

# Shoreland Management – The Next Step

Government Training Services Land Use Planning Classes, Spring 2007  
Little Falls, Mankato, Duluth, Alexandria  
Course Summary



Close to 120 people attended the classes. This included [representatives from 20 counties, 19 cities and two townships](#). Of these, there were 26 planning commission members, 6 from boards of adjustment, 14 zoning administrators, 6 county commissioners, 2 city councilors, 1 city attorney, 5 city administrators, 11 planners, 1 township supervisor, 1 building inspector and a variety of others (consultants, real estate appraiser, engineers, building inspectors, wetland specialist, land developer, educators and DNR field staff). Despite the cost of the class (\$80) and its duration (all day), this groundbreaking GTS class on shoreland management successfully drew in its intended audience of local land use decision makers and staff.

More importantly, the participants themselves rated the class highly and indicated that both the content and length of the workshop were about right. Some of the highest ratings came from locally elected officials:

*\*Very well prepared and run. I didn't leave early!!*

*\*Probably the best seminar I have attended. All presenters were very good. Overall excellent.*

And from a zoning administrator:

*\*The entire program was extremely valuable and will give a starting point for looking at the possibilities of using the alternative shoreland standards in our county."*

DNR presenters and staff included Felicia Barnes, Paul Radomski and Peder Otterson. Brian Ross, CR Planning, Jay Michels, Emmons & Olivier and Kris Larson, Minnesota Land Trust, were other presenters along with John Harrington from Greater Minnesota Housing Fund who talked on green communities over lunch. The class began with planning and zoning basics followed by shoreland management, past, present and future (the alternative standards). Then the class covered the importance of open space and how it can be preserved. After lunch, there were presentations on low impact design (creative stormwater management) and the importance of preserving and restoring native vegetation. Everything came together with an interactive conservation subdivision exercise followed by tips on improved administration from the alternative standards.