

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

There are many things underway at the NCWRPC this summer. One of the major projects is a comprehensive planning process in Adams County, where we are working with nearly all of the local units of government to prepare local comprehensive plans. We are also working with other comprehensive plan processes in Juneau, Langlade and Oneida County, while in Lincoln County we are underway with a County All-Hazards plan. During the summer we have our traffic counting program scheduled in Juneau, Langlade and Oneida Counties. Meanwhile we have economic development projects scheduled to begin later this summer in Adams, Forest, Juneau and Langlade Counties.

Another important project that has major implication throughout our Region and state is a Base Realignment and Closure or BRAC study for *Volk Field* and *Fort McCoy*. This is a cooperative effort we are undertaking with Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to remove these military bases from the closure list in 2005. See the article on page 3.

I would also like to personally welcome George Bornemann, Beverly Long and Frank Trimmel as new Commissioners. They will be outstanding additions to our organization.

As always, 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

Commission Meeting Highlights

At its June Meeting the NCWRPC unanimously reduced the 2005 Levy Rate, for the second year in a row, and the third time in five years. The annual levy rate for 2004 was lowered from 0.002 percent to 0.00185 percent. This action is possible because of the organizational management practices set in place by the Executive Committee and the overriding Commission philosophy of doing more with less. The levy now makes up less than a third of the overall budget.

In addition, there were several annual updates at the meeting, including the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation and the North Central Advantage Technology Zone. Both are economic development programs that the NCWRPC administers. There was also an update on Wisconsin's All Hazards Planning process, which is gearing up for the next cycle of mitigation planning grants.

The next meeting will be held in September.

Quarterly Quote:

We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails.

Bertha Calloway

Regional Organizations Impact Communities Nationwide

Throughout the nation there are more than 500 sub-state regional planning organizations, such as the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC), that work for local governments, businesses and others engaged in community and economic development. Regional organizations manage a diverse array of programs and services for millions of residents in the small cities and rural areas of America. Activities include comprehensive planning, workforce development and job training, small business development and finance, transportation planning, emergency services coordination, housing and various other initiatives aimed at expanding economic opportunities.

Recently, the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) completed a study examining regional organizations throughout the nation. The study found that these organizations positively impact the economic conditions in rural communities. Successful programs created and operated by regional organizations are constant reminders of the unique service that regional organizations offer local and state governments, ultimately making a difference in many of the nation's distressed areas.

Other studies have confirmed the important work of regional organizations known as economic development districts as designated by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). There are 325 EDA funded districts, including the NCWRPC. In 2002, the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University published the study, "Evaluation of EDA's Planning Program: Economic Development Districts", which revealed that economic development districts funded by EDA

were both effective and essential to local development. The study also reported that economic development districts exhibit a strong ability to leverage EDA funding to secure investments from other sources. Economic Development districts have also



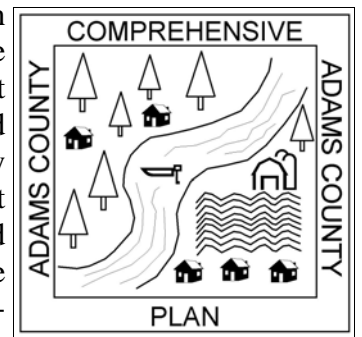
developed a track record of facilitating a comprehensive strategic planning process that provides the critical backbone for economic development planning at the regional level.

Visit www.nado.org or www.narc.org for more information on these studies or on regional organiza-

Adams County Planning Process

What will the communities in Adams County look like in the next 5, 10 or 20 years? In order to assist in making the decisions that will determine that future, the County and all of its local units of government, except one town, are involved in developing their own local comprehensive plans. When these plans are completed over the next year or so, they will help provide information and direction for decision makers. The next round of meetings will occur in late August.

The planning process in Adams County has three basic phases. The first is the Background Phase, which is nearly complete. During that phase data was collected and analyzed, and base maps and natural resource information were



mapped. The next phase is the development of local plans. Over the next several months these will be developed. Next summer they should be in final draft form and these will become the foundation for the county plan, which is the final phase. A grant from the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration Comprehensive Planning Program and a local match from Adams County provides the funding for this effort.

A website has been established for this effort, it is www.ncwrpc.org/adams.htm. If you would like more information about this process, please contact your local planning representative (listed on the website) or Dennis Lawrence at (715) 849-5510, Extension 304.

New Commissioners

Governor Doyle appointed two new commissioners to the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. As you may know, there are three persons from each of our active counties that create our Commission, which is our oversight board. One commissioner is selected by the County, one by the Governor, and one is a joint selection of the County and Governor.



George Bornemann, representing Langlade County.

George is currently the Gas Supply and Rates Manager for City Gas Company - Antigo. He has served many roles on various boards and committees for both the City of Antigo and Langlade County, including the county board of supervisors. George replaces Doreen McKenna on the Commission.



Beverly Long, representing Oneida County.

Beverly is currently employed at the Nicolet Area Technical College, as the Director of Planning & Development. Previously she was the project coordinator at the Northern Advantage Job Center. Prior to that she was the Executive Director of the Oneida County Economic Development Corporation. Beverly fills a vacancy on the Commission.

Frank Trimmel of Langlade County will be highlighted in an upcoming newsletter.



Volk Field & Fort McCoy Study

The Department of Defense announced earlier this year that it will make recommendations for base closures or realignment in 2005. Pentagon officials estimate that the 2005 closures will save about \$6.5 billion. Four prior rounds of closure were held in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995. During the previous four rounds 97 installations were closed.

In an effort to protect Volk Field and Fort McCoy from closure the local communities, with the assistance of Senator Kohl's office, held several meetings to discuss options. The group decided there was a need for a specialized study to examine the impact of the bases and the overall importance of these facilities for our national defense. At that point the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission were involved to conduct the study.

The goal of this cooperative effort is to remove these military bases from any consideration of closure in 2005. Not only are these bases critical to training our Reserve Military Forces, but they have major economic impacts on the region as well. Combined these bases employ over 2,900 civilians and 1,200 full-time military personnel for a total payroll of over \$100 million dollars annually. Clearly, closure of these bases would have a significant impact on both Juneau and Monroe Counties. This is even more significant when you consider that Wisconsin ranks 49th in overall federal spending.

The study will demonstrate to Congress and the Pentagon the military and economic importance of Volk Field and Fort McCoy. Especially with the increased dependence on the National Guard and Reserve Forces. We will show that our region's resources make this the best four season region in the nation to train and care for our nation's defense forces. The study is to be completed this fall, with follow up continuing throughout the process.

For more information contact Dennis Lawrence at (715) 849-5510, Extension 304.

New Staff Person



Fred Heider joined our staff in July as a Planner. He will be working on many projects related to land use, including the Adams County Comprehensive Plan and the Lincoln County All-Hazards plan.

Fred joins us from Northwest Regional Planning Commission, where he was a limited term employee. He has also worked with the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. He holds a degree in Natural Resource Management with an option in Land Use Planning from UW-Stevens Point.

Welcome aboard Fred!

NCWRPC Commissioners

Adams County:
Wilbur Fritz
Donald Krahn
Herbert Rieckmann

Juneau County:
Robert Hayward
Helmi Mehus
David Pelton

Lincoln County:
Thomas Rick
E. Richard Simon
Douglas Williams

Oneida County:
Beverly Long
Wilbur Petroskey
Thomas Rudolph

Forest County:
Erhard Huettl
Donald Kline
Paul Millan

Langlade County:
George Bornemann
Robert Curran
Frank Trimmel

Marathon County:
Virginia Heinemann
Brad Karger
Bettye Nall

Wood County:
Fred Camacho
Maurice Mathews
Vacant

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