for our workshop this fall. Let me know if you have any topic ideas or location ideas for the workshop. The goal is to have an event sometime in October to celebrate Community Planning Month.

In addition to the workshop, each year we recognize outstanding individuals and planning efforts throughout the twenty six county Northwest District. In fact, we are the only district in the state to do so. Four awards were presented in 2011:

Steve Rannenberg, Distinguished Leadership Award: Appointed Official

Steve Rannenberg is the Douglas County Planning & Zoning Administrator. He was selected because of his work on the Douglas County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan. From the early organizational, pre-planning efforts through plan adoption, Mr. Rannenberg demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment. As the principal local point-of-contact during the project, Mr. Rannenberg spent countless hours engaging in communication with government officials from town, village, city

and county levels and local citizens, attending meetings and coordinating countywide planning activities.

Forest County Comprehensive Plan, Excellence Award for a Planning Document

Forest County adopted its first ever county wide comprehensive plan in 2011. The plan process included the county, nearly all of the towns, its only city, and two tribal nations. All of this was coordinated by the newly created Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Over three years the Committee provided the “big picture” oversight for the development of the comprehensive plan. Assistance was provided by a variety of county and local staff, and other resources. Many of the communities in Forest County had never been involved in a formal planning process before this effort. Although there were some hiccups along the way, all of the local plans and the county plan were completed and ultimately adopted.

Iron County Comprehensive Plan/Ordinance Update, Excellence Award for a Planning Document

In 2008, Iron County embarked on a multi-phase endeavor to identify inconsistencies between the comprehensive plans of the 10 unincorporated towns and the countywide zoning and subdivision ordinances, adopted in 1971. The first phase identified and clarified the desires of each town as expressed in the local comprehensive plans, and involved numerous

one-to-one meetings with town officials, planning commissions and concerned citizens. The second phase involved the development of zoning revision proposals aimed at correcting the existing inconsistencies and addressing the town’s needs and desires. After several joint county-town meetings, a final proposal was unveiled which created new zoning districts and significantly modified others. A revised subdivision ordinance was also developed, which includes provisions for the use of conservation design practices. All final proposed revisions were agreed upon by each of the 10 towns. Public outreach meetings and public hearings were held in the fall of 2011, where community representatives voiced strong support for the proposed changes and the culmination of many years of discussion and input. The Iron County Comprehensive Plan/Ordinance project represents one of the first of its kind in northwestern Wisconsin.

West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Plan Implementation Guide, Excellence Award for a Planning Document

The West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission prepared the Plan Implementation Guide for West Central Wisconsin as the third of three milestone reports issued during its regional planning effort. The guide was created to educate and inspire communities as they tackle the challenges and changing conditions. It is intended to encourage discussion and collaboration. It provides ideas for consideration during decision-making, and it offers alternatives and

best practices for the development and implementation of local plans. It focuses on issues most pertinent to its Region and provides local examples. The Plan Implementation Guide for West Central Wisconsin represents the culmination of a regional planning effort which began in 2008. During this process, planning trends and issues within west central Wisconsin were identified from community surveys, statistical data, meetings, stakeholder interviews, and the experiences of WCWRPC staff during local planning projects. Technical experts and elected officials from throughout the Region were brought together to discuss these findings and identify regional plan strategies. The strategies generally fell within the fourteen concepts established within the guide.

2012 Northwest District Awards Nominations Open Soon

Nomination forms for the 2012 Northwest District Awards will be emailed to all district members soon. I encourage everyone to consider submitting one of the many quality planning projects occurring in our district every year or nominating an individual that has helped the planning profession.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, ideas, or concerns about the Northwest District or APA-WI. I can be reached at 715.849.5510, Extension 304, or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.

Legislative Update

BY STEVE HINIKER, 1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN
APA - WI LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

The recall elections have all played out and the state senate has changed to a Democratic majority as a result of Democrat John Lehman beating Republican Van Wanggaard in the Racine area senate district (SD 21.) The only other change in the senate line up comes with Republican Jerry Petrowksi beating Donna Seidel to replace retiring Republican Pam Galloway in the Wausau area senate district (SD 29.)

It's questionable what the new senate means for legislation since the legislature has adjourned, although senate Democrats have called for a special session. The assembly is unlikely to go along with such a session. The other potential impact of the Democratic majority in the senate is related to administrative rules review and potential 13.10 sessions of the Joint Finance Committee before the November election.

All of the changes are subject to change, depending on the outcome of the November elections. Nevertheless, here is the new state senate Democratic lineup: (New Republican assignments will be sent out when they are made available.)

NEW PRESIDENT

Sen. Fred Risser

SENATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Joint Finance

Sen. Taylor (Co-chair)

Sen. Hansen

Sen. Jauch

Sen. Lehman

Sen. Shilling

Sen. Larson

Joint Committee on Review of Administrative Rules

Sen. Larson (Co-chair)

Joint Committee on Legislative Council

Sen. Risser (Co-chair)

Joint Committee on Audit

Sen. Vinehout (Co-chair)

Joint Survey on Tax Exemptions

Sen. Erpenbach (Co-chair)

Joint Committee on Retirement Systems

Sen. Hansen (Co-chair)

Joint Committee on Criminal Penalties

Sen. Cogg

Joint Committee on Information Technology

Sen. Carpenter

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Elections and UW System

Sen. Vinehout Chair, Sen. Erpenbach Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, Entrepreneurship and Biotechnology

Sen. Lassa Chair, Sen. Carpenter Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Education and Corrections

Sen. Lehman Chair, Sen. King Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Tourism

Sen. Holperin Chair, Sen. Wirsch Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Health, Revenue, Tax Fairness and Insurance

Sen. Erpenbach Chair, Sen. Carpenter Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Job Training, Technical Colleges and Workforce Development

Sen. King Chair, Sen. Lassa Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Job Creation, Energy and Utilities and Rural Affairs

Sen. Shilling Chair, Sen. Hansen Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

Sen. Risser Chair, Sen. Taylor Vice-Chair

**Senate Committee on Children and Families,
Disability Rights and Housing Sustainability**

Sen. Coggs Chair, Sen. Lehman Vice-Chair

**Senate Committee on Seniors, Public Health
and Human Services**

Sen. Carpenter Chair, Sen. Erpenbach Vice-Chair

**Senate Committee on Transportation, Public
Infrastructure, Financial Institutions and
Retirement Security**

Sen. Hansen Chair, Sen. Shilling Vice-Chair

**Senate Committee on Labor, Consumer Buying
Power and Consumer Protection**

Sen. Wirch Chair, Sen. Holperin Vice-Chair

**Senate Committee on Veterans and Military
Affairs, Disaster Relief and Emergency
Preparedness**

Sen. Jauch Chair, Sen. Vinehout Vice-Chair