

NCWRPC NEWS

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

2009 Spring Issue, Number 38

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



Director's Note

In 2008 we celebrated our 35th anniversary as an organization. In 1973, Governor Lucy signed Executive Order 58 creating the NCWRPC at the request of Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas and Wood counties. Over those many years we have been involved in numerous planning issues in every corner of the Region, from aesthetic codes to zoning codes and everything in between. The last thirty-five years were busy, and the next 35 look to be even busier!

Our 2009 Work Program contains over 50 major work projects throughout the region. Comprehensive planning continues to be a critical area of assistance as we near the 2010 deadline. Langlade County is soon to complete a county-wide planning process, while Forest County and Oneida Counties are in the midst of the local level planning phase in preparation of county plans. Beyond comprehensive planning we are working with Adams County to develop an All Hazard Plan. We have two separate Community Wildfire Protection Plans underway in Juneau and Vilas Counties, and Safe Routes to School Plans in Antigo and Wisconsin Rapids. Meanwhile we are continuing to pursue project funding through both the Federal Stimulus process and the Flood relief programs for area communities. In addition the 2010 air photo consortium is moving along.

I'd like to thank our members for their continued support and I'd also like to welcome the Town of Reitbrock in Marathon County and the Town of Sigel in Wood County as our newest members. Together we will continue to have much success addressing both local and Regional issues.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Dennis Lawrence, AICP
Executive Director

Federal Stimulus Update

As you know, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) earlier this year. The ARRA is intended to assist individuals, businesses and communities deal with the nation's current economic crisis. ARRA contains \$787 billion in stimulus spending in various initiatives and tax cuts. Over \$500 billion will be new spending for distribution through existing federal programs and agencies, as well as direct allocation to States. Existing program requirements, funding allocation formulas, and timelines for disbursement of funds vary with each program.

The State of Wisconsin will receive an estimated \$3.7 billion in funds, not including tax breaks, direct aid to individuals, or federal competitive grants. To help local governments access these programs, Wisconsin established the Office of Recovery and Reinvestment. The Office's website contains a summary of funding opportunities by topic, links to federal and state information, as well as a list of frequently asked questions. This website will be updated as more detailed information is available. View the web site at www.recovery.wi.gov.

The lists of projects created by various organizations earlier in the year have been set aside now that the general rules have been established for the stimulus process. For consideration projects must go through a formal application process. The Office of Recovery website provides the information you will need to submit projects. Please feel free to contact our office for more information.



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

Commission Meeting Highlights

At its January meeting the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission adopted the 2009 Transportation Work Plan and discussed the implications of the Federal Stimulus Legislation, among other things. In addition, Bob Egan was welcomed as a new Commissioner from Vilas County.

The Transportation Work Plan listed many up-coming planning projects in the ten-county area, including assistance with local road improvement plans; traffic counting; Safe Routes to School planning; transportation enhancements for various communities; and comprehensive planning for cities, villages, and towns. In addition, the NCWRPC will continue on-going planning assistance with various counties, the Wausau Area MPO, and the Stevens Point Area. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which at that point had recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, and was under consideration by the Senate, was discussed in detail. In general it appeared that funding would flow through existing state and federal programs and that the normal application process would need to be followed to access funds. In addition, the list of over 140 projects developed by the NCWRPC requesting nearly \$300 million was reviewed and ranked for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

The next NCWRPC meeting will be held in Wausau on April 29, 2009. The Annual Report and Audit Report will highlight the next meeting.



Working Lands Initiative

A major new planning effort incorporated into Governor Doyle's recent budget is the Working Lands Initiative. This effort would restructure the farmland preservation tax credit to a per-acre credit. The amount of credits would depend on whether the agricultural land was under exclusive agricultural zoning, under an agreement, or both. If the land area was covered under both an agreement and farmland preservation zoning, the credit would be \$10 per acre. If the land was under agricultural zoning only, the credit would be \$7.50 per acre. If the

land was under an agreement only, the credit would be \$5.00 per acre. The income factors under the current farmland preservation program would be eliminated.

The working lands initiative also will streamline agricultural planning and zoning approvals by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Grants up to \$30,000 per county will be available to update their farmland preservation plans. All counties will have to update their farmland preservation plan prior to December 31, 2015.

The initiative also proposes creation of new Agricultural Enterprise Areas, which will be designated by DATCP based upon criteria written into the bill. Initially there could be up to 10 Agricultural Enterprise Areas. Also mentioned in the budget was using state bonding authority to create a Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements fund to be used for grants to purchase development rights from land owners.

More information will follow as the program is finalized.



Traffic Counting Services

The NCWRPC will again be offering traffic counting services to member units of government this summer. Last year, traffic counts were completed for the Town of Rolling in Langlade County and the Town of Cassian in Oneida County. Our counter can provide basic traffic counts and average traffic statistics. The equipment can also provide vehicle classification statistics whether it is a car or truck, and even what type of truck. Traffic may also be broken down by time of day. Speed statistics are also possible which may be of assistance in setting speed limits or identifying speeding trouble spots.

If your community is interested in doing some traffic counts or studying vehicle types or speeds please contact the NCWRPC's Transportation Planner: Darryl Landeau, AICP, at 715-849-5510 extension 308 or email to dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.



Pavement Rating Assistance Available

It is time once again for local governments in Wisconsin to submit surface condition ratings for all local roads under their jurisdiction. State statute 86.302(2) requires that the ratings be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation every two years. In 2007, the NCWRPC submitted the mandated condition ratings for 20 communities. The next round of submissions will be due to WisDOT by December of this year.

Commission Staff will be providing a variety of services to local units of government within the Region to meet their needs for pavement rating and submitting to WisDOT. Most of these services will be provided free-of-charge to Commission members while non-members will be charged for assistance per our 2009-2010 fee schedule. The table below shows our current schedule of services. If you think your community would like to utilize the services of the NCWRPC to help with this pavement rating mandate, please contact Darryl Landeau, AICP, the Commission's Transportation Planner, at 715-849-5510 or dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (NCWRPC)		
LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (LRIP) WISCONSIN INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR LOCAL ROADS (WISLR) PROGRAM SERVICES		
PROGRAM SERVICES¹	2009–2010 FEE SCHEDULE	
Full LRIP Plan Report	\$500	\$5,000 (10,000 ⁵)
Road evaluation and rating report only	No Charge	\$3,000 (\$6,000 ³)
Preparation of LRIP plan report from local rating data	\$300	\$3,000 (\$6,000 ³)
Submit data for WISLR to WisDOT ⁴	No Charge	Not Available
WISLR map plotting and data printing ⁴	Materials at cost	Time (\$75/hour) and materials
PASER/WISLR Training Program	\$400	\$4,000
PASER/WISLR Technical assistance on-site	\$25/hour	\$75/hour
PASER/WISLR Technical assistance by telephone	No Charge	Not Available
Notes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Services must be requested in writing by the chief elected official of the jurisdiction. Scheduling of LRIP/WISLR services will be provided on a first come first serve basis subject to membership and staff availability. 2. "Members" include all units of government enrolled either independently or through a financially participating jurisdiction. Contact the NCWRPC office at 715-849-5510 if unsure of your membership status. 3. Rate for Marshfield, Stevens Point, Wausau, and the counties of Marathon, Portage, and Wood. 4. The local unit must authorize the NCWRPC to access its local road data over the Internet through procedures established by WisDOT. 		



WLIA Awards Received

NCWRPC staff person, Matt Guptail, recently received two awards at the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) Annual Conference. He was awarded first place in the Black & White category with an entry of “Pettenwell – Castle Rock Inundated Areas” and a first place in the Orthophoto – Base Map category with an entry of “2004 Flood Impact Area – City of Antigo”.

The WLIA is a state-wide organization representing over 600 GIS professionals working to develop, maintain, and apply a network of statewide land information systems. WLIA membership includes staff and elected officials from all levels of government, as well as academics, consultants and other private sector users of GIS.



Congratulations Matt!

NCWRPC Commissioners

Adams County

Donald Krahn
Glenn Licitar
Ron Jacobson

Juneau County

Helmi Mehus
Edmund Wafle
Appointment Pending

Lincoln County

Robert Lussow
Thomas Rick
Doug Williams

Oneida County

Wilbur Petroskey
Thomas Rudolph
Appointment Pending

Forest County

Erhard Huettl
Appointment Pending
Paul Millan

Langlade County

George Bornemann
Ronald Nye
Paul Schuman

Marathon County

Marilyn Bhend
Appointment Pending
Bettye Nall

Wood County

Frederick Camacho
Tomas Haferman
Maurice Mathews

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