

NCWRPC NEWS

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

Winter 2014, Number 52

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



Director's Welcome

Happy New Year! Last year the NCWRPC celebrated its fortieth anniversary as an organization. Over the year we spent time reflecting on past accomplishments and events, but we also focused on the future to identify opportunities and challenges. One opportunity that continues to be important to our work is collaboration and partnership. Working together is an important part of what we do as an organization. As you know, many issues extend beyond local boundaries, especially related to economic development, transportation, public safety, and the environment, among others. One of our roles is to develop and guide these regional efforts, such as our ten county economic development corporation, our thirteen county Northwoods Rail Consortium, our sixteen county Northeast Wisconsin Public Safety Communication organization or our thirteen county Northeast Regional Interoperability Council.

In addition to the many regional efforts, we also provide substantial local assistance. Although our 2014 Work Plan is nearly complete, I encourage members to contact our office if you have any potential planning needs. We can assist in developing the scope of work, identifying any grant sources, and completing the project. Our agency has the expertise and local knowledge that is critical to helping your projects.

Finally, I would like to introduce our new Chair Bettye Nall (Marathon County) and Vice Chair Paul Millan (Forest County). They are both long time Commissioners and will do a wonderful job guiding the organization into the future.

As always, thank you for your continued support and feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. I can be reached at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org. Remember, working together everyone achieves more!

Wishing you all a great 2014!

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

Dennis Lawrence, AICP
Executive Director

“Quarterly Quote”

“To win you have to risk loss.”

Jean-Claude Killy

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

Commission Meeting Highlights

The Fall Meeting of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission was highlighted by change of leadership, for the first time since 1984, review of program areas, and adoption of the 2014 Budget.

Bettye Nall was elected as Chairperson of the NCWRPC to fill out the term of Erhard Huettl, who passed away late last summer; he had served as Chair since 1984. Paul Millan was elected Vice-Chair replacing Bettye, who had served in that role since 2005. They join Secretary-Treasurer George Bornemann as the organizations officers. All three will be up for re-election in April. Terms are two years.

Staff provided updates for each of the five NCWRPC program areas of economic development, GIS & mapping, intergovernmental cooperation, land use, and transportation. Over 70 projects were highlighted. Economic Development projects highlighted included the update of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, local EMSI assistance, and the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation Loan Funds. GIS & Mapping projects highlighted many mapping efforts. Intergovernmental projects included WROC, NEWCOM, and NC RIC. Land Use projects were many; some of the major projects highlighted were the Regional Livability Plan, Oneida and Vilas County Outdoor Recreation Plans, and Adams and Forest All Hazard Mitigation Plans. The final program area of Transportation highlighted the completion of Specialized Transit Plans for each county, Adams County Bike and Pedestrian Plan, the Northwoods Rail Coalition, a detailed Merrill Area Transportation Planning Study, and over 20 local WISLR Ratings.

The 2014 Annual Budget was approved. The budget contains three primary sources of revenue. The levy membership charge is expected to collect \$237,000 (decreased 1.5% from last year), continuing EDA & DOT grants will total \$136,400 (the same as last year), and project revenues will collect about \$485,800 (up from last year). Overall total budget is expected to be about \$860,000. The goal of lowering the cost of membership was again met. Budget growth is based on securing grants and other projects for members throughout the region.

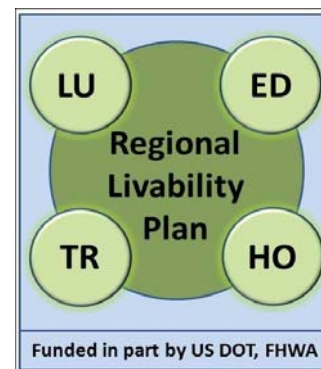
Please project contact Dennis Lawrence at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org for more information.



Regional Livability Plan Update

The NCWRPC has been working to prepare a Regional Livability Plan (RLP). This plan will update the 2003 Regional Comprehensive Plan and lay the foundation for the principles of livability throughout our Region. The RLP will examine economic development, housing, land use, and transportation we can become a more livable and sustainable region.

The Regional Livability Oversight Committee has been meeting quarterly to review various work product of this effort. Recently the committee has reviewed the demographics and issues report, and drafts of the Housing and Economic Development Assessment Reports. Both Assessment Reports include statistical information and trends, livability goals and objectives, and performance measures. The next quarterly meeting of the committee will be held in March.



The result of this planning effort will be a Demographic Report, four Assessment Reports (Transportation, Economic Development, Housing, & Land Use) and a Regional Livability Plan. More information is available at www.ncwrpc.org/rlp/.

If you have any questions about the RLP contact Dennis Lawrence at 715-849-5510, Extension 304 or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.



Transportation Coordination Plans Completed

During 2013, the NCWRPC, at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and with input from human services agencies and public and private transit operators in each county, facilitated the planning process and prepared Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordination Plans or “Coordination Plans” for each of the ten counties in the Region.

Coordination Plans are intended to provide a framework to assist community leaders, human services agencies, and public transit agencies to improve transportation services in each county and between counties. The 2013 Coordination Plans assess the existing transportation needs and services in each county, identify unmet needs or service gaps, and present a prioritized list of strategies to address those needs. Each County’s coordination plan may be viewed and downloaded from the NCWRPC website.

These Coordination Plans were prepared in response to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations. Transit projects using funds from the FTA’s Enhanced Mobility for of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (Section 5310) must be derived from a locally-developed plan for public transit and human services transportation coordination. The Section 5310 program funds assist with the purchase of specialized transit vehicles used to serve elderly and disabled persons, and provide capital and operating assistance for public transportation services that go beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

To complete the public transit-human services transportation plans, NCWRPC staff conducted an assessment of transportation needs for individuals with disabilities and seniors including an inventory of available transportation services and identified strategies to address the identified gaps between current services and needs.

For more information on the transportation coordination plans, please contact Darryl Landeau at 715-849-5510, Extension 308 or at dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.



Road Surface Management Planning Assistance Available

The NCWRPC has prepared over 80 local road surface management plans for towns, villages, cities and counties throughout the Region. A road surface management plan determines maintenance needs and sets priorities used to establish maintenance and a capital improvements schedule for the local roads within a jurisdiction.

NCWRPC staff lists which road segments need work, the type of work needed, a time schedule within which the work should be carried out, and an estimated budget. These plans systematically relate road needs to dollars available; and make managing local roadway systems easier, faster and more consistent. WisDOT’s Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP), one of the primary grant programs available for improving local roads, requires a road surface management plan for a community project to be eligible for funding.

For assistance with a road surface management for you community contact Darryl Landeau at 715-849-5510, Extension 308 or at dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.



EMSI Update



The NCWRPC has again partnered 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 is a tool that provides industry/occupation data, impact assessments, and economic base analysis information.

Detailed economic reports have been prepared for each county for each quarter of 2013, which 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 Coleman Peiffer at 715-849-5510, Extension 306 or cpeiffer@ncwrpc.org.





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WLIA Annual Conference

WLIA is a grassroots organization representing a collection of concerned professionals working to develop, maintain, and apply a network of statewide land information systems. WLIA members include staff and elected officials (from all levels of government), academics, consultants and other private sector users of land information systems. Andy Faust, NCWRPC Senior GIS Analyst, serves on the WLIA Board of Directors.

WLIA will hold their 27th Annual Conference in Madison on February 12-14, 2014. The conference offers workshops, technical sessions, discussions, demonstrations, special interest group meetings, project updates and a vendor showcase.

For more information or to register for the conference visit www.wlia.org



NCWRPC Commissioners

Adams County

Richard Bakovka
Glenn Licitar
Appointment Pending

Juneau County

Edmund Wafle
Kenneth Winters
Appointment Pending

Lincoln County

Robert Lussow
Frank Saal, Jr.
Doug Williams

Oneida County

Harland Lee
Thomas Rudolph
Appointment Pending

Vilas County

Bob Egan
Ralph Sitzberger
Appointment Pending

Forest County

Bucky Dailey
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

Gerald Nelson
Tom Haferman
Appointment Pending