

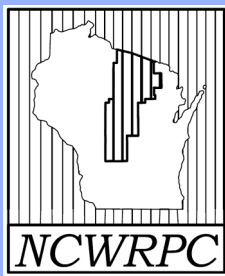


NCWRPC News

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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Winter 2019
Issue 66



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QUARTERLY QUOTE

“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used to create them.”

-Albert Einstein

Director's Welcome

Happy New Year! Last year marked the forty-fifth anniversary of NCWRPC. Over the year we spent time reflecting on past accomplishments and initiatives, but more importantly we focused on the future needs of our members and identifying opportunities and challenges. One opportunity that continues to be critical to our work is collaboration and partnerships. 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 and the environment, among others. One of our roles is to guide these regional efforts, such as our ten county economic development corporation, the 22 county Northwoods Rail Consortium, the 16 county North East Wisconsin Public Safety Communications (NEWCOM), the multi-community North Central Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition, and Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC).

In addition to the many regional efforts underway, we also provide local assistance. Although our 2019 Work Plan is nearly complete, I encourage members to contact our office if they have any potential planning needs. We can assist in developing the scope of work, identifying any funding sources, and completing the project. Our agency has the expertise and local knowledge that is needed to help your project.

Thank you for your continued support and feel free to contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, with any questions. I can be reached at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.

NCWRPC Helps Secure a \$3 Million EDA Grant for the LDF Workforce Training & Business Development Center

In the fall of 2018, the U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration awarded the Lac du Flambeau Band of Superior Chippewa a grant to construct a Workforce Training & Business Development Center. This summer, the groundbreaking will take place for the 20,000 square foot facility which will provide workforce training for the local labor force for in demand jobs as well as business development services to help entrepreneurs create and expand more businesses in the area.

The EDA award was the result of a successful partnership between the LDF Business Development Corporation and the NCWRPC. Working closely together over 2018, the NCWRPC prepared the project concept feasibility study and then helped prepare the EDA grant application. LDF will oversee the award and construction phases, as well as operate and maintain the

facility long-term. Thanks to EDA and the hard work of the LDF, a new economic development tool is on the way. This project will help grow the economy of north central Wisconsin!



The NCWRPC was designated by the US Department of Commerce as an Economic Development District (EDD) for the ten county region of North Central Wisconsin. As part of that designation the NCWRPC prepares a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to advance economic growth throughout the region. The Workforce Training & Business Development Center is consistent

with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and it directly supports many of the goals from that regional strategy.

Members of the NCWRPC can request assistance to seek EDA funds. Over the years, EDA funds have helped fund many of the industrial parks in our Region from Forest County to Juneau County and many in between. EDA grants have also helped fund the NTC Wood Technology Center of Excellence in Antigo, parking structures in Wausau, and business park improvements in Adams. EDA has also helped fund numerous planning efforts as well.

If your community is looking for funding to help spur economic development efforts, contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.

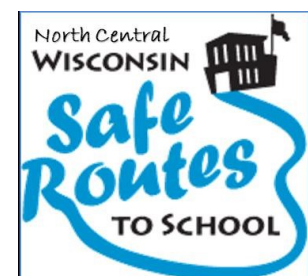
Launch of Regional Safe Routes to School Program

Recently, the NCWRPC launched its Regional Safe Routes to School Program. This new program was made possible through a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant awarded to the NCWRPC by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

The TAP program is intended to provide transportation choices that are safe, reliable and convenient alternatives to automobile use. Through its Regional Safe Routes to School Program, the NCWRPC will provide assistance to 25 schools in 11 school districts over a two year period.

In the first year of the program, the NCWRPC will work with five of the districts to develop Safe Routes to School plans. This first wave of districts includes Minocqua-Hazelhurst-Lake Tomahawk, Stratford, Mosinee, Adams-Friendship, and Mauston. Working with each of the district's schools, the NCWRPC has already collected student travel tallies and parent surveys. NCWRPC will begin working with district SRTS committees early in 2019 to develop their plans.

For more 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.



Census 2020 & Redistricting

As you know, the next Census will occur in 2020. The goal of the Census is to count everyone once, only once and in the right place. To accomplish that, a variety of tasks have been completed in preparation, including: Boundary Annexation Survey and Local Update of Census Addresses. The NCWRPC has been involved in these programs for much of the Region.

Once the Census is completed and population data is distributed there is more work to be done. The next step for state, county and municipal governments is redistricting; which is the redrawing of boundaries for areas from which people elect representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives, state legislatures, county boards, and city councils, among others. Every ten years these boundaries are redrawn based on census population counts to create equal representation for each district.

In the fall of 2020 all counties need to start preparing for redistricting. Most form a committee and work with the NCWRPC to prepare a plan. In both 2000 and 2010, we assisted several of our counties and we expect to do the same in 2020. The State provides a useful software application to help delineate new districts and this will be available again.

The Census Timeline is as displayed below:

- March 2020** – Census forms are mailed or delivered to households
- April 1, 2020** – National Census Day: use this day as a point of reference for sending your completed forms back in the mail
- April–July 2020** – Census takers visit households that did not return a form by mail
- December 2020** – Census Bureau delivers population information to the President for apportionment
- March 2021** – Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states

For now there is nothing to do, except for those governments considering changing the total number of representatives on your boards or councils. If that is the case, start planning now. You need to address the following questions: What is the ideal number of representatives for your organization? How many can we legally have? What does the public think about this change? How will this affect our government functions and committee structures? If you need help call us.

For more information related to redistricting, contact Andy Faust, GISP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 305, or afaust@ncwrpc.org.



Office News

New Staff Member



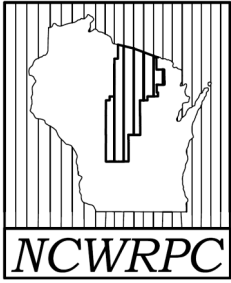
New Staff Member,
Paige Heinrich

We are excited to announce that Paige Heinrich has joined our staff as a Planner.

Paige grew up in North Central Wisconsin and will primarily be working on community and economic development projects in the Region. Paige graduated from Minnesota State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Urban and Regional Studies, she then went on to pursue a Master's Degree in Multicultural and Ethnic Studies and just recently completed an MPA from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at

Syracuse University. Her previous experience includes two service terms with AmeriCorps, working at a non-profit dedicated towards providing weekend lunches to hungry children, and as a graduate assistant in charge of event planning and promotion.

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



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2019 Work Plan Still Time

There is still time to request assistance in 2019. Numerous projects are already scheduled, but there is always room for more. Staff can provide assistance with comprehensive plan updates, outdoor recreation plans, and more. We urge your community to contact us if you are thinking of a project or planning effort. Staff are always available to answer a phone call, respond to an email, or attend a meeting any time during the year.

Not only do we help do the work, we can also help identify possible funding sources to offset the cost of your project. Unfortunately, grants are more and more difficult to secure as state and federal budgets shrink for these programs. Our goal is to keep the cost as low as possible and still provide quality professional services to our members.

Please contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or dlawrence@ncwrpc.org to discuss a potential project for 2019.

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