

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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Welcome

As we head into 2007, things are getting busy. Comprehensive planning continues to be a major activity. Currently, we are working on local comprehensive plans in Juneau, Langlade, Oneida, Portage, Vilas and Wood Counties. Statewide nearly 2/3 of the local units of government have plans in place or in progress. The state comprehensive planning grants were recently announced and another 145 communities will be starting this summer.

In addition to comprehensive planning, staff is busy with several economic development projects, and numerous transportation related projects including road rating, specialized transit, planning and Safe Routes to School. We are also working with Forest County to complete a 911 Addressing Study. Beyond local level projects, many regional level projects are underway. Staff continues to work with NEWCOM to address public safety communication throughout the region; staff is working with both Grow North and Centergy to develop regional approaches to economic development; and staff continues to manage both the North Central Technology Zone program, providing tax credits to regional businesses, and the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation, a multi-county loan fund. The NCWRPC is also assisting efforts to regionalize local loan funds and develop a regional Angel investing network.

Although we have many projects underway and many more planned to begin later this year, there is always room for one more. I encourage any community to contact us if they have projects that they need help with.

Finally, I would like to congratulate and welcome Tom Haferman on his appointment by Wood County to serve on our Commission. It is the leadership of our Commissioners that keeps the organization responsive to community needs.

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

Dennis Lawrence, AICP
Executive Director

NCWRPC: Providing Regional Leadership Since 1973

As many of you know, the counties of north central Wisconsin came together and created the NCWRPC in 1973. That joint process signified the first real "regional" effort in our region, and the beginning of many more.

Over the years the organization has changed, as have the needs of our members. In the 1970's there were federal dollars and programs that became the focus of the organization. By the early-80's the federal focus shifted to state programs and that continued for over a decade. The early 90's brought major changes again, as State dollars and programs were drastically reduced and the organization became more focused on local assistance. However, throughout these changes one thing has remained the same - Regional Leadership. →

Leadership continued...

Past examples of this leadership include the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) and the Regional Air Photo Consortium.

The RCP, adopted in 2003, became the first Regional Plan adopted in the State under the comprehensive planning law. That planning process took three years and included all ten counties and local units of government within the Region. That plan laid out a framework for the region that subsequent county and local plans have incorporated.



Another example is the 2005 Regional Air Photo consortium. This effort resulted in securing high quality air photo products for the region. This multi-county effort saved most participants between 20 and 30 percent, and in addition each county was provided cash back for state partners brought into the consortium by the NCWRPC. This effort, which will likely occur again in 2010, was awarded the 2006 Excellence Award and was highlighted at the 2006 Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) convention.

Other past regional efforts include the Regional Bike Plan, North Central Wisconsin Technology Zone, and establishment of the Regional Revolving Loan Fund (RRLF).

Currently there are two major regional efforts underway: the North East Wisconsin Communications (NEWCOM) public safety project and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

NEWCOM is a sixteen county effort dedicated to promoting public safety communication between all counties and local communities. Already this group has received almost \$1 million dollars from the state to help implementation. The NCWRPC

helped create and provides on-going staffing to this group. This effort was also highlighted at the 2006 WCA convention.

The CEDS is an on-going regional economic development program. Part of this is an annual assessment report that reviews economic trends and outlines a strategy for the region. As a result of this plan's adoption, our members are eligible for funding through the U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration. As part of this program the NCWRPC is providing assistance to two sub-regional groups. One is Grow North, which is made up of Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. This group is moving along with the development of a specialized economic development study. The other group is Centergy, which is made up of Marathon, Portage, and Wood Counties. Last fall this group completed a similar study and is determining its role in the area. Both groups, with the assistance of the NCWRPC, are exploring consolidation of local revolving loan funds and the establishment of an Angel investment network, among other things.

Other regional efforts in discussion stages in the near future relate to a 2010 Air Photo Consortium, a comprehensive regional approach to emergency management, and a Northern Wisconsin Rail effort, among others.

Much of the credit for these efforts can be traced back to the various Commissioners over the years. These leaders, three from each county, set the agenda and allocate the resources to get things done. Unfortunately, not every county is an active member of the NCWRPC and that makes promoting Regional initiatives difficult. We would urge non-member counties to become part of the solution and join our organization. There is strength in numbers and by working together we can all achieve more. There are many regional opportunities now and there will be even more in the future, working together we can all position the Region to be a better place to live, work and play!

Commission Meeting Highlights

The February meeting of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission was busy. The Commission adopted the 2007 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS is a regional economic development assessment for the Region that is completed on an annual basis. As a result of this plan's adoption, our members are eligible for funding through the U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration.

In addition to the CEDS, the NCWRPC adopted the 2007 Transportation Work Plan, which lists many transportation related planning projects in the ten-county area. This work plan is required as part of the NCWRPC's Rural Transportation District designation. 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 to on-going assistance with the various counties, the Wausau Area MPO, and the Stevens Point Area planning process.

Eleven projects were reviewed through the Federal-State Referrals process totaling almost \$1.5 million dollars and were approved. There was also a presentation by the American Transmission Company on their current activities and plans within our Region.

2010 Census Update

As most of you know, the Census Bureau is gearing up for the 2010 population count. As part of that process a Master Address File is created. Developing this master list is the first and most vital step in the process. This effort is referred to as the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program and it requires your input. Every unit of government has the opportunity to provide information to this important process. This data will be used for a variety of things, including the distribution of federal monies to state and local governments, as well as

providing demographic information about the community that can be used in the planning process.

The LUCA program offers 3 options for participation. These are briefly summarized below. Both options 1 & 2 require a signed confidentiality agreement.

Option 1: Full Address Review. This option allows for the review of the entire census address list for your jurisdiction. You can update and add addresses for city style addresses. In rural areas you can only challenge the total count of address in a census block.

Option 2: Local Address List Submission. This option allows you to submit your computer-readable address file. This must be provided in a Census defined format. As a reference the Census list will be provided to the community. The Census Bureau will then review the two lists and make corrections to the Census Address List.

Option 3: Non-Title Address List Submission. This option allows you to submit your computer-readable address file (for city-style addresses only). Under this option you do not receive a address list, but rather a count by census block. The Census Bureau will then review the two lists and make corrections to the Census Address List.

The Census will be offering workshops throughout the state over the summer related to this program. The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission will assist all member counties to make sure the Census is using the most accurate information available.

If you have any questions about the LUCA Program or any other Census Program, please feel free to contact Andy Faust at (715) 849-5510, Extension 305, or at afaust@ncwrpc.org. If you want to contact the Census directly, Wisconsin is located in the Chicago Regional Office. They can be reached at (866) 511-LUCA or chicago.geography@census.gov.

Pavement Rating Assistance Available

It is time once again for local governments in Wisconsin to submit surface condition ratings for all local roads under their jurisdiction. State statute 86.302(2) requires that the ratings be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation every two years. In 2005, the NCWRPC submitted the mandated condition ratings for 24 communities. The next round of submissions will be due to WisDOT by December of this year.

Commission Staff will be providing a variety of services to local units of government within the Region to meet their needs for pavement rating and submitting to WisDOT. Most of these services will be provided free-of-charge to Commission members while non-members will be charged for assistance per our 2007-2008 fee schedule. The table below shows the current fee schedule.

If your community would like help contact Darryl Landeau, AICP, at (715) 849-5510, Extension 308, or dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (NCWRPC)		
LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (LRIP) WISCONSIN INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR LOCAL ROADS (WISLR) PROGRAM SERVICES		
PROGRAM SERVICES ¹	2007 - 2008 FEE SCHEDULE	
	MEMBERS ²	NON-MEMBERS
FULL LRIP PLAN REPORT	\$400	\$9,000 (\$19,000 ³)
ROAD EVALUATION & RATING REPORT ONLY	NO CHARGE	\$7,000 (\$15,000 ³)
PREPARATION OF LRIP PLAN REPORT FROM LOCAL RATING DATA	\$200	\$5,000 (\$11,000 ³)
SUBMIT DATA FOR WISLR TO WISDOT ⁴	NO CHARGE	NOT AVAILABLE
WISLR MAP PLOTTING AND DATA PRINTING ⁴	MATERIALS AT COST	TIME (@ \$75/HOUR) AND MATERIALS
PASER/WISLR TRAINING PROGRAM	\$400	\$4,000
PASER/WISLR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON-SITE	\$20/HOUR	\$75/HOUR
PASER/WISLR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TELEPHONE	NO CHARGE	NOT AVAILABLE
NOTES:		
1. Services must be requested in writing by chief elected official of the jurisdiction. Scheduling of LRIP/WISLR services will be provided on a first come first serve basis subject to membership and staff availability!		
2. "Members" include all units of government enrolled either independently or through a financially participating jurisdiction. Contact the NCWRPC office at 715/849-5510 if unsure of your membership status.		
3. Rate for Marshfield, Stevens Point, Wausau and the counties of Marathon, Portage, Wood and Vilas.		
4. The local unit must authorize the NCWRPC to access its local road data over the Internet through procedures established by WisDOT.		

Working Lands Initiative

Conversion of agricultural land to development and the parcelization of what had been vast tracts of industrial forest has become a more prominent trend in recent years. The perceived threat to these “working lands” led the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to appoint a 26 member steering committee, representing agriculture, forestry, local government, business, non-profits, and the University of Wisconsin, to study how these threats can be addressed.

The Working Lands Initiative is the result. In its report the steering committee makes a number of recommendations for how the State can protect these resources. It details the threats to working lands posed by population increase and development patterns, recreational demand, rising land prices, and the declining profitability in agriculture and forestry. But it also points to opportunities to reverse this trend: the potential for bio-fuel production, environmental benefits including the protection of water quality and open space, the need for higher quality urban development, and the economic security provided by a diverse agricultural base. Among the strategies recommended are an overhaul of the State’s Farmland Preservation program, creation of Working Lands Enterprise Areas that will foster the clustering of active agriculture and slow farmland conversion, and the Purchase of Development Rights to ensure that some working lands will be protected in perpetuity.

The fact that many farmers and loggers are getting older with a shortage of young people to replace them is also seen as undermining the continued operation of many working lands. The report recommends expansion of programs for beginning farmers and loggers to provide the workers to keep working lands viable. It also stresses the importance of building the capacity for markets and economic development; the best way to protect working lands from the pressures of development is to make them profitable. The need for land use planning to direct growth away from working lands is also emphasized.

DATCP held a series of educational meetings, featuring national experts on land conservation programs, that were held around the State in February to standing-room only crowds. Clearly there is interest in this subject. As DATCP Secretary Rod Nilsestuen put it, “A top goal for the next four years is the development of a strong package of new and revised State policies and programs to effectively address protection of working lands, and to provide local governments with better tool kits to address these issues that so many of us care about.”

If you have any questions regarding the Working Lands Initiative, contact Mike Agnew at (715) 849-5510, Extension 307, or by email at magnew@ncwrpc.org.

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 Town of Ainsworth in Langlade County and the Town of Cassian in Oneida County.



Our traffic 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 may also be broken down by time of day. Speed statistics are also possible which may be of assistance in setting speed limits or identifying speeding trouble spots.

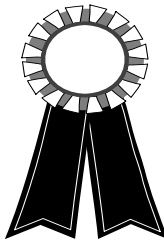
If your community is interested in doing some traffic counts or studying vehicle types or speeds please contact the NCWRPC's Transportation Planner, Darryl Landeau, AICP, at (715) 849-5510, Extension 308, or email to dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.

NCWRPC Receives WLIA Award

NCWRPC staff person, Matt Guptail, recently received an award at the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) Annual Conference. He was awarded second place in the Base Map category with an entry of the “Mosinee in Action Business Expo – Booth Layout Plan”

The WLIA is a state-wide organization representing GIS professionals working to develop, maintain, and apply a network of statewide land information systems. WLIA membership includes staff and elected officials from all levels of government, as well as academics, consultants and other private sector users of GIS.

Congratulations Matt!



NCWRPC Commissioners

Adams County:
Ronald Jacobson
Donald Krahn
Herbert Rieckmann

Forest County:
Erhard Huettl
Donald Kline
Paul Millan

Juneau County:
Robert Hayward
Helmi Mehus
Vacant

Langlade County:
George Bornemann
Robert Curran
Ronald Nye

Lincoln County:
Curtis Powell
Thomas Rick
Douglas Williams

Marathon County:
Marilyn Bhend
Brad Karger
Bettye Nall

Oneida County:
Beverly Long
Wilbur Petroskey
Thomas Rudolph

Wood County:
Fred Camacho
Maurice Mathews
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