

NCWRPC NEWS

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

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



Director's Note

As Summer comes to an end things continue to be busy at the NCWRPC. We are working on a variety of projects including bike plans, comprehensive plan updates, all-hazard plans, and multiple economic development projects, to mention a few.

We are also beginning the process of developing our 2013 work program and ask that you let us know if there are any projects that you need assistance with. Maybe your comprehensive plan needs updating or there is a grant application you need help with. Our website lists many of the areas that we can provide assistance with, including economic development, land use, transportation, GIS & mapping, among others. We strive to provide a high level of service to our members. This commitment has resulted in a national award for an outstanding community plan from the American Planning Association, Small Town and Rural Division, and a Best in State award from the American Council of Engineers this past year; and just this month it was announced that we are the recipient of two national Innovation Awards from the National Association of Development Organizations. There is no need to send local dollars outside our region for planning – we've got it covered.

As you will notice in the Commission Meeting Highlights article we have frozen our membership levy charge. This is the 10th consecutive freeze or reduction in the rate. Membership in the NCWRPC continues to be a cost effective investment. Last year, for example, for every dollar collected from membership nearly 3 additional dollars were leveraged from other sources. This year we are on pace to leverage even more dollars for the region.

Finally, I would like to welcome two new Commissioners aboard: Ken Winters representing Juneau County and Jack Sorensen representing Oneida County. Both will be great additions to our organization. I'd also like to thank two departing Commissioners, Ron Jacobsen from Adams County and Wilber Pertroskey from Oneida County for their many years of service on the NCWRPC, and to wish them well in their future endeavors.

As always, please feel free to call me if you have any questions. I can be reached at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or dlawrence@ncwrpc.org. Our website also contains a wide variety of information. That site can be accessed at www.ncwrpc.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis".

Dennis Lawrence, AICP
Executive Director

"Quarterly Quote"

"A good plan is like a roadmap: it shows the final destination and usually the best way to get there."

H. Stanley Judd

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


Commission Meeting Highlights

At its last meeting the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission began development of its 2013 Work Plan and established its 2013 Levy Membership Rate. In addition, presentations were made related to two award winning projects.

The 2012 Work Plan was reviewed in preparation for the development of the 2013 Work Plan. Several projects will continue into 2013, but there is room for more. Staff will begin contacting department heads and identifying projects for next year. The Tentative 2013 Work Plan will be adopted along with the budget in October.

The Commission unanimously voted to maintain the 2013 Levy Rate at 0.001%. We are continually looking to reduce costs while still providing quality professional planning services to our members. However, this is becoming harder and harder to do as there are fewer and fewer grant funding sources to access. Membership support is crucial to the sustainability of the organization.

Presentations were made for the two award winning projects from 2011. One was the City of Mosinee Downtown Development Plan and the other was the Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC). Both presentations reviewed the process and outcomes.


For information about the meeting contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or dlawrence@ncwrpc.org. 

Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs) Expand in Region

Two agricultural enterprise areas were recently expanded in our region. AEAs are part of Wisconsin's farmland preservation program. They are intended to encourage preservation of agricultural land use and promote agricultural economic development, while creating no new land use regulations. Farmers owning land within an AEA can receive tax credits in exchange for signing an agreement to keep their land in agricultural use for at least 15 years.

The NCWRPC assisted the Antigo Flats AEA application process by providing mapping and other technical resources. Area goals include developing local and regional markets for certified potato and small grain seed, dairy products, wood technology and other local commodities. Petitioners also want to provide technical and educational assistance to agribusinesses, develop agritourism, and help farmers protect natural resources.

The Heart of America's Dairyland AEA, which includes parts of Marathon and Clark Counties, also expanded. Area goals are to preserve the region's agricultural heritage, assure production capacity, and provide tools to minimize conversion of farmland to non-farm uses. They also aim to develop markets for local products.

Another tool related to AEAs is the county level farmland preservation plan. The state is currently encouraging the update of these plans. If you have any questions about AEAs or farmland preservation planning contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or dlawrence@ncwrpc.org. 



October is Community Planning Month

Each year the American Planning Association, its state chapters, and members sponsor National Community Month to raise the visibility of the role of planning in communities. As part of the celebration, the NCWRPC extends thanks to all of its members, commissioners, and all planning & zoning staffs, as well as members of local plan commissions throughout the ten county region. It is the hard work of all of you that helps make North Central Wisconsin a great place!



For more information on Community Planning Month, visit www.planning.org.



Hometown Trolley Expands

Hometown Trolley in the City of Crandon, Forest County, was recently awarded a loan from the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation (NCWDC). Hometown Trolley manufactures nostalgic look "turn of the century" trolley cars with state of the art features of a modern city transit bus. Hometown trolleys are operated across North America and abroad, providing public transportation and private tours. The expansion is expected to create 22 new jobs.

The NCWDC is a revolving loan fund dedicated to providing gap financing to businesses throughout the region. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission provides staffing to the NCWDC. For questions about NCWDC programs contact Matt Schreiber, AICP, 715-849-5510, Extension 306, or mmschreiber@ncwrpc.org



NEWCOM - NSIC Mobile Communication Drill

On September 27th the North East Wisconsin Public Safety Communication (NEWCOM) and the Northeast SICP Implementation Council (NSIC) will host a mobile communications drill. Equipment from around the region and the state will be on site at the Town of Nokomis Fire Station in Oneida County.



The event will start at 10:00am and equipment will be displayed, setup and tested. The goals of the drill are:

- Learn what frequencies, channels, and capabilities exist on each platform.
- Test or 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.



During the event the state-wide radio mutual aid channels will be tested with the SWAT teams. All emergency management officials and staff are encouraged to attend. Register for the event online at:

www.ncwrpc.org/register

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



NCWRPC and WDNR Secure Brownfields Grant

In a state-wide coalition along with six regional planning commissions and the Wisconsin DNR, the NCWRPC has helped secure additional funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency. The \$500,000 coalition grant will be used to assess, investigate, and inventory contaminated properties, and to safely clean up contaminated sites.

Since 2000 there have been 36 awards throughout the region, including 29 site assessment grants. Brownfield redevelopment is critical to the improvement of our communities. Not only are sites cleaned up and environmental concerns minimized, new areas for development are made available which, in turn, helps create jobs.

For more information contact Matt Shrieber, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 306, or mschreiber@ncwrpc.org. More information can also be found on the DNR's website at: www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/brownfields.




NCWRPC 2013 Work Plan Being Developed

Annually the NCWRPC Work Plan is developed over late summer and fall. The NCWRPC has numerous on-going regional level programs, including economic development and transportation. However, staff also provide local assistance as requested. 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 or respond to an email any time during the year. We are here to help.

Regionally we provide updates to County Outdoor Recreation Plans, Land and Water Resource Management Plans, County Comprehensive Plans, and All Hazard Mitigation Plans. We can also assist with local transportation planning, Safe Routes To School, and much more. Just call and ask!


Not only do we help complete the work we will also 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.

To discuss a possible project contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or dlawrence@ncwrpc.org. 

What is a TICP?

A Tactical Interoperability Communication Plan (TICP) is a plan to allow your county to document interoperable communications, governance structures, technology assets, and usage policies and procedures. A TICP can be used by first responders to help clearly define the extent and scope of interoperable assets available within the region and how those assets are shared, requested, activated, used, and deactivated. A TICP can also be used to point out deficiencies or resource needs of local communities, as well as priorities for decision making during the budget process or when grant funding becomes available.




The NCWRPC serves as the Regional Coordinator for the Northeast Wisconsin Regional Interoperability Council. We are currently assisting several counties develop their TICP. For more information contact Andy Faust, GISP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 305, or afaust@ncwrpc.org. 

Planner Wins Competition

The concept of the Third Place, the place other than work or home where we spend our time and share with our community, is a planning concept embraced by Professor Ray Oldenberg in his book *The Great Good Place*. The Urban Design and Historic Preservation Division of the American Planning Association conducted a national writing competition seeking participants' description of their own Third Place.

Mike Agnew, AICP, a Senior Planner at NCWRPC, reached into his own distant past to describe his experiences at his father's gas station in Duluth, MN and how a small business set up to provide an everyday service can provide a Third Place to its customers.

Agnew won the competition. His essay can be viewed on the NCWRPC site home page (www.ncwrpc.org) in the right hand column titled "Latest Projects," and scroll down to find: "Planner Wins Competition." 

NCWRPC Commissioners

Adams County
Donald Krahn
Glenn Licitar
Ron Jacobson

Forest County
Erhard Huettl
Jimmy Landru, Jr.
Paul Millan

Juneau County
Edmund Wafle
Kenneth Winters
Appointment Pending

Langlade County
George Bornemann
Ronald Nye
Paul Schuman

Lincoln County
Robert Lussow
Doug Williams
Appointment Pending

Marathon County
Virginia Heinemann
Craig McEwen
Bettye Nall

Oneida County
Thomas Rudolph
Jack Sorensen
Appointment Pending

Portage County
Inactive

Vilas County
Bob Egan
Ralph Sitzberger
Appointment Pending

Wood County
Frederick Camacho
Gerald Nelson
Tom Haferman

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