



## **Public Policy Platform Wetlands**

**Policy 1.** The Michigan Association of Planning supports a sound compensatory mitigation policy based on science.

**Policy 2.** The Michigan Association of Planning supports public-private partnerships to improved wetlands management, which incorporates private stewardship and federal, state and local cooperation. Such partnerships should also include the formation of land trusts and use conservation easements and the purchase of development rights.

**Policy 3.** The Michigan Association of Planning supports Congress amending Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and enacting additional legislation as necessary to address the protection of isolated wetlands independent of the definition of public waters.

**Policy 4.** The Michigan Association of Planning supports funding and authorizing legislation at all levels of government to establish wetland information clearinghouses, which are integrated with and/or based on the model of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

**Policy 5.** The Michigan Association of Planning supports state and federal legislation to provide funding to state and local governments, and regional planning agencies, where appropriate, to research, classify, and map wetlands and their functions, and perfect restoration and mitigation procedures.

**Policy 6.** The Michigan Association of Planning supports research and demonstration projects in the utilization of created wetlands as solutions to non-point source water quality problems, including but not limited to stormwater management.

**Policy 7.** The Michigan Association of Planning supports efforts to conduct and sponsor educational and technical assistance programs, for both planning professionals and the general public, on the values of wetlands, and management strategies to protect and enhance wetlands. This would include, but not limited to, wetlands protection in comprehensive land use planning, zoning, development review processes and performance standards.

**Policy 8.** The Michigan Association of Planning supports augmenting the protection provided by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act by enacting state legislation or local ordinances as appropriate.

**Policy 9.** The Michigan Association of Planning supports farm policy legislation that contains provisions that encourage private landowners to protect, conserve, enhance and restore wetlands; and are consistent with APA policy goals for wetland protection.