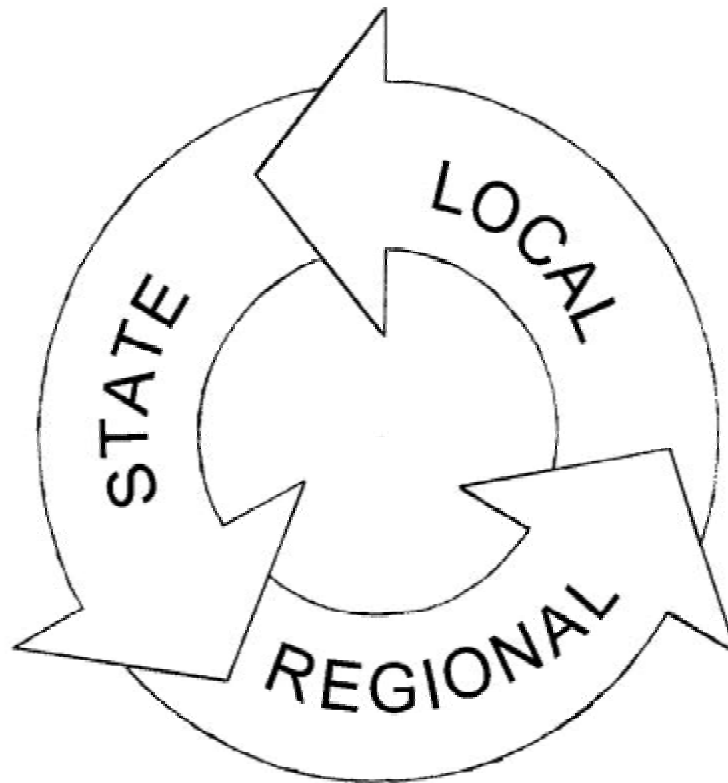


REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



"A FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE"
2000-2020

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



210 McClellan Street, Suite 210, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403
Telephone: (715) 849-5510 Fax: (715) 849-5110
Web Page: www.ncwrpc.org Email: staff@ncwrpc.org

SERVING ADAMS, FOREST, JUNEAU, LANGLADE, LINCOLN, MARATHON, ONEIDA, PORTAGE, VILAS AND WOOD COUNTIES

January 2, 2004

To: The Towns, Villages, Cities, and Counties of North Central Wisconsin
and other interested parties.

We are pleased to provide you with a copy of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's Regional Master Plan...the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP), which was adopted at its December 10, 2003 meeting. As you know this has been a three-year effort to develop this advisory document for the Region. This is also the first regional plan completed in the state since the new comprehensive planning law was established. According state statute, all regional planning commissions are required to prepare a "master plan" for its Region, and the plan must incorporate the requirements outlined in the comprehensive planning statutes. In 1981 the NCWRPC adopted its original master plan called the "Framework for Regional Development".

In 1998, the NCWRPC made the decision to update the 1981 Framework Plan. That plan, much like this "Regional Comprehensive Plan", was designed as an advisory document providing "long-range policy direction for making public and private investment decisions". After a plan for planning effort, grant applications were prepared and submitted in 1999 and 2000 to fund the effort. With funding secured, the planning process began.

The regional planning effort has always had two basic goals. The first goal was to update the 1981 plan, now more than twenty years old. The second goal was to assemble the data and prepare base mapping for the Region, which will save our member governments time and money as they prepare their own plans. It is our hope that the RCP can be used as a reference that will provide guidance in the planning efforts of local governments. We offer this document as a model that local governments can use, choosing the parts that they feel are appropriate to their communities.

This planning process involved data collection, mapping, review of existing plans, surveys of elected officials and the general public, and open-house meetings. During the planning process a Steering Committee of 10 persons, one from each county, was created and met every other month and at times every month, providing review as each element was developed, including the creation of the goals, objectives and recommendations.

This Plan examines demographic trends, natural resources, housing, transportation, community facilities, economic development, land use, intergovernmental cooperation and implementation recommendations. The document covers over 300 pages and includes 82 tables and 80 maps. Each element contains three basic sections:

- Background...review existing plans, collect data, and prepare base maps.
- Analysis...examine the last 20 years and identify trends for next 20 years.
- Strategy...develop goals, objectives and recommendations that local communities may consider as they complete their own local plans.

Some of the major milestones were a survey of elected officials in 2002 and a random survey of the general public in 2003, and "Open House" meetings in each of the three sub-regions. Preliminary drafts were distributed in early August to all counties and key staff/agencies. The Steering Committee made a motion to "recommend approval" on October 1, 2003. Recommended drafts were distributed in early October to all counties, libraries, and adjoining counties. Throughout the process we have provided updates through our newsletter, which is distributed to over 1,100 persons in the Region, including all clerks, chief elected officials, county board supervisors, and staff persons, state and federal agencies, as well as many others. In addition, all agendas, minutes, and plan documents have been available on our website. To date, over 700 persons have visited that site.

Again, this document is intended to provide a general starting point for local units of government as they begin their planning efforts. It is the local government plans that are most critical; these plans will be implemented. But no local community should plan in isolation. All communities need to look at State and regional plans, as well as the plans of surrounding communities, and develop a local plan that is compatible with the plans of other jurisdictions. Therefore this plan is a useful reference, since it summarizes State plans and provides information about the communities that make up the North Central Region.

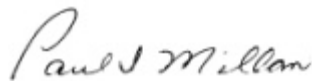
Also remember, that if your community is in need of help with your local planning efforts, please contact the NCWRPC. After all, the NCWRPC is here to assist you, the governments of North Central Wisconsin.

Please contact staff with any questions or comments you may have as you review this document. Dennis Lawrence can be reached at (715) 849-5510, Extension 304, or email at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.

Sincerely,



Erhard Huettl,
NCWRPC Chairperson



Paul Millan,
Steering Committee Chair



Dennis Lawrence, AICP,
Executive Director

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Paul Millan, Chairperson, Forest County
Wilbur Petroskey, Vice-Chairperson, Oneida County

Fred Camacho, Wood County
Patricia McKinney, Langlade County
Helmi Mehus, Juneau County
Bettye Nall, Marathon County
Harvey Olson, Portage County
Herb Rieckmann, Adams County
Thomas Rick, Lincoln County
Jay Verhulst, Vilas County

STAFF:

Dennis Lawrence, AICP, Executive Director

Mike Agnew, AICP, Senior Planner
Andrew Faust, Senior GIS Analyst
Matt Guptail, GIS & Planning Technician
Darryl Landeau, AICP, Senior Planner
Bernadette Lewis, Office Coordinator
Craig Stahl, AICP, Senior Planner

This plan was completed in 2003 and was partially funded by the Wisconsin Department of Administration.

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN AT A GLANCE

NORTH SUB-REGION

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| COUNTIES | 5 |
| CITIES | 6 |
| VILLAGES | 1 |
| <u>TOWNS</u> | <u>81</u> |
| TOTAL | 93 |



CENTRAL SUB-REGION

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| COUNTIES | 3 |
| CITIES | 10 |
| VILLAGES | 31 |
| <u>TOWNS</u> | <u>81</u> |
| TOTAL | 125 |



Total Population:
North Central Region 431,021

Most Populated County:
Marathon County 125,834

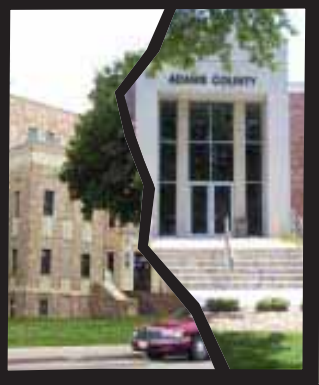
Least Populated County:
Forest County 10,024

Most Populated Minor Civil Division:
City of Wausau (Marathon County) 38,426
Village of Weston (Marathon County) 12,079
Town of Grand Rapids (Wood County) 7,801

Least Populated Minor Civil Divisions:
City of Pittsville (Wood County) 866
Village of Brokaw (Marathon County) 107
Town of Kingston (Juneau County) 58

SOUTH SUB-REGION

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| COUNTIES | 2 |
| CITIES | 5 |
| VILLAGES | 7 |
| <u>TOWNS</u> | <u>36</u> |
| TOTAL | 50 |



Other Facts:
Land Area 5,969,920 Acres (9,328 sq. miles)
Lake Area 295,941 Acres (462 sq. miles)
Farmland 1,720,000 Acres (2,687 sq. miles)
Persons per square mile 46.1
Number of Lakes 5,349

TOTAL UNITS = 268

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
"A Framework for the Future"

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

| | |
|---|---|
| REGIONAL ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES | 1 |
| Background | |
| Demographics: Past, Present & Future | |
| Issues & Opportunities, and Public Participation | |
| Definition & Process | |
| NATURAL, AGRICULTURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES | 2 |
| Natural Resources: | |
| Background | |
| Inventory & Trends | |
| Goals, Objectives and Recommendations | |
| Agricultural: | |
| Background | |
| Inventory & Trends | |
| Goals, Objectives and Recommendations | |
| Cultural Resources: | |
| Background | |
| Inventory & Trends | |
| Goals, Objectives and Recommendations | |
| HOUSING | 3 |
| Background | |
| Inventory & Trends | |
| Goals, Objectives & Recommendations | |
| TRANSPORTATION | 4 |
| Background | |
| Inventory & Trends | |
| Goals, Objectives and Recommendations | |

| | |
|---|----|
| UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES | 5 |
| Background | |
| Inventory & Trends | |
| Goals, Objectives and Recommendations | |
| ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | 6 |
| Background | |
| Inventory & Trends | |
| Goal, Objectives and Recommendations | |
| LAND USE | 7 |
| Background | |
| Inventory & Trends | |
| Goals, Objectives and Recommendations | |
| INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION | 8 |
| Background | |
| Issues & Opportunities | |
| Goals, Objectives and Recommendations | |
| IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS | 9 |
| Natural, Agricultural, and Cultural Resources | |
| Housing | |
| Transportation | |
| Utilities and Community Facilities | |
| Economic Development | |
| Land Use | |
| Intergovernmental Cooperation | |
| ADDENDUM | 10 |
| Various Attachments | |