

# NCWRPC NEWS

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

Winter 2013, Number 49

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



## Director's Note

As the New Year begins, the NCWRPC celebrates its 40th anniversary. As we move forward it is a time to reflect on the year just completed and look to the challenges of the coming year. 2012 was filled with numerous projects throughout the region, including All-Hazard Mitigation Plans in Langlade, Lincoln, and Vilas Counties, and Outdoor Recreation Plans in Adams County, Kronenwetter and Wisconsin Rapids. Economic development assistance included loans to businesses as well as numerous grant applications. Two of the larger projects were in Forest County, where loans were approved to Hometown Trolley and Infinity Wood Floors. Combined, these two projects will create or retain over 50 much needed jobs in our region.

2013 looks to be another busy year. Many planning projects are soon to start, including All-Hazard Mitigation Plan for Forest County, a Bike and Pedestrian Plan for the Merrill Area, and many local planning assistance projects. We are always ready to add more projects for our members. So feel free to contact our office if there is a project you need assistance with.

Regionally there are many things soon to be underway as well, including the update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to maintain our region's eligibility for Economic Development Administration funding. We will also continue providing assistance to NEWCOM and Northeast SCIP promoting safety in our region. The NCWRPC will also provide assistance to the newly formed Northwoods Rail Commission.

Finally, I would like to welcome Marathon County and all of its local units of government as members of our organization. Over the last few months after a thoughtful discussion the County decided that it was beneficial to become a member. Thank you to Marathon County and all of our members for your continued support.

As always, please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions. I can be reached at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org).

Happy New Year!

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

Dennis Lawrence, AICP  
Executive Director

### "Quarterly Quote"

"Before beginning, plan carefully."

Marcus T. Cicevo

### Commission Meetings

See our [website](#) for future dates and locations.  
The public is always welcome.

## NCWRPC Receives NADO Innovation Awards

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission received two 2012 Innovation Awards from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). Projects from around the nation are considered based on effectiveness, level of partnerships, and innovation.



One award was for the Wood Technology Center of Excellence, located in Antigo. This project was a partnership with Langlade County, Northcentral Technical College (NTC), and the Langlade County Economic Development Corporation. Working together a state of the art facility dedicated to forestry workforce training was established. The Center of Excellence, a 22,000 square foot facility on NTC's Antigo campus, opened in 2011.

The project is intended to strengthen forest products manufacturing and provide the training needed to keep northern Wisconsin, including Forest, Lincoln, Oneida, and Vilas Counties, competitive today and in the future. "The creativity and significant, long-term impact of regional programs and projects like the Wood Technology Center of Excellence are key to advancing the economic growth and sustainability of our nation's regions and communities," said NADO President Russell Cowley, executive director of the Six County Association of Governments in Richfield, Utah.

The other award was for the Community Economic Recovery Guidebook, which was the result of another partnership including various state and local government agencies.

The Community Economic Recovery Guidebook provides best practices to assist economic development organizations, businesses and community leaders in preparation for economic recovery from a natural disaster. It also provides a framework to help local leaders speed disaster recovery by addressing key economic stabilization and recovery issues before a disaster occurs. The Guidebook provides strategies that can be used at the local level to minimize the impacts of natural disasters on the local economy. To download a copy, visit our website at [www.ncwrpc.org](http://www.ncwrpc.org).

For more information on either award contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org).



## NCWRPC Partners With WEDC

The NCWRPC has joined with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to provide economic development analysis assistance to communities throughout the region. As part of the partnership NCWRPC will obtain a comprehensive economic modeling program, called Analyst, developed by Economic Modeling Specialists International. The software program provides industry/occupation data, impact assessments, and economic base analysis information. The goal is to use this tool for making clear, data-driven decisions.

Staff will be trained to provide a variety of economic data to assist in local and regional economic development efforts. Early in 2013 more information will be provided to local economic development organizations about how to make requests for data from this tool.

For more information, please contact Andy Faust, GISP, at 715- 849-5510, Extension 305, or at [afaust@ncwrpc.org](mailto:afaust@ncwrpc.org).



## Wisconsin Center for Commercialization Resources

An unprecedented collaboration began in 2011 when the Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded the Wisconsin Center for Commercialization Resources (WCCR) a Federal University Center grant. The WCCR is comprised of five regional universities: Marquette University, Milwaukee School of Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, and University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. In addition, the center works with Wisconsin's nine regional planning commissions.



This unique collaboration of resources is positioned to assist economic development by focusing primarily on commercialization efforts within Wisconsin. The WCCR is a valuable resource for individuals and businesses located throughout Wisconsin to access business development assistance. The center is open for the first time entrepreneur, or an existing business.

The primary objective of the WCCR is to facilitate the entire commercialization process, by providing resources and services for moving a project through various stages from idea to proof of concept to launch. This is another tool that can assist area businesses to help create jobs in Northcentral Wisconsin.

More information on services offered by WCCR can be found on their website at: [www.wi-wccr.org](http://www.wi-wccr.org).



## NCWDC Approves Loan to Infinity Wood Floors

The North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation recently approved a loan to Infinity Wood Floors for \$150,000 to open a facility in Crandon this spring. When completed the project is expected to create 30 new jobs. Infinity Wood Floors produces high end wood flooring.

The NCWDC's job creation and retention loan program provides gap financing to new or expanding businesses. The objective of the program 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.

The North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation (NCWDC) is a 501(c)(3) non-stock, non-profit corporation established in 1994. The NCWDC operates a revolving loan fund to help provide gap financing to businesses that are eligible and meet the requirements of the loan fund. The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission manages the funds for the NCWDC.



For more information about NCWDC programs contact Dennis Lawrence at 715- 849-5510, Extension 304, or at [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org).





## North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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## NCWRPC Celebrates 40 Years

On June 25, 1973, Governor Patrick Lucey signed Executive Order 58 creating the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, upon the request of Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas and Wood Counties. The NCWRPC was the ninth regional planning commission (RPC) established in Wisconsin. Today RPC's serve nearly every county in the state.

In 2013, we reach a new milestone for our organization as we celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Over the years we have worked on many initiatives throughout our region and look forward to another 40 years serving North Central Wisconsin.

Our goal continues to be providing quality cost-effective planning assistance to our members. We look forward to your continued support in the future. After all, working together we all achieve more!



## NCWRPC Commissioners

### Adams County

Donald Krahn  
Glenn Licitar  
Ron Jacobson

### Juneau County

Edmund Wafle  
Kenneth Winters  
*Appointment Pending*

### Lincoln County

Robert Lussow  
Frank Saal, Jr.  
Doug Williams

### Oneida County

Thomas Rudolph  
Jack Sorensen  
*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  
Tom Haferman