



# 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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2005

## Welcome

As the year winds down, things are still busy around here as they are in all of the town, village, and city halls, and county courthouses in the Region. A major activity this time of year is the annual budget. Each year every community needs to become more creative to make sure revenues and expenditures balance. Things are no different at the Regional level. Flat or declining federal & state grants and our policy of no levy rate growth, creates the situation where we need to be more efficient every year. Our 2006 budget is almost a mirror image of our 2005 budget. See Commission Meeting Highlights.

I wanted to provide a quick update on a project mentioned in our last newsletter. That was the Growing Regional Opportunities in Wisconsin (GROW) Grant for the development of a regional economic development study and an area organization. That grant was approved, although at a reduced level, and will be starting soon. One focus of this effort will be to engage the private sector - the key player in economic development.

We are still adding planning projects to our 2006 Work Program. If you need any assistance, let me know. As always, please feel free to call me if you have any questions at (715) 849-5510, Extension 304, or [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org).

Enjoy the Holiday Season!

Dennis Lawrence, AICP  
Executive Director

## Commission Meeting Highlights

At the September meeting, the Commission approved a \$654,000 budget for 2006. Revenues are made up of three basic components. The levy, continuing grants and projects. Earlier this year, the annual levy rate for 2006 was lowered from 0.00185 to 0.00175 percent. The fourth decrease in the last five years. The levy now makes up only 30 percent of the overall budget, while just a few years ago it peaked at over 45 percent of the overall budget. The Executive Committee remains very committed to no levy rate increases to members, especially in the upcoming fiscally challenging years. Continuing grants, from EDA and DOT, make up about 21 percent of the budget. The remaining 49 percent comes from projects. Overall, expenditures have remained very stable, thanks to a staff reclassification and a less than expected health insurance increase.

Other business included clearinghouse - referrals review of 3 projects for just over \$1.3 million dollars and the continued discussion of the NCWRPC organizational strategic plan. In addition, the 2005-2006 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was adopted. The CEDS is an annual report prepared to maintain designation as an economic development district. District designation then makes the region eligible for funding for EDA public facilities grants and other funding.

The next Commission Meeting will focus on the Strategic Plan process.

## NCWRPC Completes City WHPP



The NCWRPC recently received notification that its Wellhead Protection Plan (WHPP) for the City of Mosinee was approved by the State. This action allowed the City's newest water well to go on-line for public service.

The Plan was prepared by Commission Staff at the request of the City. Working closely with City Staff and hydrogeologists from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the NCWRPC completed a plan that meets administrative code requirements for new wells while also protecting the City's existing wells. Now that the City Council has adopted the State approved Plan, the City will work with NCWRPC Staff to update zoning and land division ordinances to implement the Plan's recommendations.

Although budget cuts have eliminated the DNR's ability to provide the kind of direct technical assistance needed for project of this type, the NCWRPC retains the capacity to provide wellhead protection planning to its local governments within certain parameters. For more information on wellhead protection, contact Darryl Landeau, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 308 or, [dlandeau@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlandeau@ncwrpc.org).

## Langlade Ice Age Trail Open-Houses

Planning for connecting the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in Langlade County to existing trail in Marathon County will pass an important milestone in February when a series of open-house meetings will be held. The Ice Age Trail is intended to trace the advance of the last glacier across the State of Wisconsin and is envisioned to be 1,200 miles when completed, about half of that is on the ground and walkable. The Ice Age Trail became a National Scenic Trail in 1980, and a State Scenic Trail in 1987. There is currently over fifty miles of trail in Langlade County, mostly located on county forest land.

NCWRPC is working with the National Park Service (NPS), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation (IAPTF), and local IAT Chapter to coordinate trail planning in Marathon and Langlade Counties. A similar series of meetings were held in Marathon County earlier this year, with a final round of meetings planned for next spring.

The goal of the current planning process is to identify a one- to three-mile wide corridor where the trail will eventually be located. This would run from the existing trailhead in the Town of Polar to the Marathon County line south west of Antigo. This corridor is a zone of opportunity within which arrangements with private landowners to host the trail are made. All participation by landowners is strictly voluntary. Many arrangements take the form of a "handshake agreement" which allows the trail to cross private property with the owner's consent. Hopefully, over time more permanent agreements can be reached, such as a conservation easement or fee simple ownership.

The open-house format will allow property owners a chance to view corridor maps, talk to representatives of the local Ice Age Trail chapter, WDNR and NPS. Presentations on subjects of interest such as the geology of Langlade County and forest history will be part of each program. Comment sheets will also be available to give citizens an opportunity to express their opinion on the Trail. Refreshments will be provided.

Three meetings will be held: at the Antigo Town Hall, corner of State Highway 64 & 52, on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P. M.; the Polar Town Hall, on State Highway 64, on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 P.M. until 8:00 P. M.; and the Rolling Town Hall, on County Highway G, on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 P. M. until 8:00 P.M. Information packets will be mailed to all landowners within the corridor, and the meetings are open to everyone.

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

## NEWCOM Update

The 16 county North East Wisconsin Public Safety Communication (NEWCOM) group applied for and received a \$558,400 grant from the Office of Justice Assistance. The funds will be used for the purchase of Wisconsin Emergency Radio Network (WISPERN) bases and Mutual Aid Radio Channel (MARC) Repeaters. This grant is split 16 equal shares for a total of \$34,900 per county. A 25 percent local match is required.

This new equipment will be used by all public safety and local dispatch centers. MARC is a mutual aid channel for use by all public safety and local government agencies involved in any incident requiring a multi-discipline response where no other common frequency exists between responding agencies. This channel is for on scene command and coordination. It is intended that this channel will facilitate communications when the Incident Command System is used. The MARC and WISPERN radio equipment will provide immediate interoperability between the 16 counties within the region. The group is currently reviewing proposals for the equipment. At a minimum, we anticipate being able to purchase a WISPERN Base, MARC Control Base, MARC-1 Repeater, portable MARC-1 Repeater, and all antennas, duplexers, and lines for each county.



This grant is an excellent example of how multiple units of government can work together to reduce costs and in this case, provide increased public safety.

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

## Staff News

We are pleased to announce that James Hanke has recently joined our staff. James will be working with economic development and community planning projects throughout the Region. He will be our primary contact for the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation and the North Central Advantage Technology Zone program. In addition, he will provide grant writing assistance on request.



James Hanke,  
Planner

James has several years of experience in the areas of planning and economic development, and has worked in both the public and private sectors. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire, and is a member of the American Planning Association and the Wisconsin Economic Development Association.

James can be contacted by calling (715) 849-5510, Extension 306, or by email at [jhanke@ncwrpc.org](mailto:jhanke@ncwrpc.org).

## Quarterly Quote:

*Making good decisions is a crucial skill  
at every level.*

*Peter F. Drucker*

## NCWRPC Website Redesigned

For those of you that have not noticed, the NCWRPC Website has been redesigned. Hopefully, the site is more user friendly. Take a look at [www.ncwrpc.org](http://www.ncwrpc.org).



## NCWRPC Commissioners

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## NCWRPC NEWS Credits

LAYOUT: Bernie Lewis  
CONTRIBUTOR: Mike Agnew, Andrew Faust,  
Darryl Landeau, and Dennis Lawrence

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (NCWRPC) 210 McClellan Street, Suite 210, Wausau, WI 54403  
Phone: (715) 849-5510; Fax: (715) 849-5510

Webpage: [www.ncwrpc.org](http://www.ncwrpc.org); E-Mail: [staff@ncwrpc.org](mailto:staff@ncwrpc.org)

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