ADDENDUM
In 2001, the NCWRPC embarked on a process to develop a Region-wide Comprehensive Plan to comply with the State’s new Smart Growth law. The process begins with the review of the existing, but incomplete and outdated, Framework for Regional Development plan prepared in 1981.

The Region has seen tremendous change in the last twenty years. Population has increased, and aged; many of the Region’s mature industries have restructured and improved their operations, and many new businesses have opened; tourism has increased in importance; agriculture has continued a trend toward consolidation; water quality, especially in the Wisconsin River, has improved; and appreciation for the importance of environmental quality has increased. All of these changes, and more, will be identified in the new Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP).

The RCP will address long-range planning from a regional perspective, looking particularly at problems that transcend local boundaries. It will address land-use, transportation, infrastructure and community facilities, housing, economic development, agriculture, natural and cultural resources, intergovernmental cooperation and implementation. In addition, the RCP will incorporate the fourteen local planning goals, included in the law, to fit the Region. These goals call for compact development that maximizes the use of existing infrastructure, protects open space, encourages economical and efficient transportation systems, and safeguards environmental resources.

The data assembled will be aggregated for the entire Region and for each individual county. In addition, to better understand the dynamics of the area, data will also be aggregated on the basis of designated sub-regions, representing the northwoods, urban-industrial areas, and primarily rural counties of the Region.

Population is a critical indicator of a community’s overall health. This indicator, and several others, will be examined as part of the RCP. Below is a graphic that displays the rate of population growth, by minor civil division, within the Region between 1980 and 2000.

Clearly, the major growth areas, at least in terms of percentage change, occurred in the rural towns in the northern- and southern-most counties. The central counties, also the largest in terms of total population, experienced relatively stable growth over the twenty-year period.

The Regional Comprehensive Plan will provide an overall framework for planning within the Region. It will provide a reference point for these jurisdictions in approaching their own requirements under the new Smart Growth law. The RCP will place local jurisdictions into a larger context. The RCP will also take a detailed look at each county, and thereby expedite the preparation of county and local plans required under the Smart Growth law.
RCP Overview: The Process

As part of the application process, the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission prepared an informal “Plan to Plan” which lays out the process to complete the RCP.

The process has two tracks which occur simultaneously. One track is a “technical” track, while the other is a “public participation” track.

Basically, the Technical track consists of five phases. The focus of our work to date has been in the first phase of this track.

1.) Background Phase
   Review of existing state and regional reports. Collection of data, including demographic, economic, environmental, etc.

2.) Analysis Phase
   Determine what has happened over the last 20 years and identify trends for the next 20 years.

3.) Strategy Phase
   Develop the goals, objectives and policies based on the background and analysis work. Also begin to develop recommendations.

4.) Element Completion Phase
   The final draft elements are prepared.

5.) Final Plan Phase
   All nine elements are brought together into one seamless document where each element is consistent with the rest.

The second track, Public Participation, is ongoing throughout the entire planning process. The constant flow of information between each track is critical to the overall success of the plan.

A variety of different things are being discussed to gain the greatest level of public participation possible, including:

- A committee has been created that will monitor the plan throughout the entire process. This is the RCP Steering Committee, which is made up of one person from each county.
- Ad-Hoc committees will be utilized to review each element as it is developed. These committees will change for each element and be made up of professionals.
- Formal and informal meetings will be held throughout the Region.
- A website is under construction which will provide the most up-to-date information, including data available and a meeting schedule.

Public participation techniques are ever changing, and we anticipate that by the end of the plan process we will have taken additional steps not mentioned here.

Below is the generalized timeline for the completion of the RCP over a three year period. Some of the elements will be on different completion schedules due to the staffing restraints, but this provides an approximate overview of the process. We anticipate the plan will be completed by the fall of 2003.
RCP Overview:
The Need

The State’s new Smart Growth law requires that all local units of government develop a comprehensive plan, including regional planning commissions. However, the need for a regional comprehensive plan for the ten counties of north central Wisconsin extends far beyond the law. There are four major reasons briefly explained here.

- Many issues are regional in nature, and as such, they cannot be dealt with effectively by any one unit of local government. Over the years the NCWRPC has identified issues of “regional” significance, including natural resources, transportation, economic development and land use. These issues will be addressed at a regional scale in the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

- Planning coordination is essential for plan consistency and implementation. Throughout the region, for example, we have single towns planning without their surrounding towns or adjoining cities or villages. In other areas, we have counties planning for only the unincorporated areas, and in most areas, we have no planning at all. All of this, of course, does not include the many State plans and programs that have an impact on all communities. The regional plan will provide the needed framework for communities to plan.

- State-adopted objectives, standards, and policies should be given their first operational meaning within the context of multi-county regional plans. The multi-county approach to planning is the most techni-
cally sound, cost-effective way in which to collect, analyze, and disseminate essential planning data; to develop and apply sound planning techniques; and to prepare and adopt a set of framework plans relating to land use, transportation, natural resource protection, and economic development.

- The Regional Comprehensive Plan, while prepared on a multi-county basis, should be readily adaptable for direct insertion into comprehensive county development plans. Ideally, counties will play a critical role in the regional planning effort by providing direct policy level participation and technical review of the RCP.

Clearly, a good plan blends together both the state level and the local level issues. To create that link, the regional plan is needed. In Wisconsin law, there is no established layering of plans; but a logical process incorporates the overall state-wide plans and the more specific regional plan into a detailed local level plan. All three levels are necessary and none is more or less important to the process. High quality plans will find the balance between all three levels of planning. The planning circle represents this process. It is also the symbol of our regional planning effort.
RCP Overview: Questions & Answers

How does the Regional Comprehensive Plan fit with the comprehensive plan requirements for other jurisdictions?

Regional Planning Commissions are required by the new law to prepare a Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP), including the same nine elements that are required in county and municipal comprehensive plans. The RCP will be written from the regional perspective but will address the same issues that must be dealt with in the local plans. The RCP is not meant as a substitute for local plans but is intended to complement them and provides a larger view on the questions that are presented there.

As you know, many issues extend beyond any one local community, such as transportation, economic development and environmental concerns. The RCP will address these types of issues, but implementation still needs to be done at the local level.

Since there is no specific consistency requirement between the RCP and local plans, the content of those plans will not be determined by what is in the RCP. As with all actions of the Regional Planning Commissions, the RCP will be advisory. The goal is for each county to adopt it and all local units to draw from it in their own planning. The RCP will also become the document used to review all “A-95” projects in the Region.

Will the RCP satisfy the legal requirements for county/municipal comprehensive plans?

The requirement for an RCP is separate from the requirement for county or municipal comprehensive plans. Although the RCP will provide direction to the comprehensive plan that each community adopts, it cannot substitute for it. However, the RCP will contain the basic elements of the local plans and so will reduce the amount of additional data required from each. By 2010, it will be necessary for each local jurisdiction to have adopted an individual comprehensive plan of its own, in order to satisfy the consistency requirement of the law.

How can the RCP be used to help local governments to complete their own comprehensive plans?

Since the RCP is being prepared to satisfy the requirements of the Smart Growth law and the grant criteria, data included in the RCP should be directly applicable to the requirements for local plans. Both the general format and the specific criteria of the Smart Growth law will be embodied in the RCP. Although each town, county, village, and city must prepare its own comprehensive plan individually, much of the information and analysis contained in the RCP will be relevant to these local planning efforts. The RCP cannot be substituted for local planning efforts, but it can provide a basis and considerably ease the burden that the Smart Growth law places on local governments.

When will the RCP be finished, and what happens then?

It is anticipated, and the conditions of our grant require, that the RCP will be completed by 2003. At that point, it is expected that the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission will adopt the Plan. Counties and municipalities may adopt the plan directly or incorporate it into their own plan for adoption. Adopting the RCP does not substitute for the requirement that local governments adopt an individual comprehensive plan, however it is hoped that the RCP will provide a “roadmap” for local government efforts to create individual comprehensive plans.
NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION 2001-1

For Adoption of a Public Participation Plan

WHEREAS, the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) is required to prepare and adopt a Regional Comprehensive Plan for the region it serves, as outlined in Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, public participation is critical for the development of a sound plan; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the NCWRPC to approve a process to involve the public in the planning process; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCWRPC does approve and authorize the Public Participation Plan as presented.

ADOPTED on the 21st day of February 2001.

ATTEST:  

C.F. Saylor, Secretary/Treasurer

The governing body of the NCWRPC has authorized this Resolution, dated today.

ATTEST:  

Erhard Huettl, Chairperson
The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) anticipates a two step process for public participation. The first step will be throughout the planning process to adoption. Our goal will be to inform, consult and involve the public and the communities we serve during each phase of the planning process. The second step begins once the plan is adopted. We will continue to maintain and update the plan to keep it current.

In addition, as county and local plans are prepared, either by the NCWRPC or by other groups, the Regional Comprehensive Plan will serve as the framework for the development of the Region.

I. Plan Development:

The NCWRPC recognizes the importance of public participation in the planning process. This step will help establish communication between the public planning process and area citizens. Hopefully, this will help balance the issues related to private property rights.

The public participation plan for the regional comprehensive plan (RCP) will incorporate the following:

1. All meetings for the RCP process will be open to the public and posted. An informational letter will be sent to the County Board supervisors of participating Counties mid-way through the process, and near the end of the process large open-house meetings will be held.

2. Periodic press releases to the media and local counties will occur throughout the RCP process. Fact sheets will be part of this effort.

3. A quarterly newsletter will keep all local units of government, interested parties and adjoining governments informed of the RCP status.

4. RCP meeting summaries and handouts will be maintained in the office and on our website. They will also be distributed to all ten counties and any interested parties. In each county seat, the public library will be provided all materials as well. Presentations will be made at the mid-point and near the end, seeking input and comments to numerous groups.

5. All RCP meetings will maintain a sign in sheet to keep a record of all parties in attendance. All website comments will be included in the record as well.
6. A survey distributed through the NCWRPC newsletter will take place in the early mid-stage of the plan process to seek input from county and town officials and others with an interest in planning. Later, toward the end of the process, another survey will be completed to obtain reaction from the various ideas and concepts being promoted in the RCP.

Throughout the plan process, we will have a standing oversight committee, called the Regional Comprehensive Plan Committee. The Committee will consist of citizens of the region, including one member from each of our member counties, elected officials, and agency representatives. The committee will meet every other month or so to monitor the development of the plan. Upon adoption of this plan the Committee will meet and establish the formal timeline for the plan and identify the public participation steps.

As each of the nine elements is addressed, ad hoc committees may be created. These ad hoc groups will meet briefly and concentrate on the specific topic. If possible, existing committees/groups will become utilized to maximize participation. The overall Committee will “pull” together all the elements into one overall document.

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission will adopt the RCP. Counties and municipalities may adopt the plan directly or incorporate the plan into their own plans for adoption.

II. Implementation & Update:

Upon completion and adoption of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) the plan will be distributed in many forms to many throughout and adjoining the region. We will have bound reports with maps, poster plans (summaries), plans on CD and a web-site location.

The NCWRPC will utilize the Regional Plan as it works with local planning efforts throughout the region. Staff will also be available to explain the interaction between the Regional Comprehensive Plan and local plans.

As with all plans, it is critical for them to be maintained and updated on a regular basis. This will become part of our on-going land use planning activities.

Any planning process is subject to change, and this public participation plan is no different. It is the best approach at this time. However, over the course of nearly three years it is important to realize that the specific tools and process may vary from that presented. In early 2002, we will establish the final components of this effort.

A detailed report will be maintained throughout the plan process identifying all public participation efforts.
SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

Overview:

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) held three public open house meetings during the month of August in Mosinee, Mauston, and Rhinelander. The purpose of these meetings was to provide an update on the Regional Comprehensive Plan as it nears completion and seek public input on the Plan to date. Over 60 people attended the various meetings. Participants included interested citizens and local government officials and staff.

Each of the meetings followed the same format. After a 45-minute presentation by staff, participants were invited to look at the poster displays, which summarized the major findings, key issues and the goals for many of the comprehensive planning elements. NCWRPC’s staff and Steering Committee members were available to answer questions. In addition, a comment box was provided so people could submit written comments; and details were provided on how to contact the NCWRPC by mail, email, telephone, or via our website. Throughout the planning process other comments have also been received via the RCP website and the mail. They are included as well.

Questions:

Participants asked questions about the need to plan, “Smart Growth”, public participation, the regional comprehensive plan, the relationship between the regional plan and local plans, and the NCWRPC’s overall role in planning.

A summary of the questions and answers is provided below:

Why do we need to plan?

Planning helps us to work toward accomplishing objectives in an orderly, step-by-step fashion. Everybody plans on a personal level, from retirement plans to vacation plans.

Planning examines where a community has been, where it is currently, and where it wants to go. The goal of a plan is to provide a “roadmap” to creating a better future by maximizing the desired qualities of a community and minimizing the negative things in a community. It is a proactive process, rather than a reactive process.

What is Smart Growth?

Over the last several years there has been much discussion on this topic. Although the revision of the Wisconsin comprehensive planning statutes is often labeled as “Smart Growth” it does not share many of the characteristics of laws in other states that carry that title. It requires only communities have a comprehensive plan in place by 2010 and that they have nine elements enumerated in the law. It does not require such things as urban growth boundaries, or that the State approve the content of local plans, as in other states.
What types of public participation have been provided in the regional planning process to date?

A variety of different things have been done to ensure that the issues important to the public are discussed. Over the three year process, there have been two survey efforts, numerous steering committee meetings, a round of open house meetings, a website and a newsletter.

The public was encouraged to take a look at the plan in more detail on the website at www.ncwrpc.org. Comments can be made on that site or by mail or email.

Why do we need a regional plan?

The regional plan provides a general framework for local planning efforts. As local units develop their own plans, the regional plan provides a big picture perspective on local needs. The regional plan addresses those issues that are multi-jurisdictional such as economic development, transportation, and water quality.

Local government will benefit from the regional planning effort with savings in the cost of data collection, mapping, public participation, and development of goals, objectives and recommendations.

It also updates the 1981 Regional Plan and meets the requirements of the 1999 planning law.

What is the NCWRPC’s Relationship to Local Plans?

The Regional Plan is an advisory document that local units can utilize in their own planning efforts. It will become a starting point for local plans and will be useful as a resource as well.

Local plans are still required and those plans are the final vision. The Regional plan does not replace nor supersede local plans. Land use decisions at the local level are made based on local plans.

What is the NCWRPC’s role in the planning process? Is this top down?

The NCWRPC’s role is to develop a generalized guide for future development in the Region. It is an advisory plan, but it is useful in two ways. First, as a starting point and secondly as a resource.

Although the Regional Plan is completed, it is necessary for local units of government to create their own detailed local plans. These are the plans that will be implemented locally. The Regional plan paints the big picture and addresses those issues that cross political boundaries. The local plan is the most critical for the local governments to develop.
Open House Comments:

Participants made several general comments on a wide range of issues. A summary of those is listed below:

Very impressed with the regional plan so far.

The trail plan is a good thing. We need to do more in the Region.

I do not want any of my tax dollars going for planning.

This is a top down effort.

Need to look more at ATV and snowmobile trails. They do more for the economy.

It looks like a lot of work has been done so far.

We need to look at more than just bike trails in the Region.

This regional planning effort will help us in our local process.

Centralized planning does not work.

Good overall presentation on the plan.

We don’t need planning; let the free market take care of the future.

The northern counties do not have much in common with the southern areas. Some of the recommendations won’t work up here.

Look at the problems with growth boundaries in Oregon. They have ruined things there.

Survey questions 13, 14 and 15 are excellent.

FEMA and NRCS maps are often inaccurate.

Fearful that RPC authority will be expanded.

Don’t try to sell us this plan for our area.

I like the trail plan maps. There are not enough safe trails. We need more.

Good work so far.

The survey questions were biased to get the answers you wanted.

Don’t plan our children’s future.
People plan on their own. Government does not need to do it for them.

People should be able to do what they want with their own land.

Planners have preconceived assumptions and are not listening to the people that live here.

These plans need to be coordinated with state plans, such as DOT.

This regional plan is part of a bigger effort to take away local control.

New residents are ruining the Northwoods.

**Internet Comments:**

These comments were taken from our Regional Comprehensive Plan website comment area.

December 18, 2001

Possibility for highway improvements. STHY 153 junctions with 97 South out of Stratford then west on County C. continues thru Spencer, Loyal and stops at STHY 73. Yes, this means elimination of CTY C and STHY 98 between Spencer and Greenwood. My reasons what are all those trucks and most other traffic doing on CTY C. Taking a shortcut to Spencer and points west? My understanding with the Marshfield highway project calls for Mann Road east of STHY 13 will no longer be an exit to Wal-Mart and Menards complexes. My guess is CTY C. to CTY E. Then to your favorite retailer and only one stop light. This will create more traffic on CTY C.

Other thoughts came about concerning Marshfield’s highway project. Keep Mann Road open but give it a new name. Like STHY 113 or Business HYWY 13. The future complaints has to do with going back to McMillan Street to get to HYWY 13 North that requires 4 stops. Nope, my guess they will take CTY E to CTY C west. So why not change CTY C to STHY 153 with access to Spencer, Stratford and Marshfield.

May 28, 2003

I have heard that Hwy 10 maybe/will be rerouted down what is now Hwy H, is this correct? Not sure if that is a good idea.

August 7, 2003

“Your Plans” outcome has already been determined. Dismantling ALL RPC’s is the only answer. We don’t need triplcation of services sucking more tax money from the public. That is my “public comment” and regional input.
Overview:

Over the summer of 2003, the NCWRPC conducted a scientifically selected random survey of 1,036 residents and landowners. The survey results project to the entire population with a 99% confidence level and a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

This survey represents one of the tools used to collect public comment in the planning process. Tabulated results from all 1036 respondents are provided here for questions 1 to 11.

Written comments from the first 600 respondents are included in Tabs C, D & E.

Responses:

1. Currently there are about 430,000 persons living in the ten-county Region. Population projections for 2020, indicate the Region will grow by 13 percent or 59,300 additional persons. At what rate would you like to see growth occur?

   32% At the current rate
   35% Less than the current rate
   9% More than the current rate
   14% No growth at all
   8% No Opinion
   2% No Answer

2. Do you feel that there is a need for affordable housing in your community?
   44% Yes  44% No  10% No Opinion  2% No Answer

3. Should units of government purchase environmentally sensitive areas such as stream buffer areas or steep slopes, in order to protect land and water?
   57% Yes  33% No  8% No Opinion  2% No Answer

3a. Are you in favor of preserving environmentally sensitive areas, even if it means taking those areas off of the tax rolls?
   54% Yes  33% No  6% No Opinion  7% No Answer
4. Should new retail, commercial, and industrial development be concentrated in urban areas?
   58% Yes  33% No  7% No Opinion  2% No Answer

5. Should cities and villages try to develop nearly all land within their existing limits before growing into unincorporated areas?
   69% Yes  22% No  8% No Opinion  1% No Answer

6. Do you feel that development should be allowed anywhere?
   16% Yes  81% No  2% No Opinion  1% No Answer

7. Do you perceive a need for land use planning in your community?
   70% Yes  23% No  6% No Opinion  1% No Answer

8. Do you feel that the following kinds of new development will lower your taxes?
   Residential  27% Yes  60% No  7% No Opinion  6% No Answer
   Commercial   47% Yes  41% No  8% No Opinion  4% No Answer
   Industrial   53% Yes  35% No  8% No Opinion  4% No Answer

9. Do existing land use regulations have a positive effect on the value of your property?
   44% Yes  33% No  21% No Opinion  2% No Answer

10. Do you think there are too many units of government in the State of Wisconsin, i.e. towns, villages, cities, and counties?
    49% Yes  15% No  29% About Right  5% No Opinion  2% No Answer

Question 11 is presented on the next page.
11. The following is a list of the fourteen major goals developed in the planning process. Please tell us how you feel about each goal by placing one X per goal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
<th>No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Promotion of the redevelopment of lands with existing infrastructure and public services and the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing residential, commercial and industrial structures.</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Encouragement of neighborhood designs that support a range of transportation choices.</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Protection of natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces and groundwater resources.</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Protection of economically productive areas, including farmlands and forests.</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Encouragement of land uses, densities and regulations that promote efficient development patterns and relatively low municipal, state governmental and utility costs.</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Preservation of cultural, historic and archaeological sites.</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Encouragement of coordination and cooperation among nearby units of government.</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Building of community identity by revitalizing main streets and enforcing design standards.</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Providing an adequate supply of affordable housing for individuals of all income levels throughout each community.</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Providing adequate infrastructure and public services and an adequate supply of developable land to meet existing and future market demand for residential, commercial and industrial uses.</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Promoting the expansion or stabilization of the current economic base and the creation of a range of employment opportunities at the state, regional and local levels.</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Balancing individual property rights with community interests and goals.</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Planning and development of land uses that create or preserve varied and unique urban and rural communities.</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Providing an integrated, efficient and economical transportation system that affords mobility, convenience and safety and that meets the needs of all citizens, including transit-dependent and disabled citizens.</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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December 5, 2003

Mr. Dennis Lawrence
North Central Regional Planning Commission
210 McClellan St., Suite 210
Wausau, WI 54403

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

Vilas County has been involved in land use planning for over 50 years. We call it County zoning. This process has been evolving, meeting the needs of our citizens, and protecting the environment.

Some months ago, the North Central Regional Planning Commission requested that I appoint a county board supervisor to join a steering committee in an effort to shape a plan for the 10 county region. The County’s Land Use Planning Committee recommended Jay Verhulst to fill that appointment. It is my understanding the Mr. Verhulst has been attending the Commission meetings on a regular basis since his appointment. It is also my understanding that Vilas County has not been a member of the North Central Regional Planning Commission for several years.

Given that Vilas County is not a member of the North Central Regional Planning Commission, and given that our County has its own zoning in place and its own land use planning process, please be advised that Vilas County does not desire to be included in the North Central Regional Planning Commission’s master plan for the 10-county region. As the law states in section 66.0309(16) of the Wisconsin Statutes, a local unit of government within the boundaries of the region may withdraw from the jurisdiction of the commission by a 2/3 vote of the members elect of the governing body. Again, Vilas County has withdrawn and is therefore no longer under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Mr. Verhulst has attended your meetings, public information meetings and some Commission meetings. He informs me that he has never had any request for data or maps from the steering committee. However, data and maps have been developed and incorporated in the draft plan despite Mr. Verhulst’s negative votes on the various elements of the plan as they relate to Vilas County. We do not feel that the Commission has asked for or received any actual input from Vilas County. Instead, the Commission...
has relied primarily on statistics, rather than conversations or actual input from Vilas County’s zoning committee or land use planning committee. As a result, we do not feel that the master plan as it relates to Vilas County represents the actual planning needs and issues present in our county.

Again, while we understand that any master plan created by the Commission is currently advisory in nature, we also want to make it clear that Vilas County does not desire to be included in the plan, as we are not a member of the Commission and the Commission has no jurisdiction over us.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Vilas County’s position, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Charlie Rayala, Jr.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Unlocated or Missing Items:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Employment forecast</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Employment characteristics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps, and programs to guide the future development of the various modes of transportation including walking and water transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Identify highways within the local governmental unit by function</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Description of future development for police, fire, rescue, health facilities and schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Existing conditions and future needs water supply, health care facilities, fire, police, rescue, schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Analysis of economic base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps, and programs for joint planning and decision making with school districts</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Analysis of the relationship of the local governmental unit to school districts</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Programs to guide the future development and redevelopment of public and private property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Net density for ag land use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Assessment of residential, commercial, and industrial land use by amount, type, intensity, and net density</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>20 year projections, in 5-year increments for the residential, agriculture, commercial, and industrial land use</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Map for productive ag soils</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Describe how each of the elements of the comprehensive plan will be integrated and made consistent with each other</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mechanism to measure progress toward achieving all aspects of the comprehensive plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Process for updating the comprehensive plan every 10 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Regional Comprehensive Plan is an advisory "Framework" plan. Local plans should incorporate greater detail at the community level.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Recommended Draft</th>
<th>Adopted Plan</th>
<th>Printed Format Plan</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Element</td>
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<tr>
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<td>26</td>
<td>T12</td>
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<td>3 to 5</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>20 to 23</td>
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<td>M2 &amp; 3</td>
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<td>M14 &amp; T14</td>
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</table>

A  The general goals of walking and water transportation are included in Goal 1.
B  Federal, state and county highways are shown on Map 2 & 3. A general discussion of local roads is on page 4 (page 8 Revised Draft)
C  That detailed level planning is beyond the scope of this regional plan. We recommend that detail be discussed in local level plans
D  That detailed level planning is beyond the scope of this regional plan. We recommend that detail be discussed in local level plans
E  The first goal of this element mentions special districts, which includes school districts. Greater discussion is beyond this plan’s scope
F  That detailed level planning is beyond the scope of this regional plan. We recommend that detail be discussed in local level plans
G  Section D, "Consistency Among Plan Elements" discusses in general the element "consistency" issue
H  Section C, "Monitoring, Amendments and Update" discusses the mechanism to "measure" the progress of the plan
I  Section C, "Monitoring, Amendments and Update" also discusses the "update" process of the plan
NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 2003 - 5

ADOPTING REGIONAL MASTER PLAN... REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) has the responsibility of preparing a Master Plan for the Region under ss. 66.0309 (9); and

WHEREAS, the NCWRPC is required to include the nine planning elements as outlined in the comprehensive planning law ss. 66.1001; and

WHEREAS, the NCWRPC has received a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Administration to complete this plan; and

WHEREAS, the NCWRPC has updated the 1981 "Framework for the Region" ; and

WHEREAS, adoption of said Regional Master Plan... Regional Comprehensive Plan complies with the above state laws; and

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED: that the NCWRPC supports and adopts its Regional Master Plan, the Regional Comprehensive Plan, and confirms its commitment to the goals and objectives contained therein.

Adopted this 10th day of December, 2003.

[Signature]
Erhard Huettl, Chairperson

[Signature]
Maurice Mathews, Secretary/Treasurer