

# NCWRPC NEWS

The official newsletter of North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC).

Fall 2011, Number 45

Serving: Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, and Wood counties since 1973.



## Director's Note

As summer fades into fall, we continue to work on a variety of projects throughout the Region, including comprehensive planning in Forest, Oneida, and Wood Counties; Land & Water Conservation Planning in Forest and Oneida Counties; Outdoor Recreation Plans in Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, and Wood; and All Hazard Planning in Lincoln and Vilas Counties, among several other projects.

Please note that we are in the process of developing our 2012 Work Program, and we ask that you contact our office if there is anything you may need. Many communities in our region have comprehensive plans that need to be updated, while others need assistance with grant writing. Check with us before you hire a consultant or ask your own staff to do even more. We are here to help.

Finally, I would like to welcome two new Commissioners. The first is Gerald Nelson from Wood County, replacing Tom Haferman; and the second is Virginia Heinemann from Marathon County, who replaces Marilyn Bhend. Both will be great assets to our organization. I'd also like to thank both Tom and Marilyn for their many years of dedicated service to the NCWRPC.

As always, thank you for your continued support and remember that we can all accomplish more by working together. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org).

Dennis Lawrence, AICP  
Executive Director

## October is Community Planning Month

Each year the American Planning Association (APA) and its members sponsor National Community Planning Month to raise the visibility of the value planning has in communities. As part of the celebration, the NCWRPC extends thanks to its members, communities, and all local planning and zoning staff, as well as local plan commissioners throughout the Region. It is the hard work of all of you that help make north central Wisconsin a great place!



For more information on National Community Planning Month, visit [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org).



## “Quarterly Quote”

“There’s only one way to succeed in anything, and that is to give it everything.”

Vince Lombardi

**Commission Meetings**  
*See our website for future dates and locations.*  
The public is always welcome.

## Regional SCIP Implementation Councils

The NCWRPC coordinates the Northeast Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Implementation Council, which provides assistance to 16 counties in the Northeast Wisconsin. This effort is funded through a Homeland Security Grant.

Regional SCIP Implementation Councils were established to ensure that interoperability implementations address local concerns and unique regional circumstances while also adhering to the strategies and tactics adopted by the SCIP.

Regional Councils are chartered by the State Interoperability Councils with membership from each county within planning regions established by Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) Districts. Each Council is supported by a state-funded Regional SCIP Implementation Coordinator with experience in public safety communications and emergency response.

Andy Faust from the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission serves as the Coordinator for the Northeast WEM District. Regional SCIP Interoperability Coordinators are responsible for:

- Helping establish and maintain Regional SCIP Implementation Councils
- Assisting local agencies with planning, scheduling and overall coordination of activities for complying with federal narrowbanding requirements
- Tracking of local communication assets using the CASM database toolset
- Facilitating the development of county-level Tactical Interoperability Communications Plans
- Providing timely information and updates about WISCOM
- Coordinating and conducting regional interoperability training and exercises

- Providing after-action reports on incidents and exercises regarding communications interoperability (UASI regions only)

For more information about Regional Councils visit [www.interop.wi.gov](http://www.interop.wi.gov) or [www.ncwrpc.org/NSIC](http://www.ncwrpc.org/NSIC). Contact Andy Faust, Northeast SCIP Coordinator, at 715-849-5510, Extension 305, or [afaust@ncwrpc.org](mailto:afaust@ncwrpc.org) for more information.



## 2010 Imagery Available

The first statewide dataset acquired during the spring of 2010 by the Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC), which was organized through the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, is now available for free download. The imagery can be acquired through [WisconsinView.org](http://WisconsinView.org). WisconsinView is led by the UW-Madison Environmental Remote Sensing Center in partnership with the State Cartographer's Office. It is part of a planned nationwide program called AmericanView, which is funded by the U.S. Geological Survey.



The specifications for the 18" dataset include:

- 18" spatial resolution
- Leaf-off
- 3-band natural color
- GeoTIFF format
- Wisconsin Transverse Mercator projection
- Tiled by USGS quarter-quadrangle
- The data are in the public domain

For more information visit [WisconsinView.org](http://WisconsinView.org) or contact Andy Faust, GISP at 715-849-5510, Extension 305, or [afaust@ncwrpc.org](mailto:afaust@ncwrpc.org).



## Commission Meeting Highlights

At its summer meeting the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission continued discussion of the organization's strategic plan and established the 2012 Levy Membership Rate.

The strategic plan is intended to focus the activities of the organization and identify areas of opportunities, as well as develop some internal policies. Existing organizational goals are to:

- ✓ provide cost-effective planning services to its members,
- ✓ identify strategies and solutions to planning issues,
- ✓ do more with less,
- ✓ continue moving from levy to other funding sources, and
- ✓ assist communities meet the challenges facing them.

The Commission unanimously voted to reduce the 2012 Levy Rate for the tenth consecutive year to 0.001%. We are continually looking to reduce costs and still provide quality professional planning services to our members. However, this is becoming harder and harder to do as there are fewer and fewer funding sources to tap into. Combined with the overall decrease in property values we are anticipating a seven percent decline in membership fees. Membership support is crucial to the sustainability of the organization.

For information about the strategic plan or membership rate contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org).



## NARC Visits Wausau

At a recent NCWRPC Strategic Planning Committee meeting, Fred Abousleman, Executive Director of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), based in Washington, DC, joined us to discuss regionalism. NARC has provided a national voice for regionalism for over 40 years, and advocates for regional cooperation as the most effective way to address a variety of community planning and development opportunities and issues.

Mr. Abousleman made a presentation to the group about the importance of regional planning and the work that our organization and the 500 similar organizations across the nation do. He discussed what other regional organizations are accomplishing in their regions, various national demographic trends, and identified potential opportunities. He also touched on the status of many federal programs, including transportation and agriculture. He encouraged the NCWRPC to remain versatile as an organization and to explore new areas for potential programs and services that also meet the needs of the region, such as regional leadership and training. Several emerging federal program areas were also discussed, including energy planning, public safety, food security, green jobs, and infrastructure.



*Fred Abousleman*

Later, he joined the Committee as they continued their work on the organizational strategic plan. His experience and knowledge working with a variety of regional planning organizations, such as regional planning commissions, councils of governments, metropolitan planning organizations, and economic development districts, provided many ideas to the process. The NCWRPC plans to have the strategic plan completed by the end of the year.

For more information about NARC, visit: [www.narc.org](http://www.narc.org).



## WISCOM

The NCWRPC serves as Northeast Regional SCIP Implementation Coordinator (NRSIC). The NRSIC provides communication between the local counties and the State of Wisconsin to help support Wisconsin Interoperable System for Communications (WISCOM) WISCOM is a shared system that first responders in communities across the state will use to communicate during a major disaster or large-scale incident. WISCOM will support up to four simultaneous conversation paths during an incident, dramatically increasing the current capacity available through statewide mutual aid channels, and allowing responders from areas of the state to assist another community without losing communication capabilities.

### WISCOM:

- Leverages existing radio towers and other infrastructure, resulting in less initial cost.
- Does not use proprietary technology - it will be flexible - working with the wide variety of local systems currently operating in the state.
- Shares a statewide infrastructure that will result in long-term cost-savings for everyone. Communities are already spending millions of dollars on systems that do not allow interoperability. As communities replace their aging local systems, they will be able to leverage the state backbone, sharing infrastructure costs and avoiding costly duplication of equipment. Communities can then build out additional local coverage and capacity to meet their needs when they are ready.
- Will be managed by the Statewide System Management Group (SSMG) - including public safety executives from federal, tribal, state, county and local law enforcement, fire, EMS and emergency management disciplines - ensuring that the WISCOM project has input from a variety of potential users and meets the needs of the entire public safety community.
- Is supported by the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association and the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association.

WISCOM is a VHF P25 Digital Trunked Radio System. When the project is completed later this year, 95% of the state will have coverage using mobile public safety radios. WISCOM is available to all public safety agencies in Wisconsin.



*Communications tower*



*Communications equipment*

For more information on WISCOM you can visit [www.interop.wi.gov](http://www.interop.wi.gov) or contact Andy Faust, Northeast Regional SCIP Implementation Coordinator 715-849-5510, ext 305 or [afaust@ncwrpc.org](mailto:afaust@ncwrpc.org)





## Safe Routes To School

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs are an opportunity to make walking and bicycling to school safer for children in grades K-8, and to increase the number of children who choose to walk and bicycle. On a broader level, SRTS programs can enhance children's health and well-being, ease traffic congestion near the school, and improve community members' overall quality of life.



Communities have the opportunity to apply for SRTS planning and implementation grants every two years in January. The next application period is scheduled to begin in January 2012. We can assist you with writing these grant applications and performing the SRTS planning in your community. There are options available to strengthen your application by starting to build local capacity for a successful SRTS program: Share & Be Aware Program and Walk To School Day/Month.

### Share & Be Aware

This Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin program was designed to educate bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists about their responsibilities for ensuring each other's safety on the road. A team of Share and Be Aware ambassadors is working across the state to spread this FREE message. They are available through the fall and winter to teach classes, attend events, and help your community become safe for people walking and biking.



### Walk To School Day (October 2011)

Each October, millions of children, parents, teachers, and community leaders across the world walk to school to celebrate International Walk to School Day on October 5th. Don't worry if your school is not planning an event on October 5th, because the whole month of October is recognized as Walk To School Month (<http://www.walktoschool.org/>). This is an energizing event



that reminds parents and children alike of the simple joy of walking and biking to school. Once children and parents discover the advantages of walking and biking through such events, then they are more likely to continue on their own. Setting up this event will take some coordination with schools and local officials.

For more information about SRTS, Share & Be Aware, or Walk To School contact Fred Heider, AICP at 715-849-5510, Extension 310, or at [fheider@ncwrpc.org](mailto:fheider@ncwrpc.org).



## Northwoods Rail Coalition Formed

A group of northern Wisconsin counties has recently formed the Northwoods Rail Coalition (NRC). Earlier this summer, representatives of Marinette, Florence, Forest, Oneida, Vilas, Price, and Rusk counties began meeting to discuss their mutual concern regarding the quality of rail service in northern Wisconsin. The objective of this intergovernmental coalition is to preserve and enhance rail service for the purpose of economic development throughout the Northwoods region.

To date the coalition has focused on organizational issues and begun preliminary discussions on different strategies that might be pursued to improve the freight rail service to businesses in Northern Wisconsin. The group has invited other potentially affected counties to join the consortium, including Barron, Langlade and Lincoln in Wisconsin and Iron, Gogebic, Dickinson and Menominee in Michigan. In addition, the group is hoping to involve current rail shippers and other businesses with the potential to utilize rail in the future.

The NCWRPC recognizes the importance of rail service to economic development in the region and as a result has agreed to provide staff support for the Coalition. The Northwoods Rail Coalition is still looking for interested parties to join them as they seek to improve the rail service in Northern Wisconsin.

For more information on the Northwoods Rail Coalition please contact Matt Schreiber at 715-849-5510, Extension 306, or [mschreiber@ncwrpc.org](mailto:mschreiber@ncwrpc.org).



## EDA 3-Year Review

Every three years, as part of the NCWRPC's economic development district designation, we are evaluated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. This summer that evaluation took place, and I'd like to thank our Chairperson Erhard Huettl, Vice-Chairperson Bettye Nall and area economic development professionals Daric Smith, Adams County; Jack Sroka, Lincoln County; and Chris Berry, Langlade County, for taking to time to assist us in this process. Overall, the evaluation went well, and we will continue providing economic development assistance within our region.

For information on EDA or the evaluation process please contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org).



## NCWRPC Commissioners

### Adams County

Donald Krahn  
Glenn Licitar  
Ron Jacobson

### Juneau County

Edmund Wafle  
*Appointment Pending*  
*Appointment Pending*

### Lincoln County

Robert Lussow  
Thomas Rick  
Doug Williams

### Oneida County

Wilbur Petroskey  
Thomas Rudolph  
*Appointment Pending*

### Vilas County

Bob Egan  
Ralph Sitzberger  
*Appointment Pending*

### Forest County

Erhard Huettl  
Jimmy Landru, Jr.  
Paul Millan

### Langlade County

George Bornemann  
Ronald Nye  
Paul Schuman

### Marathon County

Virginia Heinemann  
Craig McEwen  
Bettye Nall

### Portage County

Inactive

### Wood County

Frederick Camacho  
Gerald Nelson  
Maurice Mathews

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 6235  
WAUSAU WI

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