

WESTERN CENTRAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



American Planning Association
Western Central Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Western Central Chapter of the American Planning Association

montana

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south dakota

north dakota



Winter 08-09

Inside this issue:

How Your Community Can Thrive - Even in Tough Times	1
WCC Executive Committee & Newsletter Information	2
President's Message	3
AICP Certification Corner	3
25 best cities to find a job	6
Where in the world?	6
WCC Executive Committee Meeting Summary	7
Press Releases	10
Job Corner	10
Conference Opportunities	12
2009 Western Planner Conference - Call for Session Proposals	12

How Your Community Can Thrive -- Even in Tough Times *by Philip Myrick*

New economic trends make a sense-of-place more important than ever

2008 will go down in history as a turning point. Unexpected new events and ideas surfaced, changing the way we will lead our daily lives in the future. Financial turmoil abruptly altered the economic picture, forcing people to shift their thinking about everything from the household budget to global interconnectedness.

Add to this the new face of leadership in Washington, D.C. Barack Obama's resume as a community organizer on the South Side of Chicago was ridiculed by some as inadequate preparation for guiding Americans through the perilous times ahead. Yet, in reality, his background gives him an advantage in understanding the issues of the day and how they affect average citizens. Consider also that Obama has already organized the American electorate with an indisputable successful outcome – that of his own election.

Community organizing will no doubt enjoy a renaissance in the years to come. Obama excited many people who had given up on the possibilities of ever seeing things change. The world at large welcomes his problem-solving approach, which involves discussion and policies crafted collaboratively, rather than a command-and-control process run from the top.

In our view, this is the way forward in an era of budgetary constraints. A bottom-up method of decision making offers effective and cost-efficient solutions to the economic, environmental and social problems around us. For Project for Public Spaces, this is more than a fashionable theory du jour—it's based on three decades of experience building and repairing communities around the world using an approach we call Placemaking.

Placemaking is central to many of the powerful trends shaping the world today. The stumbling global economy, a vulnerable energy supply, and loss of confidence in far-flung markets are balanced by an upsurge of interest in things local: producing local food; promoting local businesses; preserving local character; protecting local open space and public places; finding meaningful ways to belong to a local community. For an in-depth examination of these trends, see Steve Davies's report, "[Think Global, Buy Local](#)"



Photo Credit: Project for Public Spaces
(www.pps.org)

continued on page 4

Newsletter Information

This newsletter is published by the Western Central Chapter of the American Planning Association. Circulation is to the APA members of the Western Central Chapter (WCC). The WCC Executive Committee welcomes submission of original articles, editorial letters, and any other information of interest to both professional and citizen planners. Submissions should be made to the newsletter editor:

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2009 WCC Newsletter Schedule

Spring – March 6
 (submittal deadline is February 20)
 Summer – June 5
 (submittal deadline is May 22)
 Fall – September 4
 (submittal deadline is August 21)
 Winter – December 4
 (submittal deadline is November 20)

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President's Message by April D. Getchius, AICP

Dear Fellow Chapter Members:

First and foremost, let me wish you a Happy New Year! I recently attended a leadership conference in Washington D.C. with other chapter presidents, the APA Board, the AICP Board, Division Chairs, and APA staff. It was an excellent weekend and there is a lot happening.

There was much focus on training of the APA leaders but also discussion about APA and how it can best serve its members. In that vein, President-Elect Bruce Knight will be heading up the update of the APA Development Plan. The 2008-2009 plan states:

The purpose of this biennial Development Plan is to outline the new initiatives and leading priorities for the American Planning Association. The Development Plan & Budget Committee, established through the bylaws and chaired by the APA President-Elect, is responsible for recommending a plan to the Board of Directors for adoption. Each Development Plan covers a two-year period that coincides with the 24-month budget of the association. The Development Plan is a tool to ensure our operations and activities relate directly to our mission, vision, and goals. It serves a guide to assist APA's leaders, the Professional Institute, and all the components including Chapters and Divisions, in formulating the association's budget. We hold ourselves and the organization accountable, as we work to achieve the goals of this Development Plan.

You will no doubt see more information on this plan and able to comment on it through the APA website or discussions at the national conference. It is your opportunity to help shape the future of APA, so be sure to be involved.

There is also a lot of discussion on the upcoming transportation bill. Many are calling for an overhaul of the bill, not simply a renewal of SAFETEA-LU. Discussion is focusing on investing in our declining infrastructure and using that investment to create jobs. This will affect all of our communities and impact our infrastructure investments.

Moving on to our chapter's Executive Committee, I would like to welcome Amber Vogt as our new Western Planner Representative. Amber is the Director of Planning and Zoning in Lawrence County, South Dakota. She is a wonderful addition to the group!

Lastly, congratulations to those chapter folks who sat for the AICP exam. It is a big accomplishment to take the test...and even bigger when you pass!

Again, best wishes for a wonderful new year. Cheers, April

AICP Certification Corner - WCC 100% Pass Rate

The Western Central Chapter is pleased to announce that all four of our candidates taking the AICP exam in November passed!

Congratulations to Charles Bloom of Laramie, Wyoming, Craig Collins of Casper, Wyoming, Brandon (B.J.) Grieve of Kalispell, Montana and Kristin Smith of Missoula, Montana. These individuals flew right past the national pass rate of 61.4%.

The Chapter has a wealth of information to assist exam candidates in their preparation, and will be contacting the May 2009 candidates in the coming months to provide information and assistance.



April out of the office.

“There is also a lot of discussion on the upcoming transportation bill...Discussion is focusing on investing in our declining infrastructure and using that investment to create jobs. This will affect all of our communities and impact our infrastructure investments.”

“We are seeing the emergence of Quality of Life as a key economic driver - factors ranging from good health care facilities to cultural institutions, vibrant public spaces to nature recreation opportunities – all crucial in attracting a skilled labor force and desirable employers.”



Parks and People, a Baltimore based nonprofit, coordinated with almost every agency in the city to turn this barren plaza into an attractive park for one day.

Credit: Project for Public Spaces (www.pps.org)

How Your Community Can Thrive *continued from page 1*

New economic theories point out that our city and regional economies may no longer function as they once did, but have been turned upside-down. This research suggests that human and creative capital of our communities are now the catalysts of economic growth rather than mere results of that growth.

According to Soji Adelaja, Director of the Land Policy Institute (LPI) at Michigan State University, keeping and attracting people is the most important strategy in this new economic landscape. Services, which are inherently local and include everything from doctors’ visits to construction projects, now account for a larger share of the economy than goods. A Land Policy Institute study shows that half of total economic losses stemming from drops in population are caused by a loss of service jobs and income. That means when people move they take a piece of the economy with them.¹

This represents a vast change that cities, towns and regions need to recognize. In the past, a vital local economy was based on attracting large companies by offering inexpensive locations and a cheap labor force. The qualities of a particular place mattered little, and people migrated to where the jobs were. Moreover, much of that economic growth was based on cheap oil, which encouraged people’s work, homes and shopping destinations to be spread far apart. That’s all changed, and now communities with lively destinations that are easily reached by walking and transit gain distinct advantages (for more on transit, see "[A Smart Investment in Our Future](#)").



Light rail in Portland, Oregon brought new life to the downtown area.
Credit: Project for Public Spaces (www.pps.org)

We are seeing the emergence of Quality of Life as a key economic driver - factors ranging from good health care facilities to cultural institutions, vibrant public spaces to nature recreation opportunities – all crucial in attracting a skilled labor force and desirable employers. Our article, "[Place-making Pays Off](#)," focuses on two recent success stories in Detroit and Houston that detail how this can work.

In a sense, Adelaja and other researchers, from German sociologist Gerhard Schulze’s (The Experience Society) to University of Toronto business professor Richard Florida (The Creative Class), follow a long tradition, which included Jane Jacobs, in defending vibrant city and town centers as the single most efficient conveyor of ideas and innovation.²

As Richard Florida states in his new book, *Who’s Your City?*, “Despite all the hype over globalization and the ‘flat world,’ place is actually more important to the global economy than ever before.”³ It has been widely assumed that the internet and globalization have leveled everything into a flat condition where location no longer matters. Florida counters that the world is actually “spikey”, with the highest spikes being creative cities that attract a larger and larger share of economic advantages. The valleys, meanwhile, are regions that have languished for years and cannot nurture or attract the innovative businesses and workers to improve their situation. In fact, according to Michael Porter of the Harvard Business School, “the more things are mobile, the more decisive location becomes.”⁴

How to Succeed in Today's Business Climate

Adelaja notes that regions that will prosper are those with strategies that make the most of their assets. His definition of Placemaking is “the use of strategic assets, talent attractors and sustainable growth levers to create attractive and sustainable high energy, high amenity, high impact, high income communities that can succeed in the New Economy.”⁵

How Your Community Can Thrive *continued from page 4*

Cities and regions that thrive in the 21st Century will be differentiated by their lively neighborhoods and business districts, cultural and recreational attractions, great sense of place, protected natural areas, and deep pride in local character, products and foods. They will achieve this through an open collaborative process with their citizens.

In a down economy, it is tempting to cut back on these planning ideas, thinking that they are frivolous. But disregarding these principles in the name of saving money can create a downward spiral that causes a local economy to lose its competitive edge.



An equality street fair in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Credit: Project for Public Spaces (www.pps.org)

In the last few years, during which PPS' work has been put in the context of experts on the New Economy, many people have forgotten that the best Placemaking occurs on a rootsy and incremental basis, with the hard work of local people and the pooling of resources. PPS seeks to create a climate where community-initiated plans are fundamental to the agencies responsible for implementing millions of dollars of improvements every year, and where a positive working relationship is developed between these agencies and the people they serve. Therefore, our goal is to empower citizens, elected officials, communities and

professionals to use Placemaking in their planning, design, and operation of public streets and transit facilities.

Whatever economic restructuring may be in our near future, it is likely to only strengthen people's interest in valuing the local assets and places that are precious to them. We may soon look back on the land-gobbling development craze of the last two decades as an embarrassing excess. And in this new reality, we could do well by revisiting some old principles:

- **We are defined by our homegrown culture and character.** To thrive in the coming years we have to do a better job of protecting local resources. People naturally take pride in their local food, places, history, landscape, and businesses. It is time to make sure to give these local assets as much support, if not more, as we do chain stores, multinational corporations and outside culture.

This affects not just the spirit of our hometowns but the fate of our planet; going local is the only way we can avoid the looming problems of energy use spiraling upward and carbon emissions worsening global warming. Placemaking strategies address both of these concerns by focusing development in the center of towns and cities, reducing sprawl and the demand for more fossil fuels. An added benefit to investing in the revitalization of our core communities is that people's quality of life and quality of place will rise even if the national economy continues to fall.

- **Bigger is not better.** Large-scale projects can sometimes make a contribution to the local economy, but more often their negative impacts outnumber positive ones. Oversized development can crush the fine-grained urban fabric that makes communities attractive in the first place, especially when scores of small, historic buildings affordable to local businesses and residents are replaced by hulking structures that reduce the economic potential of that place. On the outskirts of town, farmland or forest is eaten up by sprawling malls and speculative development in the name of economic growth, but at what cost? In sacrificing the scenic and natural quality of these places, we weaken our ability to attract new people to the region. When we lose our local food production capacity, we lose our self-sufficiency and ability to build a strong, locally-based, and sustainable economy.

WORTH KNOWING

Placemaking is not just the act of building or fixing up a space, but a holistic approach to creating vital public destinations that promote community commitment and involvement. It capitalizes on a community's assets, inspiration, potential, creating good public spaces that promote health, happiness and well-being.

“Whatever economic restructuring may be in our near future, it is likely to only strengthen people's interest in valuing the local assets and places that are precious to them. We may soon look back on the land-gobbling development craze of the last two decades as an embarrassing excess.”

**WCC BYLAWS
APPROVED BY
MEMBERSHIP**

Thank you to the WCC members who voted on the updated Chapter's Bylaws. The bylaws were approved and a final version of the document will soon be available on www.wccapa.org



25 best cities to find a job by Rachel Zubek

Job seekers with no ties to any particular location often seek jobs in big cities like New York, Chicago, Illinois, Los Angeles, California, or San Francisco, California. But are these the places where they're most likely to find a job?

Not according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Job seekers are better off looking in such cities as Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Idaho Falls, Idaho; and Rapid City, South Dakota. All of these cities registered the lowest unemployment rates in July 2008.

Low unemployment rates seem harder to come by in today's economy. Jobless rates were higher in 338 of the 369 U.S. metropolitan areas surveyed in July 2008, which means 92 percent of cities have seen an increase in their unemployment rates.

Only 25 areas reported lower rates, while six areas had no change. The national unemployment rate in July, 6 percent, was up 1.1 percent from 4.9 percent last year.

Only nine areas registered rates below 3 percent in July and just 40 cities had unemployment rates below 4 percent, down from 91 areas at the same time last year. In total, 153 cities had an unemployment rate higher than the average, 205 areas had rates below it and 11 areas had the same rate.

Despite these startling figures, there are several cities with low unemployment rates and sizeable job growth. Here are 25 cities with the lowest unemployment rates and the job growth they're experiencing, according to the BLS.

1. **Sioux Falls, South Dakota**
Unemployment rate: 2.4 percent
Last year: 2.3 percent
Job growth: 2.1 percent
2. **Rapid City, South Dakota**
Unemployment rate: 2.5 percent
Last year: 2.6 percent
Job growth: 1 percent
3. **Idaho Falls, Idaho**
Unemployment rate: 2.5 percent
Last year: 1.6 percent
Job growth: N/A
4. **Bismarck, North Dakota**
Unemployment rate: 2.6 percent
Last year: 2.5 percent
Job growth: 2.2 percent
5. **Houma, Louisiana**
Unemployment rate: 2.7 percent
Last year: 2.9 percent
Job growth: 1.1 percent

continued on page 9

Where in the world? by Allyson C. Bristor, AICP



Thanks to Joanne Garnett, FAICP, who submitted this beautiful picture.

Submit your world pictures to Allyson Bristor's email:

abristor@bozeman.net

answer on page 12

WCC Executive Committee Meeting Summary

The fall meeting of the WCC Executive Committee was held via conference phone call on October 1, 2008. President April Getchius called the meeting to order with the following in attendance: Jeff Bollman, AICP, Treasurer / Montana State Director; Allyson Bristor, AICP, Newsletter Editor; April D. Getchius, AICP, President; Neil Putnam, Vice President; Pepper McClenahan, AICP, Professional Development Officer; Stephen Miller, AICP, North Dakota State Director / Western Planner Representative; and Dave Mingo, AICP, Secretary / South Dakota State Director.

I. Introductions

II. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 6, 2008 meeting were approved as presented.

III. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Bollman stated that Committee was on pace with revenue estimates and will be close to the \$7,000 projected.

Ms. McClenahan asked about payment for expenses associated with her teaching a planning ethics session at the Montana Association of Planner's Conference.

There was discussion about breaking out the budget items in more detail and Mr. Bollman stated he would do that. Items like chapter support and professional development should be specifically referenced.

Ms. Bristor requested payment for the Microsoft Publisher software that she uses for the newsletter. After further discussion, the Treasurer's report was approved, including the \$169.00 for Microsoft Publisher for Ms. Bristor.

IV. President's Report: Ms. Getchius reported that October is Community Planning month and that the APA was going to send PSA's to radio stations. She was not aware of anyone that had heard one yet. She will contact APA and ask if they followed through with this activity.

Ms. Getchius discussed the opening on the Western Planner Board. Mr. Putnam has been working to find a volunteer from South Dakota. The volunteer must be an APA and WCC member. Mr. Miller stated that it would be best if the person appointed was not a WCC Executive Committee member. He also stated that it is a fairly big commitment that

continued on page 11

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Planetizen offers a variety of courses covering planning-related topics and taught by experts in the field. These self-paced courses are designed for professionals, students, or concerned citizens looking for quick yet thorough introductions to concepts relevant to their work.

Selected courses are eligible for credits from the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP*) Certification Maintenance program.

For more information on courses currently available, click [here](#).



AICP Certification Corner *continued from page 3*

For existing AICPs needing CMs by the end of 2009, please be sure to participate in the monthly webinars offered through the Chapter. We have teamed with other APA chapters around the nation to offer a wide range of courses, and all will count for CMs for your renewal. The first renewal cycle ends in 2009. A total of 32 credit hours including 1.5 hours of law and 1.5 hours of ethics is required for renewal. Both the law and ethics courses will be available through the webinars. They are free to you as a chapter member, and you can earn CMs from the comfort of your own office.

The next webinar is scheduled for March 6 at 1:00 p.m. eastern standard time. Go on line to <http://www.utah-apa.org/> to register. Registration is limited to the first 1,000 participants so sign up soon.

The application window for the May 2009 AICP Exam closed.

The next AICP Exam is scheduled for November 2009.

For more information about AICP exam, review the [Exam Candidate Bulletin](#). Information obtained from <http://www.planning.org/certification/index.htm>.



ANNOUNCING APA MONTHLY WEBCASTS

No cost to APA members
CM 1.5 each webcast
1 pm - 2:30 pm EST

Sustainability in Codes and Public Policy
March 6, 2009

Agricultural Preservation
April 3, 2009

TBD
May 1, 2009

Current Trends in Planning Law
June 5, 2009

AICP Code of Ethics
July 3, 2009

Wind – Small and Large
August 7, 2009

The Future of Transportation: Providing Sustainable Choices for the Public
September 4, 2009

Practical Application of Takings, Exactions and Constitutional Procedural Requirements in Local Land Use Decisions
October 2, 2009

Community Visioning: Creating the Framework for Tomorrow's Florida
November 6, 2009

Creating Sustainable Communities
December 4, 2009

For more information, go to <http://www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.htm>

How Your Community Can Thrive *continued from page 5*

- **Community partnerships offer the best way forward.** To succeed, any project must become a working partnership with the people of a community. Creating a community consensus around economic development will ultimately speed up action and attract more partners, funders, and the help of countless individuals who want to be part of the plan. Too often citizens are treated as the enemy. If we are to improve our cities and towns as places to live, then we need to build upon a shared vision for the future!
- **A plan can never substitute for a vision.** The current slowdown in development offers the perfect occasion to revisit your community's values, and do some visionary thinking about where you want to go in the future. Take a close look at your community's assets and resources and carefully consider what you want your city or town to be known for in the future. Then prepare a vision statement and development regulations that will help you accomplish that vision when the next growth cycle comes around. This approach allows your community to set its own course for the future instead of being swallowed by outside development forces. For a description of how PPS can help facilitate this process, click [here](#).
- **Take over the streets.** Streets are the most prominent and prevalent public space in any town, and making them more pedestrian-friendly is the closest thing you have to a silver bullet for improving your community. A walkable downtown or neighborhood shopping district quickly becomes a magnet for both public life and economic expansion, thus enriching your community in several ways at the same time. Transportation budgets are the biggest tool most communities have for making positive change, which thankfully has become easier now that most state DOTs and the federal government understand that street projects have to benefit people as much as automobiles. PPS can be a voice helping you to send that message to your state DOT.
- Finally, keep in mind that a return to the roaring economic growth of recent decades is not in our best interest. To make the planet healthier for us and all the species with which we share it, we can no longer define success in terms of ever expanding GDP. Instead, we must learn to live better with less, by focusing on creating great communities and emphasizing quality over quantity – quality of life, place, environment, and society.

The articles that follow in this special end-of-the-year newsletter offer strategies and examples of how we can bring these qualities to communities by refocusing investments to achieve transformative results. When resources are tight, we must be clear about our priorities. That means drawing upon the wisdom of the community as a whole to set those goals, making the most of your best assets and developing partnerships to get things done. This is how you can ensure that your community will thrive even in these uncertain times. **[Read more articles from this newsletter.](#)**

1. Soji Adelaja, Ph.D., Regional Placemaking for Prosperity in the New Economy.
2. Ibid.
3. Florida, Richard. *Who's Your City?* New York: Basic Books, 2008. Page 12.
4. [Michael Porter, quoted in Business Week, "Q&A with Michael Porter."](#) August 21, 2006.
5. Ibid.

Philp Myrick is a Vice-President in the Project for Public Spaces office.

This article originally appeared in the "Placemaking in a Down Economy" issue of the *Making Places* newsletter. The article is reprinted here with permission. Learn more about Project for Public Spaces at their website: <http://www.pps.org/>.

25 best cities to find a job continued from page 6

6. Morgantown, West Virginia

Unemployment rate: 2.8 percent
Last year: 3.4 percent
Job growth: 1.8 percent

7. Logan, Utah

Unemployment rate: 2.8 percent
Last year: 2.3 percent
Job growth: N/A

8. Fargo, North Dakota

Unemployment rate: 2.9 percent
Last year: 2.6 percent
Job growth: 1.6 percent

9. Casper, Wyoming

Unemployment rate: 2.9 percent
Last year: 2.7 percent
Job growth: N/A

10. Billings, Montana

Unemployment rate: 3.0 percent
Last year: 2.3 percent
Job growth: 2.9 percent

11. Ames, Iowa

Unemployment rate: 3.1 percent
Last year: 2.8 percent
Job growth: N/A

12. Lafayette, Louisiana

Unemployment rate: 3.1 percent
Last year: 3.1 percent
Job growth: 2.8 percent

13. Midland, Texas

Unemployment rate: 3.1 percent
Last year: 3.2 percent
Job growth: 2.4 percent

14. Iowa City, Iowa

Unemployment rate: 3.2 percent
Last year: 2.8 percent
Job growth: 0.7 percent

15. Lincoln, Nebraska

Unemployment rate: 3.3 percent
Last year: 3.2 percent
Job growth: 1.4 percent

16. Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Unemployment rate: 3.3 percent
Last year: 3.1 percent
Job growth: 2.8 percent

17. Great Falls, Montana

Unemployment rate: 3.4 percent
Last year: 2.7 percent
Job growth: N/A

18. Charlestown, West Virginia

Unemployment rate: 3.4 percent
Last year: 4.1 percent
Job growth: 1 percent

19. Des Moines, Iowa

Unemployment rate: 3.5 percent
Last year: 3.1 percent
Job growth: 1.2 percent

20. Missoula, Montana

Unemployment rate: 3.5 percent
Last year: 2.6 percent
Job growth: -0.3 percent

21. Salt Lake City, Utah

Unemployment rate: 3.5 percent
Last year: 2.7 percent
Job growth: 2.2 percent

22. Provo, Utah

Unemployment rate: 3.6 percent
Last year: 2.8 percent
Job growth: 1.2 percent

23. Odessa, Texas

Unemployment rate: 3.7 percent
Last year: 3.8 percent
Job growth: 4.4 percent

24. Pocatello, Idaho

Unemployment rate: 3.7 percent
Last year: 2.4 percent
Job growth: N/A

25. Sioux City, Iowa

Unemployment rate: 3.7 percent
Last year: 3.6 percent
Job growth: -1.9 percent

*Preliminary unemployment rate for July 2008, according to the BLS.

** Unemployment rate for July 2007, according to the BLS.

*** Job growth based on numbers from April 2008.

This article originally appeared on careerbuilder.com.

SUGGEST A GREAT PLACE IN AMERICA

APA is Looking for Great Streets, Neighborhoods, and Public Spaces

As part of this initiative, APA needs your help in suggesting places that are great and merit such designation. APA wants you to suggest your favorite streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces across America, whether they are in your own city or town, in a place you've visited, or in a place you otherwise know about. Those selected for designation as a Great Neighborhood, Great Street, or Great Public Space will be recognized by APA during National Community Planning Month in October 2009.

Suggestions received by February 26, 2009, will be considered for Great Places in America designation in 2009.

To learn more about submitting a suggestion, please click [here](#).

For the 2008 Great Places in America winners, click [here](#).

Press Releases



Urban Land
Institute

News Release

Get All Sides of the Story from ULI

JOB CORNER

Looking for a job? Several online planning job listings are free to search. Here are just a few:

American Planning Association: <http://www.planning.org/jobs/search/>

Planetizen: <http://www.planetizen.com/jobs>

USA.gov: http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Work_for_the_Government.shtml

Montana Association of Planners: <http://www.montanaplanners.org/jobs.htm>

If interested in posting a job listing in the WCC Newsletter, please contact the [newsletter editor](#) by the submittal deadline (as shown on page 2).

ULI's New Publication, *Changing Metropolitan America*, Outlines the Critical Role Infrastructure Plays in Keeping America Competitive

As the nation looks to make significant new federal investments in infrastructure, *Changing Metropolitan America: Planning for a Sustainable Future*, a new publication from the Urban Land Institute, outlines strategies for building and maintaining infrastructure that fosters sustainable cities and metropolitan areas.

Changing Metropolitan America provides the know-how for planning and implementing road and bridge construction and maintenance that fuels the economy and supports prosperity. The book outlines a comprehensive approach to planning that includes a thorough understanding of the country's current "infrastructure deficit", as well as the roles that demographics, housing, energy, transportation and governance play in making America's urban areas vibrant and competitive in a global economy. *Changing Metropolitan America* explains how today's responsible land use requires a new planning and development paradigm with several significant shifts in focus and priority. Those shifts include greater focus on energy conservation; compact, transit-oriented development; urbanized retail options; affordable housing close to work centers; creative, market-oriented strategies for financing infrastructure development; regional collaboration; and combined land and transportation planning.

Changing Metropolitan America: Planning for a Sustainable Future (978-0-87420-100-0; Urban Land Institute, 2008) is available everywhere books are sold, and through the Urban Land Institute at www.uli.org or by calling 1-800-321-5011. The price is \$36.95. To request a review copy, book cover art, an interview with William Hudnut, or additional information, contact Peggy Meehan by e-mail at peggy@highnooncommunications.com or at 202-486-8757.

The Urban Land Institute is a nonprofit education and research institute supported by its members. Its mission is to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide. Established in 1936, the Institute has nearly 40,000 members worldwide representing all aspects of land use and development disciplines.



Sopris Foundation founder John McBride is concerned about the West, and the erosion of community in places like his hometown, Aspen, Colorado. The foundation undertook a study of the demographic mix of locals to non-locals in 2006 and produced "Nobody's Home" to convey to other small Western towns the risk of loss of community at the hands of real estate speculation and second home ownership.

"Nobody's Home" warns that without foresight, planning, strict zoning, and the will of the community, historic downtowns will vacate. The workforce will commute for hours. Firefighters, teachers and even attorneys will not be able to afford homes within a reasonable distance of work. The vitality for which resort towns are known, and which serve to draw tourists, will disappear. The real community is forced out.

Press Releases *continued from page 10*

Solutions exist, however. The case studies that append in the film describe lessons learned and potential strategies available for planners and elected officials with foresight. Crested Butte, Basalt, Aspen and Switzerland serve as models.

Creating community is essential for the health of the citizens, as well as for maintenance of the brand resort towns represent. Careful consideration of growth is essential to prevent beloved places in the West from giving in to these pressures.

The film is available to planning and zoning commissions, county commissioners and interested citizens of the West free of charge.

For more information, contact Piper Foster of the Sopris Foundation at piper@soprisfoundation.org or 970.319.6886.

WCC Executive Committee Meeting Summary *continued from page 7*

includes writing articles for the magazine. Mr. Bollman asked if we were going to have something on the website asking for a volunteer. Ms. Bristor asked for a paragraph describing the duties that she could post. Mr. Miller stated he would provide that for her.

Bylaws status. Ms. Getchius reported that the bylaws were approved in an online vote. The Committee then reviewed the online comments and agreed that the bylaws as written address the comments.

V. State Sections Report: Mr. Putnam reminded committee members that the South Dakota Planner's conference is in Watertown on October 29th and 30th. He gave a brief overview of the conference agenda. There are 11 total AICP CM credits available at the South Dakota conference. With the overlap, an individual could get seven or eight credits.

Mr. Miller reported that the North Dakota conference is November 5th and 6th.

Mr. Bollman reported that the Montana conference was a couple of weeks ago. They did go through the process of making CM's available. There were 100 to 110 people in attendance.

Ms. McClenahan reported that the Wyoming Planner's Association is updating their bylaws.

VI. Professional Development Officer

Report: Webcasts: Ms. McClenahan reported that plans are moving forward for the webcast training. The cost for all 12 sessions will be \$165 per chapter to make them available to members. Each webcast will handle 1,000 participants. The WCC webcast is scheduled for August, 2009. Ms. McClenahan suggested "Wind Power" as a topic from a regulatory standpoint. There was Committee consensus to go ahead with the topic and Ms. McClenahan will draft a summary for the newsletter.

VII. Web / Newsletter Report: Ms. Bristor reported that the full newsletter is still being prepared and it needs a lead story. She will attempt to find something related to environmental law. She requested state updates for this issue and on a regular basis in the future. The deadline for the fall issue is November 18th.

VII. Other Business: None

IX. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be via conference call this winter.

Ms. Getchius adjourned the meeting.

**STATE DIRECTOR
UPDATES (available in
Spring 2009 newsletter)**

Montana

Wyoming

South Dakota

North Dakota

Where in the world?

answer: "This was taken on Robben Island, South Africa, looking across the bay toward Cape Town and Table Mountain. Robben Island is where Nelson Mandela and numerous political figures were held during the apartheid years of South Africa."



American Planning Association
Western Central Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

Conference Opportunities

Workshop: *Boot Camp for Sustainability: Learning to Implement*

Cochrane, Alberta, Canada
February 26 - 28, 2009
<http://www.cochranesustainability.ca/?page=spl>

2009 National Main Streets Conference: *Becoming Main Street 2.0*

Chicago, IL
March 1 - 4, 2009
<http://www.mainstreet.org/>

The Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute Conference: *Sustainability: Beyond the Platitudes*

Denver, CO
March 5 - 6, 2009
<http://www.law.du.edu/index.php/rmlui/conferences>

WYOPASS Spring Workshop

Days Inn, Thermopolis, WY
April 2 - 3, 2009

2009 APA Conference

Minneapolis, MN
April 25 - 29, 2009
<http://www.planning.org/nationalconference/>

2009 Western Planner Conference

Holiday Inn, Spearfish, SD
September 9 - 11, 2009
<http://www.westernplanner.org/2008conf.htm>

2009 National Preservation Conference: *Creating the Future in Harmony with our Pasts*

Nashville, TN
October 13 - 17, 2009
<http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc/>

2009 Western Planners Conference - Call for Session Proposals!



The South Dakota Planners Association and the Western Planner would like to invite the many talented people in our communities to assist us in creating the best conference agenda possible by suggesting new topics, or speakers for the following topics (* items already have speakers assigned): 1) *Firewise; 2) *Floodplain; 3) *GIS; 4) *Signs; 5) Rural Water; 6) Public Information Laws; 7) Population/Demographic Trends; 8) Tourism and Visitor Activities; 9) *RLUIPA; 10) Green Ordinances; 11) Wind Energy; 12) CAFO Regulations - City and County; 13) Walkability; 14) Corridor Preservation/Access Management; 15) *Sandford Underground Lab; 16) *Planning Commission Organization, Procedures and Training; 17) Film Industries Impact on States; 18) Legal; 19) Transportation Survey; 20) Brownfield Conversions; 21) Impacts Fees; 22) History of Zoning; 23) Ethics; 24) Stimulus and Local Government; 25) Upcycling; 26) Native American Planning; 27) Planning in Difficult Times; 28) Healthy Communities; 29) Public Health; and 30) *Land Trusts.

We would like our sessions to be 90 minutes long and 3 speakers per session that can all talk about different aspects of the same topic. Other options are open for discussion, just ask. The conference planning committee encourages presentation styles that engage the audience through hands-on learning, group activities, roundtable discussions, or any other method of presentation that goes beyond traditional conference presentation/lecture format.

Please fill out the attached Session Abstract Form, on the following page, and return to Amber Vogt by **FEBRUARY 27, 2009!**

**“Head for the Hills”
Conference Session Abstract
Spearfish, South Dakota
September 9-11, 2009**

Please fill out this form and return to Amber Vogt by **FEBRUARY 27, 2009!** You can email it to avogt@lawrence.sd.us or fax to 605-722-6221. Any questions call 605-578-3871.

Proposed Session Title: _____

Proposed Planning Topic: _____

Proposed Moderator: _____

Proposed Panelists/Speakers: 3 speakers per 90 minute session
******Each proposed speaker will need to submit a short biography including current professional title and notable achievements that indicate required level of expertise******

Name	Certifications	Number	Email
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> AICP <input type="checkbox"/> FAICP	_____	_____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> AICP <input type="checkbox"/> FAICP	_____	_____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> AICP <input type="checkbox"/> FAICP	_____	_____

List learning objectives that the audience will gain:

1.

2.

3.

Describe the session content (300 words +/-) - Attach additional sheets if necessary: