



# NCWRPC NEWS

A Newsletter of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC). Serving Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas and Wood Counties for over 30 years.

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2004

## Welcome

Finally, after a long snowy winter, Spring has arrived. At our last meeting we approved our 2004 Work Program, but I would encourage any community to contact us if they have any projects that they need help with. Our goal is to help our members and we will continue to do just that.

This month, after a few printing problems, the Regional Comprehensive Plan will be distributed. Printed or CD copies will be provided to all local units of government in the Region, as well as surrounding counties. Remember, the purpose of this plan is to provide a general framework to communities as they create their own plans. It is important that each town, village, city and county develop their own plan that incorporates their own vision for the future. Hopefully, the Regional Comprehensive Plan will provide you with some ideas, but at the very least it has collected much of the data and has prepared many of the basic maps that you will need as you plan at the local level.

I would also like to personally welcome Brad Karger, Don Krahn, and Doug Williams as new Commissioners. They will be a great asset to our organization.

As always, please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Dennis Lawrence, AICP  
Executive Director

## Commission Meeting Highlights

At its February meeting, the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission adopted the 2004 Work Plan, which lists over fifty different planning projects. Some of these projects include: a Business Incubator Feasibility Study for Juneau County, GIS Parcel mapping for Forest County, a Department Evaluation study in Oneida County, a 911 Addressing Project in Langlade County, Comprehensive Planning in Adams County, and a Trails Plan for the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge.

The Commission also adopted a Regional Bike Plan. This plan is the result of two years of intensive work and it inventories all existing and potential bike trails throughout the Region. See page 3 for more details.

In addition, thirteen projects were reviewed through the Federal-State Referrals process totaling over \$8.5 million dollars and were approved. There was also an update on the Jobs Creation Act.

The next NCWRPC meeting will be held in Wausau on April 22, 2004. Officer elections will highlight that meeting.

## Quarterly Quote:

“If there’s a better solution...find it”

Thomas Edison

## 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 Towns of Scott and Three Lakes. This year, we already have commitments to do counts for Juneau County, the City of Eagle River and the Town of Cassian. 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 a truck and even what type of truck. Traffic data may also be broken down by time of day. Speed estimates 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 Darryl Landeau, AICP, at (715) 849-5510, Extension 308, or email to [dlan-deau@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlan-deau@ncwrpc.org).

## Wonewoc Comprehensive Plan

NCWRPC has recently finished work on the Village of Wonewoc's comprehensive plan. Wonewoc is located in southwest Juneau County along the Baraboo River adjacent to the Sauk County border. The village has a population of about 800 and is known as the midpoint of the State 400 Trail.

The plan will serve as a guide for future development and meets the requirements of the state's comprehensive planning law. The plan includes nine elements, several maps, as well as the results of a community survey. The plan was recommended for approval in March and is scheduled for a public hearing and formal action by the Village Board on April 28, 2004. The plan is currently available for review at the Wonewoc Public Library and the Village Hall.

For more information on comprehensive planning contact Craig Stahl, AICP, at (715) 849-5510, Extension 311, or email at [cstahl@ncwrpc.org](mailto:cstahl@ncwrpc.org).

## Ice Age Trail Planning Update

Planning for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail continues in Marathon and Langlade Counties. The Ice Age Trail is a 1,200-mile footpath that traces the extent of the last glacier across the state from Potawatomi Park in Door County to Interstate Park on the St. Croix River. Last fall representatives of the National Park Service, along with NCWRPC, made presentations to both County Boards and town boards in all fourteen towns affected by the trail planning process.

Roughly half of the projected trail (600 miles) is currently "on the ground", including thirteen miles in Marathon County surrounding Dells of the Eau Claire County Park, and over fifty miles in Langlade County, mostly located on county forest land. The planning process under way is directed at identifying a three-mile wide corridor where the trail will eventually be located. This corridor is a zone of opportunity within which arrangements with private landowners to host the trail are made on a voluntary basis. Most of these arrangements take the form of a "handshake agreement" which allows the trail to cross private property with the owner's consent. Over time more permanent agreements can be reached, such as a conservation easement or fee simple ownership. Two million dollars for land acquisition was made available from the federal government in the budget just passed by Congress. Designation of an approved corridor makes land within the corridor eligible for use of these funds.

A series of informational open-house meetings will be held in eastern Marathon County in June. Meetings will take place in Langlade County later in the year. After comments from the public have been incorporated into the corridor plan, a second set of open-house meetings will take place early in 2005. It is hoped that the entire trail corridor will be approved by the Natural Resource Board next year and an officially designated corridor will be in place in both counties.

For more information on Ice Age Trail Planning contact Mike Agnew, AICP, at (715) 849-5510, Extension 307, or email [magnew@ncwrpc.org](mailto:magnew@ncwrpc.org).

## New Commissioners Appointed

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission welcomed three new commissioners at its last meeting. Governor Doyle recently made these appointments.



Donald Krahn, representing Adams County

Don has been a tree farmer in Arkdale, Wisconsin, since 1962. He also had a long career with the Wisconsin Education Association

Council, including positions as Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Director of Legal Services, Director of Field Services and Field Consultant. Prior to that he worked for NASCO as a Biology Consultant, and was a Biology Teacher for the Fort Atkinson Senior High School. Don replaces Clayton Randorf on the Commission.



Doug Williams, representing Lincoln County

Doug is the Mayor of the City of Merrill. Prior to becoming mayor, he worked for the Merrill Fire Department for 26 years and at the

time of his retirement, held the position of Fire Chief. Prior to the Fire Department he worked for WXMT as a radio announcer/program director, and for WSAU as a sports director. Doug and his wife are also the owners of a resort on Lake Alice near Tomahawk. Doug replaces Erv Leverenz on the Commission.



Bradley Karger, representing Marathon County

Brad is the Deputy County Administrator for Marathon County. Previously he was the Personnel Director for Marathon County.

Prior to that he worked for both the City of Marshfield and the City of Green Bay in the personnel area. Brad fills a vacancy on the Commission.

## Regional Bike Trail Plan

The NCWRPC has just published its Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan and map brochure. The plan envisions development of a regional system of new, interconnected bicycle facilities for Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, and Wood Counties. The proposed network will encompass routes on bicycle paths, bicycle lanes, paved shoulders and wide curb lanes which will link existing and potential traffic generation sites and points of interest to make bicycling a more attractive and safe transportation alternative.

The goals of this regional program are: to generate interest in using existing trails, to develop new trails in the Region, and to provide local officials with guidance in planning and establishing bike facilities. The project culminates many years of Commission work planning for bicycle routes, including plans for Langlade County, Oneida County and the City of Rhinelander. Several grant applications are currently in the works to fund projects recommended in the Regional Bike Plan.

An underlying motive for this plan is bicyclist safety, especially children. Further, tourism is a major component of the economic base of the North Central Region, and bicycling is becoming an increasingly popular pastime (particularly for day-trips) for families visiting North Central Wisconsin. From an economic standpoint, statistics indicate that bicycling is a growth sport that is projected to attract greater numbers of participants in coming years. The plan, and in particular the map/brochure, provides maps of existing bicycle facilities and routes as well as significant points of interest and how to access them.

Inquiries about the North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan and Map Brochure can be directed to Darryl Landeau, AICP, at (715) 849-5510, Extension 308, or email to [dlan-deau@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlan-deau@ncwrpc.org).

## Faust Earns GISP

Andrew Faust, the NCWRPC's Senior Graphic Information Systems Analyst, has earned his GIS Professional (GISP) certification from the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI). He is one of only five persons currently certified in the state.

The GISP certification is awarded to those that have met the standards and requirements established by GISCI. Furthermore, the GISP certification recognizes those that demonstrate professional competence and integrity in the field of GIS. Congratulations Andy!



## NCWRPC Commissioners

**Adams County:**  
Wilbur Fritz  
Donald Krahn  
Herbert Rieckmann

**Juneau County:**  
Helmi Mehus  
David Pelton  
Robert Hayward

**Lincoln County:**  
Douglas Williams  
Thomas Rick  
E. Richard Simon

**Oneida County:**  
Wilbur Petroskey  
Thomas Rudolph  
Vacant

**Forest County:**  
Erhard Huettl  
Donald Kline  
Paul Millan

**Langlade County:**  
Robert Curran  
Doreen McKenna  
Patricia McKinney

**Marathon County:**  
Virginia Heinemann  
Brad Karger  
Bettye Nall

**Wood County:**  
Fred Camacho  
Maurice Mathews  
Vacant

## NCWRPC News Credits

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