

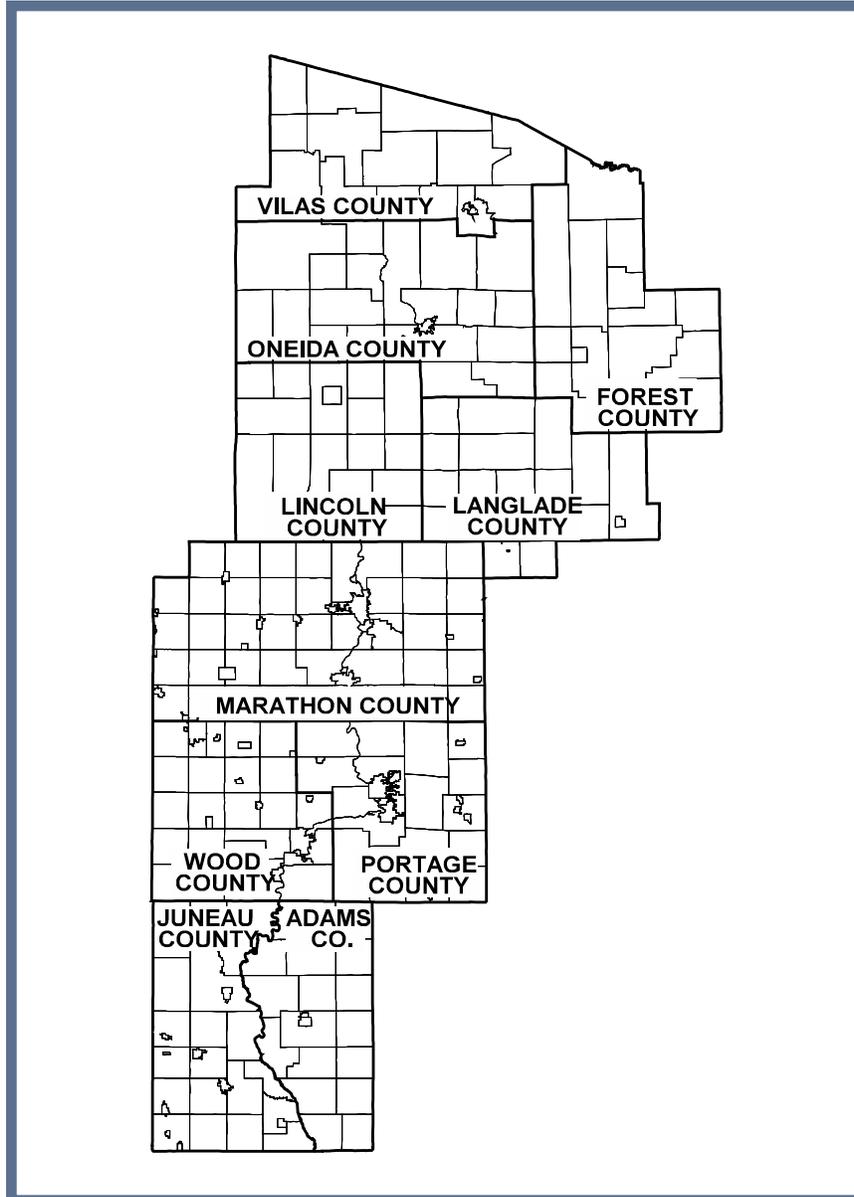


# **NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Serving the  
Region Since 1973!**

**2016  
ANNUAL REPORT**

# OUR SERVICE AREA



## REGIONAL FACTS:

<b>2016 Population (DOA Estimate):</b>	<b>445,047</b>
<b>Square Miles:</b>	<b>9,325</b>
<b>Counties:</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Cities:</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Villages:</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Towns:</b>	<b>196</b>
<b>Tribal:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Governmental &amp; Tribal Units:</b>	<b>273</b>

# NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

210 McClellan Street, Suite 210, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403  
Telephone: (715) 849-5510 Fax: (715) 849-5110  
Web Page: [www.ncwrpc.org](http://www.ncwrpc.org) Email: [staff@ncwrpc.org](mailto:staff@ncwrpc.org)



SERVING ADAMS, FOREST, JUNEAU, LANGLADE, LINCOLN, MARATHON, ONEIDA, PORTAGE, VILAS AND WOOD COUNTIES

June 2017

Subject: **NCWRPC 2016 Annual Report**

Dear Member Governments, State and Federal Officials, and Others:

On behalf of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC), I am pleased to provide you with the **2016 Annual Report**. As you will see throughout this 43<sup>rd</sup> *Annual Report*, NCWRPC staff has completed many regional and local level projects in partnership with numerous organizations and communities. Also included in this report is information for the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation (NCWDC), our economic development organization responsible for managing a revolving loan fund.

This report is prepared to provide local officials and interested citizens with an overview of the activities undertaken by the NCWRPC over the last year. In addition, the report meets the requirements as outlined in Wisconsin Statute 66.0309(8)(b) for annual report preparation and submission.

Hopefully member units of government and interested governmental agencies are pleased with the work of the NCWRPC. We look forward to continuing to serve the Region by providing planning services to address the issues and needs of North Central Wisconsin.

Thank you for your continued support of the NCWRPC and please feel free to contact me at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org) should you have any questions regarding the *Annual Report* or the NCWRPC.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Lawrence", is positioned above the typed name.

Dennis Lawrence, AICP  
Executive Director

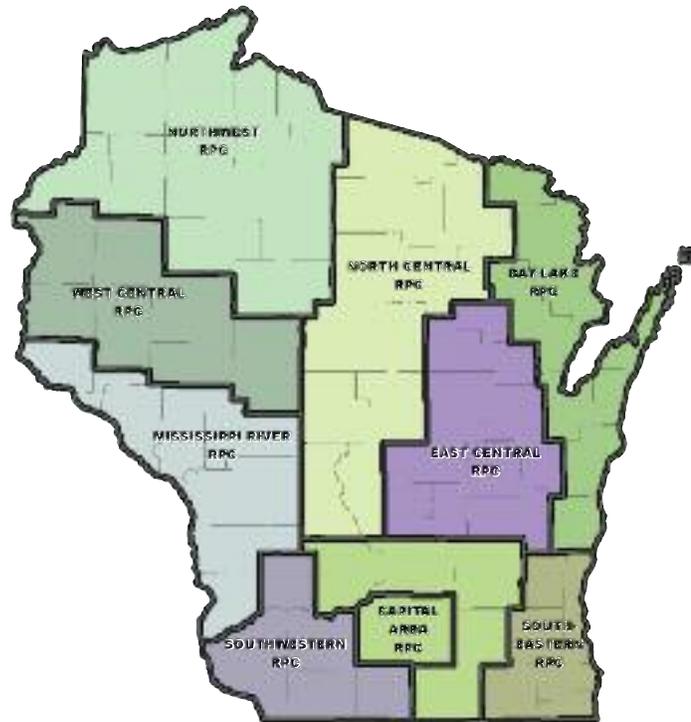
# PURPOSE & HISTORY

The goals of the NCWRPC are to:

- provide cost-effective planning services to our members,
- identify strategies and solutions to planning issues, and
- help communities meet the planning challenges facing them.

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) was created in 1973 under Wisconsin Statute 66.0309 as a voluntary association of governments for the purpose of preparing plans for the physical development of the Region and its communities; to conduct research; to serve as a data center; and as a forum for communication, cooperation and coordination among federal, state, regional, and local interests; and to provide technical services to its membership.

Regional planning commissions provide assistance throughout the state. NCWRPC is one of nine regional planning commissions in Wisconsin; while nationwide there are about 500 similar type regional organizations.



## MISSION STATEMENT:

**In an advisory capacity to local units of government and tribes, the NCWRPC offers cost effective, specialized planning services and expertise that support responsible development of the Region's economic, social, natural, and human-built environments. The NCWRPC also provides leadership and a regional forum for the creation of cooperative responses to shared opportunities and the challenges facing the counties and communities of the ten-county Region.**

# IMPACT

## LEVERAGING DOLLARS:

To keep membership contributions low, additional dollars are secured from other sources to fund the organization. A simple Return on Membership (ROM) analysis shows that every membership dollar provided to the NCWRPC leverages additional dollars. In 2016, for every 1 dollar the NCWRPC received from membership it directly leveraged another 4.9 dollars from grants and local projects.

## PUBLICATIONS:

Annually the NCWRPC prepares and publishes several planning documents. The NCWRPC also publishes a quarterly print newsletter, NCWRPC NEWS, which is sent to over 1,100 people, including county supervisors, chief-elected officials, clerks and many other interested parties throughout the region, state and nation. In addition, the NCWRPC electronically distributes ED NEWS, which is focused on economic and community development issues.

A list of plans, reports and other information is available at the NCWRPC website. See [www.ncwrpc.org](http://www.ncwrpc.org).

## FEDERAL AND STATE RELATIONSHIPS:

The NCWRPC is an independent agency that is governed by an appointed board, called a Commission, and serves the towns, villages, cities, tribes, and counties within the Region. However, there are two long-standing relationships with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), and with the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), that support planning.

Since 1980 the NCWRPC has maintained EDA designation as an economic development district. As such, the NCWRPC receives an annual economic development planning grant to provide local economic development assistance and prepare a regional report called a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). WisDOT designated the NCWRPC as a Regional Planning Organization in 1975. As such, the NCWRPC receives a planning grant annually to provide transportation planning assistance related to the state transportation work program.

## TYPES OF ASSISTANCE:

The NCWRPC is a regional planning and economic development agency, which provides assistance to local governments throughout the ten-county Region in the areas of economic development, geographic information systems (GIS), intergovernmental cooperation, land use planning, and transportation. The NCWRPC supplements existing staff, or takes the lead where there is no staff. The goal is to not duplicate efforts but rather provide an effective system of planning to fit each community's need.

The NCWRPC undertakes both regional and local planning projects. Regional Programs are highlighted on page 6 and Local Assistance projects are highlighted by county on pages 8 and 9.

# REGIONAL PROGRAMS

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## REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING:

NCWRPC annually prepares a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document that analyzes the regional economy and identifies potential economic development projects. This report maintains the Region's eligibility for U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration public works programs. Other federal and state programs utilize this plan as well. NCWRPC also prepares grant applications to bring funding into the region to promote growth.

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## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING:

NCWRPC provides local transportation assistance with the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR), and represents North Central Wisconsin on state level transportation planning committees to help bring more dollars for the repair and construction of our transportation infrastructure. The NCWRPC also provides on-going assistance to the Wausau Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

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## REGIONAL LAND USE PLANNING:

NCWRPC is responsible for the development of a regional comprehensive plan for the ten county Region. The Regional Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2004, the first regional plan under the state's new planning law, and was last updated in 2015. NCWRPC also prepares other regional plans from time to time.

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## REGIONAL DATA AND MAPPING CENTER:

NCWRPC is a depository for a variety of demographic information for the area, including U.S. Census data. In addition, the NCWRPC also maintains a Regional GIS database and computerized mapping system, including digital orthophotography. County Profiles are also prepared and updated as needed. In addition, in partnership with WEDC, NCWRPC prepares quarterly economic development reports using EMSI for each county in the Region.

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## NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The NCWRPC provides management assistance for two multi-county revolving loan funds operated by the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation, which provide financing to a variety of businesses throughout the Region. One fund was created through a grant from HUD, while the other was established through USDA-RD intermediary lending program. Increasing jobs and expanding the local tax base within the region are the primary goals of this program.

# 2016 REGIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ Prepared the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update to maintain the Region's Economic Development District designation, as defined by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).
- ◆ Prepared a Corridor Management Plan for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) seeking designation of the Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway in Forest, Langlade, Oneida and Vilas Counties.
- ◆ Maintained designation as a rural transportation planning organization by WisDOT to coordinate transportation strategies on a regional basis.
- ◆ Continued to provide assistance to the 13 county Northeast Wisconsin Emergency Management Region to ensure that communication interoperability addresses both local and regional concerns.
- ◆ Prepared a successful WisDOT Regional Safe Routes to School Grant to prepare multiple school plans throughout the region promoting safety and healthy modes of travel to school.
- ◆ Maintained and developed a Regional Mapping Information System, Census and Demographic Information, and a Planning Library for the region.
- ◆ Prepared specialized maps for the Ginseng Board of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company.
- ◆ Working to develop a Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the ten county area. Funded in part by WisDOT, this effort will inventory existing trails and routes, and recommend a framework for future development in the region.
- ◆ Continued to coordinate the Northeast Wisconsin Public Safety Communication (NEWCOM) organization to promote better emergency service communication throughout a 16 county region.
- ◆ Provided staff assistance to the North Central Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition, which serves thirteen communities throughout the region.
- ◆ Continued a partnership with WEDC to provide EMSI economic development modeling tools to communities within the Region.
- ◆ Coordinated the 2015 WROC air photo effort, similar to efforts in 2005 and 2010. Secured state and federal grants to reduce costs for local projects. In addition to all ten North Central Wisconsin counties, 31 other counties participated statewide.
- ◆ Assisted WisDOT update numerous urban-rural boundaries throughout the region.
- ◆ Provided staff assistance to the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation (NCWDC) to manage two Revolving Loan Funds, promoting job creation in the Region.

The NCWRPC is involved in various other Regional efforts throughout the year that are not mentioned above.

# LOCAL ASSISTANCE

NCWRPC provides members with assistance in the following five areas:

## **IGOV** INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

NCWRPC is available to conduct specialized studies on request. Over the years, a wide range of studies have been completed on subjects such as merging ambulance services, community consolidation, economic impact analysis, and boundary agreements. Many of these projects include a regional focus because they involve multiple units of government.

## **ED** ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NCWRPC provides communities with assistance in a variety of other economic development related studies, including preparing detailed economic development plans that examine the local economy, assess local trends and identify strategies to spur development. In addition, the NCWRPC provides grant writing and administrative assistance to communities that are seeking funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, as well as a variety of other grant programs, including WEDC, WisDNR, and USDA-Rural Development.

## **GIS** GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

NCWRPC maintains an extensive digital mapping database for the region. In addition, the NCWRPC has access to a wide array of data, including U.S. Census and American Community Survey (2000, 2010, 2015), Economic Census, State Employment and Labor Information, and other specialized data sets. We also provide economic modeling software assistance. In addition, we assist with preparing County Land Information Plans and various grant applications for digital imagery. Custom data sets and maps can also be created for communities on request or as part of larger planning efforts. In addition, we coordinate efforts related to regional and state wide air photo acquisition.

## **TR** TRANSPORTATION

NCWRPC prepares specialized transportation studies including: highway corridor studies, long-range urban area plans, parking studies, county-wide bicycle planning, Safe Routes to School plans, and grant writing for various WisDOT funding sources. In addition, the NCWRPC assists local governments in a variety of areas, including the preparation of local road improvement programs. These road plans provide a capital improvement schedule for upgrading local roads and help local units obtain Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funding for road reconstruction projects. Pavement rating and other assistance with the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) program is also available.

## **LU** LAND USE

NCWRPC prepares a variety of natural resource based plans for communities, including outdoor recreation plans, all hazard mitigation plans, land and water resource management plans, sewer service area plans, wellhead protection plans, and wildfire protection plans, among others. In addition, the NCWRPC assists local governments in the preparation of comprehensive plans under Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Law, as well as assistance with zoning and land division ordinance assistance that implement local plans.

# SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY COUNTY – 2016

NCWRPC prepares numerous projects throughout the region each year. The projects reflected below are for those completed within our eight full member counties. Note that we do have local members in the other two counties, but those communities and projects are not listed below.

## ADAMS COUNTY

- ◆ County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- ◆ Village of Friendship Comprehensive Plan
- ◆ County All Hazard Mitigation Plan
- ◆ County Farmland Preservation Plan
- ◆ Online County Records System
- ◆ Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- ◆ Town Comprehensive Plans for Colburn, Dell Prairie, and New Chester



## FOREST COUNTY

- ◆ County GIS & Mapping Assistance
- ◆ Nicolet - Wolf River Byways Corridor Management Plan
- ◆ County Outdoor Recreation Plan
- ◆ Economic Development Loan to Local Business
- ◆ Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- ◆ Mole Lake All-Hazard Mitigation Plan
- ◆ County Land Information Plan assistance



## JUNEAU COUNTY

- ◆ Town of Germantown Comprehensive Plan
- ◆ Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- ◆ County Outdoor Recreation Plan
- ◆ Germantown Road Surface Management Plan
- ◆ Prepared a DOT TAP Grant Application for County Bike & Pedestrian Plan
- ◆ Updated County Land Use Coverage



## LANGLADE COUNTY

- ◆ Village of White Lake Comprehensive Plan
- ◆ Updated County Land Use Coverage
- ◆ Land Records and GIS Assistance
- ◆ County Outdoor Recreational Map
- ◆ Antigo School District Maps
- ◆ Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- ◆ County Outdoor Recreation Plan
- ◆ Prepared a DOT TAP Grant Application for County Bike & Pedestrian Plan

# SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY COUNTY CONT.

## LINCOLN COUNTY

- ◆ City of Merrill Comprehensive Plan
- ◆ County Farmland Preservation Plan
- ◆ Updated County Land Use Coverage
- ◆ County Outdoor Recreation Plan
- ◆ County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- ◆ County Land & Water Management Plan



## MARATHON COUNTY

- ◆ Village of Rothschild Comprehensive Plan
- ◆ County All Hazard Mitigation Plan
- ◆ City of Wausau Comprehensive Plan
- ◆ Town Comprehensive Plans for Mosinee and Spencer
- ◆ County LIFE Report Economic Development Section Assistance
- ◆ Village of Kronenwetter Zoning Ordinance Review
- ◆ Village of Brokaw Planning Assistance



## ONEIDA COUNTY

- ◆ City of Rhinelander Comprehensive Plan
- ◆ Online County Survey Records System
- ◆ Rhinelander/County Airport Website Assistance
- ◆ County All Hazard Mitigation Plan
- ◆ Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- ◆ Prepared a DOT TAP Grant Application for Rhinelander Bike & Pedestrian Plan

## VILAS COUNTY

- ◆ Economic Development Loan to Local Business
- ◆ Preliminary County Bike & Trail Plan Discussions
- ◆ Prepared County All Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant
- ◆ Updated County Land Use Coverage
- ◆ Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- ◆ County Emergency Response Zone Atlas Update



**In addition, throughout the year, staff attends various meetings, responds to inquiries, creates and updates websites, and completes numerous projects not mentioned above.**

# 2016 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The NCWRPC is funded from three basic sources. These are federal and state grants, local contracts, and a local membership fee (levy) based on equalized valuation of member governments. Below is the Statement of Net Position:

## ASSETS:

Cash and Investments .....	1,273,483
Restricted Cash .....	552,015
Grants and Projects Receivable .....	117,898
Member Levy Receivable .....	214,276
Prepaid items and deposits .....	24,284
Net Pension Asset.....	-
Capital Assets.....	12,359

**TOTAL ASSETS: .....****\$2,194,315**

**Deferred Outflows .....****\$252,089**

## LIABILITIES:

Voucher Payable .....	1,999
Employee Earnings Payable.....	23,267
Employee Withholdings.....	11,452
Unearned Revenues .....	31,755
Deposits Held for Others.....	552,015
Long-Term Obligations .....	94,722
Net Pension Liability .....	44,749

**TOTAL LIABILITIES: .....****\$759,959**

**Deferral Inflows .....****\$308,450**

Deferred Member Levy .....	214,276
Invested Capital Assets .....	12,359
Restricted for Pension Benefits.....	94,174
Reserved and Unrestricted Funds: .....	1,365,636

**NET POSITION: .....****\$1,377,995**

Schenck, LLC prepared the Audit. A copy of the complete Audit Report is available for review at the NCWRPC Office.

## ANNUAL LEVY RATE:

By state statute the membership charge or levy rate cannot exceed 0.003% of equalized value. In 2000 the NCWRPC rate was set at 0.00275%, by 2016 that rate was reduced to 0.00094% - less than one third of the statutory limit. Since 2000, the rate has been reduced by over 60 percent!

# NORTH CENTRAL WI DEVELOPMENT CORP.

The NCWRPC with the support of its counties, area economic development corporations, private lenders, and others, established the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation (NCWDC). The NCWDC is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, staffed by the NCWRPC, to manage a multi-county loan fund. The two funds currently operated are the Regional Revolving Loan Fund and the Community Development Fund.

An eleven member Board of Directors provides oversight to the NCWDC, which includes one person from each of the counties in the Region, along with one representative from the NCWRPC. The current Board of Directors is displayed below:

Adams County	Daric Smith	Marathon County	Vacant
Forest County	Bev Collins, Pres.	Oneida County	Roger Luce
Juneau County	Terry Whipple	Portage County	Todd Kuk Kahn
Langlade County	Angie Close, VP	Vilas County	Bob Egan
Lincoln County	Ken Maule	Wood County	Zach Vruwink
NCWRPC	Craig McEwen, Sec./Tres.		

In addition, there is a five person Loan Review Committee that reviews and makes the final funding decision on each loan application. The current members are: Bev Collins, Dan Daubert, Ken Maule, Linda Prehn, and Bill Vanden Heuvel.

Although a small fund, since 1995, the NCWDC has made over 20 loans and created or retained over 440 jobs in the Region. Currently, there are 3 active loans in the portfolio.

The Statement of Financial Position is below:

Assets:	USDA-RD IRP Funds	\$173,028	
	HUD Funds	\$352,166	
	RBEG Funds	\$10,930	
	Loans Outstanding	\$128,447	
			\$664,571
Liabilities:	Accrued Interest	\$1,024	
	IRP Note Payable	\$153,614	
		\$154,638	
Net Assets:	Restricted - IRP	\$66,124	
	Unrestricted	\$443,809	
		\$509,933	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets:			\$664,571

Schenck, LLC prepared the Audit for the NCWDC.  
A copy is available for review at the NCWRPC Office.

# COMMISSIONERS

An appointed commission oversees the activities of the executive director and the organization.

As detailed in Wisconsin statute, three commissioners from each member county govern the NCWRPC. One is selected directly by the County (C), one directly by the Governor (G), and the third is a Joint (J) selection between the County and Governor. Commissioners serve until reappointed or replaced. Term ending is also shown. Commissioners listed are current as of December 31, 2016.

## NCWRPC Officers:

Paul Millan, Chairperson  
Richard Bakovka, Vice-Chairperson  
Ed Wafle, Secretary – Treasurer

### Adams County

Rocky Gilner, C (6/18)  
Richard Bakovka, G (6/16)  
Peter Hickethier, J (6/20)

### Forest County

Bucky Dailey, C (1/20)  
Paul Millan, G (1/18)  
William Connors, Jr., J (1/22)

### Juneau County

Edmund Wafle, C (6/19)  
Kenneth Winters, G (6/17)  
Jerry Niles, J (6/21)

### Langlade County

Ronald Nye, C (1/20)  
Angela Close, G (1/22)  
Paul Schuman, J (1/18)

### Lincoln County

William Zeitz, C (6/19)  
Loretta Baughan, G (6/21)  
Frank Saal, Jr., J (6/17)

### Marathon County

Catherine Wineman, C (6/21)  
Daniel Guild, G (6/17)  
Craig McEwen, J (6/19)

### Oneida County

Thomas Rudolph, C (1/20)  
Ted Cushing, G (1/22)  
Harland Lee, J (1/18)

### Portage County

None Participating

### Vilas County

Kim Simac, C (6/19)  
Jay Verhulst, G (1/17)  
Bob Egan, J (1/15)

### Wood County\*

Gerald Nelson, C (6/17)  
Appointment Pending, G (6/21)  
Appointment Pending, J (6/19)

In addition, by Wisconsin Statute, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) is an ex-officio officer of the NCWRPC.

\* Note: Although the county appoints the commissioners, the county is not the financially participating member. Each local member contributes individually.

# PROFESSIONAL STAFF

## **Dennis Lawrence, EDFP, AICP, Executive Director**

Dennis started with the NCWRPC in 1992 and became Executive Director in 1997. He has a bachelor's degree in public administration from UW-La Crosse and a master's degree in urban planning from UW-Milwaukee. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and is also certified as an Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP). Dennis provides overall management to the organization and works in all areas of planning.

## **Andrew Faust, GISP, Senior GIS Analyst**

Andy has worked with the NCWRPC since 1995. He has a bachelor's degree in urban and regional studies from UW-Oshkosh. He is also certified as a Geographic Information System Professional (GISP). Andy works in the areas of GIS and intergovernmental cooperation.

## **Fredrick Heider, AICP, Planner**

Fred has worked with the NCWRPC since 2004. He has a bachelor's degree in natural resources from UW-Stevens Point and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Fred works mainly in the areas of land use and transportation.

## **Darryl Landeau, AICP, Senior Planner**

Darryl has worked with the NCWRPC since 1993. He has a bachelor's degree in natural resources from UW-Stevens Point and a master's degree in urban studies from Mankato State University. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Darryl works mainly in the areas of transportation and land use.

## **Paula Priebe, AICP, Planner**

Paula has worked with the NCWRPC since 2014. She has a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in urban planning from UW-Milwaukee. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Paula works mainly in the area of land use.

## **Brad Sippel, Planner**

Brad started with the NCWRPC in 2015. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from UW-Eau Claire and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from UW-Madison. Brad works mainly in the areas of land use and community development.

## **Megan Will, Planner**

Megan started with the NCWRPC in 2016. She has a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public affairs from UW-Madison. Megan works mainly in the areas of land use and community development.

## **Pam Winkels, Office Assistant**

Pam started with the NCWRPC in 2015. She has a bachelor's degree in graphic communications from St. Norbert's. She provides program support, staff support, and general office assistance.





**NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

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