

Alaska Planning Journal

Volume 3, Issue 2
Spring 2005



President's Message Website: vehicle for training & discussion

John McPherson,
President APA Alaska

Because Alaska is a large state, planners and planning commissioners have a challenging time communicating and interacting across our vast distances. With that in mind, our Chapter's 2005 strategic plan promotes our website (www.alaskaplanning.org) as a vehicle for fostering communication and training to all areas of the state. Toward that end, the Alaska Chapter applied for and received a grant from DCED to help move us forward on these goals. The grant money from DCED will be used to implement key elements of that plan to help further good planning in our communities across the state. More specifically, we will be using the grant money to help make our web-based communication and training goals a reality.

We hope to accomplish the following with the grant:

- ✓ Providing our site with a professional makeover to make it more useable and accessible to more Alaska Planners.
- ✓ Converting the Planning Commissioner Handbook into an online training course that would be accessible to all planning commissioners across the state.
- ✓ Developing a planning bulletin board (list serve) page that could be used to initiate discussion and information sharing about current issues of importance to planners in the state.

The Alaska Chapter of the APA will be providing in-kind services to create test questions and establish a certification program for planning commissioners that successfully complete the on-line training. The Alaska Chapter will be completing the website, online training, and certification program by June 30, 2005.

I am excited by the prospect of providing the assistance to planners and planning commissioners across the state that this grant will allow. If you have any ideas or content to contribute to the site, please contact me. We are especially eager to get photos of planners in action, scenery, or depictions illustrating particular planning challenges. Contact me at john.mcpherson@hdrinc.com if you would like to be involved.

Membership Information

Your local chapter relies on the latest information that the American Planning Association has to provide you with this newsletter and other pertinent information from the Chapter. Please take a moment to ensure your membership information is up to date by logging on to <https://www.planning.org/myprofile/>.

If you are not currently a member of APA and are interested in joining, or have other questions about APA departments and services, you can find general links and information at <https://www.planning.org/apadepts/email.htm>, or contact APA at:

American Planning Association
122 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-431-9100
Fax: 312-431-9985

In this issue:

President's Message	1
Membership info	1
Regional Reports	
Northern	2
Guest Columnist – a student planner's perspective on the APA national conference	3
Alaska Planners meet at APA	4
Alaska Issues	
Rural Sprawl	5
In the News	
Tsunami Aftermath	6
Tsunami Hazards: Planning and Mitigation	7
From Washington	
TEA-21 Conference Committee begins work	8
Oceans Bill Introduced	8
Legislative Info	9
The Back Page	
SF blends old and new	10
Planners on the move	10
Sponsor ads	10



Send your articles, comments, responses, suggestions, or letters to the editor to Suzanne Taylor.

e-mail: smtaylor@ascg.com
Or write to:
Suzanne Taylor
ASCG Incorporated
3900 C Street,
Suite 501
Anchorage, AK 99503

Regional Reports

Northern

By Earl Finkler, VP
Northern Region,
Barrow, Alaska

Greetings from Barrow! In astronomical terms, over the weekend of April 30, we passed the halfway point between spring and summer. But summer-type things are happening already --- gravel roads thawing at 10-20 degrees and snow "sublimating" directly into the atmosphere, even at 10 degrees above. The sun rose on May 10, and will remain continuously above the horizon until August 2.

Speaking of mucky gravel roads this time of year, that is only one transportation problem in the Arctic. There are also concerns such as sprawling communities and the high cost of road maintenance and construction, especially as government budgets shrink.

Also the cost and difficulties of air and sea transportation. The only road connection to the rest of the state is the Dalton Highway, which primarily serves the Prudhoe Bay area and some of the oil fields.

Expansion of the Dalton Highway link may be possible, especially as the pace of oil activity moves westward. And additional outside road links to the North Slope have also been mentioned, including those to support oil, coal and other natural resource development.

However, external road links can have negative impacts on local subsistence, fiscal and environmental resources. The North Slope Borough has raised such concerns ever since the completion of the Haul Road, or Dalton Highway in the mid-1970s, and the pressures related to the opening of the industrial road to unrestricted public use.

So it seems timely that the North Slope Borough update its transportation plan. According to Karla Kolash of the Mayor's office, the last such effort was part of the comprehensive plan completed back in 1983. The current update will be in front of the Borough Planning Commission for a public hearing at the end of May.

Kolash said that ASCG Incorporated has been working on the new transportation plan, which includes everything from traditional trade routes to community transportation in Barrow and each of the seven villages. Also airports and marine transportation.

She said the new transportation plan would be an element of the Borough's overall comprehensive plan, which is also being updated, but that the transportation plan will be published as a separate document.



Northern APA representative Earl Finkler by Browers, with Nuna

Meanwhile, in a further budget-cutting move, the Borough has announced that the public bus service in Barrow, once one of the highest in per capita use in the U.S., will cease operation as of July 1, 2005, due to its high cost and low ridership. Dennis Packer of the Mayor's office said the Borough would be working with the private sector, including local taxicabs, on affordable transit alternatives to the bus service.

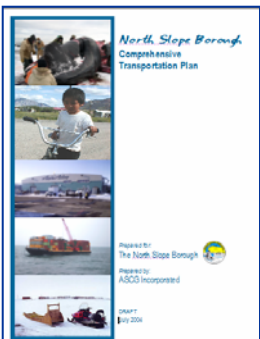
JOB OPENING: The North Slope Borough Planning Department is looking for a Community Development Planner in Barrow. AICP certification is preferred, and duties are widespread, including planning policies and projects affecting land use, zoning, community facilities and transportation. Also review the comprehensive plan every two years and oversee periodic Borough censuses.

Those interested should contact the Borough Personnel Office (907-852-0364) or Rex Okakok, Planning Director (907-852-0320).

Have a great summer everyone. Go Chicago Cubs!



"People take their vehicles to the spring festival events on the lagoon between Barrow and Browerville, and stay inside to watch those participating."



Community Development Planner Department of Planning and Community Development

Summary or Purpose:

Certified planner with an emphasis on long-term community and economic development.

Knowledge, Skills and Qualifications:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential function satisfactorily. The requirements listed are representative of the knowledge, skills, and/or abilities required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Required:

High school graduate or general equivalency diploma (GED) or the equivalent.

Four years work experience in community development planning.

Two years work experience in economic and demographic forecasting.

Four years work experience with state, federal, and municipal governments.

Three years computer experience, including knowledge of common software applications.

Two years work experience with the public.

Preferred:

American Institute of Certified Planners Certification.

Bachelor's degree in social science, planning, public administration, or natural resources. Knowledge of laws, legal codes, procedures and policies relating to the State of Alaska and the North Slope Borough.

Familiarity with the oil industry in Alaska

One year of GIS experience

Duties and Responsibilities:

Design, promote and administer government plans, projects and policies affecting land use, zoning, public utilities, community facilities and transportation. - Review NSB Comprehensive

Plan every two years and bring recommended changes to the Planning Commission. -

Coordinate revision of NSB Title 19 with NSB law office, other relevant borough departments and state and federal agencies as needed. - Coordinate CIP planning efforts with Public Works Department, including advising on regulatory conformance and possible alternatives. -

Conduct economic and demographic research, surveys, impact studies, and forecasting, at both the Borough and community levels in order to compile and analyze data on economic, social, regulatory and physical factors affecting land use. - Oversee periodic Borough

Censuses, and produce related analysis and publications. - Review and provide comments on technical documents. - Coordinate with Grants Division to identify planning grants and

participate in the development of the proposals. - Prepare monthly reports on planning issues, village concerns, and CIP activities for presentation to Planning Commission. - Coordinate

with Permitting Staff to provide project backup as needed, including effects of regulatory limitations on projects

Guest Columnist

APA San Francisco Conference Journal: From the Gateway City to the Golden Gate



Emily Bratcher
Graduate Student
Urban Planning & Real
Estate Development
Saint Louis University
Graduation May 2005

Emily plans to return to her home state – Alaska – this summer and will be starting her planning career in the fall.



Day 1: March 17th 2005

I left St. Louis' Lambert Airport on St. Patrick's Day, opting out of wearing green on the airplane. Going to this conference by myself, without any classmates, teachers or acquaintances, made me excited and greatly looking forward to whatever range of adventures I would have in the next week.

After arriving in San Francisco, I took BART, the region's rapid transit system, to the Market Street stop. I found my Union Square/Powell Street hotel (The Chancellor) quite easily and quickly became acquainted with the area, including the location of where exactly the convention center was. Taking the streetcar down to Fisherman's Wharf gave me a crash course on San Francisco topography and architecture with stunning views of the bay. The evening's entertainment turned out to be an exciting NBA game between interstate rivals the Golden State Warriors and Sacramento Kings across the bay in Oakland.

Day 2:

Although proving to be a rainy day, the weather was warm enough to encourage more sightseeing. I am proud to say that I walked the entire stretch of the Golden Gate Park, stretching from Haight-Ashbury to the Pacific Ocean. I was later told that this was about a ten-mile feat, something my feet seemed to already know. I took in the AIDS Memorial and Shakespeare Garden, saw the historic Windmill and watched the surfers make do with minimal waves at the beach. After catching a bus back to my hotel (I recommend the 7-day, \$20 all inclusive MUNI pass) I prepared for the Post Street Theatre's production of "Trumbo" starring Brian Dennehy. Half-price tickets can be purchased on the day of the show in Union Square.

Day 3:

My last free day before the conference started was sunny, making up for the day prior. I headed down to Wharf and rented a bicycle without really knowing where it would take me. I made it to the Golden Gate Bridge and proceeded across and on to Sausalito on the other side of the Bay. I stuck around and caught the ferry back to Pier 3 in the Embarcadero. After returning by bike, I wandered back toward Union Square through Chinatown and on to the Moscone Center to check in at the conference and visit the exhibit hall. I also squeezed in a tour of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The day ended with a very enjoyable dinner with Alaskan planners in town for the conference, important for me as I am moving back to Alaska this summer.

Day 4:

The opening keynote address on "Rediscovering the Urban Campus of the 21st Century" reminded me a great deal of my own college campus, Saint Louis University, an urban educational site constantly renewing itself. Following the opening session, I got ready for my mobile workshop "Wildlands Fire Preparedness and Risk Management". The six-hour-long tour took place entirely in the East Bay Hills area and helped me a great deal in better understanding the wildland/urban interface zones that are so dangerous during forest fires. I chose this workshop to help me better understand my capstone topic of wildfire planning, and experience it on a firsthand basis. The evening ended with the grand opening reception of the conference down at the Fort Mason Center. Planners unleashed, take warning.



Judith Rodin
Keynote Speaker

In March 2005, Judith Rodin assumed the position of President of the Rockefeller Foundation. She is the former president of the University of Pennsylvania, where in 1994, she made history as the first woman named president of an Ivy League institution. Her talk focused on the restoration of the fabric and economic vitality of the University of Pennsylvania's distressed urban neighborhood.

APA Conference

APA San Francisco Conference Journal

Continued from page 3



"Free parking isn't really free. In fact, the average parking space costs more than the average car. Initially, developers pay for the required parking, but soon tenants do, and then their customers, and so on, until the cost of parking has diffused throughout the economy."

- Donald Shoup



Good bye, Golden Gate

Day 5:

Although getting a little bit later of a start than I had planned, I managed to still put in a full day of sessions. Five sessions ranging from "The High Cost of Free Parking" to "Research on Transit, Walking, and Other Non-Auto Alternatives" to "Reclaiming a Small Town Riverfront" I soaked in as much as my brain could handle in a day. I made it to the student reception that evening at famous San Francisco locale, Tommy's Joynet for a quick meal.

Day 6:

8:00 a.m. came early, and with it a look at an international planning perspective, China in particular. Sessions like "Elements of Successful Public/Private Partnerships", "Designing the New American Dream House", and "Integrating Planning and Redevelopment" followed and kept me busy all day. An especially long lunch hour drew me and my umbrella to many of the Union Square shopping venues. The evening was spent quietly, dining on "world famous" Swedish pancakes from the restaurant next door to my hotel and bookstore browsing. I used up my last night in the big city before having to return to my room and pack.

Day 7:

With only enough time to squeeze in one last session before heading to the airport, I chose wisely and with much discretion "From Planning to Action in Rural Alaska". The ride to the airport was uneventful, and I was soon on my way back to the Gateway City, feeling satisfied that I had taken full advantage of my time and energy in San Francisco, and already looking forward to the next time my travels take me there.

Alaska Planners socialize at Johnny Foley's during San Francisco Conference



Dave and Marilyn Kebschull – Marilyn is Planning Administrator for the City of Kenai, Sara Jansen – Palmer Community Development Coordinator, Emily Bratcher – graduate student



Sally Cox, State of Alaska, DCED, and Lisa Von Barga, Community and Economic Development Director for the City of Valdez

Peter Freer with the City of Juneau also attended but escaped having his picture taken.

Suzanne Taylor – Planner, ASCG Incorporated and John McPherson – Planner, HDR Incorporated. John's wife and daughter also joined the group for part of the evening.



Erin Reeve, Assistant Planner and Coastal Coordinator, and David Taylor, Principal Planner Department of Planning and Community Development Ketchikan Gateway Borough



Alaska Issues

Rural Sprawl in Alaska Is it sustainable?



By Allen Kemplen,
AICP

Southwest Area
Planner, Central
Region, ADOT&PF

The planning literature is replete with discussions of urban sprawl. One only has to look at the Mat-Su Valley to see this at work in our state. However, sprawl is not confined to the roadbelt. Bush Alaska is experiencing its own form of rural sprawl. Rural sprawl can be defined as low-density residential development on the periphery of existing villages along with the dispersed placement of civic and public facilities.

Why is rural sprawl occurring? It seems that we are replicating the patterns of the lower 48. Is it because the funding for rural development is coming from federal agencies that have little knowledge of how circum-polar communities can be made to be sustainable over the long term? Or is it because Alaska does not have an indigenous advocate for sustainable Nordic growth? Professional planners in Alaska should be asking each other these and other questions.

When development creates sprawl, it carries a price tag that everyone must pay. It's not just the loss of rural subsistence areas or forested acres. It's not just a diminished quality of life and loss of the frontier. It's real dollars. Rural sprawl increases the price tag for public services. Each new project brings benefits in the form of improved shelter, better public services or enhanced access. But they also carry the cost burden for operations and maintenance. The more spread out the projects are, then the heavier this burden.

The costs of extending these public services – public safety, fire, roads, airports, schools, medical centers, sanitation facilities, boardwalks and garbage collection – in a sprawled community is inherently greater than in a more compact community.

It was a common occurrence this past winter to read about another village community having to shut the doors of civic buildings because there was no money to pay for heat or electricity. The State provided operating support this legislative session to lighten this load but local villages find it increasingly difficult to be self-sufficient. Is it because public agencies have funded a community design that is inherently unsustainable?

What would a more sustainable northern village look like? The Oujé-Bougoumou community demonstrates how it is possible to plan a village so that the various components are integrated and mutually reinforcing for the long-term benefit of the community and makes a contribution to current thinking about "sustainable communities" and provides practical expression of sustainable development. Located in the James Bay Territory between the 49th and 50th parallels, 45 minutes from Chibougamau, and about a 25-minute drive from the nearest airport, this Cree village of about 650 people is an extraordinary place. The integrity of cultural authenticity is maintained as cultural revival moves hand in hand with economic development.



"The Oujé-Bougoumou community demonstrates how it is possible to plan a village so that the various components are integrated and mutually reinforcing for the long-term benefit of the community..."

There is a striking harmony between the buildings, lake, vegetation, clean air, and panoramic view of the big sky. Street signs are in Cree syllabics, English and French. There is a different graphic sign, rich with native symbolism above the door of each main building. Native designs give individual character to the residences, and the playground apparatus have the shapes of beaver, moose, and geese.

The village design is circular, with the shaptuwan (traditional meeting place for feasts) central and at the top of the hill. The inner two rings are lined with community buildings, reflecting the culture of sharing.

Does Alaska have to mimic the inappropriate community designs of the Lower 48 or can we use our northern wisdom to craft sustainable and nourishing villages? Can we provide real alternatives to Alaskans that give them a choice or have we resigned ourselves to present designs that fall within the comfort zone of the dominant funding agencies? These questions are presented as a way to stimulate discussion amongst the planning community. I assert that Alaska's planning professionals should play an important role in facilitating the answers to these questions. What do you think?

In the news

Tsunami Aftermath

By Terrance Brown,
FAIA

ASCG Incorporated



AIA survey team



Sri Lankan tsunami survivors



Train hit by tsunami



Temporary housing

Last December's tsunami that struck most of the eastern and southern coastal areas of Sri Lanka displaced over 500,000 people and left 50,000 Sri Lanka people dead. Many survivors are still without homes, living in tents and temporary housing five months later.

ASCG Inc.'s Senior Architect, Terrance Brown, FAIA, recently returned from an American Institute of Architects (AIA) sponsored trip to survey the country and the devastated coastal areas. Brown was the spokesman for the 8 person team of professionals to include the architects, planners, landscape architects and civil engineers and AIA director of Communities by Design.

All of the tsunami destruction was primarily along the coast line of the country's east, and southern coastal areas with partial destruction on the southwest coast below the nation's capitol, Colombo. The team visited many temporary housing sites for displaced victims to include fishermen and their families who lost not only their homes but their boats and nets. One man we visited was a baker and lost his stove in the tsunami and was having difficulty making a living now without a stove. The magnitude of this disaster not only left people homeless, but destroyed many of the countries schools. We located a 15 car train that was broad sided by the tsunami and left hundreds dead. Five cars are left on the side rails as a sort of monument.

The team witnessed a great deal of destruction along much of the coast line. Destroyed houses and broken boats were everywhere. Entire communities of victims are still living in tents and will have to wait longer for houses until the government and non-government organizations find funding for new houses. The Minister of Housing reported that much of the money that has been donated to date has strings attached which is causing delays. It appears that many organizations want to donate money for housing but not for infrastructure.

The Minister indicated that the country would have been better served if the relief agencies would have communicated with them before shipping thousands of blankets and other unusable relief supplies, none of which was needed in the hot humid climate.



Yala Safari Beach Hotel



Team on bus

She indicated that what the country needs is available land, culturally sensitive designed houses for the victims and funds to construct the new houses and infrastructure.

We noted that in some areas, natural defenses for tsunamis were removed. A Yala Safari Beach Hotel does not exist anymore because the sand dunes obstructing the view of the ocean were removed. Sadly, a 30 foot wall of water obliterated the hotel and killed 250 people. The only thing left now are the concrete foundations, tile flooring and the swimming pool. The most controversial issue dealing with the reconstruction is the Sri Lanka government's proposal to set aside a 100 meter no-build safety zone around the entire country's coast and a 200 meter area along the eastern coast. There are many problems with this proposal. In some areas, the geography does not require it and in other areas, people are already rebuilding their homes.

Presently, the AIA is compiling information using the skills of each team member and will provide a report on the findings to be shared with the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects and other architectural, engineering and planning organizations in Asia to include Australia and ARCASIA.

Articles Needed!

Share your writing or planning experience in an article in the Alaska Planning Journal. Contact editor, Suzanne Taylor, at smtaylor@ascg.com

In other news

Tsunami Hazards: Planning and Mitigation

By Alexis Finn

The West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center (wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov/message.shtml), located in Palmer, Alaska (907-745-4212) was established following the 1964 earthquake and the tsunami wave it generated.

Of the 132 people who died from the 1964 Alaska Good Friday Earthquake, 122 of those deaths were the result of the tsunami.

Tsunami waves can become more than 30 feet high as they come into shore and can rush miles inland across low-lying areas. If an earthquake is located offshore, and has a magnitude of 7 or larger, it is considered large enough to generate a tsunami. A tsunami warning is issued within 15 minutes. The warning is issued through the National Weather Service, state emergency service offices, U.S. Coast Guard, military, and other agencies.

How will your community be alerted to a local emergency? A telephone call to the Alaska State Emergency Coordination Center at 907-428-7009 before a catastrophic event occurs can assist you in setting-up a Community Emergency Alert System.

The TsunamiReady Program, developed by the National Weather Service, is designed to help communities in coastal areas to reduce the potential for disastrous tsunami-related consequences. For more information about Tsunami Ready, visit the TsunamiReady web site at <http://tsunami.gov>

People near shore who feel an earthquake for 15-20 seconds or longer should heed nature's warning and quickly move to higher ground. A locally generated tsunami may be the most serious threat, for it strikes suddenly – sometimes before the ground stops shaking. A 15 minute warning may not be quick enough for a locally generated tsunami. So when in doubt, evacuate. A rule of thumb is to move to 100 ft. above sea level or 1 mile inland. A tsunami is not a single wave, but a series of waves. Stay out of danger until a competent authority instructs that the danger has passed. People who are already on boats when an earthquake occurs should understand that the safest place to be is in deep water where wave energy is diffused.

Never go down to the beach to watch a tsunami. When you can see the wave, you are too close to escape.

"Tsunami waves can become more than 30 feet high as they come into shore and can rush miles inland across low-lying areas."

The West Coast & Alaska Tsunami Warning Center recommends having the following **survival items** on-hand:

- Battery-Operated Radio with Spare Batteries
- First Aid Kit with First Aid Book
- Flashlights with Spare Batteries and/or candles with matches in a waterproof container
- Adjustable Wrench (for turning off gas & water mains)
- Non-Perishable, Ready-to-Eat Food and non-electric can-opener
- Bottled Water (at least 1 gallon per person per day; sufficient quantity for the members of your household for 1 week supply)
- Warm Clothes & Blankets
- Medicines and Pet Food
- Telephone numbers of police, fire, doctors, and relatives

Important things to know:

- How to turn off gas, water and electricity for your residence
- Basic first aid
- Plan for reuniting your family

Village Preparedness

Damage from natural disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis and flooding can be minimized through land use planning, preparation, and evacuation. Communities can review land use in coastal areas so that critical facilities, such as hospitals and police stations, or high occupancy buildings, such as auditoriums or schools, or petroleum-storage tanks are not located in high hazard areas. Emergency planners can develop evacuation plans and maps that indicate what areas should be avoided and evacuated and routes that people should follow to reach safe ground.

Technical and financial assistance is available to local governments for pre-disaster mitigation (PDM) activities that complement a comprehensive mitigation program, and reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property. FEMA provides grants to States and federally recognized Indian tribal governments for mitigation activities such as planning and the implementation of projects identified through the evaluation of natural hazards. Approximately \$255 million for hazard mitigation planning is available to states, Indian tribes, local governments and universities. These funds are available for hazard mitigation planning. PDM grants are awarded on a competitive basis and without reference to state allocations, quotas, or other formula-based allocation of funds.



The Wave. Painting by Lucas Rawah of Aitape, done to commemorate the July 17, 1998, Papua New Guinea event. A magnitude 7.1 earthquake is thought to have triggered a submarine landslide generating a tsunami that destroyed entire villages along the Aitape coast.

From Washington

TEA-21 Conference Committee Begins Work

EXTENSION RUNS THROUGH JUNE 30

By Lynn Jorgenson,
AICP

Last week a Conference Committee began working to reconcile differences between House and Senate passed versions of TEA-21 reauthorization. As expected, Congress adopted another temporary extension, the seventh to date. Conferees have until the end of June to produce a bill. Whether they will succeed is still an open question, and one that is still largely determined by an ability to find agreement on overall funding.

The House adopted a six-year bill with \$284 billion in funding. That amount is consistent with the funding level proposed and endorsed by the White House. The Senate, however, passed legislation calling for \$295 billion. Last week brought mixed signals regarding the willingness to compromise.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta reiterated the Administration's opposition to the larger amount and stated that the president's advisors would recommend a veto of any bill exceeding \$284 billion. At the same time, House Ways and Means Chairman Bill Thomas (R-CA) appeared to open the door to a "split the difference" compromise by indicating that "as long as the final number starts with 2-8 the final number can be negotiated." That approach was echoed by several Senators, including Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-OK). House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-TX), however, said negotiators should hold firm at the lower amount.

While discussions continue on a funding compromise, work has begun on dealing with many of the policy differences in the two bills. Among the issues to be addressed are provisions related to air quality planning, stormwater mitigation, section 4(f) protections, consultation with natural resource plans, and planning funding for Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Additionally, the Senate bill provides more funding to the core federal transportation programs, while the House bill relies far more heavily on earmarked projects.

One of the provisions expected to generate debate among conferees is the 2 percent stormwater mitigation set aside contained in the Senate bill. The House version provides no such set aside. An attempt by Sen. Christopher Bond (R-MO) to remove the language on the Senate floor was turned back by the narrowest of margins, 51 – 49. Sen. Bond, a leading conferee, is likely to push the conference committee to drop the mitigation set aside. APA endorsed the stormwater provision. Staff-level negotiations on a variety of planning and environmental review sections are currently underway.

Updates on reauthorization will be provided through the APA website and online legislative action center, <http://capwiz.com/amplan>. You can use the action center to let Congress know what's important you and your community.

Oceans Bills Introduced

SENATE COMMITTEE DISCUSSES CZMA: "OCEANS-21" REINTRODUCED

Last week was 'Oceans Week' on Capitol Hill and on June 8, World Oceans Day, two new bills were introduced to improve U.S. coastal and oceanic policy. Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA), APA's Legislator of the Year in 1996, and Rep. Curt Weldon (R-PA) introduced a comprehensive bill this week to address national ocean policy.

The bill (H.R. 4900) is called "OCEANS-21" for its title, 'Oceans Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act'. H.R. 4900 would establish a national policy to protect and restore the health of marine ecosystems, raise the profile of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and create a Cabinet-level committee on Ocean Policy. This legislation calls for regional planning and an ecosystem-based management approach in order to curb "unwise land use and coastal development" and "habitat damage", among other threats to marine ecosystem health.

The proposed Office of Oceans Ecosystem Management and Protection would be charged with oversight of programs that are familiar, if not central, to many planners. These include watershed monitoring, habitat conservation research and management, and coastal and estuarine land conservation and restoration.

From Washington

Oceans Bill continued

In the Senate, Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) introduced another comprehensive oceans bill. Sen. Boxer's comprehensive ocean policy reform bill, the National Oceans Protection Act of 2005 (S. 1224) recognizes that "human pressure on ocean resources is drastically increasing... If population trends continue as expected, coastal development and urbanization impacts, which can be substantially greater than population impacts alone, will present serious environmental, energy, and water challenges and increase our vulnerability to coastal hazards."

S. 1224 requires NOAA and regional ocean fishery councils to develop plans to protect and sustain fish populations using an ecosystem-based approach, authorizes grants to reduce water pollution and improve monitoring, and creates a Council on Ocean Stewardship to coordinate federal activity on the topic. Habitat management, particularly coastal habitat protection and restoration, are central to the legislation, and the National Flood Insurance Program is a critical component of the bill's intent to address coastal development patterns. Subtitle D of the bill calls for periodic updating of floodplain areas and flood risk zones, contains criteria for land management and use, and calls for assessment of losses from erosion and undermining of shorelines. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) co-sponsored S. 1224.

These amendments to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) seek "to increase state and local capacity to identify public infrastructure and open space needs and develop and implement plans which provide for sustainable growth, resource protection and community revitalization."

The Senate Commerce Committee held a hearing late last month to discuss the reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Reauthorization Act of 2005 (S. 360). The bill was introduced by Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) along with co-sponsor Sen. John Kerry (D-MA). The bill is aimed at investing in coastal communities which comprise 17% of the U.S. population, yet house just over half of our population and contribute over \$1 trillion a year to our economy.

S. 360 would add two categories to the Coastal Zone Enhancement Grants: a coastal community program that gives states grants to deal with their specific nonpoint source problems through mapping, monitoring or direct mitigation; and coastal community grants to help assess and manage growth, public infrastructure and open space needs.

These amendments to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) seek "to increase state and local capacity to identify public infrastructure and open space needs and develop and implement plans which provide for sustainable growth, resource protection and community revitalization." In addition, the Coastal Community Grants are set up "to assist in the adoption of plans, strategies, policies, or procedures to support local community-based environmentally-protective solutions to the impacts and pressures on coastal uses and resources caused by development and sprawl."

Sources for Legislative Information:

<u>Source of Information</u>	<u>Website</u>
State of Alaska (Home Page)	http://www.state.ak.us
Alaska Legislature (Home Page)	http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/home.htm?
Legislative Information Offices	http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/legaff/liolist.htm
Status of Bills	http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/start.asp
Budget Information	http://www.gov.state.ak.us/omb/
Gavel to Gavel (Home Page)	www.ktoo.org/gavel/stream.cfm

Alaska Planning Association Officers

President:

John McPherson

Past President:

Lance Wilber

Vice President:

Mitzi Barker

Secretary/Treasurer: Angela Cummings

Professional Development Officer: Open

Northern Region VP: Earl Finkler

Southern Region VP: Caren Mathis

Southeast Region VP: Barbara Sheinberg

Planning Commissioner Rep: Toni Jones

Journal Editor:

Suzanne Taylor

Webmaster:

Laurie Cummings

Western Planner Rep:

Wells Williams

second seat open

The Back Page

From the editor:

SF blends old and new

By Suzanne Taylor,
Planner, ASCG
Incorporated



A new building is erected within the shell of the old



Mural artists discuss work in Balmy Alley

More Balmy Alley murals in San Francisco's Mission District:



My trip to San Francisco for the APA National Conference was truly outstanding. I was fascinated by the blending of modern and historic elements in the city. Stunning new structures stand juxtaposed with the amazing intricate details of an era past.

Preservation of its heritage is clearly a strongly held value in San Francisco. Near the Moscone Center where the conference occurred, a multi-story building was being replaced. The façade of the building, supported by scaffolding still stood but the building itself was gone. Workmen were laying a new foundation for the new, safer structure that would fill this historic shell.

One workshop that I particularly enjoyed was a tour of murals in the Mission District. Here artists work with community members, especially the youth, to and translate their dreams and heritage into artwork that brings a real sense of community to this once run down area.

In their brochure, Precita Eyes Mural Arts & Visitors Center describes the work of its artists: "As an inner-city, community-based, mural arts organization, (it) enriches and beautifies urban environments and educates communities about the process and history of public, community mural art. We maintain a deep commitment to collaborating with the various communities we serve. Our dedication to collaboration guarantees that the creative work produced is accessible, both physically and conceptually, to the people whose lives it impacts."

In addition to creating murals, Precita Eyes artists conduct Mural Walks sharing the work with the public and teach classes to the young people of the community.

In an area dominated by Hispanic immigrants and Natives of the Americas, the artwork adorning the walls of the Mission District is a blending of the heritage, values, dreams and nightmares of the residents. The artwork expresses the life and heart of the community.

Like San Francisco as a whole, the Mission District blends the new and old in a unique way, looking forward but never forgetting the heritage from which it was born.

Planners on the move

- Michelle R. Stearns, AICP, MUP, returned to private practice based in Washington state after serving for 18 months as the Community Development Director for the Kodiak Island Borough. She continues to work with both public and private sector planning and development clients in both Alaska and Washington and always welcomes inquiries and new clients!

Send your updates for the Planners on the move column to

smtaylor@ascg.com

Or Suzanne Taylor, editor, Alaska Planning Journal, ASCG Incorporated, 3900 C Street, Suite 501, Anchorage, AK 99503

Sponsor firms:



ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS • SURVEYORS • PLANNERS

3900 C STREET, SUITE 501
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503-5967
www.ascg.com



Office: (907) 339-6500
Fax: (907) 339-5327



HDR Alaska, Inc.

2525 C Street

Suite 305

Anchorage, AK 99503-2632

(907) 644-2000

www.hdrinc.com

Your company's business card can be included in future Alaska Planning Journal publications at the rate of \$50 for one year (four issues). Contact Suzanne Taylor at smtaylor@ascg.com for details.