

# 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.

Spring Issue, Number 29

2006

## Welcome

As we head into 2006, we already have many projects underway and many more planned to begin later this year, but there is always room for one more. I encourage any community to contact us if they have any project that they need help with. We are committed to providing assistance to our members.

As a result of the new federal transportation bill, all counties need to develop a specialized transportation plan. As a result WisDOT, has asked the NCWRPC to assist in developing these plans in our Region. We have already begun working with Langlade County and soon we will be contacting the other counties to start this process. See the article on page 5 for more details.

There are many local comprehensive plans being completed throughout our Region. The Portage, Marathon, and Adams County planning efforts are coming to an end this year. When these plans are complete, four of our ten counties will have plans in place. Wood County is working towards completion and Forest and Juneau are in the pre-planning stage, leaving only Langlade, Oneida, and Vilas counties with no county-wide effort in progress. Although several towns are working on comprehensive plans in these counties.

State-wide nearly 2/3 of the local units of government have plans in place or in progress. The state planning grant announcements will be made soon, and numerous more communities will start the process.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Paul Millan, Bev Long, and Robert Curran on their re-appointments by Governor Doyle to the Commission. They are great assets to our organization. It is the hard work of individuals like them that keeps our organization moving along.

As always, please feel free to call me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (715) 849-5510, Extension 304, or [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org).

Dennis Lawrence, AICP  
Executive Director

## NCWRPC Receives Best of State Award

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), at its recent 2006 Excellence Awards Ceremony held at the American Club in Kohler, Wisconsin, awarded the North Central, Bay-Lake and East Central Regional Planning Commissions "Best of State" for the Wisconsin Regional Mapping Initiative.

This Regional effort involved 35 counties, numerous municipalities, private organizations, utilities, state and federal agencies. The two goals of the project were to secure a quality air photo product for multiple uses and to save money. Both goals were accomplished. Hopefully, this project will be undertaken again in 2010.

## Commission Meeting Highlights

At its February meeting the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission adopted its 2006 Transportation Work Plan, which lists many planning projects in the ten-county area. Some of these projects include: development of transportation sections for local comprehensive plans, highway corridor assistance, creating specialized county transportation plans, database development, and airport planning. In addition, we will continue to provide on-going assistance to our counties, the Wausau Area MPO, and the Stevens Point Area planning group.

In addition, eleven projects were reviewed and approved through the Federal-State Referrals process totaling almost \$1.5 million dollars. There was also an update on the Jobs Creation Act.

A presentation was provided by NAZCA, a company that is working with several counties to distribute and sell data via the internet. Some counties have decided to make property records more accessible and become more customer oriented while finding ways to process more transactions with the same level of staff. The county retains control over how the data may be accessed and commercial users are charged a monthly subscription fee providing income. Some of the more common data requests are from appraisers, closing/title/abstract companies, survey and engineering firms, mortgage companies and banks, law firms, real estate agents, taxpayers, and government agencies. Taxpayers have access to the information at no additional cost. A follow-up meeting for those interested will be held sometime later this year.

Other items included updates on the Strategic Planning Committee, Commissioner terms, and staff activities. The next NCWRPC meeting will be held in Wausau on May 2, 2006. Elections and the Annual Report will highlight that meeting.

For more information contact Dennis Lawrence at (715) 849-5510, Extension 304, or [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org).

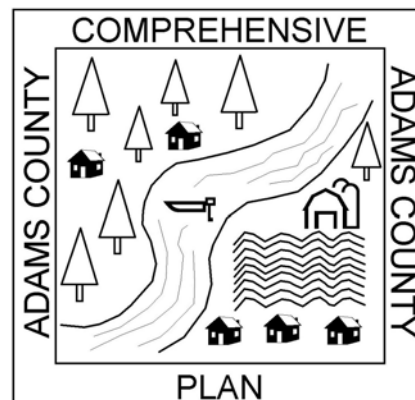
## Adams County Comprehensive Plan Update

This multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Planning effort began in 2003, and is close to completion. In all, sixteen towns, one city, one village and the county are involved. Each plan covers demographic trends, natural resources, housing, transportation, community facilities, economic development, land use, intergovernmental cooperation, and implementation steps. When completed the local plans will serve as a general framework for future growth.

To date, the Towns of Big Flats, Jackson, New Chester, New Haven, Richfield, and Strongs Prairie have adopted their plans. Several more are getting close, and only a couple towns are lagging behind.

The County Plan is moving toward completion as well. An open house meeting was held last summer to review the draft plan and another will be held this summer when the town plans are completed. The county plan simply takes all of the local plans and merges them into one. A bottom-up approach was fundamental to this planning effort. Following that, the plan will be ready for action by the County Planning & Zoning Committee and then the Adams County Board of Supervisors.

For more information contact Dennis Lawrence at (715) 849-5510, Extension 304, or [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org); or the Adams County Planning & Zoning Department at (608) 339-4222.



Plans are posted at [www.ncwrpc.org/adams.htm](http://www.ncwrpc.org/adams.htm).

## E911 Address Projects

This spring, the NCWRPC will be kicking off two county addressing projects. We will be driving all roads in Langlade & Forest Counties and validating all road names and driveway address locations. Recommendations for issuing new addresses, procedures for maintaining the County GIS addressing layer, and the creation of a draft addressing ordinance will be provided to the counties.

These projects are part of the E911 dispatch system upgrade to receive wireless or cellular 911 calls. The new E911 system will have a map display showing the location of all addressed structures within the county to provide enhanced emergency dispatch.

The goal of this project is to increase the safety of all people living, working and visiting Langlade or Forest Counties. With accurate address locations the emergency responders will be able to quickly find you in an emergency.



You may see our staff out doing field data collection to validate addresses. We expect the fieldwork for these two projects to take most of the summer and fall to complete. (See above photo).

If anyone has any questions or wants any additional information on these projects contact Andy Faust at (715) 849-5510, Extension 305, or [afaust@ncwrpc.org](mailto:afaust@ncwrpc.org).

## NCWRPC Forms Relationship with Angel Investing Networks

Two of Wisconsin's angel investing networks have contracted with the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission for administrative support services. The Marshfield Investment Partners, LLC and the Badger AgVest, LLC have both turned to NCWRPC to provide management and point of contact services for their networks.

Angel investing networks are groups of individual investors that pool their business expertise and financial resources to take equity positions in early-stage, high-growth potential companies. According to David Ward, President of the Madison-based consulting firm NorthStar Economics, "early stage financing to support the creation and growth of high-technology businesses is essential to a New Economy economic development strategy."

The NCWRPC welcomes the opportunity to provide services to both of these networks and to assist the region in developing a strong entrepreneurial climate that includes directing start-up companies to coordinated sources of equity financing.

For more information please contact James Hanke at (715) 849-5510, Extension 306, or [jhanke@ncwrpc.org](mailto:jhanke@ncwrpc.org).

### Quarterly Quote:

A goal without a plan is just a wish!

Antoine de Saint-Exupery

## **Regional Economic Development Effort: Centergy**

Across the nation and state there is a trend toward regional economic development. Why regionalism? Because issues related to business are not isolated to one community or one county. Business has no borders, therefore the approach to assist economic development must be done in a collaborative way.

The three counties of Marathon, Portage and Wood, through a group called Centergy, are undertaking an in-depth economic development study that builds on various local studies and plans, including the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and the Regional Comprehensive Plan. This study will be completed by NorthStar Economics, which has been involved in numerous similar regional studies, such as the NEW NORTH Study in Northeast Wisconsin.

In October a full presentation will be made of the completed study. The goal is that this will spur a formal regional approach to economic development in the area. Hopefully, this effort can be expanded to include the rest of the Region in the near future.

The NCWRPC is a member of the Study Steering Committee and was involved in writing one of the two grants that is funding this effort. For more information contact Dennis Lawrence at (715) 849-5510, Extension 304 or [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org).

## **Outdoor Recreation Planning Assistance Available**

Outdoor recreation facilities play an important role in shaping our local communities. Whether it is a community's signature park that provides a sense of identity and place, or the economic impact that tourism dollars have on the local economy as a result of tourism facilities, Wisconsin has cultivated a strong image as an excellent place to enjoy outdoor recreation.

According to a study conducted by Davidson-Peterson Associates, Inc. tourists spent over \$1.2 billion in our ten county region in 2004, which demonstrates the importance of maintaining high-quality outdoor recreation facilities for tourism. These same facilities also improve the quality of life for local residents and make communities an attractive place to live, work and play.

Counties, cities, villages, and towns use Outdoor Recreation Plans (ORPs) to coordinate local efforts for building and maintaining outdoor recreation facilities, and to establish DNR eligibility for grants. Submission of an ORP to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for local units of government to apply for a variety of Federal and State Aids.

An ORP consists of an assessment of the existing recreation system. Outdoor recreation needs are identified based upon public input. The local governing committee, usually a parks or forestry committee, establishes goals and objectives to be used as guidelines in formulating the recreation plan. Finally, recommendations for improving the recreation system over the next five years are created.

As local units of government strive to maintain high quality services in spite of continual budget reductions, identifying alternative sources of funding to develop and maintain facilities is critical. Non-profit groups, foundations, and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities and seeking outside sources of funding.

As part of membership, the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission updates ORPs for Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, and Oneida Counties. We are also available to assist local municipalities in developing Outdoor Recreation Plans, and can assist in applying for grant funding through the DNR and other state, and federal agencies.

For more information contact Fred Heider at (715) 849-5510, Extension 310, or [fheider@ncwrpc.org](mailto:fheider@ncwrpc.org).

## Coordinated County Human Services Transportation Plans

On August 10, 2005, a new transportation bill known as the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users or SAFETEA-LU was signed by President Bush. This is a six-year bill (2004-2009) that authorizes \$286.4 billion for federal surface transportation programs of which \$52.6 billion is authorized for transit. In addition to funding levels, the Act also legislates changes in program regulations and requirements.

SAFETEA-LU intends to promote human service coordination by requiring certain federal transit programs to be part of a "locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan". The Act requires the plan to be developed through a process that includes representatives of public, private, and nonprofit human services transportation providers and participation by the general public.



This new requirement must be met by September 2006 for federal grant recipients to receive funds for 2007. Grant programs affected include New Freedom, Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Capital Assistance Program (5310). Every county in the state has one or more agencies that depend on this funding.

At the request of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission is coordinating the planning process for our 10-county region including Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas and Wood counties. This process includes:

- Completion of an assessment tool to determine the status of human service transportation coordination in the county;
- Development of an action plan to address and improve transportation coordination in the county; and
- Review and approval of a list of projects currently submitted by county agencies.

NCWRPC staff will coordinate and facilitate a meeting in each county using this process and transcribe the outcomes of the meeting into the required locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan. Meetings will be scheduled this summer.

For more information, please contact Darryl Landeau at 715-849-5510, Extension 308, or [dlanseau@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlanseau@ncwrpc.org).

## NCWRPC Economic Development Assistance Available

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission is available to provide assistance to communities and local economic development organizations. As governments continue to seek ways to provide more and better services with fewer resources, working with the NCWRPC can be a cost-effective way to improve a community's economic development program. Our staff is capable of providing the following services:

- Community Development Strategies
- Grant Applications
- Feasibility Studies/Market Analysis Tax Increment Financing and Redevelopment project planning
- Business park development and financing
- Regional economic development staffing
- Loan fund management
- LOIS database development and maintenance

For more information contact James Hanke at (715) 849-5510, Extension 306, or [jhanke@ncwrpc.org](mailto:jhanke@ncwrpc.org).

## NCWRPC Mission Statement

Over the last few months our Strategic Planning Committee has been developing a draft Mission Statement for the NCWRPC. This was reviewed at the last Commission meeting, and now we are asking everyone to give it a look. The statement reads:

“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 built environments. The NCWRPC also provides leadership and a regional forum for the creation of cooperative responses to shared opportunities and challenges facing the counties and communities of the ten-county Region.”

If you have any comments, good or bad, let us know. Submit comments to Dennis Lawrence at (715) 849-5510, Extension 304, or [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org).

## NCWRPC Commissioners

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

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

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

**Langlade County:**  
George Bornemann  
Robert Curran  
Frank Trimmel

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

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

**Oneida County:**  
Beverly Long  
Wilbur Petroskey  
Thomas Rudolph

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

## NCWRPC News Credits

LAYOUT: Bernie Lewis  
CONTRIBUTORS: Andrew Faust, James Hanke, Fred Heider,  
Darryl Landeau, and Dennis Lawrence

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