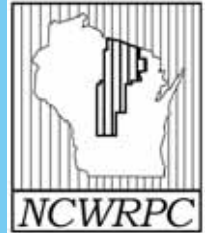


NCWRPC NEWS

The official newsletter of North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC).
2007 Fall Issue, Number 34

Serving: Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, and Wood counties since 1973.



Director's Note

Welcome to the new, and hopefully improved, NCWRPC NEWS. We decided it was time to give the newsletter a new look, and add a little color, because it has not changed since it was introduced in 1997. NCWRPC NEWS is distributed to over 1,100 persons throughout the region, state, and nation. We hope you like the changes.

In this issue we highlight four of our major program areas: Economic Development (page 7), GIS (page 6), Land Use (page 4), and Transportation (page 3). As you can see, we are involved in a multitude of projects. In fact, our current Work Program contains over 60 major projects throughout the region. Comprehensive planning continues to be a critical area of assistance. Langlade County has just started a county-wide planning process, Forest County submitted a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning grant application to the Wisconsin Department of Administration for funding to start next year, and there are serious discussions underway in Oneida County. Several towns, villages and cities throughout the region also have comprehensive plans underway. However, there are still several communities that need to start comprehensive planning. I urge you to contact our office and we would be happy to visit with you and identify the best approach for your situation.

As you know, the NCWRPC is a voluntary association of governments, providing a variety of planning services to our members throughout the ten county region.

Again, thanks for giving us a look and Happy Holidays!

Dennis Lawrence, AICP
Executive Director

Next Commission Meeting:
January 30, 2008
Public is always welcome.

Commission Meeting Highlights

At its September meeting the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission adopted its 2008 Budget, reviewed the 2007-08 Work Program, and discussed the future of the referrals program.

The Commission approved a \$702,000 budget for 2008, up slightly from \$696,000 in 2007. Overall, expenditures have remained very stable. Direct costs and program costs rose only 3 percent, while fringe and overhead costs decreased

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Wisconsin Opts Out of Federal Grant Review

On July 6, 2007, the Wisconsin Department of Administration Secretary Michael Morgan sent a letter to the Federal Office of Management and Budget indicating that Wisconsin has decided to join the list of states opting out of the federal clearinghouse review process. A total of 27 states have already opted out of this administrative process. Those states continuing the review process are actually reviewing less than 8 percent of federal programs. In light of this low level of participation, Wisconsin determined that the value of the program was not sufficient to justify continued expenditure.

In making its determination, DOA met with each regional clearinghouse across the state, interviewed a number of individuals and researched what other states are doing with these reviews.

Effective immediately, grant applicants within the State of Wisconsin no longer need a grant review under Federal Executive Order 12372. Grantees are to check "program not selected for review" on their federal form 424.

Information on federal grants coming into Wisconsin can be reviewed through the Federal Assistance Award Data System or FAADS. The FAADS can be accessed on the internet at: <http://www.census.gov/govs/www/faads.html>. Downloads for Wisconsin for a particular quarter of a fiscal year are available.

For more information on the federal grant review process contact Darryl Landeau, AICP at 715-849-5510, extension 308, or email at dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.



New Regional Planning Commission Created by Governor

Earlier this year, Governor Doyle signed Executive Order #197 establishing a new regional planning organization to serve Dane County. Petitions from 39 towns, villages and cities, as well as Dane County asked the Governor to create the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC).

The key mission of the CARPC will be to work with towns, villages, cities and the county to plan for urban growth and protect vital water resources, such as lakes, rivers, streams, springs, wetlands and ground water. CARPC will plan on a collaborative, proactive, and long-term basis.



Dane County Executive Falk praised the work of the Dane County Towns Association and the Dane County Cities and Villages Association saying, "They worked together over a significant period of time, working on the plan to protect our resources." Meanwhile, Madison Mayor Cieslewicz said "The Capital Area Regional Planning Commission provides a new tool for working together to find mutually acceptable growth policies and solutions."

CARPC will become the ninth regional planning commission in the state, and one of over 500 similar regional organizations in the nation. Its offices will be located in Madison and will have a staff of about ten.



Transportation Assistance

The NCWRPC is designated as a rural transportation planning organization by WisDOT to coordinate transportation strategies on a regional basis. In this role, the Commission supports WisDOT programs and provides local technical assistance.

State program assistance includes serving on state level committees such as the State Highway Plan Committee and the Transportation Planning Resource Guide Review Committee. The NCWRPC has also participated in planning sessions for the Connections 2030 Statewide Transportation Plan. In 2006, WisDOT asked the NCWRPC to conduct a major transit planning effort for each of our ten counties. The Commission arranged and facilitated planning sessions in each county. The results of these sessions were then used to draft Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plans.

In addition to rural transportation, the NCWRPC also deals with urban issues. Commission staff serves on the technical advisory committees for the Wausau Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Stevens Point Long Range Transportation Plan. In 2003, the Commission completed a long-range transportation plan for the Wisconsin Rapids urban area.

One of the cornerstones of the Commission's transportation planning program is the Transportation Element of the Regional Comprehensive Plan and the development of local transportation elements. The Regional Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element integrates state long-range and multimodal goals to facilitate incorporation into local transportation elements per state statute. Numerous county and local unit, both



urban and rural, transportation elements have been completed from this framework.

The Commission has also seen increasing involvement with bicycle and pedestrian facilities planning including safe routes to school planning. Commission staff has developed regional, county and municipal level bike and pedestrian network plans and currently serves on the Marathon County Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Committee.

Road surface management planning has been a mainstay of the Commission's transportation program with over 80 plans completed since 1986. These plans provide a capital improvement schedule for upgrading local roads and qualify local units for Local Road Improvement Program grant funding. A wide variety of services are provided relating to road surface management, including pavement condition rating and reporting to WisDOT for counties and local units to comply with state mandates.



Other transportation projects of the NCWRPC have included downtown parking studies, highway corridor studies and grant writing for various federal and state funding programs. The NCWRPC continues to inventory the Region's road network and other transportation facilities through its geographic information system. Traffic counting services help county and local units monitor traffic conditions for volume, speed and types of vehicles.



For more information about the NCWRPC's transportation planning program contact, Darryl Landeau, AICP, at 715-849-5510 extension 308, or email at dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.



Land Use Assistance

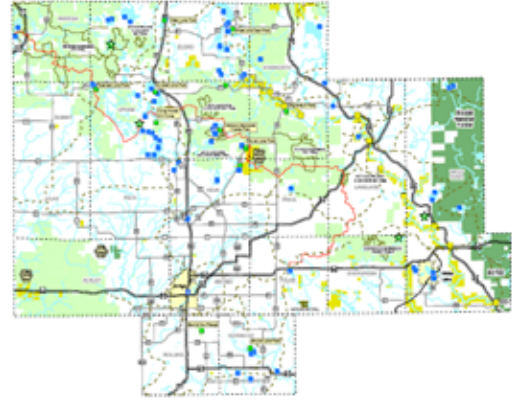
As the deadline for Comprehensive Plans under the revised state statutes draws nearer, all local governments that want to regulate land use must have an adopted Plan in place by January 1, 2010 per Wis. Stats. sec. 66.1001. We have undertaken a number of comprehensive plans throughout the Region.

Comprehensive Plans were completed last year for the Cities of Merrill and Tomahawk in Lincoln County, and a Comprehensive Plan for the City of Rhinelander is in the works. Plans are underway in the Village of Rosholt in Portage County; three Towns in Langlade County (the Towns of Antigo and Rolling have recently adopted plans); three Towns in Oneida County (the Town of Crescent completed its plan in 2006, and the Town of Stella in 2005); two Cities, three Villages, and five Towns in Juneau County (the Towns of Orange and Lemonweir have adopted plans); and one Town in Vilas County. We anticipate that as the deadline grows closer more local governments will step forward to begin the planning process. See the Plan Status map on page 5.

Adams County recently completed their comprehensive plan, and Langlade County just started working with NCWRPC to complete a County Plan. Forest County has just submitted a planning grant application, and discussions are ongoing with Oneida and Juneau Counties on how they want to address their obligation to have a plan in place by 2010.

In addition to Comprehensive Plans we continue to offer ordinance review services. We have worked with Oneida County on a comprehensive revision of its Land Division Ordinance. As part of the planning process, we are revising the Zoning Ordinance in Rosholt. And we reviewed a proposed ordinance regulating the installation of personal wind-power generators for

the Town of Stettin in Marathon County, among a number of other projects.



Also over the last couple years we have updated five County Outdoor Recreation Plans (Adams, Langlade and Lincoln Counties in 2006, and Forest and Juneau Counties in 2007), and Land and Water Conservation Plans for Oneida and Forest Counties in 2006. These reports are mandated by the State in order to qualify for certain grant funding and must be updated every five years. We provide this service as a benefit to our member counties.

Working with the National Park Service, DNR and the Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation we are



involved in the corridor planning process in Marathon and Langlade Counties. This is an effort to identify a route to connect the existing section of trail between Ringle and the Dells of the Eau Claire County Park and Portage County in the south and the existing trail near Polar in Langlade County in the north. Similar to the Appalachian Trail in concept, The Ice Age Trail when complete will trace for over a thousand miles the furthest advance of the last glacier in the State of Wisconsin.

For more information contact Mike Agnew, AICP, at 715-849-5510 extension 307, or email at magnew@ncwrpc.org.



Commission Meeting Highlights continued

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slightly. Revenues annually come from three basic sources: the levy, continuing grants, and local projects. The annual levy rate for 2008 was lowered again for the fifth time in as many years. The levy now makes up only 30 percent of the overall revenues, after peaking at over 45 percent several years ago. Continuing grants from EDA and DOT make up about 19 percent of the budget, while the remaining 51 percent comes from projects.

The Work Program's five major assistance areas of economic development, geographic information systems, intergovernmental cooperation, land use, and transportation were reviewed. Over 60 planning projects are underway throughout the region. Nearly half of these are comprehensive plans at the town, village, city and county levels. There are several transportation related projects underway, as well as some regional projects.

In addition, the final applications were reviewed through the Federal-State Referrals process. On July 6th the State of Wisconsin opted out of this review process, as have 27 other states. Over the years fewer and fewer projects were required to submit under this program and now it has been officially eliminated.

The next NCWRPC meeting will be held in January of 2008. Everyone is welcome to attend.



GIS Assistance

NCWRPC staff provides a variety of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services to local communities. GIS is a combination of computer hardware, software, and geographic data utilized for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced

information. GIS can integrate and reference any data with a spatial component, regardless of the source of the data. As an example, you can combine the location of old landfills from the DNR, in relation to local drinking water wells. GIS displays this data, giving a visual tool to plan the best locations for future development. This saves time, money and possible future conflicts.

The following are some examples of GIS projects that we are working on within our region:

ADDRESSING—Addressing has become a hot topic in the last few years with use of mapping displays in emergency dispatch centers. Accurate address location is a critical element in the success of 911 dispatch system. Our office has recently completed county-wide addressing projects in Forest and Langlade Counties. These projects used global positions systems (GPS) to accurately locate each driveway – address location in the county. We can help with the design and data creation of countywide addressing database.

GEO-CODED CENTERLINES—Recently we have worked with Adams, Forest, Lincoln, Oneida, and Langlade Counties to complete GIS addressing work. Accurate roads with coded address ranges are a critical tool to assist with 911 and emergency dispatch.

ORTHOMAPPER™—OrthoMapper is a program that can easily create orthophotos from scanned photos or images. We have already worked with Langlade, and Lincoln County to do countywide projects. This software is a cost effective way to take old aerial photos and turn them into orthophotos that can be used with a community's GIS system.

MAP ATLAS BOOKS—Another service we provide is to create map booklets. These booklets contain a key with and locator maps, indexes, page numbering, and many other features. These books are most often used by emergency service providers, but can be used by the general public to find their way around your community.



LAND USE MAPS—Our staff has created land use maps for many towns, villages, cities, and counties over the years. Land use maps are created from airphoto interpretation followed by field verifications. These maps are developed to assist communities with planning and zoning issues. These maps are also a great way to look back and see how things have changed in your community.

ZONING MAPS—We have also created digital zoning maps for many communities in our region. These maps help our local units of government administer their zoning. Zoning maps are created using our GIS so that they can be quickly updated. These maps can also be reproduced at different scales for a low cost.

We are always glad to help our members with any project. We strive to provide a high quality product at the lowest cost. If you would like more information on any of the above projects or any other GIS related project contact Andy Faust, GISP, at 715-849-5510 extension 305, or email at aafaust@ncwrpc.org.



Economic Development Assistance

Economic development remains an important undertaking for local units of government as communities strive to expand their tax base and ensure that residents have quality employment opportunities. The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission is available to provide assistance to local governments and economic development organizations on a wide variety of projects or programs. As governments continue to seek ways to provide more and better services with fewer resources, contracting with NCWRPC can be a cost-effective way to improve a community's economic development program. Our staff is capable to providing the following services:

- Strategic planning
- Grant application development and management
- Feasibility studies
- Redevelopment project planning

- Business park development
- Regional economic development staffing
- Revolving loan fund management
- GIS-based applications and analytical tools
- LOIS database development and maintenance

If you have an interest in discussing specific projects or programs please contact James Hanke at 715-849-5510 extension 306, or email at jhanke@ncwrpc.org.



Safe Routes To School Program

The application process for the second round of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program will open this winter with applications expected to be available in January. The purpose of the program is to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school while making it safer and more appealing transportation alternative.

Funding is available for development of Safe Routes to School Plans including data gathering, analysis and evaluation. A SRTS Plan is an important first step in implementing a successful program. Applications will likely be due in March.



Possible implementation measures include traffic calming measures, improved pedestrian and bicycle crossings, education programs, enforcement efforts and encouragement programs such as "Walking School Bus" or "Walk to School Day". Projects must be within two miles of an elementary or middle school (K-8) to be eligible.

For more information contact, Darryl Landeau, AICP at 715-849-5510 extension 308, or email at dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.



Comprehensive Plan Update

There were no changes to the comprehensive plan law as the result of the recent state budget. Some changes were included in the Assembly version, but they did not make it into the final budget. Therefore, any community that participates in zoning (general or shoreland), subdivision regulation, or official mapping needs to have a comprehensive plan in place by January 1, 2010.

The state comprehensive planning grant program continues as well, with two million dollars available annually. Earlier this month, 19 applications were submitted from around the state, including Forest County.

For more information contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510 extension 304, or email at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.



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