

March 13, 2007
5543 30th Place, NW
Washington, DC 20015

Division Council Executive Committee
American Planning Association

Highlights of 2006-2007 Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division Report:

Attached is our division benchmarking (performance review) report prepared per the chronological order of the APA reporting form. Highlights of this report follow immediately below.

Growth in Division Membership: In our last Division performance report in 2005 we indicated our biggest weakness was a lack of membership growth, stagnating at that time between 122 and 135 members, with a typical membership number being 130. Since that time we have grown to 176 members as of March 9 of this year, or a gain over about 35 per cent over a 25-month period. This fact is mirrored by a APA Chicago report prepared for the 2006 Fall Leadership Conference indicating that, in FY 2006, we were the fastest growing Division in those 12 months, growing at 17 percent.

Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Policy: At the APA Board of Directors, March 2005 meeting in San Francisco, the Board agreed to change our name. At the same meeting, they directed us to evolve an APA Policy Guide on Regional Planning. At the April 2006 San Antonio Conference's Delegate Assembly, we presented a guide outline. Subsequently, all nine chapters responding at that Assembly endorsed the development of such a guide. In the summer of 2006, in a teleconference of the Legislative and Policy Committee, the Committee's Chair called for the development of an APA Planning Advisory Report. We are now pursuing the development of an APA PAS or similar APA report. Simultaneously, we are also pursuing the development and approval of an APA Policy Guide on Regional Planning geared to the revised APA policy guide which puts the approach on advocacy and influencing legislation.

Working Relationships with Regional Planning Interest Groups: Included are the Alliance for Regional Stewardship (ARS), the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). Over the last six months, these relationships started having specific benefits. In January 2007, Paul Farmer met with NADO's Executive Director, Matt Chase, and later that month, Carolyn Torma traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina to meet with a NADO committee developing planning training for Rural Planning Organizations as being stimulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Our Division is involved in promoting this planning training effort and it may well that the APA will provide some type of comprehensive and transportation planning training for these NADO Rural Planning Organizations. Also, in February of 2007, NARC invited us to their Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. At their request, we are now actively participating with their education committee which is developing a graduate course in regional planning.

Disaster Planning, Mitigation, and Recovery: Finally, we became involved with APA staff and members working on the development of policy for disaster planning, mitigation, and recovery efforts. This included Division representation at the Natural Hazards Workshop in Boulder, Colorado in July of 2006. At present, the primary APA vehicle for such efforts focuses on the *1998 PAS Report, Planning for Post Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction*. In 2006, Chicago APA was awarded a contract to update this document. Unfortunately, the start of this project has been somewhat delayed. As this update unfolds, our Division will work with APA Chicago, APA members, and other organizations to ensure a regional and intergovernmental perspective in the development of this updated PAS report.

Attached is our full report on the above and other matters.

Lee Schoenecker, Chair

Regional and Intergovernmental Planning