

NCWRPC NEWS

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

Summer 2010, Number 42

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



Director's Note

Summer is well underway and fall is fast approaching. Things continue to be busy around here. We are working on a variety of projects from bike planning to wildfire planning, in addition to some new initiatives.

As you will notice in the Commission Highlights article we have again reduced our membership charge – the 9th consecutive reduction. Our goal is to provide quality planning and related services at the lowest possible cost. To continue lowering our membership charge, we have increased our funding from state and federal sources as well as project funding. Membership in the NCWRPC continues to be a cost effective investment. Last year alone for every dollar collected from membership over 13 additional dollars were leveraged into the region from other sources. This year we are on pace to leverage even more dollars for the region.

We are beginning to develop our 2011 work program and request that you let us know if there are any projects that you need assistance with. Our website lists many of the things that we can provide assistance with, including economic development, land use, transportation, GIS & mapping, among others.

I would also like to welcome the Village of Kronenwetter, Marathon County, as our newest member. They are the latest community to understand that we can all accomplish more by working together. Welcome aboard!

As always, please feel free to call me if you have any questions. I can be reached at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.

Dennis Lawrence, AICP
Executive Director

Commission Highlights

A reduction of the membership levy rate highlighted the last meeting of the NCWRPC. The reduction was unanimously approved and is the 9th consecutive reduction in the rate. The annual levy rate for 2011 was lowered from 0.001175 percent to 0.001075 percent, which will result in about an 8 percent reduction in collections. This action is possible because of the organizational management practices set in place by the Executive Committee and the overriding Commission philosophy of doing more with less. The levy now makes up less than a third of the overall revenue.

In addition, the Commission passed resolutions supporting the effort to maintain segregation of the state transportation fund and adopting the 2010 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Finally, there was a discussion of the various regional initiatives identified by staff. See related article on page 3.

Please feel free to call Dennis Lawrence if you have any questions about the Commission Meeting. He can be reached at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.

“Quarterly Quote”

“Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.”

Albert Einstein

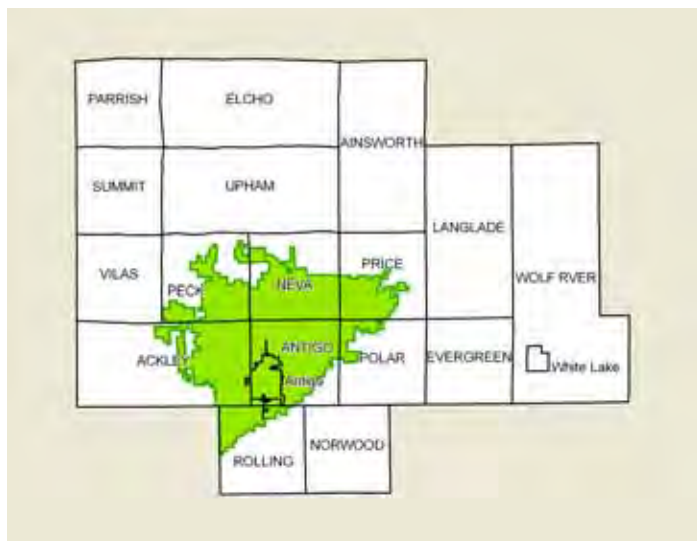
Commission Meetings
See our website for future dates and locations.
The public is always welcome.

Antigo Flats Recognized as an Agricultural Enterprise Area

The State of Wisconsin through the new Working Lands Initiative recently recognized the Antigo Flats as an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA). The Antigo Flats in Langlade County have a long tradition of agricultural production of potatoes, vegetables, and other crops, along with numerous dairy farms. In fact the state soil, Antigo Silt Loam, is primarily associated with this area of the state. See the map of the area (Antigo Flats AEA).

This area of our region has been chosen by the State of Wisconsin as a premier farming area, worthy of special recognition and protection. With this designation, farmers will receive increased tax relief for protecting and stewarding farmland. The designated area encompasses about 62,000 acres of prime farmland. Protection and promotion of agriculture is critical to the economic well being of our region and state.

North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission provided staff assistance in the delineation and mapping of this area using GIS. A variety of detailed analyses were part of this process. If you have any questions related to the AEA, please feel free to contact Andy Faust at 715-849-5510, Extension 305 or at afaust@ncwrpc.org.



Antigo Flats AEA



Governor Doyle on the Antigo Flats

Commission Adopts Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

At its July meeting the NCWRPC adopted the 2010 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The report provides an assessment of economic development conditions in the Region. The CEDS also includes the Regional Economic Development Strategy, the NCWRPC's Economic Development Work Plan, and a listing of potential public works projects for the region.

Between 2000 and 2009, our Region's population grew by over 28,000 persons or about 6.7 percent. Juneau County showed the greatest percentage growth, followed by Vilas and Adams Counties. Wood County experienced the lowest percentage of population growth. Over that same period, employment decreased slightly (less than one percent). However, the region fared better than the state, which declined over 2 percent.

Adoption of the CEDS provides eligibility for local units of government in the region to access U.S Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration dollars, as well as other federal and state programs.

A copy of the document is available on our website at www.ncwrpc.org. Any questions about the CEDS process should be directed to Dennis Lawrence at 715-849-5510, Extension 304 or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.



Regional Initiatives

As a planning agency, part of our role is to identify things on the horizon that will impact the communities we serve. The following are some initiatives related to economic development, land use and transportation that you will hear about in the months and years to come.

Economic Development Initiatives:

Currently the NCWRPC provides grant application, revolving loan funds, community development strategies, project planning and administration, fiscal studies, and regional assistance. A new area is brownfields, potentially contaminated and underutilized parcels. There are nearly 370 sites already identified in the region. The first step in the effort is the submission of an EPA Community Wide Assessment Grant. If approved, this will provide funding to create a regional council to inventory and examine brownfields and conduct environmental site assessments on many properties throughout the region. Another area relates to the next CEDS Update, where we will conduct an analysis of existing business park and incubator space in the region to determine areas that are underserved.

Land Use Initiatives:

Currently the NCWRPC provides comprehensive planning, outdoor recreation, land and water conservation, and zoning assistance. An emerging trend is sustainability planning, which is defined as development that meets the needs of today without compromising the needs of generations to come. Sustainability planning starts with the integration of housing, transportation, and natural environment planning, and adds energy consumption planning within each sector. The concepts of sustainability will be incorporated into revisions of the Regional Comprehensive Plan, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and local level plans.

A number of new programs are available in Wisconsin, some associated with grant funding, that seek to reinforce sustainable practices. 25 x 25 Plans are focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions by one quarter by the year 2025. In the early stages, these plans concentrate on reducing energy consumption, but also address the need to increase the use of renewable energy sources.

Green Tier Legacy Communities agree to take certain defined policy steps directed at conservation and sustainable development, and are eligible for specified program funding. Water Star Wisconsin is a new program that focuses on water conservation and Tree City USA continues to reinforce the health of urban forestry.

Transportation Initiatives:

Currently the NCWRPC provides local road rating, traffic counting, bike trail planning, county transit coordination, and comprehensive plan assistance. Some new initiatives will address bike and pedestrian planning and scenic byway corridor planning.

If you have any question related to any of these initiatives, please feel free to contact Dennis Lawrence at 715- 849-5510, Extension 304, or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.



City of Mauston Awarded over \$1 Million Dollars

The City of Mauston, Juneau County, was recently awarded \$1,246,500 from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) for the expansion of its Business Park. The grant will allow the City to increase its business park by 70 acres and is expected to create over 280 jobs and generate \$15 million in private investment. The Business Park will be located along Highway 12 in the northwest part of the City.

North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) prepared the grant application on behalf of the City. Over the years we have assisted many communities in securing grants to spur economic growth. This project stems from the 2008 Flood Recovery Plan and the Region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

For more information about this project or how the NCWRPC can assist your community secure economic development funding, contact Matt Schreiber at 715-849-5510, Extension 306, or at mschreiber@ncwrpc.org.



Did You Know?

One of the many benefits of membership in the NCWRPC is grant writing. Over the last few months we have assisted many communities with developing and submitting applications for a variety of programs, including Safe Routes To School, Transportation Enhancements, and economic development infrastructure. If your community would like assistance with submitting an application or is searching for funding for a certain project, contact our office. Although there are fewer and fewer grant programs available and the competition is stiff we have a solid track record of securing funds for our communities.

Contact Matt Schreiber at 715-849-5510, Extension 306, or at mschreiber@ncwrpc.org.



NCWRPC Commissioners

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Donald Krahn
Glenn Licitar
Ron Jacobson

Juneau County

Edmund Wafle
Appointment Pending
Appointment Pending

Lincoln County

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Thomas Rick
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Wilbur Petroskey
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