

**2005 PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE  
INTEGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION  
OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION**

**(I). MEMBERSHIP SERVICES:**

**A. Question on The Adopted Mission Statement.**

**(The Mission Statement was adopted at the March 31, 2003 annual Division Program and Business Meeting. As found in the Fall, 2003 Newsletter and the Division's Web-site, it follows in quotations marks below. )**

**“Mission Statement and Goals to Support the Mission:”**

**“Basic Mission:** The Intergovernmental Affairs Division exists to promote a sense of awareness and understanding of the interdependent nature of local, state, and federal levels of government in the planning and development of our nation's communities. This interdependence includes communities, both rural and urban, metropolitan and non-metropolitan. It also includes planning and development at the multijurisdictional level, across local governmental boundaries in both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. The further mission of the Intergovernmental Affairs Division is to provide a forum and mechanism for the exchange of information, knowledge, and solutions among professional planners, appointed planning officials, and other allied groups and individuals involved in urban and regional planning.”

**“Goals to Support the Basic Mission:”**

**“(1). Promote the development of an “intergovernmental perspective” in planning through high quality national conference and other conference sessions, both by the Division and by other APA organizations.”**

**“(2). Provide useful and timely communication to Division Members on a regular basis through various means, including a newsletter, an up-to-date WEB-page and other electronic and non-electronic means.”**

**“(3). Evolve formal education and other training means relative to the “intergovernmental perspective” in the urban and regional planning profession.”**

**“(4). Support the comprehensive nature of urban and regional planning --- physical, environmental, economic, and social---through technical, policy, and research activities focusing on the “intergovernmental perspective” in comprehensive planning.”**

**Process Leading to Approval in 2003:** The Chair and the two Vice-Chairs, the newsletter editor, and a few others exchanged e-mail drafts prior to the March 31, 2003 meeting. Also, the program and business meeting in Denver was a near three-hour meeting with much of the discussion centered around modifications to the proposed Mission Statement and the annual Work Program. The Mission Statement and Work Program were adopted at the end of the

meeting. Finally, the mission statement and implementing goals are in the October, 2003 newsletter as well as on the Division's Web-page.

**Updates in 2004:** Prior to the April 24, 2004 Program and Business meeting at the National Conference in Washington, DC, there was a solicitation for a review and possible modification of the mission statement. Some proposals, oral and written, were suggested. The most important was to change the name of the Division to include something with the word, "regional" in it. Considerable debate followed in the Program and Business meeting and then subsequent to that meeting. At the Program and Business meeting it was decided not to amend the by-laws as we felt any change in name could be covered by the mission statement adopted in 2003. And should the Division change its name, we would subsequently review the mission statement to see if there was a need for modification.

## **B. Question on Communications:**

**(1). Newsletters:** The newsletters were mailed on October 10, 2004 (hard copy), January 27, 2005 (electronic), and the last newsletter will be mailed at the end of March, or very early April (probably a hard copy.) All newsletters, whether hard-copy or electronic, are posted to the web site. The newsletter editor is Robert "Scott" Taylor. The Chair, Lee Schoenecker, is also very much involved in the newsletter. All phases of the newsletter are done with volunteer contribution. Nobody is paid. The only costs incurred were for the printing and mailing of hard-copy newsletters. The writing was done by volunteers, editing is done very heavily by the officers and the editor, and the design and distribution is done by the editor.

**(Note on October 2004 Newsletter):** Special effort and extra time was allocated to producing this particular newsletter. It was special issue on the future of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and it furthered one of the prime missions of the Division--that of fostering sub state regionalism. This newsletter not only went out to the Intergovernmental Affairs Division, but it was also reprinted in its entirety in the October 2004 hard-copy newsletter of the Transportation Planning Division. And further, we are informed by APA staff (Jason Jordan and Cynthia Chesky) that it will also appear on the national APA web site under Legal and Policy.

**(2) Web Site:** Our web master is Ryan Harris. In addition to our Home Page, our web site contains sections as follows: About Us (mission statement, 2004 performance report, 2004 and 2003 work plan, and 2004 budget.); Newsletters (all newsletters since the fall of 2002), Presentations (most of the panel presentations, usually in PowerPoint, at each of the Division's two by-right National Conference sessions going back to the 2003 Denver National Conference; Archives (only a few items, but it will grow as information from other sections becomes dated and is moved to the Archives); Contact Us ( officers, newsletter editor, web page master); and Regional Community News which is discussed below.

**(Unique Feature of Web Site)** "Regional Community News" is perhaps the feature of our web site which is unique. Since late 2003, Division member Tom Christoffel has been issuing this weekly compilation of articles that appears in newspapers, in this country and around the world, dealing with regionalism, particularly at the sub state level. Each weekly issue usually contains 14-18 entries and is usually four to five pages long. (Mr. Christoffel spends six to ten hours per week as a "labor of love" and utilizes Yahoo and Google to obtain his information. For further information as to how list-serve service works, see: Why, "Regional Community," an article by Mr. Christoffel in the Division's March 2004 Newsletter).

Our web site usually contains the links for each of these weekly list-serve newsletters going back six to eight months. This is probably the only place where such information in back log form is available. "Regional Community News" now goes out to a weekly list serve of about 400 people including all those in the Intergovernmental Affairs Division who wish to receive this list serve. The question is: "How do the 400 members of Mr. Christoffel's weekly newsletter serve know that his information is available?" Mr. Christoffel, an active member of our Division, has indicated that periodically he will post a notice in his weekly newsletter to indicate that this six to eight months back log of information is available in our website.

**(Near-Term Updates to Our Web Site):** Finally, before the end of the 12-month period, ending March 31, 2005 (a year from the initial submittal of a performance report of March 31, 2004), we plan to make three additions to our web site. First, we will add the Jan 27, 2005 newsletter to our web page per standard operating procedure. Second, we will update our Home Page. Third, we will review our links perhaps eliminating some, and adding links which are pertinent to our Division mission. We may also possibly annotate some of the more important links.

**(3) List Serves:** We have described above the specialized list-serve, "Regional Community News" maintained by Division member Tom Christoffel, this particular weekly list serve going to Division members and then a good 250 people outside of the Division.

Within the last month we have developed an additional list serve, designed basically to transmit electronic newsletters which we initially did on January 27, 2004. (We have also developed a new auxiliary list serve to electronically transmit these newsletters to the APA leadership.) Scott Taylor, our newsletter editor, informs us that these list serves can be used expeditiously to facilitate other purposes and he would be most willing to do the same. Thus, we could use it periodically to: let members know what is available at the web site, get members involved in soliciting further memberships, conduct surveys and elections, and utilize for other special purposes. And in fact, we will use the new list serve in the middle of February, 2005, to let members we are proposing to change our name and now is the time to comment. (Again, a detailed article on the proposed Division name change was in the electronic January 27, 2005 newsletter.) One other special purpose we may well use it for would be for the review of a "regional and intergovernmental planning" issue paper which would be the first phase of the development of an APA policy paper on the same subject.

**(4) Member Survey:** We considered conducting an overall member survey, but decided against the same at this time. However, as we are proposing to change the name of our Division to: "Regional and Intergovernmental Planning," and we did consult various members of the Division before going forward. In fact, the idea for a name change came, on a nonsolicited basis, from a member of the Division, who is not an officer, at our Washington, DC annual April 26 Program and Business meeting. And again, if we decide to do some type of member survey, we know have the type of list serve which would facilitate such a survey.

**(5) Conference Sessions/Workshops: At the 2004 National Conference:** We conducted two by-right panels. The first was a two and one half hour, seven-person panel titled, "Making Plans in Lower Manhattan." It focused around understanding the intergovernmental complexities in Greater New York for planning and implementing recovery of the World Trade Center site. This panel was put together and moderated by Ethel Sheffer, President of the New York Metro APA Chapter. (As this panel was held at the Shoreham Hotel, the non headquarters hotel, attendance was not as good as it might otherwise have been for this excellent panel). The second 2004 panel, "Governance and the Role of Planning," was donated to the Washington Conference Local Host Committee's 12-panel, "The Potomac Regional Community." The specific panel on

“Governance and the Role of Planning” looked at regional planning efforts in each of the Baltimore and Washington, DC metropolitan regions and any interconnections between the two areas. This panel was organized and moderated by Robert Puentes, a Fellow at the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program, Washington, DC.

**Regarding our 2005 two by right panels at the San Francisco National APA Conference**, the first panel, “Regional Planning Alliances in California,” will describe how the major regional public planning agency in each of the San Francisco, San Diego, and San Francisco areas are forming regional alliances with other public, private, and non-profit regional and local organizations to move planning forward in their respective metropolitan areas. This panel was organized and will be moderated by Tom Christoffel, a member of our Division and also editor of the “Regional Community News.” The second panel, “Urban Form for Improving Transportation Choices and Health,” examines the relationships between urban communities and impacts on air quality, physical activity, and public health; and then, it identifies ways to work within a region, coordinating among various pertinent local jurisdictions. This panel was organized and will be moderated, by Rocky Piro, a Vice-Chairman of the Intergovernmental Affairs Division.

With regard to the question as to, **how session proposals are solicited and selected**, several factors come into play. First, we usually spend a considerable amount of time at the annual Program and Business meeting discussing the same, although not as much time was allocated to this topic at the three-hour Washington, DC 2004 meeting for the simple reason that the question of a Division name change took up so much of our time. Second, among the officers and several other members of the Division, we usually discuss several different possible panel session ideas. Third, we also have implicit criteria for panel sessions, owing to our mission statement and where the conference is held. Specifically, we usually try to strengthen one of our program missions--- that of sub state regionalism—and have done this more many years. And further, we try to get these sub state panels within the general geographic area of the Conference. As a specific example, at the 2005 conference, that panel, mentioned above, “Regional Planning Alliances in California” we believe fully meets both of these criteria.

**(6). Meetings:** We are somewhat unclear as to what this question means, particularly given its descriptors. That given, here is our response. First, is the general meeting of the Division at the annual national APA Conference. As we are a small Division with limited resources, we meet once a year at this particular conference. For the sake of avoiding repetition, subject matter discussion of that meeting is reported in the minutes of the April 26 Program and Business meeting which is attached to this report as required by the 2004-05 APA Division Performance Reporting Form. Second, with regard to the Executive Committee meetings, there are three members – the Chair and two Vice-Chairs. These three officers probably communicate by e-mail, perhaps 20 times a years. And they communicate by telephone (though not through conference calls) about a dozen times a year (roughly speaking, it is estimated that these telephone conversations, collectively, take 8-12 hours per year). And the newsletter editor, a couple of other active members of the Division and sometimes the web master are often involved in these e-mails and conversations, particularly the e-mails. With regard to subject matter, over the course of a year, it is very broad in scope, ranging from the content of the newsletter to the future of the Division to the performance report to outreach to increasing members and the like.

**(7). Outreach:** Perhaps four outreach efforts should be mentioned, two with other APA Divisions, two outside of APA. Within the APA, the first and most important outreach has been with the Transportation Planning Division. For the Airports-In-The-Region (AIR) initiative as led by the Transportation Planning Division, the Intergovernmental Affairs Division, through its Vice-Chair, Rocky Piro who works for the Puget Sound Regional Council, directly arranged for

the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), to pick up the travel costs and attendance of another PSRC employee---Stephen Kiehl---to be a panelist at the 2004 National APA conference at the special Conference APA Panel. Also, we worked with the Transportation Planning Division (TPD) Chair---Whit Blanton---in the development of our October 2004 newsletter on Metropolitan Planning Organizations. **Benefit:** Our newsletter on MPO's was reprinted in its entirety in the October 2004 hard-copy newsletter of the TPD. Thus, approximately 1,500 members of the TPD, the largest APA division, received our newsletter

After the April 2004 Division Council meeting in Washington, DC, we reached out to the new Indigenous Affairs Division to, perhaps, undertake some joint efforts to show how planners can work on an intergovernmental basis and with the Indian Tribal Nations. Initially, we were thinking of joint newsletter articles. It so happens that two of our active members are strategically placed, organizationally and geographically, to effectuate this work (out of Seattle and working with the Northwest Indian Nations, and out of southeastern Connecticut working with the Indian Nations running the Foxwoods Casino, and the Mohegan Sun casino, the first and third largest gambling casinos in the world and also in southeastern Connecticut). Initially, the leadership of the Indigenous Division was receptive to this type of joint effort, but after our further inquiry, they indicated they were still building up their membership, and that for the time being at least, they thought they should go slow. We completely understand this reasoning. If, in the future, joint program working relationships can be undertaken, we will be glad to engage in the same.

Concerning external relationships with allied organizations, two come to mind. First, November 9-13, of 2004, the Division Chair, at his own expense, attended the 100 person conference of the Alliance for Regional Stewardship held in Salt Lake City, Utah. (Peter Hawley of APA Washington was also in attendance.) This was one of the best conferences on sub state regionalism the Chair has ever attended over a 35 year period of time. In substantial part, the conference centered on the highly successful Envision Utah, but other subjects were also fully explored. **Benefits:** Many contacts were made with leaders in the sub state regional planning movement, especially those in creating regional alliances not primarily driven by government actions. Also, notions for future Division actions were developed relative to some of the presentations and informal discussion at this three-day conference (symposium really).

Second, Mr. Tom Christoffel, editor of the "Regional Community News," and active in our Division, is also actively involved with the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). **Benefits:** This time and close association should reap benefits in terms of program relationships and hopefully increased membership, especially if our Division is successful in changing its name to the: "Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division."

## **II. OPERATIONAL CRITERIA**

### **A. Question on Membership**

As of December 31, 2004, we had 138 members which is up from 132 members we had nine months prior to that as reported in our first year's performance report dated March 31, 2004. The December 31, 2004 Excel spread sheet reports showed we added 10 members and an earlier 2004 Excel report (apparently March) indicated that we had also added another 7 members. Thus, we believe we had added 17 new members in the nine month period, March 31, 2004 to December 31, 2004. Other reports showed tentative permanent drops (marked "AE" per Cecilia Garner of APA Chicago) shows 10 members

had not paid their dues on time, and thus were potentially subject to being permanently dropped. However, from the latest Dec 31, 2004 AE report, we know specific people we have contacted, and who will not be dropped as they simply have not yet paid their dues. Finally, we have an Excel report marked, "SS" which appears to be all the people on the March "AE" list, or some other "AE" list who never paid at least their Division dues, and thus, were permanently dropped. While the "adds" and permanently "dropped" do not exactly tell why the membership increased in a nine-month period by six members, nevertheless, they suggest that an increase of six members is logical.

An examination of members newly added, members who are lagging in paying their dues, and finally, members who are ultimately dropped, suggests two things for future recruiting. First, no matter which list is employed on either the tentative or permanent dropped list, students make up 40 to 50 percent of these particular lists, and therefore, may be good candidates for recruiting. Second, a review of the December 31, 04 "AE" list (dues are overdue, potential for being permanently dropped), these people are still on the full roster of APA as of December 31, 2004. Thus, this presents an opportunity to work with these immediate past members to get them to stay on the Division roster by paying their dues.

### **B. Question on Elections**

Our last election was held, via newsletter ballot in December of 2002 and January of 2003. Our next election will be held in late 2005. This election will initially be discussed at the 2005 Program and Business Meeting in San Francisco. Our January, 2005 newsletter, which is attached, has a more detailed article on these elections. The current officers are Lee Schoenecker, Chair; Thomas Dow, Vice Chair for State Affairs and Treasurer, and Rocky Piro, Vice President for Local and Regional Affairs and Secretary. Their terms, in effect are from the last election (January, 2003, to later this calendar year.)

We have nothing prescribed as the "Executive Committee". However, it can be construed as including the three officers plus the newsletter editor and the web master. They usually get all e-mail pertaining to Division-wide business. For example, all five members got a copy of this performance report in draft for review.

With regard to efforts to identify emerging candidate/leaders, it should be kept in mind that we are a very small Division. We simply do not have the time and money resources to undertake the type of formal organizational efforts that the term, "candidate/leaders" might imply. Nevertheless, we do try to develop new leaders and potential future candidates, both relatively young as well as those who have quite a bit of experience and would like to become more active in the Division. .

**Looking to younger members**, our newsletter editor and our web master, **Scott Taylor** and **Ryan Harris** are two examples. We try to feed them as much responsibility as possible. Ryan recently became a member of the AICP. Scott will be taking his AICP test this summer. Or, we are also soliciting new younger members with the following two examples. We have recently recruited as a Division member, **Debbie Lawlor**, the Chief Planner of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission. She, in turn, has recently recruited two additional new members to our Division. On our end, this was accomplished by assisting Debbie in putting together a panel at the San Francisco Conference (consists of the Meadowlands Commission, the Cape Cod Commission, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and Bay Area Conservation Commission---

see s497, page 37 of the preliminary program for the San Francisco National Conference), and also by sending her our back newsletters. In the future, Debbie has agreed to have an article written on the Meadowlands Commission for our Division newsletter.

We have been trying very hard to recruit a dynamic, relative young planner who works for Envision Utah, an award-winning regional planning organization. We talked to him at some length in Salt Lake City in November. We think he will be joining our Division, but for privacy reasons will withhold his name until he does, in fact, join.

**Looking to urban planners of considerable experience**, but who have not recently been active, this is also a source of additional leadership. For example, in the early 90 and mid-90's **Patricia Atkins** was the Division's newsletter editor and also the editor of the *Regionalist*, a periodic journal of the National Association of Regional Councils. However, due to a very serious pedestrian/automobile accident in the late 1990's, Ms. Atkins went through a long-term medical recovery. She is now recovered and is also an active member of our Division as well as an urban research professor at the George Washington University. Specifically, she was panelist on one of our panels at the Washington National 2005 APA Conference and also was one of the four substantive writers our October 2004 newsletter that featured the Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Still another case of a recent example of a planner who has been around for some time and is a very recent recruit to our Division is that of **Patty Nicoson**. Ms. Nicoson is the President of the Dulles Corridor Rail Association, a professional advocacy group working to effectuate the extension of the Metro Rail System from Washington's inner suburbs out to Reston, then out to Dulles Airport, and then beyond to Leesburg. She is now writing an article for our late March, early April newsletter which will "tell the story" of this multi-billion dollar, highly intergovernmental, public- private effort to extend the Washington area's Metro Rail.

With the exception of Ms. Atkins, none of the above people mentioned had been members of the Intergovernmental Affairs Division prior to late 2002.

Concerning candidates called for by the 1983 by-laws there is a candidacy in our by-laws, Vice-Chair for National Affairs, that became an inactive position some time in the late 1980's; and also concerning a nomination committee, we will probably deal with that issue at the Program and Business Meeting at the National Conference in San Francisco.

### **C. Questions on Financial Reports**

Our balance at the end of Fiscal Year 2004 was \$3,444.72. Our cash-on-hand as of January 31, 2005 was \$3,157.86. We do not now have nor do we anticipate having end-of-year surpluses of over \$4,000. Our financial report is in the appendix as directed. In addition to the two reports asking for in the APA reporting form, we have also included a table which shows our budget reports, in our forms, for actual revenues and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2003 and Fiscal Year 2004, the approved budget for Fiscal Year 2005, and the tentatively proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2006. In addition, in the first appendix we reviewed each of the items in our 2004 Work Program to see what actually happened. Under the item dealing with fiscal reporting we give a summary review of what has happened to our revenues and expenditures over the last three years.

### **D. Question on By-Laws**

No further action required at this time per written instructions from the Division Council.

## **E. Questions on Division Representation**

**Fall Leadership Meeting: Portland:** We were fully represented by Mr. Rocky Piro, Vice Chair for Local and Regional Affairs and Secretary.

**Annual Business Meeting in Washington, DC:** We were fully represented by the Division Chair, Lee Schoenecker. Vice-Chair, Rocky Piro, was also in attendance.

**Other Leadership Retreats:** We were represented by Lee Schoenecker and Rocky Piro at the Leadership Retreat in Washington, DC in April of 2004. Rocky Piro represented us at the Leadership Retreat in Portland.

**Other Allied Organizations:** Our outreach efforts with the Alliance for Regional Stewardship is described under “communications,” “meetings,” above. Also, the Chair sat in on the January 2005 meeting of the Transportation Planning Division meeting held in Washington, DC. He is also a long-time member of the Transportation Planning Division.

## **F. Questions on Governance**

The Chair reviewed the draft APA Strategic plan or portions thereof and e-mailed in his response. With regard to the draft Division Brochure, for that portion dealing with Intergovernmental Affairs, the Chair revised the draft portion proposed by APA and then further transmitted his redraft out to 11 division members, including all those on the executive committee for further review. The Chair received written comments back from five of the 11 Division members. The Chair then further redrafted the Division draft and sent it in as final to the APA. The five members who put together written copies all received e-mail attachment copies of the final Division recommendations.

## **G. Questions on National APA Coordination Criteria**

We are not sure how to answer this question. Perhaps the closest to this is the development of our October 2004 newsletter mentioned a couple of previous time in this report. Again, that newsletter dealt with the status of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Per Jason Jordan, APA’s Director of Legislation, and Cynthia Cheski of Chicago APA, this newsletter will be posted to the APA web site. However, as of January 25, we had not yet seen this posting.

We have not made any research or other contributions.

## **H. Questions on Volunteers**

**Core Division Member Volunteer Efforts:** Throughout this report to date we have described the work of volunteers, and therefore, some if not quite a bit of the discussion below is somewhat repetitious. All three officers ---Lee Schoenecker, Thomas Dow, and Rocky Piro---have contributed substantial efforts during the past 10 months. And this most certainly is also true of Scott Taylor; the newsletter editor; Ryan Harris, the web master; and, Tom Christoffel, the editor of the “Regional Community News.” All of these members have contributed substantially of their free, volunteer time. As best as we can estimate, their total combined contribution probably amounts to a quarter of one man-year over a 10-month period since the last reporting date of March 31, 2004

**Additional Noteworthy Division Member Volunteer Efforts:** Other existing Intergovernmental Affairs Division members have also contributed volunteer efforts in the last year. Dr. Patricia Adkins prepared for and participated in a panel at the Washington National Conference, she wrote one of four articles in the October 2004 newsletter on Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and she reviewed the proposed Division Council brochure intergovernmental writeup. Mr. Stephen Kiehl prepared for and was a panel participant on the on the special Airports-in-the-Region Initiative panels organized by the Transportation Planning Division at the National APA 2005 National conference in Washington, DC. Dr. Bruce McDowell carefully reviewed the rather lengthy article on the proposed name change for the Division for the January 2005 newsletter. (Dr. McDowell was Chair of the Division in the late 1970s and mid-80s, and he was also Division Council Chair during approximately the same time. He is very knowledgeable of the history of the Intergovernmental Affairs Division and he is also an expert on the history of federal planning programs impacting state and local governments.) Mr. Douglas Porter reviewed the proposed Division Council brochure intergovernmental writeup. Mr. Jason Vincent wrote an article, "Inter-Jurisdictional Planning Issues in Far Southeastern Connecticut," in the March 2004 newsletter. Mr. Howard Grossman wrote an article, "We Are Not Alone," for the March 2004 newsletter. And while briefly mentioned in our last year's performance report, Mr. Richard A Lehman wrote an article, "Inter-Jurisdictional Planning and Agreement in Wisconsin: The Lake Mills Example," for the March 2004 newsletter.

Thus, over the last 10-11 months, some 13 members have volunteered in Division activities in some notable way. That is about 10 percent of the Division membership and it is all done on volunteer basis. Their efforts were mainly recognized through words of thanks, both on the phone and through e-mails. One in particular---that of Scott Taylor-- - was recognized for his excellent overall efforts as newsletter editor by way of a letter of praise from the Division Chair, at the Chair's volition, to Mr. Taylor's supervisor in the Missouri State Department of Transportation. Recruitment of new volunteers will come about through the development of newsletter articles, direct recruitment of new members, and also, we believe that future involvement can be increased through the possible, eventual development of an APA policy paper on "regional and intergovernmental planning," starting with a first phase Issue Paper in the 2005/06 program year.

## **H. Summary**

**General Strengths:** Since the initial performance report of precisely ten months ago, and also since January of 2003 when the current officers were elected, we believe we have made substantial substantive progress. We have strong regular newsletters, and during the last ten months, the high point has been the October 2004 newsletter on Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Our web page has been expanded over the course of the last year and still has room for substantive growth. One of its features is the weekly link posting of the list serve, "Regional Community News." We are still searching for ways to fully exploit this unique feature so as to better serve our Division membership as well as planning professionals generally engaged in the field of regional planning.

In the last two months we have come up with an unencumbered list-serve to electronically distribute our newsletter when we so choose. However, we can also use this new list serve to send out special notices such as for the proposed new name of the Division, to alert people of our web site including the “Regional Community News,” and other considerations such as surveys, voting, and the like.

Another strength is that we have a dozen or more Division members engaged and we think this is pretty good. That is about 10 percent of our membership. We further believe we could engage a further 10 members or more with the development of a two-phase APA policy paper on “regional and intergovernmental planning.” Details follow below under issues facing our planning field.

**General Weakness:** That is simple---we need more members to maintain a yearly funding level of \$3,200 to \$4,000. On the average, over the last two to three years, we have been spending between \$2,000 and \$3,000 with revenues of \$2,000 and now approaching \$2,500. In the last program year, we cut travel very substantially to under a thousand dollars to go to a required national conferences and a required fall leadership meeting, with the members taking most of the necessary costs out of “their own pockets,”and/or their employing agency. At the same time we have increased program costs for newsletters so as to better reach the Division’s membership. We are now just below 140 members (138 to be exact), the highest figure that we have had in four years; yet our margin of growth over our low points in 2001 is not very high.

In past reports, we had stated that we hoped to get to a membership of 175 by the end of FY 2005. (In last year’s cover letter accompanying the performance report, the Chair mistakenly indicated a growth to 175 members by the end of fiscal year 2004. The year should have been FY 2005 in alignment with our FY 2005 budget.). Yet, we are now doubtful we can make 175 members by the end of FY 2005. A figure of about 155 might be more realistic. Using the next performance report program year, assuming the end of February 2006, that might be a good target date for a membership of 175 people. That should also give us yearly revenues of about \$3,500.

**Issue Facing our Planning Field:** Today’s young to early middle-aged planner generally does not recognize that the term “intergovernmental affairs” includes a strong emphasis on sub state regional planning. Thus, we are having a hard time gaining membership from APA professionals who might other wise recognize that the Intergovernmental Affairs Division includes, at its core, the field of regional planning. Further, the APA, as a generalization does not give enough emphasis to regional planning. To deal with this overlapping issue we are taking a two fold course of action:

**First, we intend to change our name to the “Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division”** and will propose to the Division Council that they approve this change. If we get Division Council approval, then we will seek approval from the APA Board of Directors. We hope to gain both approvals at the 2005 National APA Conference in San Francisco. This has been the main substantive item of discussion within our Division over the last ten months as we arrived at a consensus and chosen name. The details for seeking a name change are found in the lead substantive article of our January, 2005 Division newsletter.

**Second, we may well embark on a two-year development effort to develop a possible APA policy paper on “regional and intergovernmental planning.”** At the suggestion of the APA Legislative staff and in accordance with general APA procedures, the first year will include the development of a framing Issue Paper to determine whether or not such a policy paper is doable. If the answer after the first year is positive, then a the development

of a policy paper will be pursued in the second year. Because of the relatively small size of the Division, a legitimate question might be asked as to whether the Division has a enough members to accomplish the task. Uniquely, despite the Division's relatively small size, we have a solid cadre of people interested and highly experienced in this subject. We have talked to some of these people and they would very much like to undertake such a paper. We will be talking to others before the Division Council meeting in San Francisco.

