On November 29, 1979, Stan Steadman, Art Greenburg, Jim Richard, and Fred Roach, from Montana; Allan Merta from North Dakota; Ben Orsbon from South Dakota; and Dale Pernula from Wyoming met at the office of the Western Coal Planning Assistance project in Billings, Montana, and established The Western Planner (WP). The WP was established in newspaper form as a “journal of information and ideas for planners, their boards and commissions, and their multiple publics.” Although the journal has changed forms, it continues to be written by planners for planners on practical solutions and experiences, covering western planning issues with pragmatism and humor.

State planning associations share control of the WP by appointing members to the Western Planner Resources (WPR) Board of Directors, which manages the organization while the editorial board vets journal content. The board members serve on the WPR Board with no financial compensation as a service to their planning organizations and to other Western Planners.

Many changes have occurred in the Mountain-Plains region, and in planning in general, since the beginning of the WP in 1979. However, the WP family remains a strong, vibrant collegial group dedicated to its founding principle. We want to help empower all western planners to build up and improve their communities throughout the West.

ABOUT THE WESTERN PLANNER
To My Fellow Western Planners,
This year has presented challenges like no other in our history. Shortly after our board met in March, the pandemic hit our region and disrupted every facet of life. Nevertheless, we persisted in publishing our monthly journal, presenting high-caliber articles about planning during the pandemic. The board continued to meet regularly, addressing the business of the association, and including filling vacant positions from constituent planning organizations. While our much-anticipated North Dakota conference will be rescheduled for 2022, Western Planner signed an agreement with APA Arizona committing a joint conference this coming August in Scottsdale.

Western Planner remains the planner’s network connecting the great spaces and places of the West. We encompass the “1-person office”, state planning organizations, and everything in between. We are committed to provide a strong and active group working to build up the Western places and communities because we share an understanding of the issues we face: water, public lands, tribal relationships, resource extraction, inequality and social justice, and sustaining biodiversity and our wide open spaces. You are not alone; we are here for you.

The Western Planner could not survive and operate without supporting state organizations. Their partnerships and contributions help expand and sustain our organization. Our goal is to communicate regularly and help us understand how we can best support the most remote planners.

Western Planner depends on the individual contributions of members—writing articles, providing job postings, engaging with one another online, sponsoring, and donating. Moving forward, we will continue expanding our network and supporting it as described in our strategic plan—all with the focus on strengthening the Western Planner network.

As I have often said, there is great value in being part of a network that transcends formal connections and results in friendships borne of shared experiences, celebrating building better communities. You and I are part of that network. Let us work in the coming year to build up the West, together as we define the “next normal” beyond 2020.

Please stay well!

Most Sincerely,
Dan Pava, FAICP
President, Western Planner Resources
2018-2020

There is great value in being part of a network that transcends formal connections and results in friendships borne of shared experiences, celebrating building better communities.”

Dan Pava, FAICP
President,
Western Planner Resources
2018-2020
NEW BOARD MEMBERS

During the difficult 2020 year, we were fortunate to add four new members to our Western Planner Board.

Brittany Skelton, representing Idaho APA, is Senior Planner and Floodplain Manager for the City of Ketchum in Idaho's Wood River Valley and she is guided by the mantra “do with, not for.” Learn more at her website communityandplace.com. Brittany was also part of the team who won last year’s Rural Innovation Award.

The Western Planner Board is happy to welcome back Dee Caputo, FAICP of Washington as an at-large board member. Dee served Washington's communities for more than 25 years. Currently, she chairs the Washington APA chapter’s Planning Officials Development Committee as the Planning Officials Development Officer providing access to training, education and support opportunities for elected and appointed planning officials.

Allison Platt is our new representative from Oregon and works in Bend as a Senior Planner with the Growth Management Division. A Colorado native, Allison received her Master's Degree in Urban Environmental Policy and Planning from Tufts University in 2016 and worked as a Transportation Planner for two years before joining the City of Bend.

Genevieve Pearethree is a Planning Development Manager with the Current Planning Section at the City of Flagstaff. She is focused on using good urban design and planning practice to foster a healthier and more sustainable Flagstaff. She has a Master of Urban and Environmental Planning and a Master of Science in Sustainability from Arizona State University. Prior to her planning career, she was a project manager for the Arizona State Government and a bilingual teacher in Bolivia.

WESTERN PLANNER CONFERENCES

IMPACT: WE BUILD UP CONFERENCES

2020 CONFERENCE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Dakota Planning Association and the Western Planner had to cancel our 2020 annual conference. The decision was made with deference to the ongoing public health concerns and the resulting fiscal impact on many members of the Western Planner community. We sincerely regret this missed opportunity to gather and share experiences on a regional scale. However, we have already rescheduled to come back together to Bismarck-Mandan in 2022.

GROWING TOWARDS FAICP

The Western Planner provides unique opportunities for professional development. Two current board members and many of those who have served in the past are part of the College of Fellows of AICP (FAICP). As board member Dee Caputo, FAICP says, "Volunteering through the Western Planner organization is like providing planning service from within a FAICP nursery." This is from the service opportunities and a rich network of support the Western Planner brings to help planners grow towards this high professional honor.
2021 WESTERN STATES PLANNING CONFERENCE

We are excited to announce our upcoming conference will be held in partnership with the Arizona APA, and will be supported by multiple western state organizations. The conference will be held at the JW Marriot Camelback Inn Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona on August 22-25. This will be a regional conference, coming during the recovery from COVID-19 and in a time of adaptation, reconciliation, and cooperation in the West. In this context, the theme of the conference is "Breaking Boundaries, Creating Connections." Now more than ever, our profession needs to break the boundaries of our "professional silos" with disruptive and innovative ways to address modern challenges, creative and authentic engagement, and real human connection that will ultimately improve our communities.

**Why Be a Conference Partner with Western Planner?**

Western Planner elevates rural and tribal issues. 75% of Western counties are rural and tribal nations are foundational to the fabric of the West. This is the way forward for the West. Diversity and inclusivity will be key facets of the 2021 Western States Planning Conference.

Western Planner increases the reach and impact of your event. On average, about 50% of Western Planner conference attendees are from out-of-state. This expands professional networks, helps make new connections, and encourages ideas to flourish.

Western Planner has held conferences since 1981. We invite you to be part of history while moving into the future, together.

WESTERNPLANNER.ORG/2021-CONFERENCE
Montana was one of the founding states of Western Planner, and it was founded in Montana in 1979. Western Planner also formed the West Central Chapter of the APA, which includes Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota, with their original board officers coming from the Western Planner board.

Conference History
1981 Bozeman
1987 Billings
1990 Bozeman
1997 Red Lodge
2004 Missoula
2012 Billings
2016 Great Falls

RURAL: 89.3% of counties
TRIBAL: 5.9% of state (9 tribes)
WP REP: None

CONNECTIONS: 131 people
WEB VISITS: 836
**WYOMING**

RURAL: 89.3% of counties
TRIBAL: 5.9% of state (9 tribes)
WP REP: Megan Nelms, AICP
Angela Parker, AICP, CFM (at large)

CONNECTIONS: 271 people
WEB VISITS: 834

* **2020 Foundational Member** *

Wyoming was one of the founding states of Western Planner in 1979. They still face off against the rest of the world in the Wyoming vs the World softball (usually) game each conference. And they still always think they win.

**CONFERENCE HISTORY**
1984 Jackson
1994 Cody
2002 Evanston
2008 Cheyenne
2015 Laramie

“Many western planners may think we are alone in the issues we deal with, but we're not. Western Planner can help make that connection.”

Megan from Gillette
North Dakota was one of the founding states of the Western Planner. Our conference will be returning there in 2022.

** 2020 Foundational Member **

RURAL: 92.5% of counties
TRIBAL: 1.9% of state (4 tribes)
WP REP: Donna Bye
Larry Weil (Representing West Central APA)

CONNECTIONS: 166 people
WEB VISITS: 900

Western Planner articles are written by planners for planners and are more relatable than more high level and theoretical approaches.”

Larry from West Fargo
South Dakota was one of the founding states of Western Planner in 1979. Western Planner assisted in founding the South Dakota Planning Association in 1983.

** 2020 Foundational Member **

RURAL: 95.5% of counties
TRIBAL: 9.2% of state (10 tribes)
WP REP: Kevin Smith, AICP

CONNECTIONS: 128 people
WEB VISITS: 900

We are in this together. Once your connections are made, you have a plethora of people, topics and information at your fingertips.”

Amber from Deadwood
Colorado joined the Western Planner in 1980. There are more WP subscribers from Colorado than any other state.

RURAL: 76.6% of counties
TRIBAL: 1.2% of state (2 tribes)
WP REP: Brandon Cammarata, AICP
CONNECTIONS: 842 people
WEB VISITS: 2500

CONFERENCE HISTORY
1986 Fort Collins

I think Western Planner is a reality check for stuff that is actually being implemented by peer western communities"

Brandon from Aurora
Utah joined the Western Planner in 1980.

RURAL: 72.4% of counties
TRIBAL: 4.3% of state (7 tribes)
WP REP: Brian Carver

CONNECTIONS: 140 people
WEB VISITS: 1046

CONFERENCE HISTORY
1983 Logan
1995 Park City
2005 Midway
2014 Salt Lake City

"Western Planner is more than a journal or conference. If people invest themselves, it is a network of friendship, camaraderie, and professional support."
Paul from Millcreek
Western Planner is a great network of professionals who work in both rural and urban settings where open space and relatively small populations are predominant. This is why it is important to belong to an organization where we can discuss common goals with one another.”

Kerwin from Richland
Alaska joined the Western Planner in 1984.

CONNECTIONS: 141 people

WEB VISITS: 387

** 2020 Legacy Sponsor **

Being a planning department of five or less, or sometimes one, does not mean you need to be isolated in learning and planning for your community. The Western Planner is an extension of your small, rural planning department."

Shelly from Anchorage
Idaho joined the Western Planner in 1984. The Western Planner helped form the Idaho Planning Association, which became the Idaho Chapter of the APA.

RURAL: 86.4% of counties
TRIBAL: 1.3% of state (5 tribes)
WP REP: Brittany Skelton
Sherwin Racehorse (Representing Tribal Interests)

CONNECTIONS: 101 people
WEB VISITS: 1428

"I'm excited to see Western Planner as an organization upping its online presence with the website and newsletter."

Brittany from Ketchum

CONFERENCE HISTORY
1985 Coeur d'Alene
1989 Boise
1996 Idaho Falls
2006 Boise
2018 Fort Hall
**2020 Champion Sponsor**

Arizona joined the Western Planner in 1992. They have the 2nd most WP subscribers of any state. The first WP conference in Arizona will take place in 2021.

**CONNECTIONS**

547 people

**WEB VISITS**

1247

“

I’m a Western Planner member because it is a great resource to share planning expertise across the West and network with the region’s pioneering planners. I’m relatively early in my planning career, and I like learning from the Western Planner articles and from the other members.”

Genevieve from Flagstaff
New Mexico joined the Western Planner in 1991.

RURAL: 63.6% of counties
TRIBAL: 10.5% of state (24 tribes)
WP REP: Dan Pava, FAICP
Brad Stebleton (at large)

CONNECTIONS: 180 people
WEB VISITS: 847

“Western Planner stories are relevant to those working west of the 100th meridian because we understand western history, culture and issues pertaining to planning.”

Dan from New Mexico
Nevada joined the Western Planner in 1991.

RURAL: 70.6% of counties
TRIBAL: 1.7% of state (19 tribes)
WP REP: None

CONNECTIONS: 80 people
WEB VISITS: 453

“
The Western Planner is an excellent resource for small town and rural communities in the West and is greatly appreciated.”

Rob from Yerington

CONFERENCE HISTORY
2003 Las Vegas
2013 Lake Tahoe
Oregon joined the Western Planner in 2007.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RURAL:</th>
<th>52.8% of counties</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TRIBAL:</td>
<td>1.3% of state (10 tribes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP REP:</td>
<td>Allison Platt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONNECTIONS:** 60 people

**WEB VISITS:** 1584

“Western Planner is valuable to me as a connection to a network of talented people tackling similar issues across the West.”

Allison from Bend

**CONFERENCE HISTORY**
None
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Rural:</th>
<th>Tribal:</th>
<th>WP Rep:</th>
<th>Connections:</th>
<th>Web Visits:</th>
<th>Conference History</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>95.7% of counties</td>
<td>4.4% of state (6 tribes)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>5 people</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>1991 Lincoln, 1999 Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>25.9% of counties</td>
<td>0.6% of state (108 tribes)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>57 people</td>
<td>1515</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nebraska joined the Western Planner in 1981.

The Western Planner conference sessions were really great and I hope to have a chance to apply them some day to the work I do.”

Destiny from Arcata
MOST READ ARTICLES ALL TIME
1. Code Compliance: Difficulties and Ideas for Small Towns
   by Kyle Slaughter
2. Federal Lands in the West: A few facts and figures
   by Candace H. Stowell, AICP
3. Civilian Conservation Corps in Montana: 1933-1942
   by Michael I. Smith, CFM
4. Understanding and Implementing Mixed-Use Development in the West
   by Aric Jensen, AICP
5. Living off the Grid, Inside the Grid: An interview with Jared Capp “Cappie” of Pangea Design, Spearfish, South Dakota
   by Jayna Watson, AICP, RLA

MOST READ FROM 2020
1. Land Use and Environmental Planning: History & Context
   by Daniel S. Pava, FAICP
2. Recreation and Revitalization in John Day
   by Ken Pirie and Nick Green
3. Legal Corner: Legal Challenges to Short-term Rental Rules
   by Elizabeth Garvin, Esq., AICP
4. Featured Planner: Staci Bungard
   by Megan Nelms, AICP
5. Stormwater Management and Master Planning - Why it Matters
   by Kevin Smith, AICP and Zach Magdol, PE
METRICS
SUBSCRIBERS: 3890  Δ 9.7%
CLICK RATE: 21.9%  Δ 2.8%
UNIQUE OPEN RATE: 24.7%  ∆ 0.6%

Started in 1979, the Western Planner Journal consists of original double-blind, peer-reviewed articles written by planners for planners on relevant issues with practical solutions for the problems of the West. Published and distributed for free each month through an e-newsletter, the journal provides continuing educational credits for authors. Learn about submitting articles at westernplanner.org/submitting-articles or reach out to editor@westernplanner.org. The journal is one important way the Western Planner network connects and informs one another.

2021 EDITORIAL CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ARTICLE DEADLINE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>December 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Land Use &amp; Zoning</td>
<td>January 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Environmental Planning</td>
<td>February 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Community Engagement</td>
<td>March 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Public Lands</td>
<td>April 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Code &amp; Ordinances</td>
<td>May 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Hazard Mitigation &amp; Recovery</td>
<td>June 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Housing Affordability</td>
<td>July 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Conference Issue</td>
<td>Post-Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Tribal Planning</td>
<td>Sept 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Planning Law &amp; Legal Issues</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What constitutes the West that planners in the West plan in and for? In the West, land use is fundamentally tied up with environmental factors. Award-winning journalist and writer Colin Woodard, in his book "American Nations" tells us:

"...the Far West occupies the one part of the continent shaped more by environmental factors than ethnographic ones. High, dry, and remote, the Far West stopped migrating easterners in their tracks, and most of it could be made habitable only with the deployment of vast industrial resources: railroads, heavy mining equipment, ore smelters, dams, and irrigation systems. As a result, settlement was largely directed by corporations headquartered in distant New York, Boston, Chicago, or San Francisco, or by the federal government, which controlled much of the land. The Far West’s people are often resentful of their dependent status, feeling that they have been exploited as an internal colony for the benefit of the seaboard nations. Their senators led the fight against trusts in the mid-twentieth century. Of late, Far Westerners have focused their anger on the federal government, rather than their corporate masters." (Woodard, 2011)

Planning is an expression of humanity, embodied in the construction of towns and cities. Similarly, the impulse to protect the natural world and systems we depend upon follows both biologic necessity and transcendent connection. The built environment has always had a relationship to the natural environment, with the work of planners woven through both.

Planning, zoning, and subsequent environmental laws are not an idea that arose in 20th century America. Whatever your perspective on the role of local, state and federal land use and environmental protection laws, these ideas originated anciently in the Near East. Regulating land use may have originated about 4,000 years ago in the mud brick cities of Mesopotamia with the Code of Hammurabi and the Laws of Eshnunna. For example, structural negligence leading to death of a bystander was a considered a capital offense in Babylon.

Later, Jewish legal codes addressed site design and land use issues in depth. These ancient Hebraic laws stressed ethical behavior as a part of everyday life, even in building placement and construction. For example, Deuteronomy 22:8 (circa 700 BC) required that new homes have parapets two cubits (about three feet) high to prevent accidental falls. More ecological ideas, like the idea of crop rotation and letting the earth rest by leaving fields fallow can also be found in this book. There were even laws prohibiting the felling of fruit trees during wartime.
During the Talmudic era (circa 200 AD) numerous Jewish laws and legal cases dealing with property, privacy in construction of houses and yards, and related issues were codified. There were laws about how large a yard needs to be so that it could be divided and used among the neighbors, and laws dealing with the placement of walls and windows to assure sunlight and privacy. There were laws preventing access to alleyways in certain locations. There were laws prohibiting the operation of home businesses (bakeries and dye shops) on ground floors. There were proto-euclidean laws setting forth minimum distances between incompatible uses such as a cemetery or tannery and residences (50 cubits and only on the east side of a town).

One example of indigenous environmental planning with community building is seen in the ruins of Hovenweep National Monument. These impressive methodical communities held an estimated 2,500 indigenous people who designed and built advanced infrastructure including stormwater runoff catch basins and check dams to retain topsoil (see reference).

The American naturalist ethos underpinning environmental planning had its roots in influential thinkers of the 19th and 20th centuries. During the era of Manifest Destiny, the American essayist, poet and philosopher Henry David Thoreau wrote in his essay “Walking”
published in the Atlantic Magazine in June 1862: “The West of which I speak is but another name for the Wild; and what I have been preparing to say is, that in Wildness is the preservation of the world.” Today, many of us practicing planning in the lands beyond the 100th Meridian would agree.

Almost one hundred years later, in 1954, the American novelist, environmentalist, and historian Wallace Stegner wrote in Beyond the Hundredth Meridian about a one-legged Civil War veteran named John Wesley Powell. Powell floated the Colorado River in a voyage of exploration, noting that Powell was one of those powerfully original and prophetic minds...“He tried to shape legal and political and social institutions so that they would accord with the necessities of the West...He tried to dissipate illusions about the West, to sweep mirage away...Long ago he accomplished great things and now we are beginning to understand him...even out West.” In fact, it was Powell who suggested that the Southwestern state boundaries should be based upon the watersheds of its great rivers.

The debate continues to this day: is nature for exploiting or venerating? John Muir said: “Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature’s peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.”--Our National Parks, 1901, page 56. Later, in his 1943 novel, The Big Rock Candy Mountain, Wallace Stegner encapsulated an early 20th century view of the West: “There was somewhere, if you knew where to find it, some place where money could be made like drawing water from a well, some Big Rock Candy Mountain where life was effortless and rich and unrestricted and full of adventure and action, where something could be had for nothing.” Is the Western U.S. Muir’s cathedral, or is it Stegner’s Big Rock Candy Mountain?

A few years later in 1949, American author, philosopher, scientist, and conservationist Aldo Leopold in Sand county Almanac said: “We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” Leopold was instrumental in having parts of the Gila National Forest designated as the first wilderness area.

Stegner’s 1960’s “Wilderness Letter” sent to members of Congress captured the feelings of many of his fellow Americans when advocating passage of the Wilderness Act:

Expedition of John Wesley Powell, 1871. Wikimedia Commons
“What I want to speak for is not so much the
wilderness uses, valuable as those are, but the
wilderness idea, which is a resource in itself.
Being an intangible and spiritual resource, it will
seem mystical to the practical minded—but then
anything that cannot be moved by a bulldozer is
likely to seem mystical to them.... We simply
need that wild country available to us, even if we
never do more than drive to its edge and look in.
For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of
our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography
of hope.”

Modern environmental planning arose over the
past 100 years as the Federal government
passed numerous laws to protect and manage
its large land holdings, which are mostly found
in the West. To put this in perspective, it is
necessary to understand that these lands were
acquired by treaties with other sovereign
nations both foreign and tribal, as there were no
states but only territories. According to Western
Planner contributor and lawyer Elizabeth Garvin,
“Our federal government controls 28 percent of
the land base in the United States, down
substantially from 81 percent it once held. The
basis for federal ownership came as part of the
organization of our federal government.” (5th
Annual Carver Colloquium, State Control of
Federal Lands – Legal or Not? RMLUI 25th
Workshop, Denver Co.) Among the most
important laws that affect environmental
planning are:

Antiquities Act of 1906 – this established the
federal protection and preservation of historic
sites as federal policy

Organic Act of 1916 – this established the
National Park Service in order to protect and
preserve places protected by the Antiquities
Act, and for the general enjoyment of the public
– this is a uniquely American idea that has been
emulated around the world. Some say it was
our best idea.

Wilderness Act 1964 – this defined and set
aside wilderness areas on federal lands mostly
throughout the western United States. These
areas restrict most human commercial activities
and connect wildlife habitats.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) -
enacted in 1970, this is the nation’s
environmental charter. It requires reviews such
as environmental assessments and
environmental impact statements and
mitigations for federally funded projects. The
intent of NEPA is stated in its implementing
regulations: “Through comprehensive planning,
well documented, NEPA provides the basis for
informed decision making that protects,
restores, and enhances the environment. Ultimately, of course, it is not better documents but better decisions that count. NEPA's purpose is not to generate paperwork - even excellent paperwork - but to foster excellent action." (40 CFR 1500.1(c))

Throughout the West, there are common issues that are of concern to Western Planners who protect natural resources and work in communities that interface with federal lands. These issues include: access to public lands, the protection of environmentally sensitive lands and cultural and historic resources, the potential listing of endangered species, law enforcement, and constitutional arguments.

Many planners in the West work in communities that may share boundaries with wilderness areas, or are impacted by federal lands policies. There are opportunities for collaboration between local, state and federal agencies, and private land holders for improved resource management, environmental protection, and leveraging scarce budgets for the public good. Some of these could include: collaborating and cooperating to implement comprehensive plans, especially the protection of agricultural land, scenic open space, wildlife habitats, watersheds, and hazard areas such as fire-prone urban-wildland interface ecosystems; creating city/county open space programs; implementing cluster development ordinances with conservation easements; and the vacating and replatting of “zombie” subdivisions to reduce density and infrastructure costs.

Invoking echoes of John Muir, Western Planners can consider their role in making undeveloped lands in and around their jurisdictions more accessible to recreate and preserve for the following reasons: Not every wild place needs to be a wilderness; many people do not have means to access nature in the wilderness; however, there are many natural and wild places that are more accessible.

An old Yiddish proverb says “Mann Tracht, Un Gott Lacht” or, Man plans and God laughs. While God may laugh, nature smiles as planners understand and appreciate the connection between built and natural environments; between land use and land conservation. Earlier generations understood the benefits and need for planning. Planning, environmental planning and land use regulation is indeed an honorable and ancient practice and profession. Western Planners, as practitioners of the art of modern land use governance, are heirs to a long tradition of working for the common good of the community while preserving individual rights. It is a tradition as old and inherently humane as the endeavor of city-building itself.
This year, we've been fortunate to have re-instated the RMLUI Legal Corner. Generously provided by Elizabeth Garvin, Esq., AICP of Community Recode, this regular column dives into current, relevant legal issues in our field. The Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute sponsors these articles which help elevate the awareness of planners in the West.

Articles this past year included the following:

- Does the EPA Have to Approve Your Sandbox?
- Legal Challenges to Short-Term Rental Rules - There's a Test for That
- Bears Ears National Monument - Dueling Presidential Proclamations and the Antiquities Act
- McGirt v. Oklahoma—When Promises Have Consequences
- Martin vs Boise - Homelessness in the Courts

The Editorial Board is an essential part of producing The Western Planner Journal. Each article is double-blind reviewed by voluntary board members who review content for accuracy and relevance to planners. In order to provide broad professional and regional experience, Editorial Board members come from each of the states represented by Western Planner. Brad Stebleton, current Western Planner Resources Secretary, chairs this board. We all offer our sincere thanks to each member for their service.

BRAD STEBLETON, CHAIR
Representing: Western Planner Executive Board

PAUL MOBERLY, AICP, PCED
Western Planner Editor

KRISTINE BUNNELL
Representing: Alaska

CATHERINE CORLISS, AICP
Representing: Oregon

BILL DETWEILER, ASLA
Representing: Colorado

SHAWN W. HILL
Representing: Idaho

KERWIN JENSEN
Representing: Washington

STEPHANIE LOWE
Representing: Wyoming

DANIEL NAIRN
Representing: North Dakota

ANGELA PARKER, AICP, CFM
Representing: At-Large

LORAS RAUCH, AICP
Representing: Arizona

KYLE SLAUGHTER
Representing: Utah

JOHN VALDEZ, AICP
Representing: New Mexico

JAYNA WATSON
Representing: South Dakota
The Western Planner is a central source for planning job postings in the West. In late 2019, Western Planner began to send out email campaigns with current employment opportunities. These have been well received by the Western Planner network. Basic postings are free, and for a modest charge we feature the recruitment, provide custom advertising, and reach out through social media channels to potential applicants.

**METRICS**

CAMPAIGNS: 14  |  CLICK RATE: 20.3%  |  UNIQUE OPEN RATE: 25.7%  |  TOTAL OPEN RATE: 7.5%
New to this year, Western Planner began to offer individual journal sponsorships. Issue sponsorship links the company’s branding to specific issue topics and broadly distributes it to the premiere network of professional and citizen planners across the West. It also continues to help provide the Western Planner journal as a free resource to planners throughout the West. Sponsorship shows organizations who care about planning and want to help build up communities across the West. A sincere thanks to all our sponsors this year for their support.
Our organizational sponsors are the backbone of Western Planner, consisting of state planning chapters and corporate supporters. Western Planner would not exist without these organization's support. Our deepest gratitude for these organizations who support us as we help build up the West together.
**INDIVIDUAL DONORS**

The Western Planner deeply appreciates the individual contributions from people around the West. These represent the generosity and service which is found in ample supply throughout our network.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOLD STEADMAN $250+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brad Stebleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Bye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Hennigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Van Nimwegen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Rolland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelly Wade, AICP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanley Steadman</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STEADMAN $100+</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Sheinberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Parker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlo Porteen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dan Pava</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Ferguson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas Munski</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamee Chambers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Strozier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jocelyn Moore, AICP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon Froke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julio Iturreria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence County Commissioners / P&amp;Z Board, SD</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITIZEN WEST $50+</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Apel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Stephens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Ashby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Mylius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stacey Swanson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William John Siembieda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William L Towler</td>
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<table>
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<th>LESTER $25</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Garfinkel-Castro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Bordegaray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Peters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Bugbee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crystal Shoji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Radtke</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Czarnezki</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joni Marsh</td>
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<tr>
<td>LaVern L Huntington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Sullivan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Garrity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Messenger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah More</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Montana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanya Broke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timothy Boyd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tina Crawford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toby Stauffer</td>
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WESTERNPLANNER.ORG/DONATE
## Financial Summary

### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Organizations</td>
<td>$9,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorships &amp; Donations</td>
<td>$2,703</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advertisements</td>
<td>$3,212</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>$0</td>
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### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Development</td>
<td>$8,150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Support</td>
<td>$550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$4,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing Communications</td>
<td>$6,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>$414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>$1,168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OUR MISSION
We work to unite planning professionals separated by the great expanses of the West with a common vision and shared experiences to improve our communities.

OUR GOAL
Be the catalyst for all planners in the West to be connected, supported and empowered to improve our communities.
WESTERN PLANNER RESOURCES BOARD

The WPR Board consists of representatives from the 13 planning organizations. The individual state organizations select representatives to represent their association on the WPR Board.

DAN PAVA, AICP - PRESIDENT | New Mexico
Representing: New Mexico Chapter APA

ANGELA PARKER, AICP, CFM – PRES-ELECT | Wyoming
Representing: At-large

BRAD STEBLETON – SECRETARY | New Mexico
Representing: At-large

MEGAN NELMS, AICP – TREASURER | Wyoming
Representing: Wyoming

DONNA BYE | North Dakota
Representing: North Dakota Planning Association

BRANDON CAMMARATA, AICP | Colorado
Representing: Colorado Chapter APA

DEE CAPUTO, FAICP | Washington
Representing: At-large

BRIAN CARVER | Utah
Representing: Utah Chapter APA

KERWIN JENSEN | Washington
Representing: Planning Association of Washington

GENEVIEVE PEAR THREE | Arizona
Representing: At-large, Young Professionals

ALLISON PLATT | Oregon
Representing: Oregon Chapter APA

SHERWIN RACE HORSE | Idaho
Representing: At-large, Tribal Interests

LORAS RAUCH, AICP | Arizona
Representing: Arizona Chapter APA

BRITNEY SKELTON | Idaho
Representing: Idaho Chapter APA

KEVIN SMITH, AICP | South Dakota
Representing: South Dakota Planning Association

SHELLY WADE, AICP | Alaska
Representing: Alaska Chapter APA

LARRY WEIL | North Dakota
Representing: West Central Chapter APA

EMERITUS
Matt Ashby, AICP
CUD
Cheyenne, WY

Ron Faas
Santa Maria, CA

Earl Finkler
Medford, WI

Joanne Garnett, FAICP
Sheridan, WY

Ben Orsbon, FAICP
Pierce, SD

Dave Spencer
Buffalo, WY

Art Greenberg
Columbus, OH

Robb McCracken
Sandpoint, ID

Joe Racine
Centennial, CO

REMEMBERING
Ken Waido
Fort Collins, CO
This year has been difficult for many. As hard as it's been, we are equally excited as we look forward into the coming year. Foremost, we've got the multi-state Western Planner Conference, co-sponsored by the Arizona APA in August. We are increasingly focusing on our social media presence and facilitation so we can help connect planners throughout the West. We're also launching a podcast and informational video series featuring interviews and information from leading planners in the West. There are great things ahead as we build up the West, together, in 2021.