

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

“A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow.”

- George S. Patton

County-Wide Human Services Transportation Plan Updates

Once again, the NCWRPC will be providing assistance to each of our ten counties with the federal and state mandated update of their “locally developed, coordinated public transit - human services transportation plan”. This requirement has been in place since 2005, and plan updates are currently required every five years and must be met in order to maintain county eligibility for 85.21 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance and the 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program.



Regulations require the plans to be developed through a process that includes representatives of public, private, and nonprofit and human services transportation providers, as well as participation by the public. In cooperation with WisDOT, the NCWRPC is facilitating the planning process for our 10-county region including Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas and Wood counties.

This will be the fourth round of plans completed on behalf of our counties since the mandate was passed. These efforts represent a significant commitment of resources in meetings and plan development by NCWRPC Staff. This work is funded through the Commission’s transportation planning work program with no additional outside funding or charge back to the counties.

NCWRPC staff will coordinate a meeting in each county and develop the required locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan from the outcomes of the meeting. Meetings will be scheduled in late Spring / early Summer. Plans are due to WisDOT at the end of the year.

If you have questions about these plans, please contact Darryl Landeau, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 308, or dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.

Scenic Byway Dedicated

On August 22, 2017, the Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway was dedicated at a ribbon cutting ceremony at Hiles Town Hall with over 50 people in attendance. As Wisconsin's newest scenic byway, the Nicolet-Wolf River Byway is one of only five currently designated in the state. Numerous entities came together to support the creation of this byway, including the NCWRPC. Commission staff assisted in the development of the required corridor management plan and continues to support the maintenance of a webpage promoting the Byway.

The Nicolet-Wolf River Byway traverses a 145 mile route through Forest, Langlade, Oneida, and Vilas Counties along portions of State Highways 32, 52, 55 and 70. The route forms a unique double loop or figure "8". A scenic byway is a numbered state highway system route (other than interstate highways), of at least 30 miles in length, that offers travelers numerous scenic and/or historical attributes whose promotion can serve to boost a region's attractiveness as a tourist destination.

The route of the byway showcases what this area has to offer with views of the Wolf River, a protected National Wild and Scenic River, the Chequamegan-Nicolet National Forest, numerous State Natural Areas, lakes, and many other scenic areas. Along this route there is limited development, except for a few rural and tribal communities and a few small farms. Key features of the route include beautiful scenery dotted with quiet vistas and trails, a steam engine train, museums, and opportunities to enjoy a rich blend of culture with Native American pow wows, Polish Heritage Days, Kentuck Day, Art in the Square, and other local festivals.

For more information on the scenic byway, see www.nicolet-wolfriver-scenicbyway.com.



Office News New Staff Member



We are pleased to announce that Alexander Brown has joined our staff as a Planner. He will be working on community and economic development projects throughout the region. Previously Alexander worked for the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC). He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Environmental Studies, and Master's Degree in Urban & Regional Planning, both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Alexander can be reached at 715-849-5510, Extension 307, or abrown@ncwrpc.org.

Faust Appointed to 9-1-1 Subcommittee

Andy Faust was recently appointed by Governor Walker to the 19 member 9-1-1 Subcommittee of the Interoperability Council. The Committee was created under the Interoperability Council to assist the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) in implementing a statewide public safety interoperable communication system (WISCOM). Andy will be representing Land Information professionals.

Andy will work with other Subcommittee members to develop a plan for the Next Generation 9-1-1 system that is unified across local public safety platforms to make sure that the new system will be accurate, cost effective, and provide optimal service for emergency responders in the state. The report is expected by January 1, 2019.

If you have any questions about the 9-1-1 Subcommittee, you can contact Andy at 715-849-5510, Extension 305, or afaust@ncwrpc.org.

NCWRPC Launches Adams-Juneau Flood Resiliency Study

In January of this year, the NCWRPC kicked off its Adams-Juneau Flood Resiliency Project. This year-long study focuses on reoccurring flooding problems affecting Adams and Juneau Counties. The project was made possible by an Economic Adjustments Assistance grant from the US Economic Development Administration.

This project would be conducted for the counties of Adams and Juneau, in the southern part of the North Central Wisconsin Region. These counties are located on the eastern edge of the area that experienced heavy rain and flooding during the period of September 21-22, 2016. As a result of this flooding, a Presidential Disaster was declared for affected counties, including Adams and Juneau, in October of 2016. The heavy rains caused widespread flooding throughout the area, negatively impacting business operations. Flooding and high water continue to be a problem in both counties.



The area had rainfall totals of 3 to 7 inches, while some localized areas experienced 9 to 11 inches total. At one Adams County location, a three day total of 8.2 inches of rainfall was reported. The Wisconsin DNR issued warnings to residents and tourists urging them to avoid contact with flood waters, as well as notification to private property owners to be aware of possible well contamination. In Adams County, several homes were damaged. Additionally, numerous local and county road segments were closed due to water over the roads and culvert washouts, causing damages estimated to exceed \$125,000. Reports of flooded parking lots impeded customer access to some businesses. Additionally, the County issued a press release to residents living in low lying areas and those living along the Wisconsin River/Castle Rock and Petenwell Flowages. Conditions above and below dams were considered dangerous, and recreationists and residents were urged to take extra precautionary measures and watch for rapidly rising water. In Juneau County, flooding occurred on the Yellow and Baraboo Rivers. Damages to residential and business properties was scattered throughout those basins. Public sector damages were in excess of \$200,000. Town and county roads were closed due to high water.

While floodplain mapping is available for the area, most communities are unaware of the threat to business and commerce from such a significant rainfall event. Efforts to improve flood resiliency are minimal, and communities within the affected area lack a coordinated effort to facilitate flood mitigation, risk reduction, business stability and economic resiliency.

NCWRPC staff will conduct a flood inundation analysis that will identify vulnerable development and infrastructure within the context of "real-world" storm and flood inundation scenarios. As evidenced by this recent major event, these flood episodes can have a significant impact on local and regional economies. Direct and indirect business impacts would be identified and economic losses would be tabulated using specific local community data and a model of the local economy. These activities will help identify and prioritize specific mechanisms to support community economic resiliency. This could include the relocation assistance for businesses, hardening or relocation of infrastructure, retrofitting existing structures to improve storm wind and flood resiliency or the implementation of flood control devices.

The project will demonstrate the potential impacts of historic flood events, pre-identify likely impact areas and assess the economic impacts to communities, businesses and residents. The outcomes will be incorporated into the county's hazard mitigation plan and serve as a point of reference to guide flood mitigation activities across the counties, which in turn, improves resiliency against future events.

For more information about this project or how the NCWRPC can help your community flooding or hazard mitigation issues, contact Andy Faust at 715-849-5510, Extension 305, or afaust@ncwrpc.org.



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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 summary economic reports have been prepared for each county. Those 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 Alexander Brown, at 715-849-5510, Extension 307, or abrown@ncwrpc.org.



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