

## Steve Schnell, AICP

### Planning/Work Experience:

2007-present	Community Development Director, Cheboygan County, Michigan
1999-2007	Community Development Director, Mackinaw City, Michigan
1996-1998	Telecommunications Team Coordinator, Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet), Athens, Ohio

### Education:

Master of Community and Regional Planning, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa - 1996  
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology and Religion, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota - 1988

### Other Experience and Affiliations:

American Institute of Certified Planners, since 2000  
Michigan Association of Planning Government Relations Committee, 2011  
American Planning Association  
Michigan Association of Planning  
Michigan Recreation and Parks Association, Speaker at Annual Conference  
US 23 Heritage Route Council  
Northern Lakes Economic Alliance Board Member  
Northeast Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance  
Top of Michigan Trails Council Past Board Member

### Position Statement

I appreciate being considered as a candidate for the Board of Directors for the Michigan Association of Planning. I have worked and resided in a prime vacation destination for more than 12 years although I grew up in the suburbs of Chicago. It has become very clear to me that urban, suburban, and rural planning are very closely related as we bring with us our experiences from the places we live as well as the places we love to visit. Since our built environment influences our quality of life, we must be aware that the qualities that make a good vacation destination should have many of the same basic elements that make for quality of life in an urban area. However, the methods of planning for those basic elements can differ widely between urban and rural areas.

As a MAP Board member, I plan to ensure rural communities and their concerns are represented on the MAP agenda while at the same time I plan to listen and learn more about how we can partner with urban areas in regional planning efforts. I believe that MAP has a responsibility to lobby for the needs of the diverse communities throughout Michigan and to educate our legislators on the importance of rural planning needs. We also have a responsibility to listen well and let people know they have been heard.

MAP is an effective organization and very capable of ensuring efficient and effective planning in our diverse state. The quality staff and board of directors of MAP have been proactive in visiting planners throughout the state, listening to their needs and then working to achieve MAP's mission. I plan to build on these efforts and to strengthen our public input processes so more members of the general public understand the planning process and feel they can participate.