

# James van Hemert

BA, MA Plan, MCIP, AICP

## Senior Planner



### EDUCATION

**2003**

Public Participation + Informed  
Consent Training  
Institute for Participatory  
Management + Planning, Denver, CO

**1998**

Rocky Mountain Program–  
Executive Leadership  
University of Colorado, Denver, CO

**1996**

Professional Development Program–  
Land Use Management  
University of Wisconsin,  
Madison, WI

**1993**

Master of Arts in Social Science  
Azusa Pacific University,  
Azusa, CA

**1987**

Master of Arts in Regional Planning and  
Resource Development  
University of Waterloo,  
Waterloo, ON,

**1983**

Bachelor of Arts (Major in Sociology)  
Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Planning Institute of British Columbia

Registered member of the Canadian  
Institute of Planners

American Planning Association

American Institute of Certified Planners

### Biography

A returning BC native, James joined the firm on Vancouver Island in 2011. He has a passion for empowering communities to create sustainable and resilient futures. He directed the prestigious Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute in Denver where he convened conferences on critical planning themes and developed innovative tools to help local governments and developers implement plans for healthy and sustainable futures. He has worked directly with citizens in developing community and neighborhood plans in Ontario, Mississippi, Colorado, and British Columbia. His planning efforts in Colorado earned the Town of Fowler a governor's award for sustainability. His experience and insights for planning in a Western context have been expressed in *True West: Authentic Development Patterns for Small Towns and Rural Areas*, a publication of the American Planning Association. He earned his Master's degree in Regional Planning and Resource Development from the University of Waterloo.

With a personable style he offers clients a flexible, and practical approach to developing plans and implementation tools for their communities.

### Select Project Experience

#### COMMUNITY + NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

- Official Community Plan, Town of Lake Cowichan, BC
- Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Town of Fowler, Colorado  
The renewable energy component of the plan sets targets to achieve energy independence and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The town's progress in developing wind, solar and biogas facilities has earned it a Governor's sustainability award.
- Comprehensive Land Use Plan, City of Rocky Ford, Colorado
- Comprehensive Plan, Douglas County Colorado
- Franktown Area Plan, Douglas County, Colorado
- Highlands Ranch Open Space Conservation Area Plan, Colorado
- Highlands Ranch Town Center Plan, Colorado
- Comprehensive Community Plan, City of Southaven, Mississippi
- Guelph Township Official Plan, Ontario

#### DEVELOPMENT CONTROL TOOLS (BYLAWS, DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES)

- Development Permit Area Guidelines, Town of Lake Cowichan, BC
- Zoning Bylaw, Town of Lake Cowichan, BC

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**2011 – Present**

Senior Planner,  
HB Lanarc-Golder,  
Nanaimo, BC

**2010 – 2011**

Director of Development Services  
City of Duncan, BC

**2010 – 2011**

Director of Planning  
Town of Lake Cowichan, BC

**2004 – 2009**

Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Land  
Use Institute, University of Denver

**2008 – 2009**

Adjunct Professor  
Sturm College of Law,  
University of Denver and College of  
Architecture + Planning,  
University of Colorado at Denver

**1996 – 2004**

Development Review Manager/  
Chief Planner  
Douglas County, Colorado

**1994 – 1996**

Director of Planning + Development  
City of Southaven, Mississippi

**1986 – 1992**

Project Director  
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee,  
Manila, Philippines

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

**2011**

*The Sustainable Community Development Code:  
Regulating a Sustainable Urban Land Use  
Pattern for a Post Carbon World*  
Web Publication  
*Degrees of Change, University of Pennsylvania*

**2006**

*Development Impact Fees in the Rocky  
Mountain Region, Second Edition*, editor and  
contributor, The Rocky Mountain  
Land Use Institute

**2005**

*The Development Review Process:  
A Means to a Greater and Noble End,  
in Zoning Practice*

## TRAINING GUIDES

Planning Active Community Environments  
(PLACE), a practice guide and experiential  
learning program developed for the State of  
Colorado

Planning Healthy Communities, a practice  
guide of the Canadian Institute of  
Planners, 2012

- Zoning Bylaw amendments, City of Duncan, BC
- Highlands Ranch Planned Development Code, Colorado
- Stonegate Planned Development Code, Colorado
- Douglas County Zoning Code, Colorado

## SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES + RESEARCH

- *Sustainable Community Development Code*, an innovative framework for diagnosing local government planning policies and development control tools through a sustainability lens. Comprehensive range of topics covered in environmental health + natural resources, natural hazards, land use and community character, mobility + transportation, community development, healthy neighbourhoods, food + housing, energy and livability. Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute, University of Denver

## CLIMATE PROTECTION + SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

- Community and corporate greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and supporting land use and transportation policies, City of Duncan, BC
- Corporate greenhouse gas emissions inventory, City of Duncan, BC
- Community and corporate greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and supporting land use and transportation policies, Town of Lake Cowichan, BC
- City of Duncan Sustainability Checklist for development review
- City of Duncan Corporate and Community Energy Strategies

## ENGAGEMENT, CONSULTATION, FACILITATION

- Capital Regional District Communication and Engagement Plan to support a Regional Sustainability Strategy
- Highlands Ranch Open Space Conservation Area Plan
- Highlands Ranch Town Center Plan
- Franktown Area Plan
- Toronto Regional landfill site selection study
- Philippine community service groups

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- *Saving the World Through Sustainable Zoning*: feature presentation for Alternative Solutions Resource Initiative (ASRI), Victoria, BC, March 2011; Planning Institute of BC, annual conference, June 2011; Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute, March 2010; Greenbuild, US Green Building Council's annual conference, Phoenix, Arizona, November 2009.
- *Climate Protection Strategies of American Cities*, presentation made at the Climate Change and Spatial Planning symposium of the Centre d'études et de recherches sur le droit de l'aménagement, de l'urbanisme et de l'habitat (CERDEAU) of the University of Paris (Panthéon-Sorbonne), May, 2008.