Michigan Association of Planning
Michigan Chapter | American Planning Association

Andrea Brown, AICP
Executive Director

Making Great Places Happen
About MAP

The Michigan Association of Planning exists so that Michigan will consist of healthy, sustainable, prosperous and equitable communities based first and foremost on quality community planning.

- Michigan Chapter, American Planning Association
- 1,000 professional planners
- 3,000 elected and appointed leaders like planning commissioners, zoning board members, and city council and township board members
Michigan’s Unique Political Landscape

Home Rule and Local Control

Strong and independent local governments

Home rule is central to our political and regulatory framework

More than 1850 units of local government

Nearly 400 Coastal Communities in Michigan

Critical need to elevate the knowledge and skills is paramount to advance mitigation solutions

But How do we reach so many decision makers?
MDNR is foundational to bringing together the leadership teams that develop the products and services to elevate Michigan’s coastal resilience acumen.

And put together a team…
Brokering Connections | DNR and its Partners

Academic researchers and thought leaders (UM, MTU, SeaGrant)
• Conducted the research

Non – Profits (LIAA)
• Translated the research and made it accessible
• Early leader in connecting research and practice
• Pilot and on-going resilience projects

MAP Professional Association
• Distributed message to much bigger audience
• Developed training, resources and engagement opportunities
The Coastal Resiliency Team
MAP’s Responsibility
Increase Knowledge and Skills about Community Resilience

MAP serves community planners and appointed land use officials.
MAP understands that community policy directly affects long term community resiliency.
MAP educates local officials on many topics including community resilience, but...

...even when equipped with tools and best planning practices for resiliency planning - there are barriers to moving on to implementation.

We believe this is challenging for myriad reasons including:
Challenges

- Lack of funding or resources to make the expensive but necessary changes to the master plan or local zoning codes that will institutionalize or codify the policy change;
- Limited “next step” expertise (training is typically enough to introduce higher level ideas but not enough to make technical, science based changes to local policy);
- Not all local officials have been exposed to sustainability concepts, nor do they understand their elevated role as a community leader to drive policy change;
Challenges

- Ideological messaging prevents more conservative led communities from actualizing science based policy solutions;
- Difficulty in getting leaders and residents to rally around policy change that has longer term benefit rather than short term success an elected official wants to see during “their term”.

An Incremental Long Game

Early DNR Investments in Planning

- 2002 Filling the Gaps
- 2003 Planning Commissioner’s Toolkit
- 2007 Filling the Gaps 2nd Edition
- 2008 Spring Institute | Think Green
- 2010 Filling the Gaps Workshops
- 2011 Spring Institute | Moving Toward Resilience: How Planners Can Lead the Way

Second Stage Work

- 2015 Master Planning for Coastal Resilience Training
- 2016 Direct Grants to Communities to integrate coastal resilience best practices
- 2017 Direct Grants to Communities to update zoning and other regulations
- 2018 Resilience Summit| Update 2015 Training Product | 3 Workshops | Michigan Planner article
The Filling the Gaps publication was developed in 2001 – 02 with a DNR grant, and a 2\textsuperscript{nd} Edition funded in 2006 - 07.

MAP’s first DNR grant was to develop a training program based on the Filling the Gaps publication.

MAP facilitated statewide trainings.

Growing recognition that the federal and state government cannot protect sensitive resources alone -- hence the title which focuses on the effective role that local governments can play by filling the gaps.
Range of Acumen Among Local Leaders

Statutory authority

Types of decisions

Legal aspects and risk management

How to make decisions

How to run meetings

Site plan review
Intentional, Incremental Approach

2011 Spring Institute: Moving Toward Resilience: How Community Planners Can Lead the Way to a More Sustainable Future

2008 Spring Institute
Think Green
Master Planning for Sustainability and Resiliency
City of Trenton – City and consultant led project, industrial water front city downriver from Detroit, complete rewrite of master plan

Muskegon – West Michigan Shoreline Redevelopment Commission (WMSRDC) – subarea plan for 3 jurisdictions surrounding Muskegon Lake

City of Hancock, in Michigan’s UP, with shoreline on Lake Superior, a complete rewrite of the master plan with resilience as a foundation.

Bay City – Waterfront community on Saginaw Bay | Lake Huron, master plan based on community revitalization and resilience, received MAP Best Practice award in 2018.

City of Baraga – in Michigan’s UP, with shoreline on Lake Superior, partnered with MTU.

Sebewaing – City on Saginaw Bay | Lake Huron, a partnership between the city, Delta Institute and Sebewaing Light and Water, purpose to do resilience pre-planning to protect the utilities, light and water infrastructure, threatened by increasing weather events
MASTER PLANNING FOR RESILIENCE: Six Communities

TRENTON

The City of Trenton is undertaking its first comprehensive plan in over 30 years, and has decided to fully incorporate resilience throughout the document. Members of the community have input on a wide range of issues, from public safety to transportation to climate change. The plan is organized around six themes: Community, Economy, Environment, Infrastructure, Housing, and Public Safety.

MUSKEGON

The City of Muskegon is also developing a comprehensive plan that will incorporate resilience into every aspect of the community's future. Members of the community have been involved in the planning process, from public meetings to online surveys. The plan will address issues such as housing, economic development, and public safety.

HANCOCK

The City of Hancock is working on a comprehensive plan that will incorporate resilience into every aspect of the community's future. Members of the community have been involved in the planning process, from public meetings to online surveys. The plan will address issues such as housing, economic development, and public safety.

BAY CITY

The City of Bay City is developing a comprehensive plan that will incorporate resilience into every aspect of the community's future. Members of the community have been involved in the planning process, from public meetings to online surveys. The plan will address issues such as housing, economic development, and public safety.

LESSONS LEARNED: The educational setup of the public meetings helped get meaningful feedback from the public. The key concepts that characterized public opinion were climate change, economic development, and public safety.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Trenton is developing a comprehensive plan that will incorporate resilience into every aspect of the community's future. Members of the community have been involved in the planning process, from public meetings to online surveys. The plan will address issues such as housing, economic development, and public safety.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Muskegon is also developing a comprehensive plan that will incorporate resilience into every aspect of the community's future. Members of the community have been involved in the planning process, from public meetings to online surveys. The plan will address issues such as housing, economic development, and public safety.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Hancock is working on a comprehensive plan that will incorporate resilience into every aspect of the community's future. Members of the community have been involved in the planning process, from public meetings to online surveys. The plan will address issues such as housing, economic development, and public safety.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Bay City is developing a comprehensive plan that will incorporate resilience into every aspect of the community's future. Members of the community have been involved in the planning process, from public meetings to online surveys. The plan will address issues such as housing, economic development, and public safety.
2017 Direct Grant Program: Regulatory Fixes

City of Marquette
City of Trenton
City of Mackinac City
City of Grand Haven
City of Sebewaing
2018 Planners as Community Resilience Leaders

- Resilience Summit | April 2018
- 3 placed based workshops with the same curriculum
- Michigan Planner Magazine Article
- White Paper | Summary Report
- Updated Master Plan for Resilience Workshop
2018 Resilience Summit

159 participants
Team Opening Session
Breakout panels
Keynote Lunch
Closing “conversation”
MAP Resilience Objectives

• Elevate understanding of local government leaders that climate change is real and that it will have serious impacts on our communities

• Help local leaders understand that local planning and zoning policy changes can mitigate the impacts of climate change

• Update master plans that set policy direction for community resiliency
MAP Resilience Objectives

• Update zoning and other local regulations so that uninformed (though often good intentioned) decision makers do not exacerbate and perpetuate harmful planning practices

• Provide direct technical assistance to communities to encourage implementation

• Build robust knowledge base and integrate lessons learned and input received during planning processes
Partnership Principles

• Develop and share information, data, science
• Make the science accessible to local leaders and users
• Underscore that even small steps, policies and solutions make a difference, it’s a long game
• Education is critical for planners and local elected and appointed officials – again and again
• Develop scalable products