

Western Planner/PAW Conference Session Descriptions

Vancouver, Washington, August 10-13, 2010



Welcome to the 2010 Western Planners Conference in Vancouver, Washington!! You will find below a brief summary description of the session.

MOBILE TOURS/WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, August 10

Pre-Conference Mobile Tours (MT)

MT-A. Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Begin the conference by learning about the rich cultural and natural heritage of the Lower Columbia River region. Located downstream from Vancouver, the refuge provides precious habitat for a wide range of bird, plant, animal wildlife, and protects important archaeological resources including a village recorded by the Lewis and Clark expedition. Hear U.S. Fish and Wildlife speakers in a re-created Chinook village longhouse explore more of this wildlife paradise. This is a “family-friendly” tour.

MT-B. Downtown Portland and the Pearl District. On this tour, you will get an up-close look at the widely acclaimed planning success story found in downtown Portland and the adjacent Pearl District. Once a concentration of warehouses, the “Pearl” is now transformed with condominiums, lofts, shops, galleries, and entertainment venues. See how planners and city leaders have used a commitment to transit, bold design, and sustainable policies to create a diverse, vibrant, and desirable 24-hour inner city community.

Wednesday, August 11

1A. History as a Community Asset. Explore the history of the Fort Vancouver National Site dating back to the establishment of the Hudson’s Bay Company in 1825, arrival of the U.S. Army in 1849 and other significant

historical periods and important historical figures that set the stage for an ambitious site development program.

2A. Freight Mobility. Areas across the nation are facing growth of containerized international trade coupled with population and traffic growth that is pressing highways, roads, streets, rail, and port capacity already limited in and by space, topography, and fiscal resources. This session will explore freight mobility challenges and successful case studies from several western states.

3A. Planning for Urban and Community Forests. Urban and community forests are powerful support for goals of a community such as sustainability, improved storm water management, and economic vitality. The discussions presented during this session will provide tips and techniques to incorporate urban forestry principles into planning practice.

4A. Small Town Comprehensive Plans. Learn the key planning issues, public participation processes and the role of the living landscape in shaping our small town comprehensive plans. Hear what has worked, and what has not, in this sharing of experience and practical information.

Short Course on Local Planning Part

1. The Legal Basis of Planning: The statutory basis of planning in Washington State, constitutional issues in land use planning, the Open Public Meetings Act, the Appearance of Fairness Doctrine, conflicts of interest, quasi-judicial and legislative functions of the planning commission, ex parte communications and how to deal with them, the conduct of meetings, the uses

(and misuses) of email, and recent case law affecting land use planning.

1B. Karen B. Smith Symposium: Small Town Redevelopment & Revitalization. Redeveloping and revitalizing small towns can be challenging even in the best of times, much less the economic doldrums in which we currently find ourselves. This session will focus on achieving realistic and sustainable redevelopment goals through design, historic preservation, and innovative planning. Panelists will present case studies of successful revitalization efforts in small towns across the West.

2B. Measuring Transportation Sustainability. This session will focus on best practices measuring sustainable transportation including green roads, policies, elective vehicle charging station ordinances, and UW pilot Green Road certification program (LEED for roads) that covers environmental analysis credits, to LID, urban design, multimodal elements, native materials, and construction activities for a sustainable infrastructure.

3B. Tools to support planning at a watershed scale. All land is within a watershed. Explore various tools that help inform land use policies, programs and decision-making in a watershed context.

4B. Red Mountain AVA Master Plan: A Vision for Sustainable Viticulture. Explore the Red Mountain AVA (American Viticultural Area) Master Plan, funded by the state, which accommodates new development within Benton County, Washington. This master plan vision promotes the region’s economic opportunities for the wine and visitor industries and manages the

anticipated growth on Red Mountain, while increasing the visibility of the Red Mountain AVA.

MT-1. Fort Vancouver Historic Reserve Walking Tour. Situated along the Columbia River, Fort Vancouver National Site's 366-acre campus is the only national park in the Vancouver-Portland metropolitan area. Historically an integral Northwest hub, the site interprets the stories of the Native Americans, the British Hudson's Bay Company, the U.S. Army at Vancouver Barracks, early aviation, the world's largest spruce mill during WWI, and the WWII Kaiser Shipyards. Filled with multiple attractions, this tour epitomizes the conference theme –Lasting Legacies and Living Landscapes.

Short Course on Local Planning Part 2. Comprehensive Planning and Implementation Basics: An overview of the Growth Management Act and components of a community comprehensive plan, including the goals of the plan, the basic elements which need to be addressed, the concepts of consistency and concurrency, and the tools and techniques available for implementing the comprehensive plan

1C. Burnt Bridge Restoration Project. This session examines how planners can help restore degraded ecosystems back to an ecologically rich habitat, a storm-water management tool, and urban recreation magnet. Burnt Bridge Creek, flowing through the conference host city of Vancouver, provides a case study where planners worked with property owners, engineers, and biologists to transform the former "ditch" into an environmental restoration success story.

2C. Scenic Byways. Scenic Byways exist across the west and are applied primarily as a valuable promotional tool for tourism; however, standards for their designation and management vary. The national program focus is shifting more to livable communities. This panel will include planners who develop and

implement Byway programs and projects across the West.

3C. Water Resource Planning: Emerging Technologies. Water resources are managed throughout the West for a variety of objectives, including flood control, hydropower, fish flows, and recreation. While overall management objectives may be similar, the specific approaches east and west of the Cascade Curtain can be very different. This session will provide an overview of these different approaches.

4C. Circuit Rider Planners: working with hired hands. Hear the potential advantages and disadvantages of contract planning from a panel of seasoned voices hailing from several western states.

MT-2. Bike Tour of Waterfront with former Mayor of Vancouver. Join in a bike tour of the Columbia River Waterfront Trail to see how a well-planned public access to the shoreline enhances the health of a community. Learn about how the city created a special zone and modified the Shoreline Master Plan to get the trail built and how the future 30-acre expansion of Vancouver's downtown to the Columbia River create opportunities for further waterfront access and community vitality.

Short Course on Local Planning Part 3. The Role of Decision-Makers and Strategies for Public Participation: Discussion of the various roles of the planning commission and its relationships with elected officials, planning staff and citizens. This session will provide suggestions for fostering meaningful public participation and holding effective hearings, and include a skill-building segment.

Thursday, August 12

1D. Fact v. Fiction: A Guide to Section 106 for Local Planners. For local planners, working through the Section 106 consultation process as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act, can feel like aiming at a moving target. In this session, key players in the 106 process will define their roles and responsibilities. Learn how local planners play an important role in successful 106 consultation outcomes.

2D. Livable Communities: Non-Motorized Transportation Considerations. How do you create an efficient, livable, and health-promoting transportation system? This session will illustrate unique tools and approaches to creating context-sensitive transportation solutions that work for communities of all shapes and sizes.

3D. Building Resiliency by Linking Planning with Disaster Preparedness. At an increasing rate, both our natural and built environments are being devastated by natural disasters. Join us in discovering how some western states are integrating planning and disaster preparedness to create more resilient communities.

4D. Protecting a National Treasure, Managing a Working Landscape: Implementing the Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Speakers from Oregon and Washington counties, the U.S. Forest Service, and Columbia River Gorge Commission will share details regarding the creation of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act (the nation's first Congressionally-designated scenic area) and the subsequent Scenic Area Management Plan providing the framework for land use decisions within this area.

MT-3. Columbia River Land Bridge/Confluence Project. Visit the award winning Vancouver Land Bridge in a walking tour that offers one-of-a-

kind mountain and river views, and highlights the planning, design and construction of this transformative project. The Vancouver Land Bridge is one of seven places along the historic Columbia River where upon significant landscape restoration and environmental enhancements have been built to evoke the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and cultural resources of the Columbia River Basin.

Bonus Session 1: Ethics – Evolving professionalism: Beyond the Status Quo.

1E. Vancouver Downtown Redevelopment/Revitalization. Our conference host city is experiencing a renaissance based on local commitment to implementing an aggressive planning agenda. The Vancouver City Center Plan combines a mix of economic incentives, massive transportation projects, and historic preservation to create and support “messy vitality,” a rich, dynamic mix of residential, cultural, civic, retail and entertainment places that will attract jobs and round-the-clock activity in the city center.

2E. Innovations in Transportation and Comprehensive Planning. This session highlights innovative strategies, ideas, and programs to improve transportation elements of comprehensive or long-range plans that have either been recommended or that are being implemented in several communities.

3E. Dams, Dams, Dams: What is up with the Dams? In this session, we will explore what planners should be aware of regarding dams and dam management; the effect of dams upon the landscape; future planning and restoration activities; and the cultural and community impacts of dam removal.

4E. Beyond Robert’s Rules: Guiding Your Planning Commission. This session will address the challenges faced by planning commissioners in making good, credible and defensible land use

decisions when assisting the elected body in making legislative decisions related to land use, and when making decisions on land use applications.

MT-4. Columbia River Crossing: A Case Study in Section 106. The conference venue is literally in the shadow of the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) mega bridge and freeway replacement project. What better opportunity to learn how the Section 106 consultation process works in a real world application.

1F. Exploring the Use of Ecosystem Services and Land Management in the West. This session highlights Washoe County, Nevada’s Open Space and Natural Resources Plan and the City of Santa Fe’s approach to water source protection through an ecosystem services approach. The case studies will provide an introduction to ecosystem services as well as practical applications that can be used throughout the West.

2F. Tribal Transportation Planning. Join this session to hear session stories and models for successful partnerships and collaborations as tribal liaisons share examples from several western states.

3F. Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change. What does the latest research tell us about climate change? And what is being done in western states to address this critical issue and shape a cleaner, more sustainable future? Find the answers to these and related questions in this informative session.

4F. City Imagery, Identity and Branding. This session explores the relationship between urban planning and creating a unique and valuable sense of place. Discussion will center on creating strong images that can link to identity and making a brand for a city. Managing and promoting the community brand is a known critical strategy to achieving social and economic vitality.

MT-5. Vancouver Downtown Walking Tour. Participate in a walking tour of the Esther Short Redevelopment Area to see how a subarea plan and planned action, combined with public commitment to a vision, and public and private investment, have transformed a once rundown industrial area into the heart of Vancouver’s downtown redevelopment efforts with a “rediscovered” park, several large mixed-use projects, and a hotel and conference center.

1G. Case Studies in Historic Preservation as an Economic Development Tool. Learn how to capitalize on basic necessities to help revitalize historic downtowns and neighborhoods through design, planning, and strategic partnerships. Case studies will illustrate how communities are using their inventory of historic buildings and local flavor to foster marketplaces, destination restaurants, and recreation amenities to score impressive economic successes.

2G. Bi-State Transportation Planning Columbia River Crossing. This session will provide an overview of the Columbia River Crossing project, a long-term comprehensive project to improve safety and reduce congestion on Interstate 5 between Portland, OR and Vancouver, WA. The project combines improvements to interstate bridges, interchanges, and highway; transit; and pedestrian and bicycle facilities to benefit the community and the environment over the long-term.

3G. Protection Agricultural Land Across the West. Organized efforts to preserve farmland in the U.S. have been employed since the 1970s. And yet, millions of acres of agricultural land in this country are still being lost to development each decade. Learn about programs in various western states that have been successful in stemming this tide and protecting this important resource.

4G. Confluence Project: Maya Lin Landscape Art Works. Artist Maya Lin and others discuss the decade-long Confluence Project tracing 470 miles of the Columbia and Snake rivers, Lewis and Clark's famed exploratory route west. From foggy coastal forests to arid desert on the Idaho border, Lin and the Confluence team have worked with artists, architects, Indian tribes, civic leaders, elected officials and volunteers to heal degraded landscapes, looking at familiar places in a different way. Art, the environment, history and "what is next" come alive at each site along the route.

MT-6. Washougal Downtown Tour. New and improved downtown Washougal is the west gateway to the Columbia Gorge. Speakers will share their experiences and efforts to revitalize a small downtown through public and private partnerships. See how the planning for, and the completion of these physical improvements have come together to assist existing businesses and attract new ones to create a sense of place.

Friday, August 13

1H. Best Practices in Historic Preservation. Communities throughout the world are striving to be more environmentally, economically and

socially sustainable. This session overviews best practices and financial resources from across the West for preserving local heritage, historic buildings, archaeological resources, and neighborhoods.

2H. Counts that Count: Implementing a Bicycle & Pedestrian Documentation project. This session will begin with an overview of planning for non-motorized transportation and the implementation strategies developed for Juneau, AK. Strategies outlined include both specific non-motorized facilities and more general policies. Next, the session will explore the importance of measuring more than only average daily traffic to develop lasting transportation improvements that support walkable communities. Examples and readily available tools will be highlighted including the National Documentation Project and how it is being used to help develop multi-modal projects.

3H. Making Room for Wildlife: New Tools for State, County and Site Planning. Learn about emerging approaches to planning for wildlife at the statewide, county, and subarea scales. Hear from planning and conservation experts involved in current projects to identify wildlife corridors, protect local biodiversity, and evaluate

the habitat value of a parcel. How can you make room for wildlife in your community?

4H. Wind Energy: Harnessing (and regulating) Wind Energy in Both Urban and Rural Setting. This panel of industry and regulatory experts will describe challenges and give practical examples of how local jurisdictions have and can develop plans and regulations to encourage renewable energy production in a regulatory context that adequately addresses community concerns and impacts.

Bonus Session 2: Ethics. Professional Ethics in Planning. This session will discuss the purpose of an ethics code and how to use it, using the AICP Code of Ethics with discussion of ethical scenarios.

Plenary Session

Significant Recent Legal and Case Law Developments of Interest to Western Planners. A panel of regional legal experts will provide an interactive overview of major cases that impact the work of western planners, taking a case study approach that puts the audience right in the middle of hypothetical situations affected by recent court decisions.

If you are interested in assisting with the 2010 PAW/WPR conference, would like to speak, be a moderator, or be a sponsor, please do not hesitate to contact **Dee Caputo** at 509-389-1291 or dee.caputo@commerce.wa.gov. You may also contact any PAW board member by visiting our Web site www.planningpaw.org. Volunteers are needed and welcomed with open arms.