

# COUNTY PLANNING



American Planning Association  
County Planning Division

Making Great Communities Happen

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

Volume 2, Issue 2

December 2009

Minneapolis 2009 was a successful event for the County Planning Division (CPD) and New Orleans is just around the corner.

The County Planning Division has the following events scheduled in New Orleans.

ANNUAL MEETING: April 11, 2010, Sunday 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. (X008)

SPONSORED SESSION: April 11, 2010, Sunday 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. Siting a Wind Farm (S476)

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

**From the Chair:** As cliché as it is, December is always a good time to look back on our accomplishments for the year and to look forward to our goals for the next year. The same is true for an organization such as the County Planning Division. 2009 was the second full year for us as a Division. Throughout the year we sought to build on the momentum created during our first year. A major emphasis continued to be striving to maximize the annual conference benefits and opportunities provided to county planners. Altogether the Division helped organize, presented, or was otherwise involved with a total of six conference sessions in Minneapolis. For 2010, the Division will be adding a new focus on member communications. You should already be receiving periodic County Planning/Planner eNews via email. We've recruited Mr. Hill to serve as our new Newsletter editor, and we are looking to establish a County Planning/Planner networking site such as Facebook or LinkedIn.

I wish you a happy holidays and New Year.

Dennis Sandquist, Chairman

## HEAD SOUTH TO THE DELTA

American Planning Association's  
**2010 National Planning Conference**  
Saturday, April 10–Tuesday, April 13  
New Orleans



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[www.planning.org/conference](http://www.planning.org/conference)

### NEWSLETTER Schedule

#### SPRING

Submittal deadline: March 15

#### SUMMER

Submittal deadline: June 15

#### FALL

Submittal deadline: September 15

#### WINTER

Submittal deadline: December 15

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

CPD Newsletter Editor

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## **County Planner Profile**

### **Short profiles of our members**

**County/Employer:** Brookings County, SD

**Name:** Robert W. Hill

**Job Title:** Director of Planning, Zoning and Drainage

**Years in position:** 6 years 10 months three days 16 hours (as this is being typed)

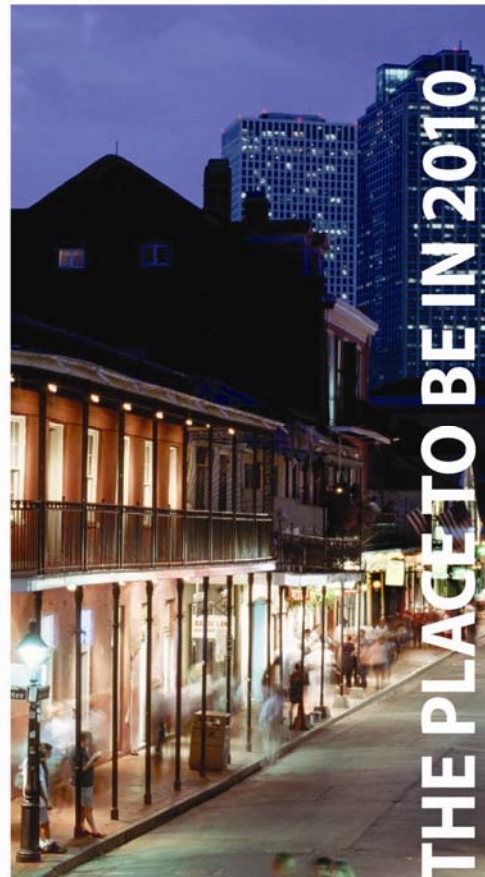
**Education:** AS, Gadsden State Community College (Alabama), BS and MS, South Dakota State University, the other SDSU.

**What did you do before going into planning?**  
Twenty years, retired, U.S. Army

**Is your county considered urban or rural?**  
Population: 28,220 people, 47,000 cows

**Accomplishments during your current position:** The most personal accomplishment is the development of a Transmission Pipeline Risk Reduction Overlay District annex to our Zoning Ordinance. Secondly would be the permitting and construction of three wind farms, 50MW, 55MW and 200MW respectively along with a 300MW Natural Gas Power Plant.

**Submissions for this section are always welcome.**



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## COUNTIES IN THE NEWS

### **EPA Recognizes Communities for Smart Growth Achievements**

**WASHINGTON** -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson today recognized four diverse communities that are models of how to grow in ways that protect our nation's air, land, and water; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; provide safe and affordable housing; and strengthen local economies.

"Every year the Smart Growth Achievement Award winners show us new and creative ways to bring environmental sustainability to our communities -- and this year is no exception," said EPA Administrator Jackson. "Smart Growth has an important role to play in building a new foundation for prosperity in communities across the nation. Innovative Smart Growth techniques give communities from urban to suburban to rural the chance to be environmentally sustainable and economically resilient."

The four recipients of the 2009 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement are as follows:

- **Overall Excellence: Lancaster County Planning Commission for Envision Lancaster County.** Lancaster County, in south-central Pennsylvania, is known for its historic towns and villages, and its fertile farmland. To maintain the county's character, its diverse economy, and its natural resources for future generations, the Lancaster County Planning Commission established a countywide comprehensive growth management plan, which protects valuable farmland and historic landscapes by directing development to established towns and cities in the county.
- **Policies and Regulations:** City of Charlotte for Urban Street Design Guidelines. As the central city in a rapidly growing metropolitan area, Charlotte, N.C., is under intense development pressures. Rather than continue the automobile-dominated development patterns of the last 50 years, Charlotte adopted Urban Street Design Guidelines to make walking, bicycling, and transit more appealing and to make the city more attractive and sustainable.
- **Built Projects:** Chicago Housing Authority, FitzGerald Associates Architects and Holsten Real Estate Development Corporation for Parkside of Old Town. Parkside of Old Town sits on eight city blocks that were once home to a public housing complex notorious for criminal activity. The redevelopment has transformed the neighborhood by reconnecting it to downtown Chicago and tying together mixed-income housing, parks, and new shops and restaurants.
- **Smart Growth and Green Building:** City of Tempe, Ariz. for the Tempe Transportation Center. The Tempe Transportation Center is a model for sustainable design, a vibrant, mixed-use regional transportation hub that incorporates innovative and green building elements tailored to the Southwest desert environment. The Tempe Transportation Center is a true multi-modal facility that integrates a light rail stop, the main city bus station, and paths for bicyclists and pedestrians.

These four award winners demonstrate the community benefits of aligning housing, transportation, and environmental objectives, one of the key goals of the new Partnership for Sustainable Communities between EPA, the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Dept. of Transportation. The partnership helps rural, suburban, and urban communities improve access to affordable housing, create more transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment.

EPA created the National Award for Smart Growth Achievement in 2002 to recognize exceptional approaches to development that protect the environment, foster economic vitality, and enhance quality of life. Over the past eight years, 623 communities in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, have applied to EPA to be considered for this award. In addition to presenting the annual awards, EPA's Smart Growth Program helps America's communities turn their visions of the future into reality through research, tools, partnerships, case studies, grants, and technical assistance.

**More information on the winners and EPA's Smart Growth Program:**  
<http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/>

More information on the Partnership for Sustainable Communities: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/partnership>

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## COUNTIES IN THE NEWS

### County Conservation Awards

Each year, the Trust for Public Lands, the National Association of Counties, and the National Association of County Planners (NACP) recognize counties that exhibit excellence in conservation and protection of the environment. The categories of the County Leadership in Conservation Award are for small counties (population less than 150,000), medium counties (population between 150,000 and 499,999) and large counties (population greater than 500,000). The selection committee is comprised of county commissioners and an environmental planner who is a member of NACP. The committee reviews applications and ranks them based on the following attributes: innovation, financing mechanisms, vision and planning principles, diversity and strength of partnerships, implementation excellence, public awareness and support, and program management. In 2009, the winning counties were Beaufort County, South Carolina (small), Washoe County, Nevada (medium), and Hillsborough County, Florida (large). Maricopa County also received special recognition and an award of merit from the National Association of County Planners for their outstanding land use and conservation planning.

You can read more about the winning entries and the awards program here [http://www.tpl.org/tier2\\_kad.cfm?folder\\_id=2867](http://www.tpl.org/tier2_kad.cfm?folder_id=2867) .

**This space is available for your County Planning related news.  
Please send us your articles and Press Releases.**

## Important Contact Information

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

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