

NCWRPC NEWS

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

Spring 2012, Number 47

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



Director's Note

Nearly 40 years ago NCWRPC was created by the ten counties that make up our Region. All with the goal of providing professional planning services at both the local and regional level. That tradition continues. Over the years we have been involved in numerous planning issues in every corner of the Region, from aesthetic codes to land use to zoning ordinances and everything in between. From a regional perspective we have established an economic development program, that provides business financing to spur development, add jobs, and increase tax base; we helped maintain Volk Field during the last BRAC round, which is a critical facility for our national defense and also a \$44 million impact to our regional economy; we secured airphotos for the entire region, we are working with a coalition of counties related to retaining and expanding rail service; we helped establish the Wood Technology Center of Excellence serving the forest products industry, and have been working hard in the area of emergency management, from county level all hazard plans to multi-county emergency communication efforts. Clearly we are making a difference in the Region.

Although we have many projects scheduled for 2012, we have room for more. Our goal is to help our members to complete projects in the most cost-effective manner. If your community has any planning needs, such as an update to your comprehensive plan or writing a grant, let us know. We are here to help. Please call me if you would like to discuss a possible project.

As always, thank you to our members. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.

Dennis Lawrence, AICP
Executive Director

NCWRPC Receives “Best in State” Award

The NCWRPC recently received the “Engineering Excellence Best of State” Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), which in part is judged upon developing quality cost-effective solutions.

NCWRPC received the award for their leadership coordinating the Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC). WROC was formed in 2008 to build and sustain a multi-participant program to acquire digital ortho-imagery and elevation data for the entire state. The project consisted of over 56,000 square miles of digital 4 band imagery and over 9,000 square miles of elevation data. WROC formed many partnerships between local, state, and federal agencies to make the consortium a success. The goal is for this effort to take place again in 2015.

ACEC represents engineering firms from across Wisconsin. They represent the industry, provide professional development, and advocate best engineering practices. This year marks the 41st year ACEC has presented awards for projects that represent the best in Wisconsin.



“Quarterly Quote”

“Let our advance worrying become advance thinking and planning.”

Winston Churchill
Former British Prime Minister

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

Commission Meeting Highlights

At its January meeting the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission adopted the 2012 Work Program, established the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee, discussed the Northwoods Freight Rail Commission, and examined future funding sources.

The 2012 Work Program contains over 50 major work projects throughout the region. Some of the projects include updating the CEDS, staffing NEWCOM and the Northeast Regional Coordinator efforts related to emergency management and communication, updates to several community all hazard plans, and working with a coalition of nine counties related to freight rail. Every year the NCWRPC designates a Committee to review the CEDS process and strategy report. The following Commissioners volunteered to be on the CEDS Committee: George Bornemann, Bob Egan, Donald Krahn, Craig McEwen, Paul Millan, Gerald Nelson, Ron Nye, Thomas Rudolph, and Doug Williams.

Recently the NCWRPC has become involved with the newly formed Northwood's Rail Coalition to address loss of rail service in northern Wisconsin, which resulted from the sale of Wisconsin Central to Canadian National. To date, the NCWRPC has staffed regular coalition meetings, identified potential customers, developed model resolutions, bylaws and an intergovernmental agreement for creation of the rail commission. The primary effort is the establishment of a rail transit commission, which is created under state statutes, and is intended to provide for the continuation of branch line rail service. A short line operator would be identified as part of this process as it moves forward, that process is just beginning. A variety of funding that could support both local efforts and NCWRPC activities were discussed as part of an annual review of sources to support local governments as they look to develop local projects. Some of these include federal and state agencies, as well as private foundations.

The next NCWRPC meeting will be highlighted by officer elections, review of the 2012 Annual Audit, and adoption of the Annual Report.



Comprehensive Plan Updates

Over the last decade most of the towns, villages, cities and counties in the region have adopted comprehensive plans. Many of these plans are becoming dated and need updating. Time, local growth, release of the 2010 Census data, transportation improvements, such as USH 10 and STH 29, and other factors, have led to the need for updating. Per the comprehensive plan law, plans must be updated at least every ten years, while many locally adopted plans recommend every five years.

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



WLIA Awards & News

Earlier this year at the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) Annual Conference NCWRPC's own Matt Guptail received two awards. The first award was 1st place in the Black and White Map category for an entry of "Antigo Middle School Site Assessment" and the other was 1st place in the Base Format Map category for an entry of "Tornado Vulnerability – Lincoln County". This marks the 10th consecutive year that NCWRPC's GIS Department has received an award. At that same meeting Andy Faust was elected to the 2012 WLIA Board of Directors. Andy will serve a two year term on the Board.

Founded in 1987, WLIA is a grassroots organization representing professionals working to develop, maintain, and apply a network of statewide land information systems. WLIA is united by an interest in land records modernization, GIS, and related technologies, and by the need for government policies and programs that support their efficient and effective application.



Congratulations Matt and Andy!



Loan To Hurd Windows

The North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation recently approved a loan to Hurd Windows to open their new facility in Merrill. The project is expected to create 57 jobs immediately and will add 18 over the next 3 years for a total of 75 new jobs in Merrill.

The objective of NCWDC is to increase employment opportunities in the region, raise personal incomes by providing opportunities for employee growth, promote the creation, retention and expansion of existing businesses, and to leverage private investment throughout the region. Eligible activities for the fund include: acquisition of land buildings and fixed equipment; site preparation, construction or remodeling of buildings, or the installation of fixed equipment; clearance, demolition or removal of structures or the rehabilitation of buildings and other such improvements; and for working capital.

The NCWDC is a revolving loan fund to help provide gap financing to businesses that are eligible and meet the requirements of the loan fund. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission manages the funds for the NCWDC. For more questions about the NCWDC programs contact Matt Schreiber, AICP at 715-849-5510, Extension 306, or mschreiber@ncwrpc.org.



Economic Profiles Available Soon

NCWRPC has created Economic Profiles for each member county in North Central Wisconsin. Currently staff is meeting with each county to review and customize each profile, which contains information relating to demographics, local economy, local infrastructure, and a map identifying development opportunities. Once the profiles have been edited they will be available at www.ncwrpc.org and at local economic development offices.

For more information on the Economic Profiles please contact Matt Schreiber, AICP at 715-849-5510, Extension 306, or mschreiber@ncwrpc.org.



Lincoln County Hazard Plan Update Receives Praise

The Lincoln County All Hazards Mitigation Plan (AHMP) Update prepared by the NCWRPC has been highly praised by Wisconsin's Emergency Management Department (WEM). WEM recently completed a review of the draft plan calling it "extremely well-organized and easy to read." WEM officials stated that the format used was "fantastic" and made "the review process very easy."

All hazards mitigation plans are required by federal regulations for counties as well as cities and villages to be eligible for federal disaster aid and to apply for grants to implement projects designed to mitigate the impacts of future disasters. The NCWRPC has recently completed plan updates for Adams and Oneida Counties and has just begun update processes in the City of Crandon, Langlade, and Vilas Counties. In all, the NCWRPC has completed 8 all hazards mitigation plans and assisted with 3 others.

Extensive updates are required every five years. NCWRPC successfully prepared a planning grant application on behalf of the county and facilitated the countywide planning effort. The plan is multijurisdictional and includes all local units as well as the county. By participating in the development of and adopting the county plan, local units can satisfy the federal requirement without the expense of having to do their own individual plans.

The plan includes a detailed risk assessment for a variety of potential hazards including: flooding, dam failure, severe thunderstorms, tornados, wild fires and winter storms. AHMPs address the effects of natural disasters on the community and attempt to put projects in place that will reduce or eliminate the impacts. The plan includes proposed mitigation strategies such as distribution of NOAA weather radios, communication system upgrades, and development of community wildfire protection plans, among others.

WEM indicated that they "intend to use portions of this plan as Best Practice examples once it's approved by FEMA because it is so clear and concise." The revised draft has been submitted to FEMA for final approval. For more information, contact Darryl Landeau, AICP at 715-849-5510, Extension 308, or dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.



Rail Commission Formed

The mission of the Rail Commission is to sustain and enhance safe, reliable and efficient rail service critical to the businesses, communities and economies in northern Wisconsin. A number of Northwoods counties including: Florence, Forest, Lincoln Marinette, Oneida, Price, Rusk and Vilas, have passed an intergovernmental agreement to form the Northwoods Rail Transit Commission under Statutes 59.58 and 66.0301. The NCWRPC serves as staff for the organization.

The first Annual Meeting of this newly formed Rail Commission will take place at 10 am on April 30, 2012 at the Oneida County Economic Development Corporation Office located at the Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport in Rhinelander. The public is welcome to attend.



Jerry Huddleston

For more information on the Northwoods Rail Transit Commission, please contact Darryl Landeau, AICP at 715-849-5510, Extension 308, or dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.



NCWRPC Commissioners

Adams County

Donald Krahn
Glenn Licitar
Ron Jacobson

Juneau County

Edmund Wafle
Kenneth Winters
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
Appointment Pending

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