



NCWRPC News

The official newsletter of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Serving Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, and Wood Counties since 1973.

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Inside This Issue:

- Juneau County Housing Study Underway1
- EMSI Analyst Update2
- Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update2
- WROC 20203
- Comprehensive Planning ..3
- Staff & Commission News..3
- 2018 Work Plan.....4

Quarterly Quote

“Your value doesn’t decrease based on someone’s inability to see your worth.”

- Author Unknown

Juneau County Housing Study Underway

Over the last few months the NCWRPC has been working with the Juneau County Economic Development Corporation and several local communities to prepare a Juneau County Housing study. Local leaders have identified housing as a critical issue, especially related to economic development and growth. Housing has also been identified as a major component of overall community quality of life.

Housing was also identified as an issue during the recent update of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). In 2015, the NCWRPC’s Regional Livability Plan (RLP) housing was seen as one of four pillars in each community, along with economic development, land use and transportation. The overall housing goal developed as part of that planning process was to promote a variety of safe and affordable housing options that meet the needs of all community members.

Using those efforts as the background, the Juneau County effort was undertaken. Affordability and supply are two of the major concerns. In Juneau County, there are a total of 14,748 housing units with an overall median value of \$116,800. Housing options in most communities are limited with the dominant housing type being single family housing. Thirty percent of owner occupied households and forty-two percent of renters are spending more than 30 percent of total income toward housing. This is higher than state averages of 28 and 48 percent respectively. Fifty percent of the housing stock was built before 1980, which creates issues related to upkeep and maintenance. The study will be completed later this year and will provide recommendations to address housing issues in Juneau County.

Over the next few years the goal is to complete county level plans throughout the entire region. First and foremost these studies will address local issues, but these studies can also be used as updated chapters of county comprehensive plans. Periodic updates of these plans will become part of our work program for member counties.

Please contact our office if you would like to see a similar study prepared for your county. For more information contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.

EMSI Analyst Update

The NCWRPC continues its partnership with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to provide economic development analysis data throughout the region. A comprehensive economic modeling program, called Analyst, developed by Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI) is a tool that provides industry/occupation data, impact assessments, and economic base analysis information.



Detailed quarterly economic reports have been prepared for each county. Each report includes a variety of information related to population, industry characteristics, workforce characteristics, and education trends. Comparison data is also provided. All of the data is presented in a quick and easy way to understand. Those reports are available on our website. Requests for additional data can also be made on the website at www.ncwrpc.org/emsi.

For more information, please contact Andy Faust, GISP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 305, or afaust@ncwrpc.org.

Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update

The NCWRPC is nearing completion of the region-wide bicycle and pedestrian plan. This project represents the first phase of implementation of the Regional Livability Plan which is designed to incorporate the principles of livability and sustainability into our Region. This effort also updates the 2004 Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan. Funding was provided from a Transportation Alternatives Program grant.

An objective of the study will be to plan and promote the development of a region-wide system of interconnected bicycle and pedestrian facilities for Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas and Wood counties. Multi-use trails are also being considered as part of this effort. The plan will promote state and

federal multi-modal goals, including complete streets, by developing and promoting a regional network of facilities to act as a transportation alternative to single occupant automobiles.

This project will develop a Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan encompassing routes on bicycle paths, bicycle lanes, paved shoulders and wide curb lanes along with pedestrian accommodations which will link existing and potential traffic generation sites and points of interest, as outlined in the plan, to make bicycling a more attractive and safer transportation alternative. The regional effort provides a level of detail that is not achievable at the state level, and also provides a perspective for connectivity that local planning efforts by counties and municipalities often lack. Both areas are critical for the implementation of these types of plans.



As this plan winds down, three local plans are soon to kick-off. We will be working both with Juneau and Langlade Counties to complete county-wide bike and pedestrian plans as well as a city effort with Rhinelander in Oneida County. The NCWRPC secured state funding for all three of these efforts.

For more information on this project or your local bicycle and pedestrian planning needs, contact Darryl Landeau, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 308, or at dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.



WROC 2020 Moves Forward

Every five years, since 2005, the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission has coordinated the Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC) to acquire airphoto imagery for the region. Because of the success of this effort the program has expanded statewide. WROC is a cost-effective approach for acquiring orthoimagery. Working together economies of scale help reduce the price and with state and federal partners contributing resources the costs are reduced even more. WROC is an example of inter-governmental cooperation at its very best.



One of the first steps for this effort is the selection of a vendor that has the expertise to acquire imagery and provide quality assurance of that imagery. Earlier this year the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission issued an RFQ for the 2020 effort. Selected through that process was Ayres Associates. Ayres will also sub-contract with Quantum Spatial for the imagery acquisition. Both are Wisconsin based companies, which was an important factor in the selection process.

The approach for WROC 2020 will be similar to previous efforts. A bottom up approach is used where every local government can select the type of imagery they need and the NCWRPC combines these local projects into a larger regional project that reduces costs. In addition, the NCWRPC will again seek state, federal and private partners to offset project costs even more. The imagery dataset is useful for many efforts, including land records, emergency management, 911 systems, and general planning. The 2020 flight will also coincide with the 2020 Census, which will allow for important analysis efforts. For more information on WROC go to www.ncwrpc.org/WROC2020

If you have any questions, contact Andy Faust, GISP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 305, or afaust@ncwrpc.org.

Comprehensive Planning- Is it time for an update?

Since the State's Comprehensive Plan law was established in 1999, many communities adopted comprehensive plans. Under current law, certain ordinances enacted or amended by a local governmental unit that affect land use must be consistent with that local governmental unit's comprehensive plan. The ordinances to which this requirement applies are official mapping, local subdivision regulation, and zoning ordinances.

The law also requires that a comprehensive plan be updated at least every ten years. Many things have changed over the last decade so it might be time to consider updating your plan. The strength of Wisconsin's planning law is that every local unit of government decides the vision for their own community. The update process is an opportune time for a community to review what has happened over the last decade and more importantly to address anticipated future changes.

We can help your community update its comprehensive plan. Give our office a call and we can discuss the best approach for your community. Contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.

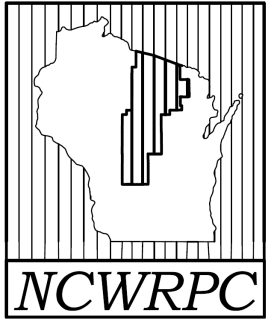
Staff News

We are pleased to announce that Eric Sonnleitner has joined our staff as a Planner. He will be working with a variety of planning projects and will also be providing support to our Geographic Information System (GIS) program. Previously Eric worked for the Center for Land Use Education (CLUE). He holds a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources and Land Use Planning from UW-Stevens Point.

Eric can be reached at 715-849-5510, Extension 306, or esonnleitner@ncwrpc.org.

Commissioner News

NCWRPC is pleased to welcome Charles Rayala, III as a new Commissioner from Vilas County. He was appointed earlier this year. Welcome aboard!



**North Central Wisconsin
Regional Planning Commission**

210 McClellan Street, Suite 210

Wausau, WI 54403

715-849-5510

www.ncwrpc.org

Fax: 715-849-5110

staff@ncwrpc.org

2018 Work Plan Being Finalized

Every year NCWRPC develops its Work Plan over late fall and into winter. There are numerous projects already scheduled, but there is always room for more. Staff can provide assistance with comprehensive plan updates, outdoor recreation plans, and more. We urge your community to contact us if you are thinking of a project or planning effort. Staff are always available to answer a phone call, respond to an email, or attend a meeting any time during the year.

Not only do we help do the work, we can also help identify possible funding sources to offset the cost of your project. Unfortunately, grants are more and more difficult to secure as state and federal budgets shrink for these programs. Our goal is to keep the cost as low as possible and still provide high quality professional service to our members.

Contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or dlawrence@ncwrpc.org to discuss adding a project for 2018.

NCWRPC Commissioners

Adams County

Richard Bakovka
Rocky Gilner
Peter Hickethier

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Wood County

Gerald Nelson
Appointment Pending
Appointment Pending