

NCWRPC NEWS

The official newsletter of North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC).

2008 Summer Issue, Number 36

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



Director's Note

As we begin summer, many projects are underway and many more are in the development stages. County level comprehensive plans are underway in Forest, Langlade and Oneida Counties; and city, village and town level plans are underway in Juneau, Langlade, Oneida, Wood, and Vilas Counties. We are also working on a county outdoor recreation plan, a community wildfire protection plan, two county trail plans, ten county coordinated transit plans, and much, much more.

Economic development continues to be a primary focus of our organization. With the recent Domtar mill closure in south Wood County, the NCWRPC along with the Heart of Wisconsin Business & Economic Alliance submitted an application for federal funding to assist the region in economic diversification efforts. Last fall we secured a \$1.5 million EDA grant for the City of Wisconsin Rapids to assist Ocean Spray expand in the area. Working from a regional perspective is critical to dealing with issues that transcend local political boundaries.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Erhard Huettl, Betty Nall and Maurice Mathews on their reelection as officers of the NCWRPC. They have done outstanding work in the past and I know they will continue their good work in the future. I would also like to welcome Paul Schuman of Langlade County and Edmund Wafle of Juneau County as our newest Commissioners.

As always, please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions or if your community needs some assistance. We are here to help! I can be reached at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.

Dennis Lawrence, AICP
Executive Director

Next Commission Meeting:
July 30, 2008
The public is always welcome.

County Coordinated Transportation Planning

The NCWRPC will facilitate another round in creating the “locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plans” this summer for each of the region’s ten counties: Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas and Wood.

In 2006, the NCWRPC completed the first round of plans at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. These plans are a requirement of the last federal transportation bill known as the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users or SAFETEA-LU.

That Act requires such plans to be developed through a process that includes representatives of public, private, nonprofit, and human services transportation providers, and participation by the public.

To achieve this goal, a planning meeting will be held for each county, or in some cases, groups of counties already working towards coordination. NCWRPC staff will coordinate

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“Quarterly Quote”

“Only when it is dark enough can you see the stars.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

County Coordinated Transportation Planning ...

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and facilitate the meetings, which will focus on identification of transportation needs, service gaps, and creation of strategies and actions to address those needs and gaps.

If you receive an invitation to one of these planning meetings or have an interest in transportation services in these counties, your attendance is encouraged. A critical measure of success to WisDOT and the Federal Transit Administration is the level and breadth of participation at these meetings.



Plans are required in order to apply for certain federal transportation programs including New Freedom, Job Access Reverse Commute (known as WETAP in Wisconsin) 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.

If you have questions, please contact Darryl Landeau, Transportation Planner at 715-849-5510, Extension 308, or at dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.



Commission Meeting Highlights

The April meeting of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission was highlighted by the election of officers. Erhard Huettl, Forest County, Chairperson; Bettye Nall, Marathon County, Vice-Chairperson; and Maurice Mathews, Wood County, Secretary – Treasurer, were all elected to new two-year terms. In addition, two new Commissioners were welcomed to the Commission: Edmund Wafle from Juneau County and Paul Schumann, Langlade County Board Chair.

The auditor reviewed the 2007 Audit Report. He indicated that in 2007 the Total Assets increased from \$976,667 to

\$1,195,209, while Total Liabilities increased from \$289,292 to \$417,364. The result is an increase in the Total Net Assets of the NCWRPC from \$687,375 to \$777,845. Next he reviewed the Income Statement. Revenues in 2007 increased from \$681,966 to \$750,729; meanwhile Expenses decreased from \$708,808 to \$686,135. The 2007 Operating Income was \$64,594. Non-operating revenues were over \$25,000. Combined the result was a Change in Net Assets of over \$90,000. He concluded that the NCWRPC continues to be in excellent financial condition.

The Commission also adopted the 2007 Annual Report, which lists over fifty local projects and eight major regional projects completed during the past year. Also adopted was the 2008 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), a requirement to maintain member communities eligibility for certain federal funding.

For the first time ever the Commission approved a “Commissioner Handbook”. This handbook provides an overview of the NCWRPC, but more importantly outlines the role and responsibilities of the Commissioners.

The next Commission meeting will be held July 30 in Wausau.



NCWRPC Federal Partner Up for Reauthorization

The U.S. Department of Commerce has sent a legislative proposal to Congress to seek a five-year reauthorization for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The current authorization expires September 30, 2008. The proposal is positive for those in the economic development community, as it maintains the grant and planning district programs, as well as including new provisions that offer investment recipients greater flexibility with, and more local control of, revolving loan funds and public works grants.

The NCWRPC has been a federally designated EDA Economic Development District since the early 1980s. Annually the NCWRPC receives federal funds that are matched with local funds to provide economic development assistance to its member communities. The



purpose of a district is to approach economic development from a regional perspective. There are over 500 districts that form the foundation of regional economic development in the country.

The EDA is the only federal agency focused solely on private sector job growth and sustainability, and serves as a vital resource for distressed communities striving to improve their local economies through bottom-up economic development strategies by using: infrastructure grants, strategic planning assistance, business development capital, or technical assistance.

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

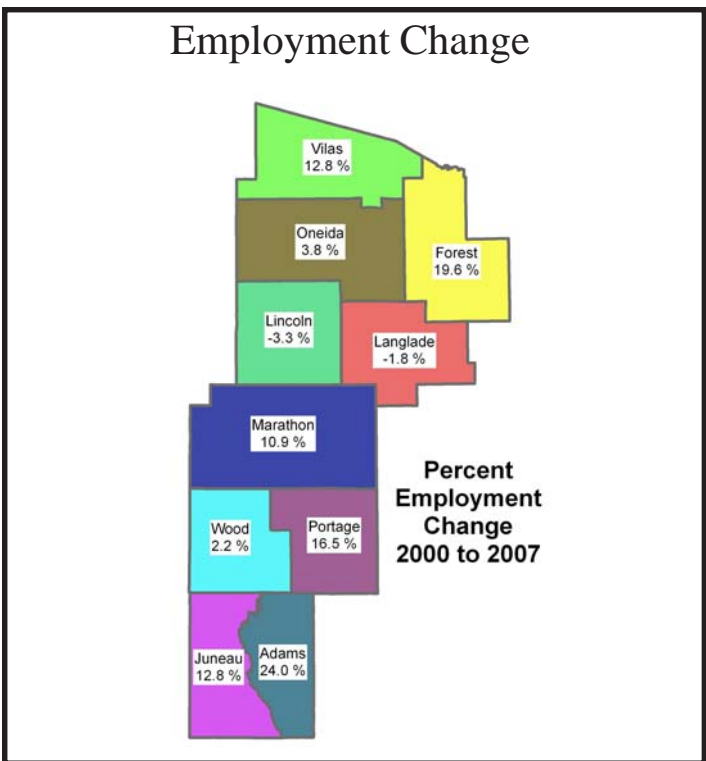
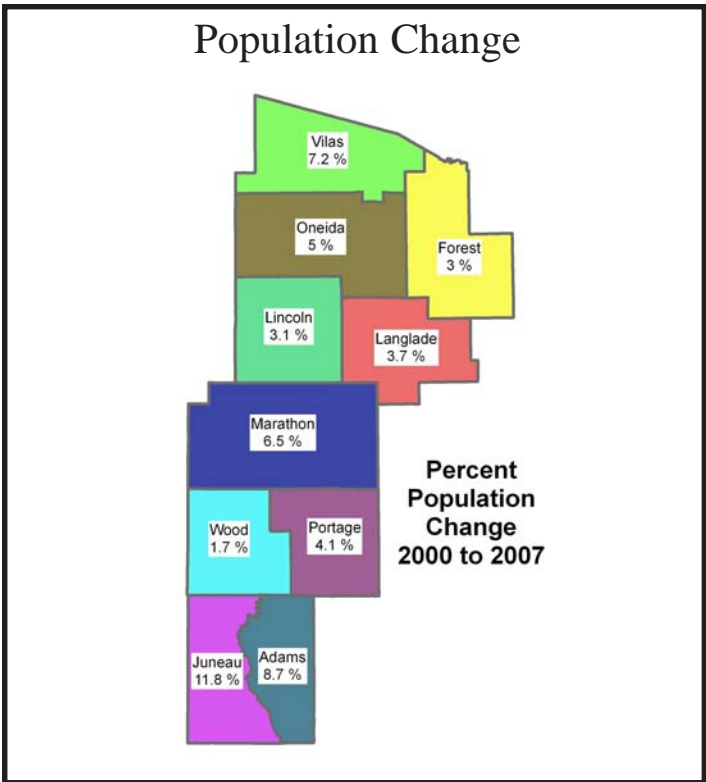


Commission Adopts CEDS

At its April meeting the NCWRPC adopted the 2008 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The report provides an assessment of economic development conditions in the Region. The CEDS also includes a section on the Regional Economic Development Strategy, the NCWRPC's Economic Development Work Plan, and a listing of potential public works projects.

Between 2000 and 2007, our Region's population grew by over 22,000 persons or about 5 percent. Juneau County showed the greatest percentage growth, followed by Adams and Vilas Counties. Wood County experienced the lowest percentage population growth. See the population graphic. Over that same period, employment increased by 17,000 jobs, or about 8 percent. However, not all ten counties experienced growth, Langlade and Lincoln Counties lost employment. Adams had the greatest percentage increase, followed by Forest and Portage Counties. See the employment graphic.

Adoption of the CEDS provides eligibility for local units of government in the Region to access U.S Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration dollars, as well as other federal and state agencies. Thirty-five projects were identified and submitted to EDA for funding consideration.




If you have any questions about the CEDS process or U.S. EDA, contact Dennis Lawrence at 715- 849-5510, Extension 304, or dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.



Commercial Area Planning

NCWRPC staff recently completed a commercial area redevelopment plan for the City of Tomahawk. The redevelopment plan was created to develop a series of recommendations for improvements in the two primary commercial areas in the community, including the downtown area and along N. 4th St. The project was initiated by the Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce and funded through private donations to the Chamber and a WI Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant.

The study focused on identifying steps to improve conditions in the downtown area and preparing for the reconstruction of N. 4th St. and replacement of the Veteran's Memorial Bridge. The study also explored market conditions, and made a series of recommendations to strengthen community assets and increase retail sales.

If you have an interest in discussing a similar project in your community, please contact James Hanke at 715-849-5510, Extension 306, or at jhanke@ncwrpc.org. 

NCWRPC Commissioners

Adams County

Donald Krahn
Glenn Licitar
Appointment Pending

Juneau County

Helmi Mehus
Edmund Wafle
Appointment Pending

Lincoln County

Robert Lussow
Thomas Rick
Doug Williams

Oneida County

Wilbur Petroskey
Thomas Rudolph
Appointment Pending

Forest County

Erhard Huettl
Donald Kline
Paul Millan

Langlade County

George Bornemann
Ronald Nye
Paul Schuman

Marathon County

Marilyn Bhend
Brad Karger
Bettye Nall

Wood County

Frederick Camacho
Tomas Haferman
Maurice Mathews

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