



# 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

**“Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”**

-Warren Buffet

## WEDC Designates NCWRPC Disaster Microloan Lender

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) has partnered with the NCWRPC to administer a Disaster Recovery Microloan (DRM) program for the ten county region. WEDC is working with many of the regional planning commissions across the state to provide this program.

NCWRPC is currently in the process of securing funds from WEDC to provide disaster recovery loans to area businesses. These microloans will help businesses complete necessary restorations or operating expenses until more long-term recovery funding can be secured. Funds are only made available to the regional entities after a verified disaster occurs, such as a Presidential Declaration or a state damage declaration. Various counties will be eligible based on damage.

These microloans will range from \$2,500 to \$15,000 at a 0% fixed interest rate. Pay back is over a short period, usually 24 to 48 months, with the potential for payment deferrals during the first six months. Funds may be used for the following activities:

- Procurement of cleanup and restoration services
- Operating expenses such as payroll
- Temporary space
- Repair and reconstruction

Only those businesses that have suffered measurable physical or economic losses because of a disaster event and will continue business operations in the community are eligible. If you know of any business who could potentially use these funds or if you would like more information, contact Dennis Lawrence at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org).

# Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Performance Report Completed

The 2019 CEDS Annual Performance was completed over the winter. That strategy is prepared as part of our role as the Region's designated Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). A complete CEDS is prepared every five years and provides a detailed assessment of economic development conditions in the EDD, identifies a Regional Economic Development Strategy, and includes a list of critical regional investment projects. EDA also has a funding program to make these projects happen. During off years an Annual Performance Report is prepared. The CEDS are posted on our website at [www.ncwrpc.org](http://www.ncwrpc.org).

Since our designation, the NCWRPC has successfully secured over \$20 million dollars from EDA for projects in our Region to spur economic development. Some recent projects in our Region include a wastewater treatment plant upgrade in Wisconsin Rapids, the Wood Technology Center of Excellence in Antigo, business park expansions in the cities of Adams and Mauston, and the recently approved Workforce Training & Entrepreneur Center in Lac du Flambeau.

Between 2000 and 2017, our Region's population grew by over 15,000 persons or about 3.5 percent, meanwhile the state grew at over 8.4 percent. Five counties lost population over that period, which includes Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, and Wood. Of the five that increased, Juneau County showed the greatest percentage growth, followed by Marathon and Portage Counties. Over that same period, employment increased by about 18,000 jobs or 9 percent, while the state grew at over 11.4 percent - only Oneida and Wood Counties lost employment.

Beyond data and trends the CEDS outlines a regional development strategy, which includes goals and objectives. This then provides the foundation for the NCWRPC economic development work plan. The CEDS has seven goals. See the sidebar.

If you have any questions about the CEDS or EDA grants, contact Dennis Lawrence at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org).

## ED News

Did you know the NCWRPC produces an economic development focused e-mail newsletter called ED News? It is sent out quarterly to professionals who are interested in economic development related news in the North Central Wisconsin Region.

Each update includes current economic development-related projects being conducted by NCWRPC and relevant economic news within the North Central Wisconsin Region. Each quarterly update also includes highlights of several available funding and grant opportunities, a listing of funding and grant opportunities as well as a quarterly EMSI report for each county in the Region.

If you have any questions about ED News or would like to be added to the distribution list, please contact Eric Sonnleitner at 715-849-5510, Extension 306, or [esonnleitner@ncwrpc.org](mailto:esonnleitner@ncwrpc.org).

### CEDS GOALS

**Goal 1:** Encourage business retention and expansion to maintain and increase employment opportunities in the Region.

**Goal 2:** Create an innovative atmosphere to foster an entrepreneurially supportive environment.

**Goal 3:** Promote and attract new business to the Region.

**Goal 4:** Encourage the reuse of existing commercial and industrial sites for more sustainable economic development.

**Goal 5:** Ensure the future availability of a skilled and flexible workforce prepared to meet the needs of both existing and emerging industries and technologies.

**Goal 6:** Meet the full range of business' infrastructure needs with emphasis on transportation, utilities and communications.

**Goal 7:** Promote and increase communication between regional and county economic development, workforce development and other organizations.

## Pavement Rating Assistance Available

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It is time once again for local governments in Wisconsin to submit surface condition ratings for all local roads under their jurisdiction. State statute 86.302(2) requires that the ratings be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) every two years. In 2017, the NCWRPC submitted the mandated condition ratings for 31 communities. The next round of submissions will be due to WisDOT by December of this year.

Commission Staff will be providing a variety of services

to local units of government within the Region to meet their needs for pavement rating and submitting to WisDOT. Most of these services will be provided free-of-charge to Commission members while non-members will be charged for assistance per our 2019-2020 fee schedule.

If your community would like to utilize the services of the NCWRPC to help you with this pavement rating mandate, please contact Eric Sonnleitner at 715-849-5510, Extension 306, or [esonnleitner@ncwrpc.org](mailto:esonnleitner@ncwrpc.org).

## Regional Safe Routes To School Planning Update

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Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is an approach that promotes walking and bicycling to school through infrastructure improvements, enforcement, tools, safety education, and incentives to encourage walking and bicycling to school.

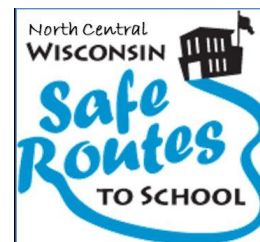
NCWRPC began its Regional SRTS Program in the fall of 2018. This planning effort is made possible through a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant awarded to NCWRPC from WisDOT.

What is involved with SRTS Planning? Each school district and local community form an advisory group to work with NCWRPC. Local data is gathered, issues are identified, and NCWRPC works with the advisory group to determine what solutions are most likely to succeed. NCWRPC then creates an SRTS Plan for that school district, which they can use to apply for grants, and coordinate community and school efforts on an annual basis to get more kids walking and biking to school.

In the 2018-2019 school year NCWRPC is working with the first group of school districts, which include: Adams-Friendship, Mauston, Minocqua-Hazelhurst-Lake Tomahawk, Mosinee, and Stratford.

As of this coming fall (2019-2020 school year), NCWRPC will begin working with the second group of school districts: Elcho, Lac du Flambeau, Merrill, Nekoosa, Wabeno, and White Lake.

If your school district would like to participate in a future round of SRTS Planning, or for other information on the NCWRPC's Regional Safe Routes to School Program, contact Fred Heider, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 310, or [fheider@ncwrpc.org](mailto:fheider@ncwrpc.org).



## Office News –New Staff Member

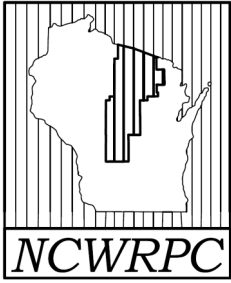
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**New Staff Member,  
Carrie Edmondson**

We are pleased to announce that Carrie Edmondson has joined our staff as a planner. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Arizona State University and a Master of Public Administration degree with an emphasis in Urban Planning from Cal State Fullerton. She will be mainly working on Safe Routes To School plans throughout the Region. Carrie previously worked for the cities of Pomona and La Verne, California, before recently serving in a variety of volunteer positions and staying home with her four children.

Carrie can be reached at 715-849-5510, Extension 311, or [cedmondson@ncwrpc.org](mailto:cedmondson@ncwrpc.org).



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## NCWRPC Website Check it out

From time to time we like to remind folks that there is a variety of information that can be found on our website. If you are looking for an existing plan for your community – it is probably there. We are constantly updating our content with other helpful information, including our newsletters, meeting agendas and minutes, and the various documents we prepare for our counties and local communities. Every plan we have prepared since 2000 is posted and can be downloaded.

Our website can be sorted by our five overall work program areas, such as economic development or land use. It is also laid out to search by county. Check it out at [www.ncwrpc.org](http://www.ncwrpc.org).

We encourage you to give the website a look, and we hope you find it useful!

[www.ncwrpc.org](http://www.ncwrpc.org)

## NCWRPC Commissioners

### Adams County

Richard Bakovka  
Rocky Gilner  
Peter Hicketier

### Juneau County

Jerry Niles  
Edmund Wafle  
Kenneth Winters

### Lincoln County

Loretta Baughan  
Frank Saal, Jr.  
Bill Zeitz

### Oneida County

Ted Cushing  
Harland Lee  
Thomas Rudolph

### Vilas County

Robert Hanson  
Charles Rayala, III  
Jay Verhulst

### Forest County

Paul Millan  
Tom Tallier  
Appointment Pending

### Langlade County

Angela Close  
Ronald Nye  
Paul Schuman

### Marathon County

Daniel Guild  
Craig McEwen  
Catherine Wineman

### Portage County

Inactive

### Wood County

Gerald Nelson  
Appointment Pending  
Appointment Pending