

WAPA NEWSLETTER



American Planning Association
Wisconsin Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association

What are the goals of Community Economic Development?

By KRISTY SeBLONKA, UW-MADISON, URPL

EDITOR'S NOTE: KRISTY SeBLONKA IS A 2007 GRADUATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON. THIS SUMMARY, BASED UPON RESEARCH CONDUCTED FOR HER MASTER'S THESIS, IS SUBMITTED IN EXCHANGE FOR USE OF THE WAPA MAILING LIST. KRISTY HEADS OFF TO THE PEACE CORPS IN A FEW WEEKS. WAPA WISHES HER ALL THE BEST AS SHE SHARES HER KNOWLEDGE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

Municipalities create community goals, establish programs, and distribute funding to encourage—or discourage—certain types of development. Not every-

one agrees upon the goals of community economic development (CED), and we can learn a lot by understanding which goals public sector CED planners and practitioners promote in their communities. In fall 2007, surveys were conducted in Wisconsin to assess the goals that drive CED planners' and practitioners' activities.

Three Approaches to CED

The research was based upon the three approaches to CED outlined by Boothroyd and Davis (1993). The approaches are not necessarily exclusive, though one may be prioritized over

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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:

Nancy Frank, WAPA News Editor
 Chair, Department of Urban Planning
 School of Architecture and Urban Planning
 University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee
 P.O. Box 413
 Milwaukee, WI 53201-0413

(414) 229-5372
 (414) 229-6976 (fax)

Email: news@wisconsinplanners.org

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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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President, Gary Peterson, AICP
 608-249-2514 (office) / 608-249-6615 (fax)
petersong@crispell-snyder.com

Past President, Rollie Tonn, AICP
 262-567-3888
tonn41@ameritech.net

Vice Pres. of Prof. Dev., Nancy Frank, AICP
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frankn@uwm.edu

Vice Pres. of Chapter Affairs, Brian Ohm, AICP
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wardla@uwplatt.edu

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cseboe@hntb.com

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cesswein@pdisite.com

Director at Large, David S. Boyd, FAICP
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 608.356.2770 fax
dboyd@msa-ps.com

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dlawrence@ncwrpc.org

S.E. District Representative, Nikki Jones,
 262/797-2445 / 262/780-4605 (fax)
njones@newberlin.org

N.E. District Representative, Diana Schultz, AICP
 920-482-0540
schultz.diana@gmail.com

S.W. District Representative, Dan Rolfs, AICP
 608-267-8722
drolfs@cityofmadison.com

Planning Official Development Off., Anna Haines
 715-346-2386 / 715-346-4038 (fax)
ahaines@uwsp.edu

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 617.947.6998
obernesser@wisc.edu

UW - Milwaukee

Kristi Jacobs
kmjacobs@uwm.edu

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 AICP Director, Region IV
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 (866) 602-4999

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 APA National—Chicago: (312) 431-9100
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Visit the WAPA webpage for up-to-date news and information between issues of the WAPA Newsletter.

Monthly legal and legislative updates are now posted throughout the month. Look on the Events page for information about professional development programs sponsored by WAPA, APA, and other organizations with programming related to planning.

another. They are defined as follows:

- Growth promotion means to promote growth in the community by increasing jobs, investment, tax base, and/or productivity.
- Structural change means to increase sustainability in the community by promoting local ownership and/or diversifying ownership of business.
- Community relationships means to promote social relationships that increase the participation of citizens (including marginalized groups) in decision making about economic activity and/or that equalize wealth distribution and wealth-making opportunities.

Results from Wisconsin

The following goals represent each approach to CED. CED planners and practitioners indicated whether they personally believed each goal was a primary

or secondary goal, or not a goal. The results are included in Table 1 below.

The vast majority of respondents agreed that the goals associated with the growth promotion approach were primary goals of CED. This is not surprising as they are the traditional goals of economic development. Goals associated with the structural change approach had more mixed responses, but were strongly supported as secondary goals.

Finally, goals associated with the community relationships approach had minor support as primary goals. However, they had some support as secondary goals: 58 percent felt that increasing the democratic participation of citizens in decision making about economic activity was a secondary goal of CED, and a third felt that equalizing wealth distribution and opportunities for wealth genera-

tion was a goal of CED. However, a high percentage of respondents indicated that these goals were not goals of CED.

Community Relationships Objectives

Respondents ranked the importance of community relationships objectives. Increasing the participation of people in poverty and minorities were strongly identified as important. However, the other objectives were less strongly viewed as important.

Should Municipalities Promote Community Relationships?

Municipalities have approved public subsidy of economic development because they assume that it benefits the municipality and its residents. However,

Upcoming WAPA Conferences

Upper Midwest APA Conference,
hosted by WAPA
Madison, September 18-19, 2008

WAPA Annual Conference
Sheboygan, March 26-27, 2009.

Table 1: Goals of CED (%)			
Goals by Approach	Primary Goal	Secondary Goal	Not a Goal
<i>Growth Promotion Approach</i>			
Increase number of jobs and level of income in the community	84.1	15.9	0
Attract new capital, investment, and/or tax base	78.3	20.3	1.4
<i>Structural Change Approach</i>			
Promote local ownership and control of business	27.5	59.4	13.0
Diversify the ownership of businesses	18.8	49.3	31.9
<i>Community Relationships Approach</i>			
Increase democratic participation of citizens in decision making about economic activity	10.1	58.0	31.9
Equalize wealth distribution and opportunities for wealth generation	8.7	33.3	58.0
Note: n = 69 for all questions.			

some now challenge this belief. These critics argue that the public sector should contribute to creating a more democratic society by promoting equity and inclusivity through changes in the institutional landscape, including that of economic development.

In order to create an economic system that enables the informed participation of citizens, including those marginalized by the current system (primarily the poor and people of color), CED strategies must not only pursue local control but also change the existing

power relationships within society so that they are more equitable (Defilippis 2004). Therefore, community relationships goals may be as important as other goals.

Sources cited: Boothroyd, Peter, and H. Craig Davis. "Community Economic Development: Three Approaches." *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 12, 3 (1993): 230-240.

Defilippis, James. *Unmaking Goliath: Community Control in the Face of Global Capital*, Taylor & Francis Group, London (2004).

WAPA Needs YOU! Volunteer Opportunities with WAPA

The WAPA board is reaching out to WAPA members to help serve planners in Wisconsin. The following roles are in need of volunteer assistance. Volunteers could be professional planners, students, or support staff within planning firms.

Please help us make this a stronger chapter.

- Conference coordinator or assistant conference coordinator;
- District Representative assistant--all four districts;
- Spokesperson for APA policies on Comprehensive Planning, Sustainability, Food Systems, Energy and Climate Change;
- Quarterly Newsletter contributor
- Eco-Municipality Reports for our newsletter;
- Eco-Municipality Monthly email report;

Objectives	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Not Important
Increasing the participation of people in poverty in economic activity ¹	52.2	41.8	3.0	3.0
Increasing the participation of minorities in economic activity ²	37.9	54.5	6.1	1.5
Promoting democratic control of economic activity ³	13.2	51.5	20.6	14.7
Making the distribution of business profit more equitable ¹	20.9	47.8	16.4	14.9

Note: ¹ n = 67, ² n = 66, ³ n = 68.



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- Chapter liaison with the student organizations in Milwaukee, Madison, Stevens Point, Green Bay, River Falls, etc.;
- Reporter on continuing maintenance programs for other professions in Wisconsin;
- Reporter on campus planning student organizations.

WAPA President, Gary Peterson, presents award to Mary Rehl, alder for the City of Ashland, Receives WAPA Award for Leadership in the Eco-Municipality Movement in Wisconsin



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Affordable Housing Overcoming Community Opposition

Reprinted from Regulatory Barriers Clearinghouse Strategy-of-the-Month Club

Affordable housing developments often experience community opposition due to a perception that such projects will be based on poor designs that don't blend in with the surrounding neighborhood. For this reason, HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research, in partnership with New Jersey Institute of Technology's Center for Architecture and Building Science Research, the American Institute of Architects, and Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., has created the Affordable Housing Design Advisor.

The Affordable Housing Design Advisor assists housing developers by bringing together real world examples of high-quality affordable housing projects from the people who have successfully developed, designed, and built them.

The website houses over 80 case studies, each covering an affordable housing development from concept to execution. Additionally, the website provides a step-by-step guide to achieving quality design and includes a variety of tools and resources assembled to help affordable housing developers understand the design process and improve the quality of their own projects.

With community support and a high-quality design, affordable housing developers can enhance all stages of development, alleviate "Not in My Back-Yard" (NIMBY) concerns, accelerate the



approval process, and ensure overall resident satisfaction.

Additional information about the Affordable Housing Design Advisor can be found at <http://www.huduser.org/rbc/search/rbcdetails.asp?DocId=1560>.

We hope this information proves useful to you in your efforts to grow your region's affordable housing stock. If you

have regulatory reform strategies or resources that you'd like to share, send us an email at rbcsubmit@huduser.org, call us at 1-800-245-2691 (option 4), or visit our website at www.regbarriers.org.



Public-Private Partnerships for Smart Growth Best Practices Toolkit Available

Reprinted from Regulatory Barriers Clearinghouse Strategy-of-the-Month Club

April 2008

Public-private partnerships are playing an increasingly proactive role in matters relating to growth management, housing, and community development. The Georgia Quality Growth Partnership (GQGP) is one such partnership that promotes "quality growth" to foster walkable, environmentally conscious, transit-friendly, and mixed-use communi-

JJR	Planners	Contact: Bill Patek
	Landscape Architects	625 Williamson Street
	Urban Designers	Madison, Wisconsin 53703
	Civil Engineers	608 251 1177
	Environmental Scientists	bill.patek@jjr-us.com

ties. The GQGP has developed an online “Toolkit of Best Practices” to help local governments implement quality growth practices that can also increase their affordable housing supply.

This toolkit contains over 150 innovative solutions and resources on a number of issues relating to land use, housing, and community development. Each tool includes a brief description, an implementation guide, and real-life examples of strategies, such as accessory housing units, brownfield redevelopment, cottage zoning, flexible parking codes, subdivision regulations, infill development, and workforce housing. In addition, model ordinances are provided from the state’s Department of Community Affairs (DCA), which can be adapted to meet a community’s individual needs. The online toolkit is user-friendly, and can be searched by keyword, index of tools, or by inputting issues affecting a community.

Visitors to the toolkit’s webpage can submit comments and suggestions, and

can also access information on the DCA’s programs and resources for planning and quality growth.

Although this website is specific to the state of Georgia, the toolkit provides affordable housing strategies from across the nation that can also be adapted for use in your community. To view the resources in the Georgia Quality Growth Partnership toolkit, please visit www.huduser.org/rbc/search/rbcdetails.asp?DocId=1526.

Assessing Early Big-City Black Mayors

Lecture by Dr. Kirk Harris, recently appointed as Assistant Professor of Urban Planning at UWM, Spring 2008 Planning Symposia, UWM Dept. of Urban Planning, March 31, 2008.

Reported by Russell Knetzger, AICP, Milwaukee.

After earning a law degree and while still at Cornell University, New York in his doctoral work in urban planning, Harris studied the experiences of the first African Americans who were elected as Mayors in large northeastern cities of the US.

Carl Stokes, at age 40, of Cleveland was the first in Nov. ’67. Mayor Stokes is remembered in planning circles for keeping as city plan director Norman Krumholz, an avid proponent of inner city causes. Stokes came to office amid a chain of nation awak-ening circumstances, beginning with the assassinations of Pres. Kennedy in 1963, his brother Robert in 1968, and Martin Luther King earlier in 1968, the Kerner Commission report of 1968 about “The Two Americas, One White and One Black,” and Pres.

Lyndon Johnson’s War on Poverty 1964-1965, and finally the urban race riots of 1965-1967. Stokes was not part of the face to face interviews with Harris, but is acknowledged as the Pioneer Big City Black Mayor.

The administration of the three Mayors Harris does analyze begins with W. Wilson Goode of Philadelphia, 1984-1992. The second is Sharpe James of Newark, New Jersey, 1986-2006, and the third is Kurt L. Schmoke of Baltimore, Maryland, 1987-1999. Each had relatively long stays in office, allowing for application of a standard evaluation format.

That format consisted of characterizing the Mayoral Style of each, the relationship to the civil service Bureau-

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cracy, interactivity with the City Council, the relationship with the Elites/Business community, usually over the fate of downtown, and Grassroots Community (neighborhood) standing.

Even Sharpe James, who rose from grassroots activity at the neighborhood level, once Mayor had difficulty satisfying neighborhood hopes, as did the others who experienced challenges related to balancing the needs of their Black electoral constituency with that of Whites, as well as business elites and civic leaders - Kurt Schmoke was a Yale graduate and Rhodes scholar. W. Wilson Goode became known for his City Renaissance outlook. -Growing social and economic inequality undermined the standing of most Mayors, Black or White, when trying to maintain a line of communications with grass roots and community interests. Under some African-American mayoral regimes groups tend to dissolve after an initial burst of electoral participation. Harris believes Sharpe James was sustained in office not by his community roots support, but by the business elite.

Increasing attention paid to downtown revitalization by the Mayors tended to backfire against them when local communities saw their own shops and local factories go empty, and seemingly ignored by City Hall. The de-industrialization of the North came at a bad time for the first tier of Black Big-City Mayors.

Regardless of original intentions, except for Baltimore's Kurt Schmoke . none of the Mayors were able to sustain a Neighborhood Centered focus. Concerns of the Corporate Centered issues tended to receive more attention, partly because the national attitude came to favor downtown revitalization, whereas the increase in poverty and the decline of good jobs, further depleted the economic vigor of urban communities.

City Council relations seemed as hard to maintain as grassroots ties. Perhaps this is inevitable as the Mayor alone has to face city-wide issues, while local aldermen gain nothing by doing so, since their re-election hinges only upon "ward politics."

While acknowledging the inherent challenges facing all big cities, and especially facing their Mayors, Dr. Harris looks to the planning profession as best equipped to address equity issues facing large American cities tremendously impacted by politics and structural racism . It is why he practices planning rather than law.

Environmental Impacts in Local California Plans

Lecture by Zhenghong Tang, Wake County, North Carolina Planning Department, 2004 Study, Spring 2008 Planning Symposia, UWM Dept. of Urban Planning, March 2008.

Reported by Russell Knetzger, AICP, Milwaukee.

In a 2004 study of 40 California local community plans (including some rural counties) Zhenghong Tang attempted an empirical analysis of the degree to which these plans took into consideration strategic environmental impacts. All the communities were within 50 miles of the coastline, which area contains a higher number and wider diversity of environmental issues than inland. None were under 2500 population, where planning tends to be less in-depth. The very largest cities were also excluded to avoid an overly broad range of community types.

Tang first traces the roots of environmental issues in planning to the 1920s, where "conservation" first emerges in some community plans. In the 1960s-1970s he characterizes the rise of interdisciplinary teams preparing plans as another step into environmental considerations in local plans. Currently he proposes gauging plans by the degree to

	
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which they continue to be interdisciplinary, collaborative and integrative, ecosystem based, adopted, pro-active, and containing dispute resolution steps.

Other criteria advanced by Tang include watershed based, sustainability factors, biodiversity and climate change sensitive, with components for environmental justice and plan effectiveness. He has also asked the state attorney's general's office about the degree to which the adequacy of research supporting the plans is becoming the basis for law suits.

California is a special state in which to conduct plan evaluations. First, it has a lengthy coastline for exposure to tsunamis (ocean giant wave surges), backing up to the San Andreas fault, most famous of US earthquake zones. Politically it is unique in attempting to implement the air quality goals of the Kyoto Protocols, the assumption being our federal and certain other very large national governments are unlikely to do so anytime soon. As a result, depletion of the earth's ozone layer is seen as a criteria in California.

Among other factors measured are the number of planners on staff in the preparatory planning agency, adequacy of the original scope for plan preparation, whether there are measures of actual quality of living in the plan.

"A Punch to the Middle: Globalization and the American Midwest" 5th Annual Charles Causier Memorial Lecture

Lecturer: Richard C. Longworth
Senior Fellow, Chicago Council on Global Affairs

April 4 2008 UW-Milwaukee School of Urban Planning

Reported by Russell Knetzger, AICP, Shorewood, Wisconsin

About the Causier Memorial Lecture at UWM: *Charles Causier was an active planning consultant with the Milwaukee office of HNTB Corp. until his untimely death from cancer in 2003. "Charlie" donated much time to UWM as a lecturer; to the City of Wauwatosa in historic preservation, and as a Wisconsin Chapter officer of the American Planning Association. He established a scholarship endowment at the UW-M planning school.*



Richard C. Longworth has been a longtime foreign business correspondent for the Chicago Tribune newspaper. Two of his children were born in England, as an example of the length of his overseas assignments. He traveled the globe extensively for his work. In his new book, *Caught in the Middle, America's Heartland in the Age of Globalism*, Longworth describes the predicament he sees that the Midwest has fallen into, and how the worst may be yet to come. For the



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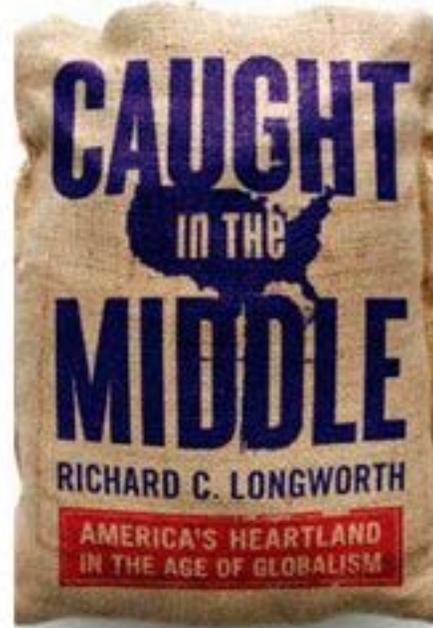
book he traveled the Midwest intensively, focusing on the many smaller “one-horse” towns where almost their entire fate has depended upon a single manufacturer, some of whom have closed (4000 Maytag jobs gone in Newton Iowa). Now retired from the Tribune, he is trying to encourage the Chicago Council on Global Affairs to help organize a think tank devoted to the resurgence of the Midwest.

If Richard Longworth’s analysis is correct, the Midwest has curable cancer. That means things are going to get a lot worse while the curative but drastic treatments for cancer

are applied, if they are applied. However, the treatments should work, because the Midwest abuts the largest temperate

climate fresh water on the planet – the Great Lakes, and water is going to be a huge advantage as this and successive centuries unfold. Also, the very large university base in the Midwest, with several of them engaged in leading-edge technology, could be

an enormous asset to the Midwest over time, though they have not been to date.



The Universities have not been the asset they should because the many patents they have created have become business opportunities other than in the Midwest. These universities account for 21% of patentable research, which is the Midwest’s fair share, but only 4% are turned to business opportunities in the Midwest, with places such as California gaining the larger share. The future of these universities is clouded because the state budgets for prisons are larger than for the universities.



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Nov. 2007

While Longworth bets water and higher education will still pull the Midwest through, the benefits are not likely to fall evenly throughout the Midwest. The larger the City, the more likely it will benefit.

Most towns below 2500, outside metro areas, are already dying because the farm population that prospered them is declining dramatically, due to farm consolidations. Ten farmers now do the work that used to require 100 farmers. Cities of even 15,000 are still in great jeopardy as they lose factories employing thousands. Larger cities that are not of the size of Chicago, say Dayton, Ohio, have suffered losses like Delco/Delphi dropping from 30,000 workers to 6,000, and those 6000 jobs remain shaky. "Legacy costs" play a big part in bringing down these well established, major manufacturers. "Legacy" means the process of continuing to pay benefits to workers no longer working. This ranges from 95% of pay in unemployment benefits in the auto industry, to company paid lifetime medical insurance for retirees, even after retirees are Medicare eligible.

Longworth believes Hispanic immigration could save some of the smaller and medium sized cities, such as those in meatpacking, where Hispanics already dominate. One Iowa police chief is making his police officers learn Spanish.

But the resistance of an aged, stagnant Anglo voter base remains as much a challenge as getting Congress to modify the very immigration rules that make the workers illegal.

"All this is happening remarkably fast, in a region that prizes stability," notes UWM's department of urban planning, which praises the insights of Longworth's book, and his plan for a way forward. Even UWM Chancellor Carlos Santiago is a fan of Longworth's book. Santiago is striving to make UWM a core strength in renewing the Milwaukee region.

"Mourning for the Past" is a major attitudinal drag on helping the Midwest prosper again. People hope the job losses are just part of a long term "Ups & Downs Cycle" when in reality a "Sea Change" is going on, Longworth maintains. The "worker middle class" was invented here, where "lunch pail" workers could support a family and own two cars and that "cottage on the lake." That middle class is shrinking, creating two other tiers – the one above is wealthy, educated and doing better, and the one below is often "global immigrant servants" doing all the menial chores of society at menial wages. Longworth uses immigrant concentrations as one measure of competitiveness, Detroit being the most vulnerable with only 5%, Iowa better at 23%, and Toronto at 43%.

Longworth cites Kalamazoo, Michigan as an example of old-line wealthy families, still very loyal to the place they made their wealth, funding free college scholarships to any Kalamazoo child.

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That is causing families to move back into Kalamazoo, bringing a resurgence to decaying neighborhoods and enriching its remodeling and local merchant firms, while highlighting the importance of elementary and high school education to obtain those scholarships. In contrast, the minority populations in the metro cities of the Midwest, among them Milwaukee, are seeing dismal school drop out rates, to the point that half of Milwaukee's minorities don't graduate from high school, dooming them to the "servant class."

To fill the void created by such drop outs, America is importing PhDs from India and other supposedly "3rd world countries," when what is happening is these countries are becoming "2nd world economies," capable of competing with us directly

Chicago is classed by Longworth as a Global City, capable and likely to compete successfully with all other world Global cities. Accordingly, he sees the need for a Regional Strategy that integrates the asset that Chicago is with all the other assets of the Midwest. We still are, and will likely remain a "breadbasket" of the Continent. But the success of the worker middle class of the past century has bred an "intellectual isolation," making regional approaches suspect of success. To offset that isolation, Long-

worth is putting his remaining energy into the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

AICP CM Program Planning Law FREE in Milwaukee and River Falls

An AICP audiowebcast reviewing planning law will be downloaded at UWM and UW-River Falls.

Please check the WAPA webpage for details and possible late additions of additional sites for this program.

All AICP planners need to obtain 1.5 hours of planning law CM credits during the 2-year window. This program has qualified for those credits.

Questions? Contact Nancy Frank at frankn@uwm.edu.

Did you know . . .

, , , the WAPA webpage posts RFPs and RFQs related to planning work.

Email to:
wapa@wisconsinplanners.org

Law Update

No court decisions are reported for the Spring issue.

Legislative Update

By STEVE HINIKER
1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN
MAY 23, 2008

These legislative updates and other related information are on the WAPA website's Law and Legislation page for members to access and continue to personally track the bills that they are interested in following more closely.

2007 - 2008 Wisconsin Legislative Session Bill Tracking

Please note that the last regular session floor period concluded on March 13, - the last general business floor period of the current legislative session.

Three special sessions of the legislature were adjourned as of May 15: the December 2007 Special Session on campaign finance reform, the March 2008 Special Session on the budget deficit, and the April 2008 Special Session

on the Great Lakes Water Compact.

There will also be a veto review session May 27-28.

No new legislative proposals were introduced in May and no updates to bills previously reported are required for May.

Special Sessions Of The Legislature

Great Lakes Compact Special Session

On April 9, the governor issued Executive Order #246, calling for a special session of the Wisconsin Legislature beginning on April 17 to address the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. The session was called after the legislature reached an agreement on the multistate compact, which attempts to preserve and protect the waters of the Great Lakes. April 2008 Special Session Senate Bill 1 was introduced on May 12. On May 14 it passed in the Senate by a vote of 32-1 and in the Assembly by a vote of 96-1.

Budget Deficit Special Session

On March 5, the governor issued Executive Order #241 calling a special session of the Wisconsin Legislature

beginning on March 13 to address a budget shortfall for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. March 2008 Special Session Assembly Bill 1 was introduced on March 12. The Assembly and Senate each passed its own amended version of the bill. A committee of conference introduced Conference Substitute Amendment 1 on May 12. The Senate adopted the conference committee version on May 13 by a vote of 17-16 and the Assembly concurred in the bill by a vote of 51-46 on May 14. Governor Doyle issued his partial vetoes for 2007 Wisconsin Act 226 on May 16.

The Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) published a comparative summary of the governor's, Assembly's, and Senate's versions of the bill on March 26, and a summary of the conference amendment on May 12. LFB published a summary of the governor's partial vetoes on May 19. Other LFB publications on the budget adjustment are also available online.

2008 Wisconsin Legislative Council Study Committees

The Joint Legislative Council approved the following special committees for the 2008 interim by a April 9, 2008 mail ballot: (Please note that

Committee Chairs are currently in the process of identifying committee members. If you have an interest in becoming a member of a study committee, please contact the Special Committee Chairperson.)

Special Committee on Regional Transportation Authority

Chair: Rep. Alvin Ott Vice-Chair: Sen. Judy Robson
Legislative Council Staff: Larry Konopacki and Scott Grosz
Member List

The Special Committee is directed to review and provide recommendations on how to create a statutory framework enabling counties, cities, villages, and towns to create regional transportation authorities (RTA) to promote regional cooperation on transportation issues, including: the funding mechanisms to be used to support an RTA; the method of creation of an RTA, the representation and participation of member units of government on an RTA; the types of transportation services that an RTA could be authorized to administer; and the scope and limits of other RTA authority.

Special Committee on Enhancing Recreational Trails for Non-Motorized Use

Chair: Sen. Jim Sullivan Vice-Chair: Rep. Jim Ott
Legislative Council Staff:

Mark Patrosky, Dan Schmidt, and Don Salm Member List

The Special Committee is directed to review safety issues regarding conflicts between motorized and non-motorized uses, ways to avoid conflicts among trail uses, education programs to provide information about how to avoid trail use conflicts, and increased enforcement by DNR wardens, regarding safety, noise, and operational issues. The committee will also review the availability of private land for non-motorized recreation and address ways to increase that availability.

Special Committee on Domestic Biofuels

Chair: Sen. Pat Kreitlow Vice-Chair: Rep. Scott Suder Legislative Council Staff: John E. Stolzenberg and Larry Konopacki Member List

The Special Committee is directed to: (1) evaluate the economic and environmental costs and benefits of domestically produced fuels derived from biomass; (2) review state and federal policies to promote the development of the industry and infrastructure for the production and distribution of such fuels; (3) recommend state policies to address any deficiencies in existing policies; and (4) recommend state policies to encourage minimum targets for ethanol-blended transportation fuel sales.

Special Committee on Differences in Laws Applicable to Cities and Villages

Chair: Rep. Mark Gottlieb Vice-Chair: Sen. Jeff Plale Legislative Council Staff: Don Dyke and Ron Sklansky Member List

The Special Committee is directed to review laws relating to cities and villages, other than those laws that relate to the fundamental organizational structure that distinguishes cities and villages, to determine discrepancies and inconsistencies in the application of those laws to each type of municipality and recommend, when appropriate and advantageous, rectifying those discrepancies and inconsistencies that exist for no apparent policy rationale.

For other legislative links and resources, please see the list available on the WAPA website.



Governor’s Task Force on Global Warming Comprehensive Strawman Proposal

On June 10th the Task Force Co-chairs presented a comprehensive approach to resolve issues on which there are divergent views. That proposal, in preparation for drafting a Final Report, included the following documents:

- Co-chair’s Joint Statement [PDF 14KB]
- Highlights of Strawman Proposal [PDF 20KB]
- Comprehensive Strawman Proposal [PDF 86KB]

In addition to the issues which the Strawman proposes to resolve, the Task Force has developed many policy ideas which have consensus support. These ideas can be found on the Policy Templates page and in the interim report, A Wisconsin Strategy for Reducing Global Warming [PDF 4.8MB].

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R.A. Smith Name Change Now R.A. Smith National, Inc.

BROOKFIELD, Wis. — Effective March 17, 2008, R.A. Smith & Associates, Inc.—civil engineering, planning, surveying, landscape architecture, GIS and 3D visualization consultants—Brookfield, Wis., and its National Survey & Engineering division has changed its name to R.A. Smith National, Inc.

The name change brings together R.A. Smith & Associates which serves state and local government, and its National Survey & Engineering division, which serves the land development industry nationwide, under one corporate name. The respective internal practice groups dedicated to serving public and private sectors remain the same.

Richard Smith, president of R.A. Smith National, said, “The name change preserves the legacy of the company’s heritage – namely, the core engineering and surveying services that date back to 1978 with R.A. Smith & Associates and 1929 with National Survey & Engineering, while better reflecting the company’s growing services and locations. While the two brands have served our company well since the acquisition of National Survey & Engineering in 1994, we believe one brand will be the most effective in positioning our company for

the future. With the company celebrating its 30th year anniversary in 2008, we believe this is an opportune time to look forward to how we position our company and how we may best meet the needs of our clients.”

Smith added, “We have a strong commitment in Wisconsin and our national clientele continues to grow as well. We are active with projects in more than 20 states. Services added in recent years include landscape architecture, geographic information systems (GIS), 3D visualization, planning/economic development, traffic engineering and structural engineering.

About R.A. Smith National

R.A. Smith National, www.rasmith-national.com, is a multi-disciplinary consulting engineering firm. It is one of Wisconsin’s largest civil engineering, planning, surveying, landscape architecture, geographic information system (GIS) and 3D visualization consulting firms with 243 total employees. The company is headquartered in Brookfield, Wis. with offices in Appleton, Oshkosh and Madison, Wis. and Tarentum (Pittsburgh), Pa. R.A. Smith National serves state and local government and the land development industry.

Established in 1978 as R.A. Smith & Associates, the firm acquired National

Survey & Engineering in 1994. National Survey & Engineering, founded in 1929, operated as a division of R.A. Smith & Associates until the R.A. Smith National brand was created in March 2008.

The company has been the recipient of several awards, the most recent of which include Milwaukee Magazine’s Best Employers to Work For in South-eastern Wisconsin in 2008, ranked No. 11 in the medium-size company category (101 to 499 employees). The firm previously was recognized for the same award in 2001, 2003 and 2005. The firm received The Business Journal’s Beyond the Paycheck award in 2003, 2004 and 2005 and its Top Milwaukee Workplaces 2007 award. Nationally, the firm was recognized by CE News’ Best Civil Engineering Firms to Work For, for the last four consecutive years, in 2007 ranked No. 7 among medium-sized civil engineering firms nationwide.

R.A. Smith National’s mission is to design with vision, deliver excellence, and provide the most responsive service to our clients. The company is driven by core values that include accountability, client satisfaction, innovation, positive work environment, ethics and integrity, and community and professional involvement.