

NCWRPC NEWS

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

2009 Fall Issue, Number 39

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



Director's Note

As the Fall begins, it's time to prepare budgets and start looking to next year. As part of that process we are putting together our 2010 Work Program. Our current Work Program has many projects, including: Wildfire Plans, Outdoor Recreation Plans, and Comprehensive Plans. Next year we will be working in those areas and more. If you haven't already, we ask that you contact us if you have any planning needs for next year.

I would like to thank all of our member communities, and encourage the Marathon, Portage and Wood County Board of Supervisors to consider county-level membership. In addition to local planning assistance, we provide a regional approach to those issues that transcend political boundaries. After all, by working together we all achieve more!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the topics in this issue or about the Regional Planning Commission.

Dennis Lawrence, AICP
Executive Director

"Quarterly Quote"

"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody."

Bill Cosby

NCWRPC Secures Funding for Wood Technology Center

Langlade County and Northcentral Technical College (NTC) were awarded a \$1.28 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) for the construction of the Wood Technology Center of Excellence. The project is expected to create over 400 jobs and generate \$14 million in private investment.



North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) collaborated with Langlade County and NTC to prepare the EDA grant. The Wood Technology Center of Excellence will be built on NTC's Antigo campus. Construction of the 22,000 square foot facility is expected to begin this fall. The project is intended to strengthen the wood products manufacturing sector which employs over 8,700 people throughout the region, and will provide the training needed to keep this region competitive in the wood products manufacturing sector.

For more information about this project contact Matt Schreiber at 715-849-5510, extension 306, or at mschreiber@ncwrpc.org.



Next Commission Meeting:
October 29, 2009
The public is always welcome.

NCWRPC Completes Fire Plans

Community concern regarding the threat of wildfire has been growing in recent years as a result of Wisconsin's last major wildfire in the Cottonville area of Adams County in 2005 and the pervasive drought conditions throughout much of the state over the last several years. As a result, the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission has become extensively involved with wildfire protection planning around the Region.

The NCWRPC has just completed the Conover - Land O' Lakes Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). These neighboring towns in Vilas County decided to work together to address their wildfire concerns. The NCWRPC found that these heavily forested, tourist communities contained significant acreage of highly flammable jack and red pines. A comprehensive strategy of information and education along with a program of home ignition zone assessments and hazardous fuels reduction was recommended.

The Town of Rome CWPP was the NCWRPC's first wildfire protection planning effort. The town lies very close to the area of the Cottonville Fire and was anxious to do something in the aftermath of the fire. Staff developed a fire behavior model to determine wildfire risk within the town. The model showed that much of the communities' housing stock was built within the area with the highest fuel hazards. The NCWRPC recommended a series of firebreaks and aggressive hazardous fuels reduction efforts.

Currently, the NCWRPC is engaged in wildfire protection plans for an area in Juneau County including the Towns of Armenia, Germantown, Necedah and the Village of Necedah, and for the Towns of Grand Rapids and Saratoga in Wood County. In addition, another plan is already planned to start this fall in the Adams County Towns of Big Flats and Monroe.



The WDNR is preparing to release a report detailing its assessment of communities at risk for wildfire, state-wide. The Communities-At-Risk or CARs assessment will identify areas in the state with high and very high risk for wildfire. The NCWRPC is developing a solid base of experience in planning for wildfire protection. If your community gets a high risk rating in the WDNR CARs Assessment or you have concerns about wildfire hazards, contact Darryl Landeau, AICP, at 715-849-5510, extension 308 or at dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.



North Central Advantage Technology Zone

The Wisconsin Department of Commerce recently approved a Wisconsin Technology Zone Program application for the Daigle Brothers Inc. through the North Central Advantage Technology Zone. Daigle Brothers Inc., located in Tomahawk WI, is designated to receive up to \$150,000 in state income tax credits. Daigle Brothers' primary product line is structural steel for commercial and industrial facilities. The structural steel market includes new construction, building additions, alterations, reconstruction, maintenance and repairs.



DaigleBrothers.com

The project qualified for the tax credits due to the addition of two pieces of equipment new to Daigle Brothers: a Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) Beam Drill line, and a CNC Plasma Burning Table. The addition of these

technologies will aide Daigle Brothers by reducing outsourcing and the cost of production, as well as open new markets for potential sales growth. These new markets include agricultural, logging, and crane manufacturing. Corn drying systems is a specific area where Daigle Brothers, with the CNC burn table, will be able to produce seed corn storage hoppers. The burn table will also provide Daigle Brothers the opportunity to produce components for Caterpillar Forest Products and Manitowoc Crane. The current production capabilities, shearing and bending, do not serve these markets. Daigle Brothers is also expected to build a 22,000 square foot addition and will add 13 high skill, high wage jobs to the local economy.

This is the final Technology Zone application approved at the regional level. All of the state tax credit programs have been consolidated and are being managed by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. Any future applications should be submitted to Madison.



Flood Recovery Update

NCWRPC received a grant from the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) to complete a Flood Recovery Strategy for Adams and Juneau Counties in response to the flood in 2008. The Flood Recovery Strategy will assess the economic damage from the flooding, develop a strategic plan and projects that fit the recovery strategy. Two local projects have already been identified and grant requests were submitted to the EDA. Both projects are business parks that will provide industrial land outside of the 100-year floodplain. The Mauston Industrial Park project in Juneau County consists of a 70 acre addition to the existing business park located on the city's north side. The Adams South Business Park project is a 40 acres business park located on State Highway 13 in the City of Adams. EDA is reviewing both of these applications.



Commission Meeting Update

At its July meeting the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission established the 2010 Levy Membership Rate. The Commission unanimously voted to reduce the 2010 Levy Rate from 0.00133% to 0.00125%. This reduction was made to help our members as they develop their own 2010 budgets. Over the last several years the NCWRPC has been able to make reductions as the organization moves toward project based revenue. We still maintain our basic program areas, but have become more focused on the areas of highest need, such as outdoor recreation planning, land and water resource management planning, and grant writing.

There was an overview provided of the Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC). WROC is a major regional effort being coordinated by the NCWRPC and six other regional planning commissions. (See "WROC Updates" on page 5.)

A variety of other topics were discussed, including current local geographic information systems (GIS) projects. The next NCWRPC meeting will be held in October and the Annual Budget will be the major topic.



National Scenic Byways and Wisconsin Rustic Roads

Established in 2005, the Wisconsin Scenic Byways Program represents a cooperative effort between the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and local community groups to preserve, promote, and enhance some of our most scenic and historic state highway corridors.

Wisconsin scenic byways:

- Are part of the state highway system (a numbered state or federal highway other than an interstate) at least 30 miles long;
- Offer travelers outstanding scenic views or historic resources combined with recreational and/or cultural attributes;
- Are initiated/supported by local groups and governments;

Some of the benefits include:

- Promotion as a state or national Scenic Byway;
- Associated prestige for obtaining designation; and
- **Opportunity to compete for federal 80/20 matching funds for trail heads, visitor centers, and historic building restorations.**

Local organization is the key to success. Interested citizens are encouraged to form a local byway group that could include local business officials, community leaders, and others. At least one local government sponsor is needed to apply for Scenic Byway designation.

State Highway 60 from I-90/94 west to the Mississippi River is in the final waiting phase of becoming Wisconsin's second Scenic Byway; Great River Road along the Mississippi River is the first. The whole

process has taken about 20 months from start to projected finish.



The WisDOT's **Rustic Road** program has a similar goal of protecting scenic road corridors, but is separate from the **Scenic Byways** program. Typically, Rustic Roads are lightly-traveled local or county roads that offer bikers, hikers, and other travelers a leisurely opportunity to see native terrain and wildlife in a rural setting. The Rustic Roads initiative provides local groups an opportunity to nominate local roadways that have a speed of 45 mph or less, and are at least 2-miles in length.

NCWRPC staff are familiar with establishing state highways for Scenic Byway designation, and are prepared to assist local efforts. Do you know of a scenic stretch of state highway that is 30 miles long or more? We can discuss the logistics of creating a **Scenic Byway**, or a much shorter (2-mile) **Rustic Road**. Our whole region is blessed with great scenic beauty.

Contact Fred Heider, AICP, for more information at 715-849-5510 extension 310, or by email at fheider@ncwrpc.org.



WROC Update

The Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC) is a multi-jurisdictional group led by the NCWRPC and six other regional planning commissions (RPCs). The RPCs are providing coordinated mapping services for participating WROC members. The goal of the consortium is to build a sustainable multi-jurisdictional program to acquire digital orthoimagery and elevation data throughout Wisconsin with a 2010 flight. The consortium provides several benefits to participants, including: cost savings, specifications and standards support, data sharing between participants, and procurement support.



The NCWRPC has a service agreement with Ayres Associates, the selected consultant for this project. This service agreement will allow state agencies to “piggy back” with WROC and provide additional funding for local projects. This is a big step forward to bring state and local projects, as well as funding, together. Two goals of WROC were to stop duplication of efforts and provide a cost sharing mechanism. Also the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) has a request to Homeland Security for \$800,000 to help fund a statewide project. DMA should know later this year if their request is funded.

Any county organization can participate in WROC. For more information about joining the consortium contact Andy Faust, GISP, at 715-849-5510, extension 305 or email at afaust@ncwrpc.org



Forest County Comprehensive Planning Update

Forest County received a planning grant from WDOA last summer. The NCWRPC has been working with Forest County to complete comprehensive plans for: the Towns of Alvin, Argonne, Armstrong Creek, Blackwell, Freedom, Hiles, Laona, Lincoln, Nashville, Wabeno, the City of Crandon, the Mole Lake Community, and the Potawatomi Community.

The background and mapping phase of the planning process was completed last year, and the local planning phase is almost complete as the county planning phase has just begun.

More information is available online at:

<http://www.ncwrpc.org/forest/foreststep.html>



Oneida County Comprehensive Planning Update

Oneida County began the comprehensive planning process in the Fall of 2008. Several towns already had adopted comprehensive plans that met the Wisconsin planning law (§66.1001). The NCWRPC was asked to work with those towns that did not have an adopted comprehensive plan, and then to bring all of the local plans together as one county plan.

The NCWRPC is working with the Towns of Enterprise, Lynne, Minocqua, Pelican, Piehl, Schoepke, and Woodruff. The other towns have either completed a plan or are in the process.

The County level effort has recently started. More information about each plan is available online at:

<http://www.ncwrpc.org/oneida/oneidacp.html>



Census Update

NCWRPC is a partner with the U.S. Census Bureau. Recently the NCWRPC hosted representatives from the Census Bureau as they conducted training and developed strategies to carry out the 2010 program in our Region. As you know, the census is completed every ten years to count everyone living in the nation. This information is used to determine U.S. Congressional representation for each state, as well as the distribution of federal funds to states and local governments, and to provide the detailed demographic data for local planning efforts.

It is important that our Region is counted and we encourage you all to make sure the word is out on the importance of the Census program.



United States
**Census
2010**

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Glenn Licitar
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Juneau County
Helmi Mehus
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Thomas Rick
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