

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR**Ralph Willmer, AICP**

I hope everyone is beginning to enjoy their summers and are further along in vacation planning than I am!

First and foremost, I want to welcome and thank our new co-editors of the ENRE newsletter: Jane Gurney and John Anderson. We all hope you will enjoy the upgraded newsletter with its new format and extensive content. As they have a chance to work on future issues, we will likely see the newsletter evolve and we encourage any feedback you might have. This is also the first issue in which our new editorial board has participated.

Although it seems like we just returned from the San Antonio conference, planning for the Philadelphia conference next April has begun in earnest. To that end, ENRE is soliciting proposals for the two by-right sessions provided to the Division. We have a review committee established with Danielle Bower, Chair-Elect Ingrid Kelley, and Ashwani Vasishth. For more information, see <http://www.planning.org/2006conference/sessionproposal/division.htm>, and the deadline for submission to the committee is August 15, 2006. Submissions should be sent to Danielle at Danielle.Bower@chplanning.com. Our sponsored sessions in San Antonio were well attended and we have a good track record for having relevant and informative sessions.

At our Business Meeting in San Antonio, the '06-'07 Work Program was adopted. It highlights the major activities of the Division over the coming year, which includes an increased emphasis on establishing committees to advance our work. One

example is a Legislative Committee, which has been discussed in the past, but has a renewed focus given the number of items on APA's legislative agenda that are environment or energy related. APA is looking to divisions to provide greater expertise on these and other issues, such as housing. Among the issues of interest to ENRE are the efforts to rewrite NEPA and the Endangered Species Act, as well as new legislation on coastal zone management, energy, and water. APA may seek our members to testify at Congress, meet with Congressional offices, and to assist with our annual Legislative Conference, to be held again in September 2007.

Additionally, APA publications will be focusing on environmental issues in upcoming editions. Planning Magazine will soon highlight global warming and the Spring '07 issue of the Journal of the American Planning Association will address water quality and quantity.

Elsewhere in this issue and on our website, you will see a notice for the 2006 – 2007 ENRE Student Fellowship application. Once again, ENRE is offering a \$2,500 scholarship to a graduate student working on a project relevant to the Division's mission statement. See the website for the application a more details on submission.

Finally, we hope to send out a membership survey to get a better sense of your priorities and preferences for what ENRE does over the next few years. We look forward to your input to make the Division as relevant as possible to your practice.

Feel free to contact me if you are interested in the work program, our committees, or if you have suggestions about what we can do for you (rwillmer@vhb.com).

NOTICE

ENRE is soliciting proposals for the two by-right sessions provided to the Division for the APA National Conference in Philadelphia in April 2007. We have a review committee established to review your proposals. For more information and the form on which to submit your proposal, see <http://www.planning.org/2006conference/sessionproposal/division.htm>.

The deadline for submission to the committee is August 15, 2006. Submissions should be sent to Danielle at Danielle.Bower@chplanning.com. Decisions will be made in advance of the deadline for the general membership to submit session proposals directly to APA. Our sponsored sessions in San Antonio were well attended and we have a good track record for having relevant and informative sessions.

Ralph Willmer

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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Environmental Planning Newsletter invites your contributions to the newsletter in areas of interest to the membership, as well as your suggestions for topics you would like to see covered in the newsletter. Suggestions for topics of current interest received to date include:

- Conference workshop summaries
- Wind farms/energy
- Water energy
- Solar energy
- Biofuel development
- LNG facilities
- New nuclear facilities and issues relating to transportation and disposal of waste
- sustainable forestry
- improved waterway usage for transportation (barges, ferry service, etc.)
- water use and allocation rights
- sustainable fishing (i.e. aquaculture)
- fuel cell technology

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- Green building development
- Advances in stormwater management techniques
- Open space preservation
- New Urbanist development
- Global warming and the impacts on sea level rise.
- Conservation design and best management practices and how new development or redevelopment projects are implementing these strategies
- Farm bill legislation and the consequences for organic/ free-range/ better fed food industry

If you have an article in preparation on one of these – or other – topics, we would welcome the opportunity to publish it. If you know of someone from whom you would like to see an article, please contact the editors

and they will follow up to invite an article. Please contact one of the editors to submit an article.

EDITORS:

John Anderson (janderson@rc.com) and Jane Gurney (jgurney@uoguelph.ca).

Please note the deadline for submission of articles for the publication of the Fall 2006 newsletter is September 30, 2006.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The ENRE Division is establishing a new Editorial Board based on specific subject areas. The members of this Board will assist the newsletter editor and web site manager in identifying quality materials to include in the newsletter and web site, including articles, conferences, and web site links. Of particular interest is soliciting original articles from ENRE members or other experts on topics of interest to our members. The work of the Editorial Board will strengthen the ENRE newsletter and web site. The list of members who have volunteered are identified below, along with their areas of expertise. If you are interested in serving on the Editorial Board, please contact Deanna Glosser (contact information is included on page 2).

| Areas of Expertise | Volunteers |
|---|--------------------------|
| Water Resources | Jan Bush, Aaron Weieneth |
| Groundwater | Michel Paque |
| Water Supply Planning | Aaron Weieneth |
| Wetlands | Carol Garey |
| Environmental Economics | Thomas Cafcus |
| Conservation Design | Aaron Rucker |
| Native American Environmental Issues/Sustainability | Bev Suderman |
| Energy | Christopher Kallajer |
| Conservation Design | Aaron Rucker |
| International Planning | Ashwani Vasishth |
| Sustainability | Anindita Mitra |

EDITORIAL BOARD BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Anindita Mitra, AICP is the Founder of CREÀ Affiliates, a sustainable planning and design firm based in Seattle, WA. She has been researching and writing about the connection between energy and land use for several years. With the support of the Washington Chapter of the APA she convened a multidisciplinary Energy Task Force that is assembling a broad vision for an energy independent and clean state. The report will be released in early Fall. For inquiries or questions, please contact her at amitra@crea-affiliates.com.

Aaron Rucker's background is in municipal current and long-range planning. On the current planning side of things, he has project managing experience with residential and commercial/retail subdivision proposals in a high-growth Illinois community stressing conservation design and/or best management practices. At present, long-range planning assignments include ArcView GIS 9.1 mapping and growth analysis yielding straightforward maps to complex annexation and future land use examination; data management in supporting TIF creation including reviewing consultant reports and economic development initiatives; focus area/neighborhood planning, central-city revitalization and design guidelines policy update; and brownfield redevelopment, including preparation of initial site assessment spreadsheets, site presentation and marketing.



A. Mitra



B. Suderman

Beverly Suderman is the proud recipient of the 2005 APA-ENRE Fellowship, and has just finished a Masters in Planning degree, with a focus on Environmental Planning, at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, Canada. The topic of her professional project was invasive plant management in urban municipalities. Beverly has accepted a position as Integrated Land Management Planner with the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation, engaging in a collaborative process with the Province of British Columbia, to develop a Strategic Land and Resources Management Plan for the Indian River Watershed. Prior to entering graduate school, she worked for six years with the Hopi Indian Tribe (Arizona) as their Natural Resources Planner. Beverly anticipates contributing a number of articles on planning invasive plant management in cities over the upcoming year, as well as ensuring that issues facing indigenous and natural areas planners are addressed. She sees collaboration with the Indigenous Planners Division on some of these issues is a worthy goal that she looks forward to discussing further with colleagues within ENRE.

Ashwani Vasishth is a planner in Southern California, doing regional-level integrative environmental planning, as well as being an Assistant Professor with the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, California State University, Northridge (PhD dissertation, from the University of Southern California, is titled *Getting Humans Back Into Nature: A Scale-Hierarchic Ecosystem Approach to Integrative Ecological Planning*). Originally trained as an architect, in India, where Ashwani focused was on vernacular architecture and on developing nature-friendly approaches to the built environment and on disaster planning--both in pre-disaster mitigation and in post-disaster recovery. Subsequently, Ashwani worked on the design and delivery of large-scale shelter programs, with a particular emphasis on a political ecology approach to institutional analysis as part of a Master's degree from MIT. Ashwani has worked in

regional planning in Southern California for about ten years, developing an ecosystem-based approach to urban ecology, with a particular interest in heat island mitigation, urban forestry, landscape management, and integrative regional planning; current research synthesizes across these domains.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Ladies/Gentlemen:

I must say, that I was rather flabbergasted my Prof. Kaufman's profound thoughts on "food system planning" that appeared in the April 2006 issue of the Environmental Newsletter.

Assuming that the article is not an April fools story, it seems to demonstrate how impractical and out of the mainstream, are the thoughts that seem to occupy some "planning scholars". Fortunately, as shown by the Professors own survey, real world planners showed little or no interest or involvement.

If we do want to undertake food system planning shouldn't we also be concerned with food preparation at home, family eating practices, diets etc. And if we want to reach out further, what about clothing system planning, furniture system planning, footwear system planning, paper product system planning etc. You will note that in Prof. Kaufman's suggested engagement outline, the word "food" can be replaced with the words "clothing", "footwear" or "furniture" and it makes as much, or as little sense.

As is, we planners have had only limited success dealing with the more obvious and basic issues such as urban sprawl, land use control, sustainability, affordable housing, efficient transportation etc. There is plenty more to be done on the basics without getting into food systems.

Sincerely, Ivar Vilcins, P.E., AICP

CALLS FOR INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

The NE Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NEPARC) land use working group is looking for examples of local or regional land use ordinances that have been developed to either 1) protect reptile and amphibian species directly and/or their habitats or 2) protect biodiversity in general. We are also interested in information about any demonstration projects where design features and BMP's were used to protect herps and their habitats. If you know of any examples from where you live or from other parts of the country, please send them to us, along with as much detail as you can about them. If they have actually been effective, we'd love to know that as well.

Send any examples to:

Liz Johnson
Center for Biodiversity and Conservation
American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, NY 10024
ejohnson@amnh.org
212-769-5047

KANE COUNTY ENERGY SOLUTIONS

By Rachel Scheu*

Gasoline prices climbed to \$3.50 per gallon. Heating bills hit record highs last winter. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 was enacted. States are deregulating electricity markets. Natural gas is increasingly being used for electricity generation. Air conditioner use is increasing nationally. People clearly have energy on their minds.

Planners do too, and are thinking about energy supply, demand and infrastructure, and they are considering their roles in energy planning. Over the last several years, the American Planning Association

* Rachel Scheu was recipient of the 2004 ENRE Student Fellowship.

has initiated several energy related projects. The APA produced an energy policy guide, conducted a member survey on energy issues, and held two sessions devoted to energy policy and planning at this spring's national planning conference in San Antonio. One of these presentations featured an innovative planning initiative in Illinois – *Kane County Energy Solutions*.

The *Kane County Energy Solutions* project demonstrated how local jurisdictions can include energy in the planning process, just as they now address land use, transportation, water resource planning, etc. While the county has an impressive planning tradition, it had not previously planned for the impact of growth on the energy delivery infrastructure. The project linked the county's projected 70% population growth to the impact on electric infrastructure planning and household energy consumption growth. It quantified the economic impact of population and energy consumption growth and recommended strategies for reducing that impact. The project's innovation lies in connecting current (and future energy use) 'on the ground' in specific county geographies with proven demand reduction strategies that adapted to work anywhere. Just as there's no cookie cutter land use or transportation plan, energy planning too must be customized to the locality.

The project was led by the Chicago-based Center for Neighborhood Technology's Community Energy Cooperative. The project team created a profile of Kane County's growing energy needs by analyzing population and land use data. The model used the energy characteristics of current housing types in the county as well as the energy characteristics of homes being constructed by the local building industry¹.

¹ Illinois is one of nine states that have no residential energy code, so each of the county's 26 municipalities may have different building code requirements.

Kane County is located approximately 50 miles west of Chicago and contains a mixture of older urban homes; larger, newer suburban homes; and rural farms. Each housing type has different energy use characteristics. The Cooperative analyzed geographic data on the distribution of electricity use and correlated energy use to different housing types. These data were provided by the local investor-owned utility, ComEd. Current building practices were determined by surveying each builder on its energy related equipment purchasing and construction practices. The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, the region's MPO, provided municipal population growth projections.

Through analysis of this data, the Cooperative then showed *where* and *how much* electricity use growth will occur in the county and where infrastructure will be needed over a 25 year time period. This is longer than the typical utility planning schedule of three to five years, and instead reflects a timeframe more typical of land use plans. Finally, the Cooperative created four scenarios to illustrate the impacts of growing energy demand and potential demand reduction strategies. These scenarios included:

- Business as usual
- Short term conservation
- Short-term conservation with the addition of **moderate** impact on new growth
- Short-term conservation with the addition of **aggressive** impact on new growth

The aggressive scenario would reduce peak demand in the county by 194 MW over the next 25 years. A demand reduction on this scale could eliminate the need for building significant amounts of new electric infrastructure such as new substations.

The *Kane County Energy Plan* was released in October 2005 and has been well

received. The project illustrates a planning process that links spatial and energy use information and can be replicated in other regions.

To read the *Kane County Energy Plan* please visit:
<http://www.energycooperative.org/kane-county-energy-solutions.php>.

PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS OF NOTE

The division website is a valuable resource for current events and resources and internet links. The website manager, Ian Crelling, is doing a great job – be sure to log in to the website to find current information.

ENRE Student Fellowship Program

(Announcement published on website)

Deadline: August 14, 2006

The American Planning Association's Environment, Natural Resources and Energy Division (ENRE) announces its 2006-2007 Student Fellowship Program for second year planning graduate students. The Fellowship's purpose is to provide \$2,500 financial support for students excelling in graduate level studies in planning related to natural resources, energy or the environment.

Eligible students must be classified as a second year graduate student enrolled in an accredited graduate school planning program focusing on issues related to the environment, natural resources or energy. They must have a B or greater GPA (3.0/4.0), be a current APA member with ENRE Division membership strongly preferred, have the written recommendation of their major advisor and be in a course of study consistent with ENRE's mission.

The ENRE Division's mission is to promote sound environment, natural resources and energy planning and resource use policies among individual members of APA and the

general public, and within the planning profession and communities of all scales. See the ENRE Division Website to download an application.

Upcoming Conferences

For more information on these events, please see the APA conferences website (<http://www.planning.org/events/calendar.htm>) for dates, locations, and links to each conference website.

August 2006

- 5th Annual National Community Impact Assessment Workshop: Urban Areas in Transition, Colorado Department of Transportation
- Tuesdays at APA 'Using New Urbanism to Transform Corridors', Burnham Conference Center at APA, 122 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1600, Chicago, IL
- North Carolina Chapter Summer Planning Institute and Leadership Conference, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC.

September 2006

- Tennessee Chapter Conference, Nashville.
- Nevada Chapter Conference, Carson City.
- GIS in the Rockies Conference, Denver.
- Retrofitting the Suburbs: New Urbanism in the Midwest, The Seaside Institute, Carmel, Ind.
- New York Upstate Chapter Conference, Auburn.
- Oregon Planning Institute (OPI), co-sponsored by the University of Oregon, Lillis School of Business, and the Oregon Chapter of APA, Eugene.
- Basic Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, National Institute of Crime Prevention, Orlando, Florida.
- Colorado Chapter Conference, Telluride.
- Northern New England Chapter Conference, Meredith, N.H.
- Arizona Chapter Conference, Marriott Phoenix — Mesa Hotel, Phoenix.
- Minnesota Chapter Conference, Madden's Resort, Brainerd.
- New England Planning Conference (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island Chapters), Omni New Haven Hotel, New Haven, Conn.
- Utah Chapter Conference, Academy Square, Provo, UT.

- Florida Chapter Conference, Marco Island Marriott, Marco Island.
- Arkansas Chapter Conference, Ft. Smith.
- Regional Planning Comes of Age, New Brunswick, N.J.; Urban Waterfronts 24: Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence on the Waterfront, Waterfront Center, Portland, Ore.

October 2006

- Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Chapter Conference, Westin Hotel, Cincinnati.
- Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota — Upper Midwest State Conference, Pheasant Run Resort & Spa, St. Charles, Ill
- Delaware/Maryland Chapter Conference, co-sponsored by AARP, Spencer (soon to be Doubletree) Hotel, Wilmington, Del.
- National Impact Fee Roundtable, Washington.
- Missouri Chapter Conference, University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, Mo.
- National Policy Summit, National Housing Conference, Chicago.
- Georgia Chapter Conference, Sea Palms Golf & Tennis Resort, St. Simons Island, GA.
- Louisiana Chapter Conference, Capital Hilton, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Michigan Chapter Conference, Detroit Marriott Hotel.
- Louisiana Chapter Conference, Capital Hilton, Baton Rouge, La.
- Planners Training Workshops, Providence, R.I.
- Texas Chapter Conference, Corpus Christi.
- SmartCode Workshop, Las Vegas.
- Place Matters 06: A Creative Planning Collaborative for Sustainable Communities, Adam's Mark Hotel, Denver.
- Pennsylvania Chapter Conference will be held at the Hilton Harrisburg Hotel in Harrisburg.
- California Chapter, Central Coast Section Conference, Hyatt Regency, Orange County, California.
- National Conference on Cultivating Creative Communities: Local Solutions for Global Success, Partners for Livable Communities, Charlotte, N.C.
- Play a Lead Role in America's Communities: 2006 Enterprise Network Conference, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., Los Angeles