



## BRIAN ROSS

### LAND USE / SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Brian Ross leads CR Planning's work in land use planning, sustainable development practices, natural resource planning, and energy policy. Mr. Ross has over 15 years of experience in comprehensive land use planning and ordinance development, facilitation and community visioning, and energy regulation and programs.

### EDUCATION

M. A. Urban & Regional Planning, University of Iowa, 1986

B.A. Anthropology, Grinnell College, 1982

### EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

2003 - Present, Principal/Owner  
CR Planning, Inc., Minneapolis, MN

1993 - 2003, Principal/Owner  
Biko Associates, Inc., Minneapolis, MN

1990 - 1993, Director of Policy and Programs  
Citizens Utility Board, Chicago, IL

1989 - 1990, Director of Energy Programs  
Urban Coalition Housing Group, New York, NY

1987 - 1989, Director of Energy Unit  
City of New York Office of Business Development, New York, NY

### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS/ACTIVITIES

Government Training Services Faculty  
- 2007 Shoreland Regulation,  
- 2006-7 Comprehensive Planning

Executive Director for Hometown Minnesota, Inc.  
1000 Friends of Minnesota Smart Growth Judge  
Board Member - Groundworks Minneapolis  
Board Member - Neighborhood Energy Connection  
Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee, Minneapolis  
Minnesota Renewable Energy Association

### PROJECT EXPERIENCE

- *Comprehensive Plan, Duluth, 2006.* For the City of Duluth, Minnesota, Brian managed the comprehensive planning process that resulted in the first adopted Comprehensive Plan for Duluth in 80 years. The process included extensive public involvement (four rounds of public meetings in a 12-month period), a 28-member steering committee including a wide range of stakeholders, and a contentious environment where development and preservation interests were often at odds. The final plan addressed a range of issues, including sustainability of development, the importance of undeveloped lands in an urban context, planning for maintenance and expansion of public services, and protecting economic and natural assets in the City. The process included a natural resource assessment to identify resource protection priorities and guide conservation development standards.
- *Belle Plaine Green Infrastructure Plan, 2004.* Mr. Ross managed a 'green infrastructure' plan for the City of Belle Plaine, including creating build-out visualizations, identifying sensitive natural resources and facilitating an 18-member steering committee. The goals, policies and strategies were ultimately incorporated into Belle Plaine's Comprehensive Plan update.
- *Model Ordinances for Sustainable Development, ongoing.* Mr. Ross is currently managing an update of the State's model ordinances for sustainable development. In 1999, on behalf of Minnesota Planning (the State planning agency), Mr. Ross managed the development of an integrated set of model ordinances based on Minnesota's sustainable development principles. *From Policy to Reality: Model Ordinances for Sustainable Development* was designed for use by local governments attempting to implement sustainable development policies. The updated ordinances will identify state-of-the-art local regulation, address new state and federal regulation, and incorporate the most recent research on the relationships between natural resources, land development, and economic sustainability.



- *Medina Comprehensive Plan Open Space Component, 2007.* Mr. Ross helped facilitate the City of Medina's Open Space Task Force to prepare an open space plan for the City's 2008 Comprehensive Plan update. The plan defined open space and green infrastructure priorities to provide a foundation for the overall land use decisions to be included in the 2008 required metropolitan region comprehensive plan updates.
- *Stearns County Comprehensive Plan, 2007.* Mr. Ross is assisting URS in the update of the Stearns County Comprehensive Plan. He is primarily responsible for managing the intensive public participation process that used separate processes for engaging the general public and individual townships and cities. He also managed the economic development component of the Plan and major portions of the land use section.
- *City of Shakopee Natural Resource Design Standards, 2007.* In 2005 CR Planning worked with the City of Shakopee to prioritize elements of the City's natural heritage in order to guide development and protection decisions. Following up the natural resource analysis and assessment, the City hired CR Planning to create natural resource design standards. Mr. Ross created design standards for eight priority natural features or systems, and integrated the separate standards into a single design manual.
- *Crow Wing County Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan, 2005.* Mr. Ross managed the Crow Wing County Parks, Trails, and Open Space planning process. The Plan sets priorities not only for recreational assets but for open space and natural resource protection. He followed up the planning effort with an implementation plan to guide future prioritization and investment.
- *Model Environmental Ordinances for Project NEMO, 2003.* Working with the Minnesota Non-point Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) program, Mr. Ross wrote and integrated model stormwater management, erosion control, shoreland, and subdivision ordinances. He also helped create an accompanying workshop presentation to educate local officials on how to incorporate NEMO land use policies into local regulation for the purpose of meeting natural resource and water quality goals.
- *Polk County, Iowa, Comprehensive Plan, 2005.* Mr. Ross helped manage the extensive public participation process for the rapidly-growing Des Moines metropolitan region. The process included a series of sub-steering committee meetings for four separate regions within Polk County, including representation from small communities, townships, cities, agricultural interests, and businesses.
- *Natural Resource-Based North Shore Land Use Plan, 2001.* In response to concerns about secondary impacts of a wastewater system extension on Lake Superior, Mr. Ross directed the creation of a build-out analysis and land use plan for the North Shore area between the cities of Duluth and Two Harbors. He used a stakeholder-driven process involving local government officials and residents from two counties, two townships and two cities. Mr. Ross also assisted the communities with implementation planning, ordinance writing, and program development to mitigate secondary development risk from the new sewer line.
- *Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Duluth Township, 2001.* During the land use plan and zoning process for Duluth Township in St. Louis County, Mr. Ross helped guide a natural resource focused planning process. The process included education of local officials and Plan decision-makers on the relationship of land use decisions and water quality in the Townships rivers, streams, and Lake Superior. He worked with a diverse Steering Committee in a decision-making process that protected both property rights and natural resources.
- *Study on Secondary Impacts of Wastewater Infrastructure in West Lake Mille Lacs, 2002.* Mr. Ross managed the build-out land use analysis for the Garrison Kathio West Mille Lacs Lake Sanitary District sewer development project, including creating a portfolio of regulatory, incentive, and education tools to mitigate water quality risks from stormwater and non-point pollution.
- *Revitalizing Main Street, ongoing.* Mr. Ross is the executive director of Hometown Minnesota, Inc., a non-profit that provides statewide advocacy for revitalizing the traditional Main Street business districts of small cities in Minnesota. He conducts workshops, provides technical assistance, and directs communities to other resources in order to promote downtown-based economic development and preservation of community character.