



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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Quarterly Quote

“Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now.”

- Alan Lakein

Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Adopted

Earlier this year, the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission adopted the region-wide bike and pedestrian plan. This plan envisions development of a regional system of interconnected bicycle and pedestrian facilities for Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, and Wood Counties. This effort updates the 2004 Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan and is the first phase in the implementation of the Regional Livability Plan which is intended to integrate the principles of livability and sustainability into the Region.

This project represents the culmination of 18 months of outreach by Commission Staff to key stakeholders and the general public in each of the Region’s ten counties. Over 43 people from around the Region participated in workshops held in Wausau, Stevens Point, Rhinelander and the Town of Rome. Another 358 responded to an online survey and 216 more provided route specific input through a wikimapping exercise.

Bicycling is becoming increasingly popular for families visiting North Central Wisconsin. From an economic standpoint, statistics indicate that bicycling is a “growth sport” that is projected to attract greater numbers of participants in coming years. Further, the potential benefits of bicycling or walking are significant and help to justify the development of a comprehensive, safe and attractive bicycle and pedestrian network within our communities. The public is increasingly recognizing the benefits of biking and walking beyond their recreational values. Broadly categorized, these benefits include: Transportation, Health and Fitness, Recreation, Economic, Social, Quality of Life and Environmental.

All of these many benefits can be achieved by implementing this Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan and increasing the number of miles of trails available within the County to encourage physical activity. Developing a quality trail system can help diversify the local tourism economy and help buffer the impact of future poor snow seasons.

This regional plan will assist county and local units of government in planning and developing their own



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Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Adopted continued.

trail and route systems that interconnect with neighboring municipalities. Multi-use, multi-season elements also aid snowmobile interests in winning competitive state/federal grant money for trail projects. This kind of public-private coordination is a prime example of what can be accomplished when everyone works together.

For more information on this project or how the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission can assist with your local bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts, contact Darryl Landeau, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 308, or dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.

Human Services Transit Plans Update

At the request of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and with input from human services agencies and public and private transit operators in each county, the NCWRPC recently facilitated the planning process and prepared Locally Developed, Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plans or "Coordinated Plans" for each of the ten counties in the Region.

The Coordinated Plans are intended to provide a framework to assist community leaders, human services agencies, and public transit agencies to improve transportation services in each county and between counties. The 2019 Coordinated Plans assess the existing transportation needs and services in each county, identify unmet needs or service gaps, and present a prioritized list of strategies to address those needs.

As part of the Coordinated Plans, NCWRPC Staff conducted an assessment of transportation needs for individuals with disabilities and seniors including an inventory of available transportation services and identified strategies to address the identified gaps between current services and needs.

Each County's Coordinated Plan may be viewed and when completed downloaded from the NCWRPC website. For more information on the County Coordinated Plan, please contact Darryl Landeau, Transportation Planner at 715-849-5510, Extension 308, or dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.

NEWCOM-Holds Mobile Communication Drill

This is the third time North East Wisconsin Public Safety Communications (NEWCOM) has hosted a "Mobile Communication Drill." This year the event was held in Shawano County at the High School. The drill allows public safety professionals to test communication equipment and learn how other agencies have designed and equipped their platforms.



All state mutual aid channels are tested from each platform for transmit and receive. The drill had more than 76 people and 8 platforms attend from around the region and state. NEWCOM plans to hold the event every 3 years to test existing and new equipment in each platform. Previous events were held in 2012 & 2015 in Oneida County at the Nokomis Fire Dept.

The goals of the drill are:

- Learn what frequencies, channels, and capabilities exist on each platform.
- Test communication equipment in an interoperable environment - discover limitations and needs.
- Learn about mobile communication resources available to the region.
- Establish point of contacts for deployment of communication resources.

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

Regional Planning Commission Summit

Over summer the Association of Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions (AWRPC), an organization comprised of all nine of Wisconsin’s regional planning commissions (RPC), held its first ever Summit. The one day event brought together over 90 people from all corners of the state. The event was an opportunity for leadership and key staff from each of the regional planning commissions to discuss issues, learn from each other, and build relationships between commissioners and staff of all nine regional planning commissions.

The event kicked off with a presentation on the importance of working regionally by Eric Fowle, director of the East Central Wisconsin RPC. Tessa Conroy, from UW-Madison/Extension, presented a variety of demographic and economic trends occurring in Wisconsin, especially as it relates to business development. In addition, a variety of breakout sessions were held for both the commissioners and staff. One highlight was a panel discussion with several of the chairs from the various regional planning commissions. The moderated panel touched on a variety of issues, including support for regional planning, successes, and awareness. Another panel included several of the executive directors that focused on funding levels, projects and services, opportunities for joint efforts, and future challenges.



Regional planning commissions, much like the counties they serve, range in staff size and budget. The largest RPC is the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission with nearly 70 staff and a budget of over \$7,500,000, while the smallest is the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission with a staff of four and a budget of about \$400,000. Although there are many differences, there are many common functions each RPC provides within their respective regions. See www.AWRPC.org.

Wisconsin’s regional planning commissions were first created nearly 60 years ago – at the request of the various counties they represent. The first was Northwest Regional Planning, which formed in 1959, while North Central Wisconsin RPC was the last created in 1973. Various reasons created the need for counties to form these organizations, some focused on economic development, while others focused on transportation, while others focused on land use planning. Both then and now, solutions for many issues that face county and local government can be aided by working regionally. Summit participants time and time again came to that same conclusion.

The Summit will be held every other year, so in 2020 watch for the announcements and join us. Remember, working together everyone achieves more!

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.

Commissioner News

NCWRPC is pleased to welcome two new Commissioners: Robert Hanson from Vilas County and Tom Tallier from Forest County. Welcome aboard!



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2019 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.

Please contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or dlawrence@ncwrpc.org to discuss a potential project for 2019.

NCWRPC Commissioners

Adams County

Richard Bakovka
Rocky Gilner
Peter Hickethier

Forest County

William Connors, Jr.
Paul Millan
Tom Tallier

Juneau County

Jerry Niles
Edmund Wafle
Kenneth Winters

Langlade County

Angela Close
Ronald Nye
Paul Schuman

Lincoln County

Loretta Baughan
Frank Saal, Jr.
Bill Zeitz

Marathon County

Daniel Guild
Craig McEwen
Catherine Wineman

Oneida County

Ted Cushing
Harland Lee
Thomas Rudolph

Portage County

Inactive

Vilas County

Robert Hanson
Charles Rayala, III
Jay Verhulst

Wood County

Gerald Nelson
Appointment Pending
Appointment Pending