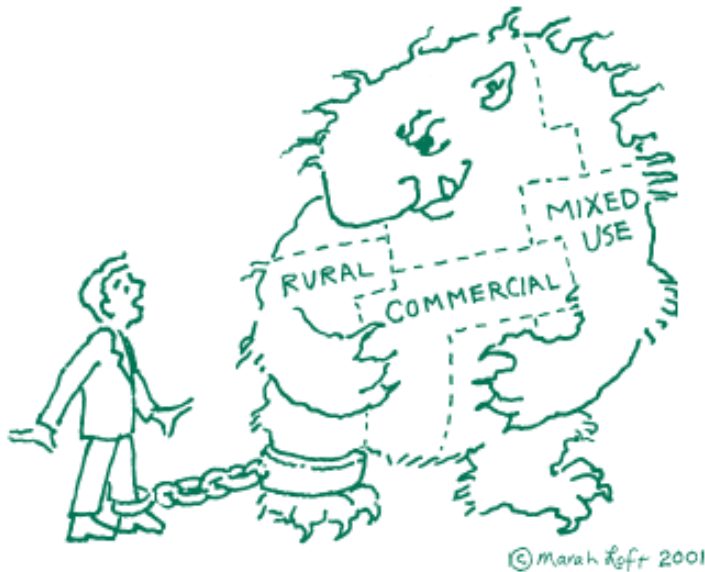




UNIVERSITY OF  
**MARYLAND**  
EXTENSION  
*Solutions in your community*

## New Directions in Planning Commissioner Education

*So...  
you're joining  
The  
Planning Board*



As a Citizen Planner you are looking forward to a rich and challenging experience! To help you get started, here is a short job description of a typical Planning Board member in Massachusetts.

Being an effective Planning Board member requires you to get involved in your

- UMass
- [http://www.umass.edu/massctc/pdfs/Planning\\_Board.pdf](http://www.umass.edu/massctc/pdfs/Planning_Board.pdf)

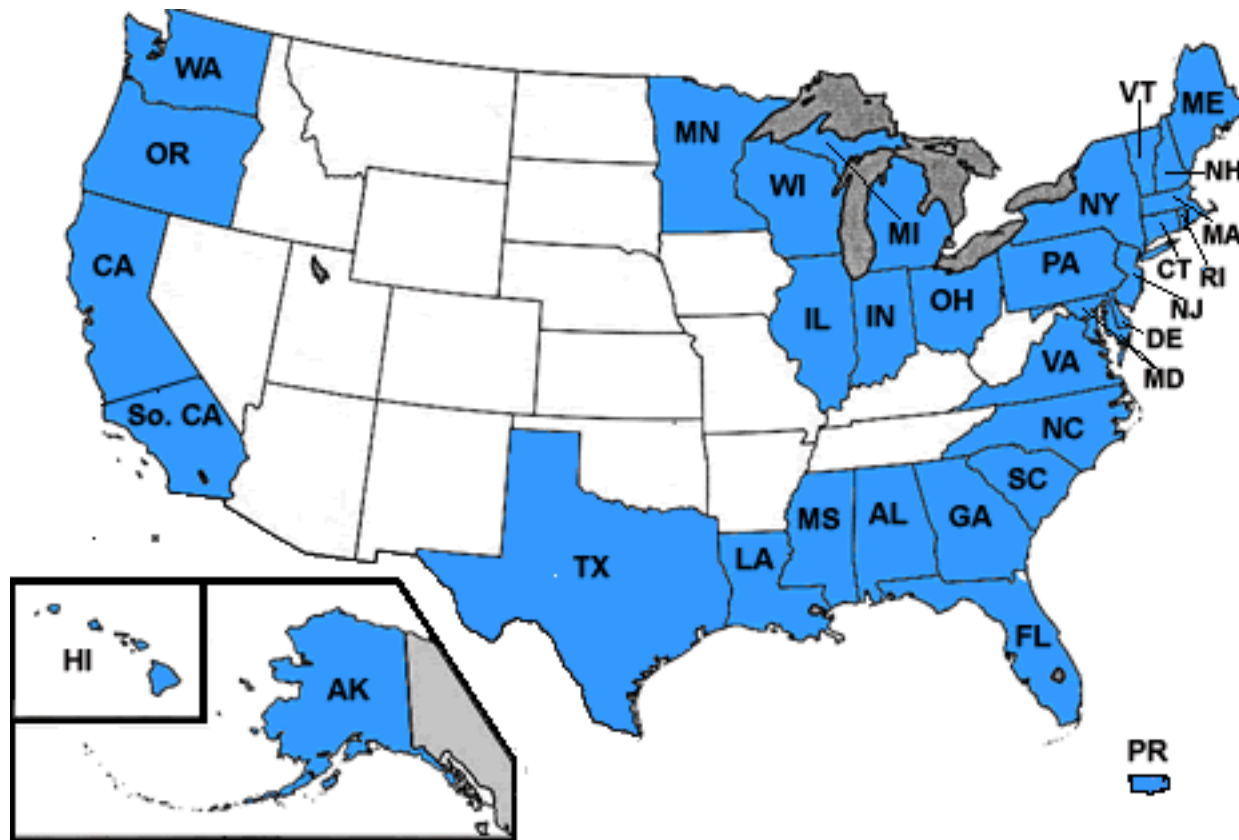
# + What is Sea Grant?



- ***Education, Extension and Research***
- National, regional, and local priorities
- Local and regional implementation



# + Sea Grant Programs in U.S.



# + Ad-Hoc Educational Committee

## MDP

- Steve Allan

## MPCA

- Donna Squires
- Brad Dyjak
- Paivi Spoon
- Others?

## University of Maryland

- Alex Chen-Univ. of Maryland School of Architecture and Planning
- Vicky Carrasco-Univ. of Maryland Sea Grant Extension

## Others??

- Newly elected, long time members
- Review and comment on ideas/materials generated



# Michigan Citizen Planner

## OUR MISSION

We empower citizens to shape the future of their communities with useful tools and education for positive land use decisions.

"Land use decisions affect every aspect of our lives. Our visionary Citizen Planner program is tangible evidence of how serious we are about fulfilling our responsibilities. It empowers us all."

—Lou Anna K. Simon  
MSU President

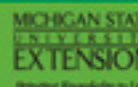
## Michigan Citizen Planner

The Michigan Citizen Planner program at Michigan State University (MSU) offers land use education and training to locally appointed and elected planning officials throughout Michigan. Michigan Citizen Planner is a non-credit course series leading to a certificate of completion awarded by Michigan State University Extension (MSUE). Advanced training to earn the Master Citizen Planner (MCP) credential is also available. This program is offered through MSUE extension offices in a classroom setting and online. Along with our core series, Michigan Citizen Planner also provides education and training through specialty and regional workshops.

Michigan Citizen Planner, an MSU Extension program within the MSU Land Policy Institute, has fostered a greater awareness of land use decision makers' roles and responsibilities, which has resulted in more livable communities, the protection and



# Junior Citizen Planner Program



Junior Citizen Planner

HOME PAGE

GETTING  
STARTED

CURRICULUM

EVALUATION &  
RECOGNITION

PROJECT  
IDEAS

CONTACT US

## Why Junior Citizen Planner?

In order to make a long-term impact on land use, today's youth and tomorrow's leaders must be equipped with effective land use decision-making tools. The Junior Citizen Planner (JCP) program is a joint effort between MSU Extension's [Citizen Planner Program](#) and to [4-H Youth Development](#) to promote youth land use education. The program is offered as an optional [certificate program](#). Here is a [sample advertisement](#) of our Junior Citizen Planner program.

## Target Audience, Skills and Curriculum

Junior Citizen Planner targets youth in the classroom and 4-H Club setting but may also be used with: day and summer camp programs, Scouts, Campfire, and other youth programs.

The program develops participant's skills in becoming good citizens, responsible decision-makers and will develop community pride. The primary subject areas covered in the program are:

- Social Studies, Civics and Community
- Geography
- Environmental Science and Land Use Planning
- Land Use Technology (GIS, GPS)



MICHIGAN STATE



## Planner's Toolkit

### On this Site:

- [About CPTC](#)
- [Clipboard](#)
- [Training Programs & Conferences](#)
- [Planner's Toolkit](#)
- [Planning Links](#)
- [Example Bylaws Collection](#)

### Introduction to the Roles & Responsibilities of Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Appeal

An introduction to the basic terms, rules and tools a new board member needs to to navigate through the early years of being a public official. This workshop is one of the **building blocks of a permanent, comprehensive training program** for local Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Appeals.



#### [Module Directory](#)

**The Objective:** competent and confident local officials

**Module Directory** (click on any topic below for more information)

- [What is Planning](#)
- [Tools of Planning and Zoning](#)
  - Comprehensive Plan
  - Zoning Bylaw/Ordinance Administration
  - Zoning Map
  - Official Map
  - Subdivision Regulations
  - Capital Improvements Plan
  - Rules and Regulations for a Permit or Special Permit Granting Authority



## Environmental Management :

### ESSENTIALS

[Contact Us](#)[Join our Email List](#)[Request Information](#)[How to Enroll](#)

### IN THIS SECTION

[About our Programs](#)[Custom Training](#)

### COURSES

[Environmental Planning](#)[Geographic Information Systems](#)[Green Building and Sustainable Design](#)[Hazardous Materials Management](#)[Health and Safety](#)

## Role of the Planning Commissioner

Become a vital contributor on a planning commission. Study examples that draw on a number of planning laws including the Planning and Zoning Law, Subdivision Map Act and CEQA. Examine case studies based on actual experiences of California planning commissions, and sharpen your understanding of the commission's duties, powers and responsibilities. Understand the elements of a general plan and specific plans, the role of zoning and subdivision in the planning and permitting processes, CEQA and the planning process, prohibitions against "taking" private property and the purpose of design review. Learn how to reach sound decisions that can be supported legally and how to achieve positive citizen participation.

**Instructor(s):** Janet Ruggiero, M.U.P., a fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners, has worked for Yolo County, the cities of Woodland and Mountain View, and recently retired from her position as

[Enroll Now](#)

### EARN A CERTIFICATE

This course is part of these certificate programs:

[Green Building and Sustainable Design](#)[Land Use and Environmental Planning](#)



## Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute

Land Use Planning

PMPEI Course Information

PMPEI Course Descriptions

Continuing Education Credit

Planning and Zoning Course Program

Certificate Programs

Certified Instructor Training

News and Success Stories

Events

Links and Resources

ECD Homepage

 [Subscribe by e-mail](#)

AgSci » Extension » **Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute**



### PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL PLANNING EDUCATION INSTITUTE NEWS

#### **Community and the Shale: How PMPEI Is Stepping In To Help in the Planning**

January 27, 2011

Things are changing for many people in Pennsylvania these days and the Cooperative Extension is stepping in to help with the process! Since the Marcellus Shale Industry has become new phenomena in recent years, many communities have been asking questions about how to respond to new situations that have never happened before.

#### **Featured Partnership - PMPEI**

January 27, 2010

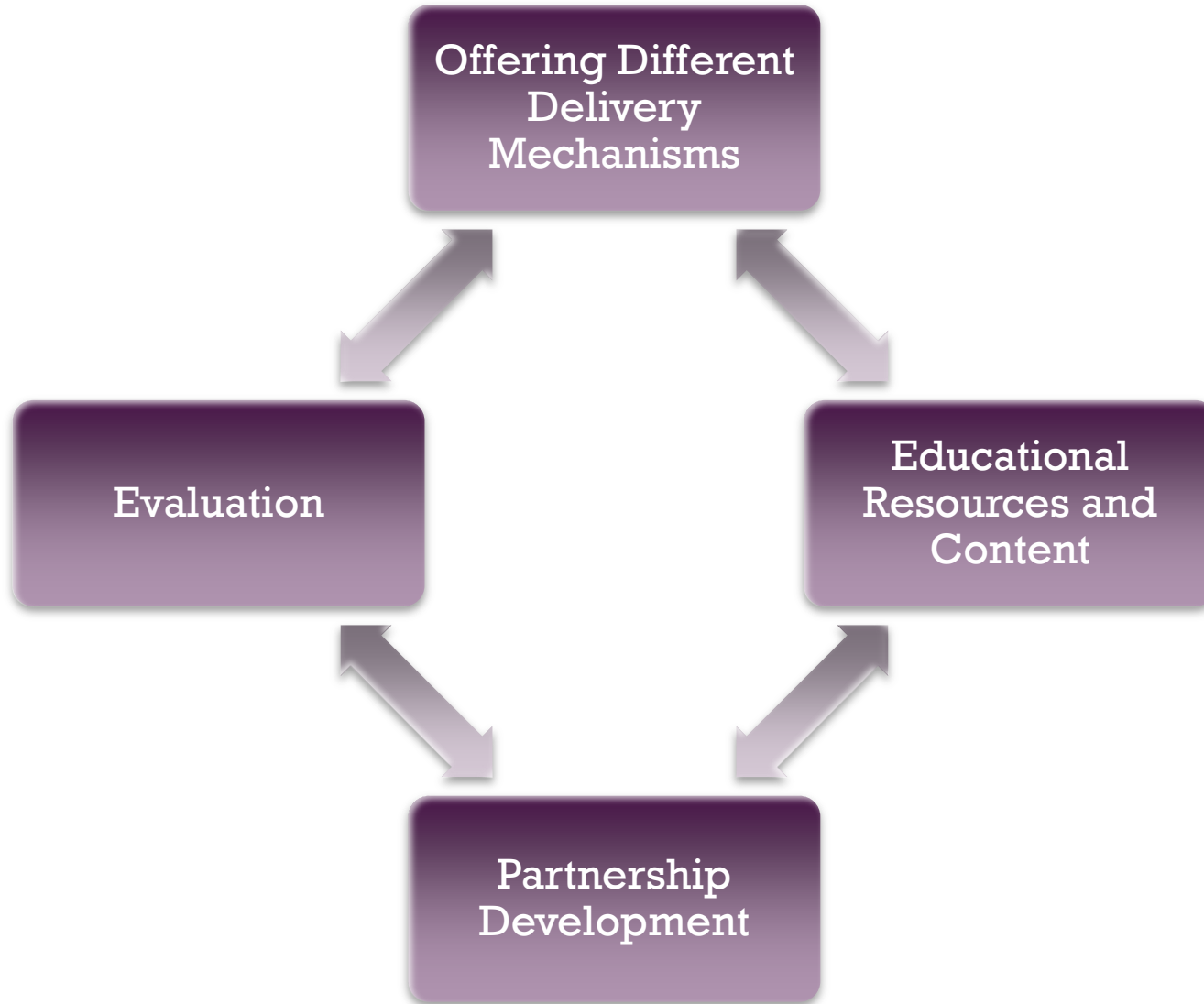
Stan Lembeck was very happy recently when he learned that a newly certified Master Planner had been appointed to a township planning commission in Berks County.

### RELATED PROGRAMS

- [Building Strong Communities](#)
- [First Impressions](#)
- [Grantwriting](#)
- [Land Use Planning](#)
- [Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow](#)
- [Six Steps to a Highly Effective Organization](#)
- [Strategic Planning](#)



# + Education Discussion

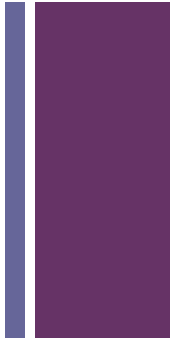


# + Delivery Mechanisms



- Different media: Online, CDs, Video
- In person and on-the-road
- Interactive
- Case-studies and scenarios

# + Educational Resources



- University students-findings
- Hosting website
- Collection of libraries
- Planning A-Z
- Partnering with Extension
  - Local Gov. Exchange
- New Partners
  - MD APA, MML, MACO and IGSR
  - Others?

# + Wednesday's Training

## ■ Pre-Training Survey

### MPCA TOP 10

We need your INPUT!!

The Maryland Planning Commissioners Association (MPCA), in partnership with MDP and University of Maryland, will be hosting a planning education training on Nov. 9th, during MPCA's Annual Meeting.

During the training, a panel session is being organized to address the TOP 10 Questions/Issues identified by YOU, planning commissioners and zoning board of appeals.

Please answer these questions by Thursday, Nov. 3, to help us address your questions and concerns. This should take no longer than 5 minutes.

Your response is confidential, since we are not asking for personal information. Data collected will be shared as a summary only with panelists and training organizers.

Thank you!

If you have any questions, please contact:

Vicky Carrasco  
University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension  
[vcarrasco@arec.umd.edu](mailto:vcarrasco@arec.umd.edu)  
301.405.5809

\* Required

You current role is: \*

- County planning commission
- Municipal planning commission
- County zoning board of appeals
- Municipal zoning board of appeals
- Other:

Are you elected or appointed?

- Elected
- Appointed



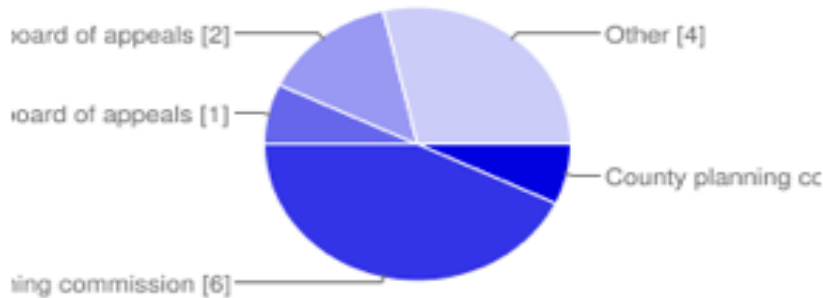


# 14 responses



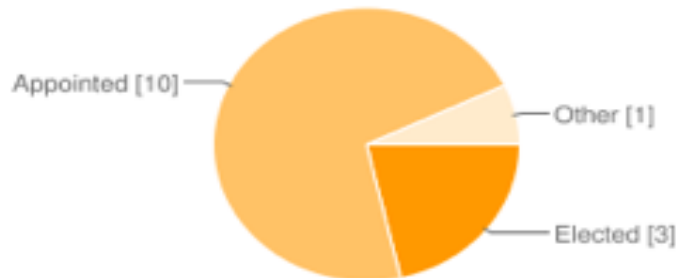
## Summary [See complete responses](#)

### You current role is:



- County planning commission
- Municipal planning commission
- County zoning board of appeals
- Municipal zoning board of appeals
- Other

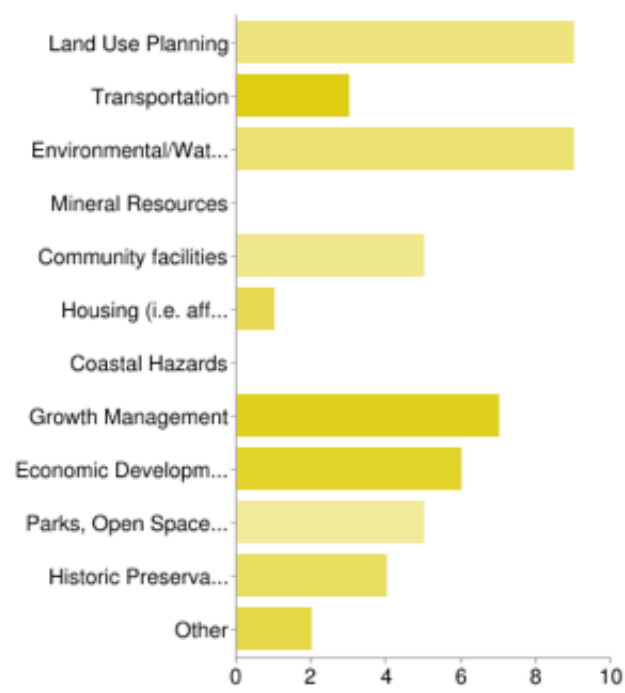
### Are you elected or appointed?



- Elected
- Appointed
- Other



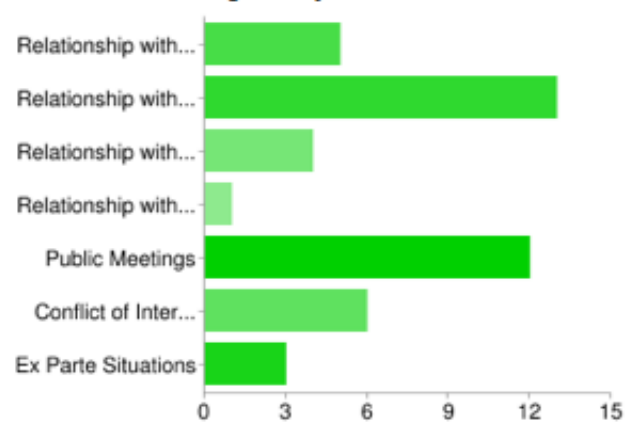
**Which of the following issues are most important to you and your constituents?**



Issue	Count	Percentage
Land Use Planning	9	53%
Transportation	3	18%
Environmental/Water Resources	9	53%
Mineral Resources	0	0%
Community facilities	5	29%
Housing (i.e. affordable housing)	1	6%
Coastal Hazards	0	0%
Growth Management	7	41%
Economic Development/Tourism	6	35%
Parks, Open Space, Greenways	5	29%
Historic Preservation	4	24%
Other	2	12%

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

**Which of the following would you like more information and/or training on?**



Topic	Count	Percentage
Relationship with elected officials	5	29%
Relationship with public	13	76%
Relationship with planning staff	4	24%
Relationship with engineers	1	6%
Public Meetings	12	71%
Conflict of Interest situations	6	35%
Ex Parte Situations	3	18%

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.



# + Survey Responses



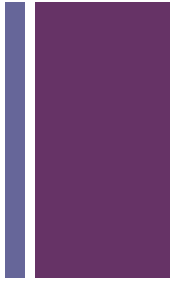
## ■ **Top 3 Issues Most Important (Yellow Graph)**

- Land Use Planning
- Env. Water Resources
- Growth Management

## ■ **Top 3 More Information/Training (Green Graph)**

- Relationship with Public
- Public Meetings
- Conflict of Interest Situations

# + Additional Responses



## **What is the most important type of information you'd like to know as a planning commissioner?**

information to better understand why new job  
What is available from MDP to support Sustainable  
patterns that can be conveyed to the general public.  
Since I am very new to this position (beginning in  
planning commission; the nature of the relationship with the planning staff; and how public participation  
Commission members can go to share ideas and learn from each other?    ????   

## **What have been some of the most challenging aspects as a planning commissioner/board member?**

trying to understand the complexities of a 200+ page zoning ordinance.    Residents not understanding  
market changes long term development projects in order for them to be sustainable.    Getting  
development of land creates public costs, and that developers should bear the costs that have  
very new to this position (began in September), I am looking for ways to become oriented to operations.

# + Survey Responses Categories

Development:  
Density and  
Growth

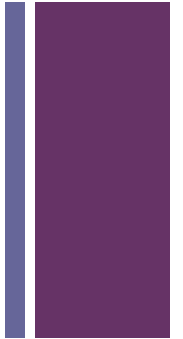
Development and  
the Environment

Review Process

Public  
Engagement and  
Communication

County vs.  
Municipality  
Interactions

Challenges/Needs

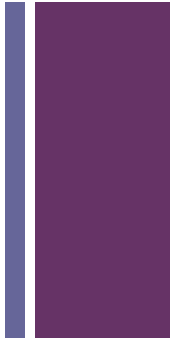


# + Quotes



- In developing a comprehensive plan, how do we choose between sending a document we are proud of and a document we know will be approved by the Council?
- How do we keep the waterfront accessible to the public and allow commercial development that enhances both the town's history and current economic concerns?
- How to change attitudes / educate population about new approaches to growth.

# + Quotes



- Economic information / cost-revenue data for alternative growth patterns that can be conveyed to the general public.
- How do we get high quality urban design in a context of zoning and subdivision ordinances and stormwater rules that pushes the built environment further and further apart from what could be great streets?
- We are looking at legislation to change the review process of special exceptions and planned developments....

# + Quotes



- The intransigence of elected town officials when trying to resolve conflicts between the Planning Commission and the Town/County officials. How do you plan for the future when a vocal few want to maintain the status quo?
- Economic information / cost-revenue data for alternative growth patterns that can be conveyed to the general public.
- There needs to be an opportunity to exchange issues, problems, successes and potential solutions among the participants.
- Trying to understand the complexities of a 200+ page zoning ordinance.

# + New at MPCCA 2011 Education Session

Clickers!!



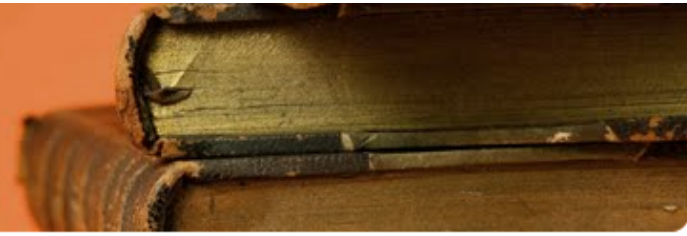
# + Panelists



- Rollin Stanley-Montgomery County
- Ummu Bradley Thomas-Caroline County
- Gail Owings-Kent County



# MPCA Education Course Exit-Survey



Thank you for participating in Maryland's Planning Commissioner Education Course offered on Wednesday, Nov. 9th. Please fill out this evaluation, which is just for the training/educational session (not the full conference). This will help us improve future trainings, courses and delivery of materials. All responses will be confidential, and will be shared as summary with event organizers.

Thank you,

Vicky Carrasco  
Univ. of Maryland Sea Grant

**Wednesday's training was worth my time**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**As a result of this training, I understand my current role more now than before**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

+ Thank you!!



■ Contact Information:

Vicky Carrasco

University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program

301.405.5809

[vcarrasco@arec.umd.edu](mailto:vcarrasco@arec.umd.edu)