



# 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.

Summer Issue, Number 27

2005

## Welcome

Summer is in full swing and things are very busy around here. Since our last newsletter two economic development plans have been completed, one for Forest County and the other for Langlade County. A comprehensive plan was completed for the Town of Stella in Oneida County, and draft comprehensive plans for all 17 local units in Adams County were distributed. Plans are in progress for the Cities of Merrill and Tomahawk in Lincoln County, the Towns of Cutler and Orange in Juneau County, and the Town of Antigo in Langlade County. There are also several traffic counting projects, local road rating efforts, and multiple GIS assistance projects across the Region, in addition to numerous other types of projects.

Just a quick update on the state budget as it relates to comprehensive planning. The program, which was initially removed in the budget process, was reinstated as part of Governor Doyle's budget vetoes. Therefore the 2010 deadline is still in place, and fortunately the grant program is as well. Funding for the grant program will be maintained at the \$2 million dollar level. Applications for those funds will be due around November 1. Already about half of all the communities in our ten county Region have completed or are in the process of completing comprehensive plans.

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

Dennis Lawrence, AICP  
Executive Director

## Commission Meeting Highlights

The June Meeting covered several topics, including the strategic planning process, the 2004 Audit Report, and establishment of the 2005 Levy Rate. The Commission reviewed the three-step strategic planning process outlined by the Ad Hoc Committee. The first step will be the development of a mission statement, followed by a needs assessment, and finally an identification of external threats.

The 2004 Audit Report, prepared by Schenck Solutions, was presented. Assets continue to grow and expenses are being kept in line with revenues. Overall, the NCWRPC is in strong financial condition.

In addition, the Commission unanimously voted to reduce the 2005 Levy Rate. This is the third year in a row with a decrease, and fourth time in five years. The annual levy rate for 2005 was lowered from 0.00185 percent to 0.00175 percent. This action is possible because of the continued organizational management practices set in place by the Executive Committee and the overall Commission.

## Quarterly Quote:

"They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself"

Andy Warhol

## **Volk Field and Fort McCoy Avoid BRAC List**

In October 2004 the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission working in cooperation with business organizations, federal and state legislators, the Governor, and local governments of Juneau, Monroe, Jackson, and LaCrosse Counties completed "A Plan To Position The Volk Field and Fort McCoy Region As The Best Four Season Region In The Nation To Train And Care For Our Nation's Defense Personnel And Their Families". This plan was hand delivered to the Department of Defense by Governor Jim Doyle to assist in the State's response to the Defense Department's 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Round (BRAC).

The Defense Department is analyzing over 400 military installations around the country to determine which military installations to close due to an estimated excess capacity of 10 to 24%. On May 16, 2005, the Secretary of Defense recommended a list of bases for closure to a nine-member Commission. Neither Volk Field or Fort McCoy were recommended by the Secretary of Defense for closure or a major realignment. In September the Commission will make its recommendations and report them to the President who must approve or disapprove the closure list. The closings take effect if Congress has not rejected them.

The Volk Field and Fort McCoy plan highlights the region's high quality of life that includes an exceptional educational system, a growing and progressive health care system, an abundant water supply, low energy rates, a superior transportation network, and many outstanding recreational opportunities. The report promotes how this region can support the military with our strong machinery, equipment and metal products industry cluster. The area's low land use development densities around Volk Field and Fort McCoy were also highlighted to indicate the minimal conflicts that could occur from a mission increase due to troops being reassigned from Europe. The exceptional cooperative working relationship between the military installations and local

governments, businesses and residents that has existed for over 95 years was also emphasized in the plan.

The closing of these installations would obviously have devastating affects on the economy not only due to job layoffs but also due to the high number of businesses who contract with these installations or depend on the discretionary spending of Defense Department personnel and the personnel working for contractors. Collectively these two installations have an annual economic impact of \$800 million and employ 4,000 military and civilian personnel.

## **The State-wide LOIS Program**

The Location One Information System (LOIS) is an online, searchable database sponsored by Forward Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, and the state's electric utilities. Internet users can access the LOIS database for detailed information on the state, counties, metropolitan areas, buildings, sites, and communities. It is intended as a marketing tool to help Wisconsin compete with other economic development efforts across the nation. The program is available to all Wisconsin communities at no charge and is designed to be integrated with existing community websites.



There are two components to LOIS, the public presentation site wherein the general public can access information and the administration site where local development organizations can enter and maintain data about their community. The administration is password protected and each community is assigned a unique username and password. Examples of local development organizations that have integrated LOIS into their web site can be found at [www.forwardwi.com](http://www.forwardwi.com).

For more information please contact Sharon Seffrood, Web Marketing Specialist at 1-800-669-1190 or [sseffrood@commerce.state.wi.us](mailto:sseffrood@commerce.state.wi.us).

## Forest and Langlade Kick-off AHMP Efforts

Forest and Langlade Counties will be kicking-off hazard mitigation planning efforts this Fall. New federal regulations require counties and local units of government to adopt an all hazard mitigation plan (AHMP) to remain eligible for certain federal disaster mitigation funding programs. AHMPs address the effects of natural disasters like tornados or flooding on the community and attempt to put projects in place that will reduce or eliminate the impacts. The NCWRPC successfully prepared planning grant applications on behalf of each county and will facilitate each countywide planning effort. The plans will be multi-jurisdictional and include all local units as well as the county. By participating in the develop of and adopting the county plan, local units can satisfy the federal requirement.



The NCWRPC has recently completed AHMPs for Adams and Lincoln Counties as well as providing assistance to Oneida County. The Adams County plan was the first county-level, multi-jurisdictional AHMP in Wisconsin to be approved by the state and federal government; and has become a model used by several other counties across the state.

## Regional Economic Development Effort Moves Forward

Earlier this summer Governor Doyle announced the availability of a grant program called Growing Regional Opportunities for Wisconsin (GROW). Building on existing efforts the NCWRPC partnered with the North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, the Central Wisconsin Area Economic Development Council, the Northwoods Advantage Regional Economic Development Corporation, local economic development organizations, area educational institutions, and private industry leaders within the Region to submit an application. If funded, three initiatives would take place:

- Create a more formal partnership within the nine-county Region to include business, workforce, education, and government.
- Perform an in-depth economic assessment of the Region, specifically identifying clusters, and identifying our strengths for business expansion and attraction, as well as identifying ways to address areas of concern in clusters that have suffered recent layoffs.
- Design an Internet link in which businesses within the region can post their workforce training needs and receive electronic responses from various institutions of higher learning; and develop a web portal that will be geared specifically for professional recruitment of positions within our Region.

GROW Grant awards will be announced in September. If you have any questions contact Dennis Lawrence at (715) 849-5410, Extension 304 or at [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org).

## Multi-Regional Ortho Photography Project Recognized

The 2005 Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) Annual conference held this spring in Green Bay recognized the NCWRPC, Bay-Lake RPC, and East Central RPC for the largest locally-driven, multi-county, multi-regional aerial photography project in state history and awarded them a Local Government Achievement Award.

The project involves 24 counties in the three RPC regions. Counties and communities who are a part of the consortium are acquiring digital mapping products can expect a 20-25 percent cost savings. Aerial photography is currently being captured with delivery of digital orthophotos this fall.

For more information regarding this project, please contact Andy Faust at (715) 849-5510, Extension 305, or [afaust@ncwrpc.org](mailto:afaust@ncwrpc.org).

## NCWRPC Commissioners

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

**Juneau County:**  
Robert Hayward  
Helmi Mehus  
Susan Noble

**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

## NCWRPC NEWS Credits

LAYOUT: Bernie Lewis

CONTRIBUTOR: Andrew Faust, Darryl Landeau, and Dennis Lawrence

WUSAU, WI  
PERMIT NO. 150  
PAID  
US POSTAGE  
PRSR STD

North Central Wisconsin  
Regional Planning Commission  
210 McClellan St. Suite 210  
Wausau, WI 54403