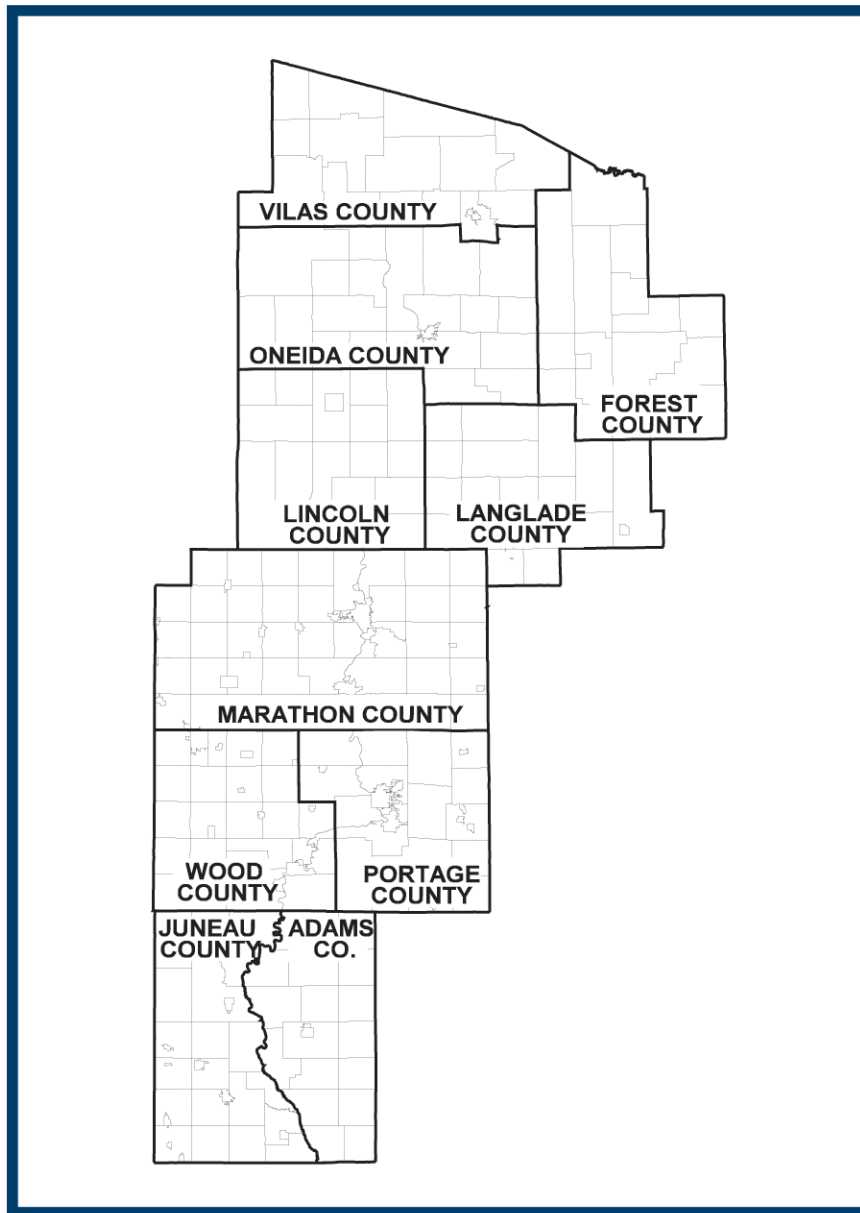


# NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

*Serving the Region Since 1973!*

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

# OUR SERVICE AREA



## REGIONAL FACTS:

<b>2015 Population (DOA Estimate):</b>	<b>444,941</b>
<b>Square Miles:</b>	<b>9,325</b>
<b>Counties:</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Cities:</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Villages:</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Towns:</b>	<b>196</b>
<b>Tribal:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Governmental &amp; Tribal Units:</b>	<b>273</b>

# 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](http://www.ncwrpc.org) Email: [staff@ncwrpc.org](mailto:staff@ncwrpc.org)



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

June 2016

Subject: **NCWRPC 2015 Annual Report**

Dear Member Governments, State and Federal Officials, and Others:

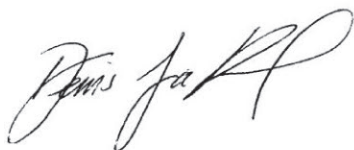
On behalf of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC), I am pleased to provide you with the **2015 Annual Report**. As you will see throughout this 42<sup>nd</sup> *Annual Report*, NCWRPC staff has completed many regional and local level projects in partnership with numerous organizations and communities. Also included in this report is information for the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation (NCWDC), our economic development organization responsible for managing a revolving loan fund.

This report is prepared to provide local officials and interested citizens with an overview of the activities undertaken by the NCWRPC over the last year. In addition, the report meets the requirements as outlined in Wisconsin Statute 66.0309(8)(b) for annual report preparation and submission.

Hopefully member units of government and interested governmental agencies are pleased with the work of the NCWRPC. We look forward to continuing to serve the Region by providing planning services to address the issues and needs of North Central Wisconsin.

Thank you for your continued support of the NCWRPC and please feel free to contact me at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org) should you have any questions regarding the *Annual Report* or the NCWRPC.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dennis Lawrence, AICP  
Executive Director

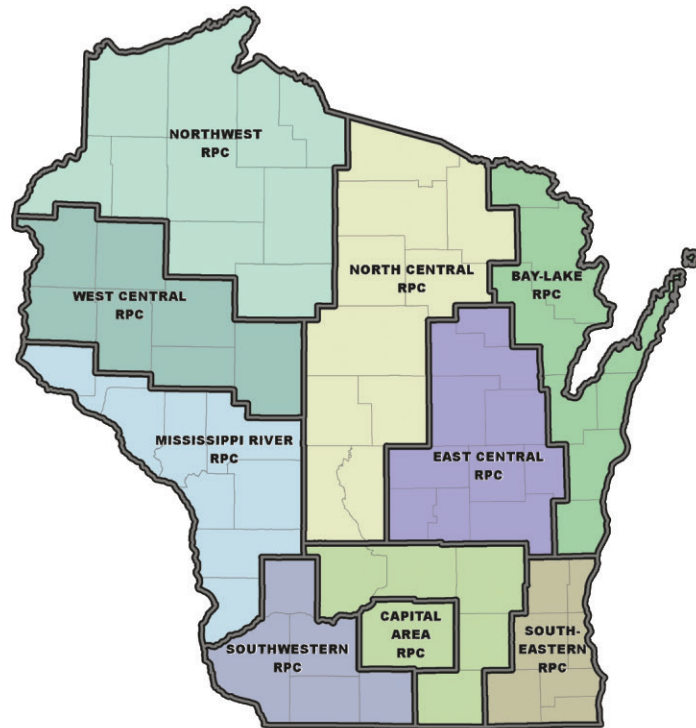
# PURPOSE & HISTORY

The goals of the NCWRPC are to:

- identify strategies and solutions to planning issues,
- help communities meet the challenges facing them,
- continue moving from levy to other funding sources, and
- provide cost-effective planning services to its members.

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) was created in 1973 under Wisconsin Statute 66.0309 as a voluntary association of governments for the purpose of preparing plans for the physical development of the Region and its communities; to conduct research; to serve as a data center; and as a forum for communication, cooperation and coordination among federal, state, regional, and local interests; and to provide technical services to its membership.

Regional planning commissions provide assistance throughout the state. NCWRPC is one of nine regional planning commissions in Wisconsin; while nationwide there are about 500 similar type regional organizations.



## MISSION STATEMENT:

In an advisory capacity to local units of government and tribes, the NCWRPC offers cost effective, specialized planning services and expertise that support responsible development of the Region's economic, social, natural, and human-built environments. The NCWRPC also provides leadership and a regional forum for the creation of cooperative responses to shared opportunities and the challenges facing the counties and communities of the ten-county Region.

# IMPACT

## LEVERAGING DOLLARS:

To keep membership contributions low, additional dollars must be secured from other sources to maintain the organization. A simple Return on Membership (ROM) analysis shows that every membership dollar provided to the NCWRPC leverages additional dollars. In 2015, for every 1 dollar the NCWRPC received from membership it directly leveraged another 3.9 dollars with grants and local projects.

## PUBLICATIONS:

Annually the NCWRPC prepares and publishes several planning documents. The NCWRPC also publishes a quarterly newsletter, NCWRPC NEWS, which is sent to over 1,100 people, including county supervisors, chief-elected officials, clerks and many other interested parties throughout the region, state and nation. In addition, the NCWRPC distributes ED NEWS via email, which is focused on economic development.

A list of plans, reports and other information is available at the NCWRPC website. See [www.ncwrpc.org](http://www.ncwrpc.org).

## FEDERAL AND STATE RELATIONSHIPS:

The NCWRPC is an independent agency that is governed by an appointed board, called a Commission, and serves the towns, villages, cities, tribes, and counties within the Region. However, there are two long-standing relationships with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), and with the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), that support planning.

Since 1980 the NCWRPC has maintained EDA designation as an economic development district. As such, the NCWRPC receives an annual economic development planning grant to provide local economic development assistance and prepare a regional report called a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). WisDOT designated the NCWRPC as a Regional Planning Organization in 1975. As such, the NCWRPC receives a planning grant annually to provide transportation planning assistance related to the state transportation work program.

## TYPES OF ASSISTANCE:

The NCWRPC is a regional planning and economic development agency, which provides assistance to local governments throughout the ten-county Region in the areas of economic development, geographic information systems (GIS), intergovernmental cooperation, land use planning, and transportation. The NCWRPC supplements existing staff, or takes the lead where there is no staff. The goal is to not duplicate efforts but rather provide an effective system of planning to fit each community's need.

The NCWRPC undertakes both regional and local planning projects. Regional Programs are highlighted on page 5 and 6. Local Assistance projects are highlighted by county on pages 7 and 8.

# REGIONAL PROGRAMS

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## REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING:

NCWRPC annually prepares a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document that analyzes the regional economy and identifies potential economic development projects. This report maintains the Region's eligibility for U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration public works programs. Other federal and state programs utilize this plan as well. NCWRPC also prepares grant applications to bring funding into the region to promote growth

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## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING:

NCWRPC provides local transportation assistance with the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR), and represents North Central Wisconsin on state level transportation planning committees to help bring more dollars for the repair and construction of our transportation infrastructure. The NCWRPC also provides on-going assistance to the Wausau Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

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## REGIONAL PLANNING:

NCWRPC is responsible for the development of a regional comprehensive plan for the ten county Region. The Regional Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2003, the first regional plan under the state's new planning law, and was updated in 2015. The new plan is called the Regional Livability Plan. NCWRPC also assists town, village, city, and county governments in the preparation of comprehensive plans. Other regional planning projects relate to multi-county emergency management, such as communication system interoperability.

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## REGIONAL DATA AND MAPPING CENTER:

NCWRPC is a depository for a variety of demographic information on the area, including U.S. Census data. In addition, the NCWRPC also maintains a Regional GIS database and computerized mapping system, including digital orthophotography. County Profiles are also prepared and updated as needed. In addition, quarterly economic development reports are prepared for each county in the Region.

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## NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:

NCWRPC provides management assistance for two multi-county revolving loan funds, which provide financing to a variety of businesses throughout the Region. One fund was created through a grant from HUD, while the other was established through USDA-RD intermediary lending program. Increasing jobs and expanding the local tax base within the region are the primary goals of this program.

# 2015 REGIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Coordinated the 2015 WROC air photo effort, similar to efforts in 2005 and 2010. Secured state and federal grants to reduce costs for local projects. In all, 41 counties participated statewide. This effort was awarded two state awards.
- Completed a Regional Livability Plan, with grant funding from the Federal Highway Administration, to replace the current Regional Comprehensive Plan. The plan was the recipient of a national award from the American Planning Association.
- Prepared the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Performance Report to maintain the Region's Economic Development District designation, as defined by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).
- Maintain designation as a rural transportation planning organization by WisDOT to coordinate transportation strategies on a regional basis.
- Continue to provide assistance to the 13 county Northeast Wisconsin Emergency Management Region to ensure that communication interoperability addresses both local and regional concerns.
- Continue partnership with WEDC to provide EMSI economic development modeling tools to communities within the Region.
- Continue to coordinate the Northeast Wisconsin Public Safety Communication (NEWCOM) organization to promote better emergency service communication throughout a 16 county Region.
- Maintain and develop a Regional Mapping Information System, Census and Demographic Information, and a Planning Library for the region. Prepared specialized maps for the Ginseng Association and Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company.
- Provide staff assistance to the Northwoods Rail Commission, which is a group of several counties with the goal of maintaining and promoting freight rail in northern Wisconsin. Also assisted in the preparation of a federal TIGER Grant.
- Provide staff assistance to the North Central Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition, which serves thirteen communities throughout the region.
- Provide staff assistance to the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation (NCWDC) to manage two Revolving Loan Funds promoting job creation in the Region.
- Participated on a number of Boards and Committees in the Region and State.

***The NCWRPC is involved in various other Regional efforts throughout the year that are not mentioned above.***

# LOCAL ASSISTANCE

*NCWRPC provides members with assistance in the following five areas:*

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

NCWRPC is available to conduct specialized studies on request. Over the years, a wide range of studies have been completed on subjects such as merging ambulance services,

community consolidation, economic impact analysis, regional juvenile detention, and boundary agreements. Many of these projects include a regional focus because they involve multiple units of government.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NCWRPC provides grant writing and administrative assistance to communities that are seeking funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. The NCWRPC also provides assistance for a wide variety of other grant programs, including WEDC, WisDNR, and USDA-Rural Development. In addition, the NCWRPC provides communities with assistance in a variety of other economic development related studies, including preparing detailed economic development plans that examine the local economy, assess local trends and identify strategies to spur development.

## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

NCWRPC maintains an extensive digital mapping database for the region. In addition, the NCWRPC has access to a wide array of data, including U.S. Census (1980, 1990, 2000, 2010), Economic Census, State Employment and Labor Information, and other specialized data sets. We also assist with preparing County Land Information Plans and various grant applications for digital imagery. Custom data sets and maps can also be created for communities on request or as part of larger planning efforts. In addition, we coordinate efforts related to regional and state wide air photo acquisition.

## TRANSPORTATION

NCWRPC assists local governments in a variety of areas, including the preparation of local road improvement programs. These road plans provide a capital improvement schedule for upgrading local roads and help local units obtain Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funding for road reconstruction projects. Pavement rating and other assistance with the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) program is also available. In addition, the NCWRPC prepares specialized transportation studies including: highway corridor studies, long-range urban area plans, parking studies, county-wide bicycle planning, Safe Routes to School plans, and grant writing for various WisDOT funding sources.

## LAND USE

NCWRPC assists local governments in the preparation of comprehensive plans under Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Law, as well as assistance with zoning and land division ordinance assistance that implement local plans. In addition, the NCWRPC prepares a variety of natural resource based plans for communities, including outdoor recreation plans, all hazard mitigation plans, land and water resource management plans, sewer service area plans, wellhead protection plans, and wildfire protection plans, among others.



# 2015 SELECTED COUNTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Eight of the ten counties in the region are members of the NCWRPC. Those counties have full access to all available services of the organization. Note that there are some local community members in the other two counties as well. Projects from the member counties are presented below:

## ADAMS COUNTY

- Rome Comprehensive Plan
- County All Hazard Mitigation Plan
- County Land & Water Resource Management Plan
- Assisting Online County Survey Records System
- Updated County Land Use Coverage
- Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- DOT Road Rating Assistance for two communities

## FOREST COUNTY

- County GIS & Mapping Assistance
- Mole Lake All-Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Farmland Preservation Plan
- Economic Development Loan to Local Business
- Nicolet - Wolf River Byways Corridor Management Plan Assistance
- Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- County Land Information Plan assistance
- County All Hazard Mitigation Plan
- DOT Road Rating Assistance for five communities

## JUNEAU COUNTY

- County All Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant
- County Quarterly Economic Reports with EMSI
- Village of Necedah Comprehensive Plan
- Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- DOT Grant Application for County Bike Plan

## LANGLADE COUNTY

- Updated County Land Use Coverage
- Land Records Assistance
- County Outdoor Recreational Map
- Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- DOT Road Rating Assistance for four communities
- County Land Information Plan assistance

## LINCOLN COUNTY

- County Zoning Update Recommendations
- City of Merrill Area Bike Plan
- Updated County Land Use Coverage
- County Comprehensive Plan Integration
- City of Merrill Bike and Pedestrian Plan
- Hazard mitigation Planning Grant
- DOT Road Rating Assistance for five communities

## MARATHON COUNTY

- Village of Kronenwetter Maple Ridge Development Plan
- Village of Rothschild Outdoor Comprehensive Plan
- County Comprehensive Plan
- EPA Brownfield Grant Administration
- County All Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Town of Berlin Comprehensive Plan
- Phosphorus Compliance Summit
- LIFE Report Economic Development Section Assistance
- DOT Road Rating Assistance for two communities

## ONEIDA COUNTY

- City of Rhinelander Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Online County Survey Records System Hosting
- County Farmland Preservation Plan
- Rhinelander/County Airport Website Assistance
- County All Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant
- Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- Minocqua Winter Park Feasibility Study
- DOT Road Rating Assistance for four communities

## VILAS COUNTY

- County Farmland Preservation
- Economic Development Loan to Local Business
- City of Eagle River Annexation assistance
- Preliminary County Bike Plan Update Discussions
- County Land Information Plan assistance
- Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- County Emergency Response Zone Atlas Update

**In addition, throughout the year, staff attends various meetings, responds to inquiries, creates and updates websites, and completes numerous projects not mentioned above.**



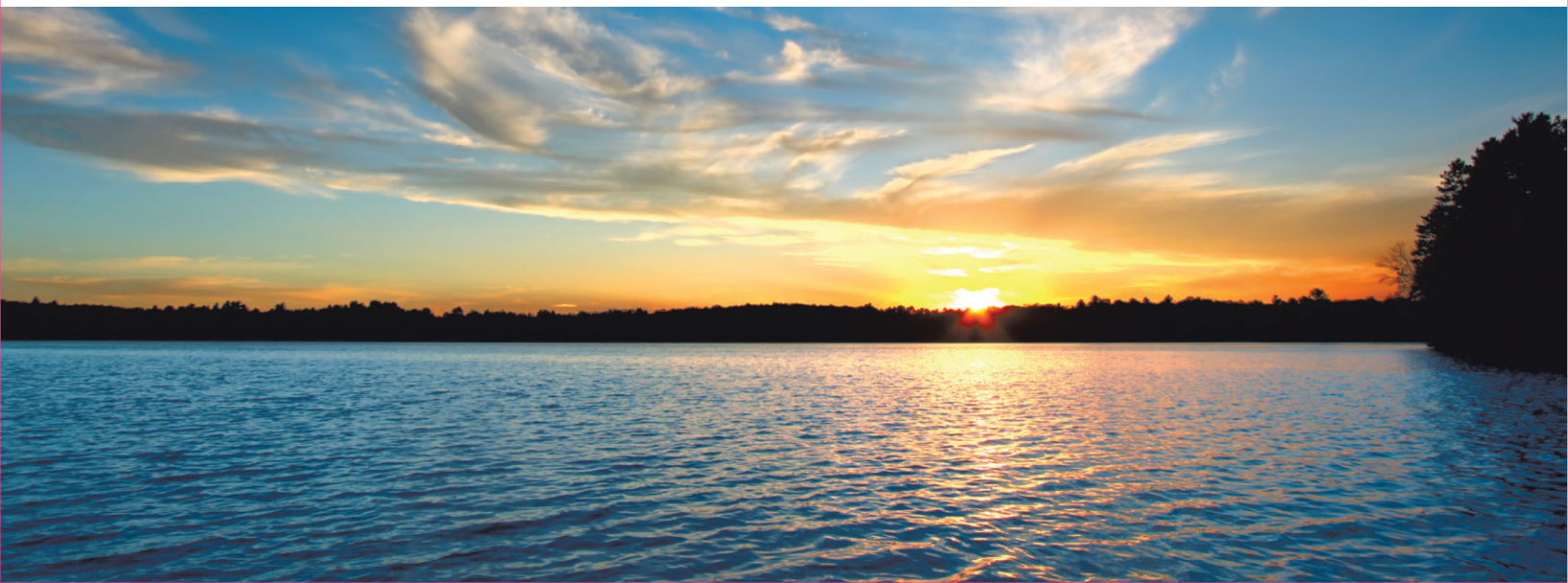
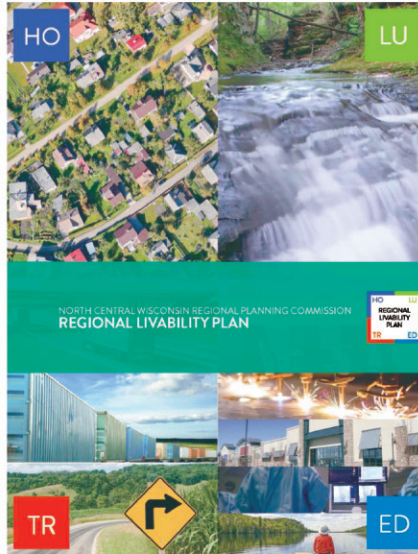
# RECOGNITION

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) works tirelessly to serve the Region and all of its member communities. That hard work paid off with two projects completed in 2015 receiving recognition.

The NCWRPC's Regional Livability Plan (RLP) was selected as the 2016 recipient of the Vernon Denies Merit Award for an Outstanding Comprehensive Plan. This is the highest national award of the Small Town and Rural Planning Division of the American Planning Association (APA). The RLP is the update of our Regional Comprehensive Plan.

The NCWRPC's 2015 Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC) effort was recently selected the 2016 Best of State Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin as well as the 2016 Friend of Land Records award from the Wisconsin Land Information Association.

In addition, the NCWRPC worked with state and federal partners to help cost share the acquisition of the data. As a result over \$115,000 was returned to our members – making the program even more cost-effective.



# 2015 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The NCWRPC is funded from three basic sources. These are federal and state grants, local contracts, and a local membership fee (levy) based on equalized valuation of member governments. Below is the Statement of Net Position:

## ASSETS:

Cash and Investments .....	1,282,326
Restricted Cash.....	456,869
Grants and Projects Receivable .....	110,838
Member Levy Receivable .....	219,387
Prepaid items and deposits.....	25,597
Net Pension Asset.....	66,304
Capital Assets.....	10,021

**TOTAL ASSETS: .....\$2,171,342**

## LIABILITIES:

Employee Earnings Payable.....	29,090
Employee Withholdings.....	13,048
Deposits Held for Others.....	456,869
Long-Term Obligations .....	103,429
Voucher Payable .....	1,772
Other (Unearned revenues) .....	11,937

**TOTAL LIABILITIES: .....\$616,145**

Deferred Member Levy .....	219,387
Invested Capital Assets .....	10,021
Restricted for Pension Benefits .....	138,159
Reserved and Unrestricted Funds: .....	1,259,485

**NET POSITION: .....\$1,407,665**

Schenck, LLC prepared the Audit. A copy of the complete Audit Report is available for review at the NCWRPC Office. Krause-Howard & Company provides day-to-day accounting services for the organization.

## ANNUAL LEVY RATE:

In an effort to meet our goals of moving away from the levy to more state and federal grants and other sources, we again reduced our membership charge. By state statute the membership charge or levy rate cannot exceed 0.003%. In 2000 the NCWRPC rate was set at 0.00275%, by 2015 that rate was reduced to 0.000964% - less than one third of the statutory limit. Since 2000, the rate has been reduced over 60 percent!

# NORTH CENTRAL WI DEVELOPMENT CORP.

To date the NCWDC has made 20 loans and created or retained over 440 jobs in the Region. Currently, there are 5 active loans in the portfolio.

In 1995, the NCWRPC with the support of its counties, area economic development corporations, private lenders, and others, established the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation (NCWDC). The NCWDC is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, staffed by the NCWRPC, to manage a multi-county loan fund. The two funds currently operated are the Regional Revolving Loan Fund and the Community Development Fund.

An eleven member Board of Directors provides oversight to the NCWDC, which includes one person from each of the counties in the Region, along with one representative from the NCWRPC. The current Board of Directors is displayed below:

Adams County	Daric Smith	Langlade County	Angie Close, VP
Marathon County	Vacant	Vilas County	Bob Egan
Forest County	Bev Collins, Pres.	Lincoln County	David Koth
Oneida County	Roger Luce	Wood County	Zach Vruwink
Juneau County	Terry Whipple	NCWRPC	George Bornemann, Sec./Tres.
Portage County	Vacant		

In addition, there is a five person Loan Review Committee that reviews and makes the final funding decision on each loan application. The current members are: Bev Collins, Dan Daubert, Ken Maule, Linda Prehn, and Bill Vanden Heuvel.

## The 2015 Statement of Financial Position is below:

Assets:	USDA-RD IRP Funds	\$189,266
	HUD Funds	\$241,988
	RBEG Funds	\$8,530
	Loans Outstanding	\$243,945
		<u>\$683,729</u>
Liabilities:	Accrued Interest	\$1,136
	IRP Note Payable	\$170,418
		<u>\$171,554</u>
Net Assets:	Restricted/Unrestricted	<u>\$512,175</u>
	Total Liabilities and Net Assets:	<u>\$683,729</u>

Schenck, LLC prepared the Audit for the NCWDC.  
A copy is available for review at the NCWRPC Office.

# COMMISSIONERS

An appointed commission oversees the activities of the executive director and the organization. As detailed in Wisconsin statute, three commissioners from each member county govern the NCWRPC. One is selected directly by the County (C), one directly by the Governor (G), and the third is a Joint (J) selection between the County and Governor.

Commissioners serve until reappointed or replaced. Term ending is also shown. Commissioners listed are current as of December 31, 2015.

## NCWRPC Officers:

Robert Lussow, Chairperson  
Paul Millan, Vice-Chairperson  
George Bornemann, Secretary/Treasurer

### Adams County

Rocky Gilner, C (6/18)  
Richard Bakovka, G (1/16)  
Appointment Pending, J (6/20)

### Forest County

Bucky Dailey, C (1/20)  
Paul Millan, G (1/18)  
Jim Landru, Jr., J (1/16)

### Juneau County

Edmund Wafle, C (6/19)  
Kenneth Winters, G (6/17)  
Jerry Niles, J (6/21)

### Langlade County

Ronald Nye, C (1/20)  
George Bornemann, G (1/16)  
Paul Schuman, J (1/12)

### Lincoln County

Robert Lussow, C (6/19)  
Doug Williams, G (6/15)  
Frank Saal, Jr., J (6/17)

### Marathon County

Catherine Wineman, C (6/21)  
Appointment Pending, G (6/17)  
Craig McEwen, J (6/19)

### Oneida County

Thomas Rudolph, C (1/20)  
Ted Cushing, G (1/22)  
Harland Lee, J (1/18)

### Portage County

None Participating

### Vilas County

Kim Simac, C (6/19)  
Appointment Pending, G (1/17)  
Bob Egan, J (1/15)

### Wood County\*

Gerald Nelson, C (6/17)  
Appointment Pending, G (6/15)  
Appointment Pending, J (6/19)

In addition, by Wisconsin Statute, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) is an ex-officio officer of the NCWRPC.

\* Note: Although the county appoints the commissioners, the county is not the financially participating member. Each local member contributes individually.

# PROFESSIONAL STAFF

## **Dennis Lawrence, EDFP, AICP, Executive Director**

Dennis started with the NCWRPC in 1992 and became Executive Director in 1997. He has a bachelor's degree in public administration from UW-La Crosse and a master's degree in urban planning from UW-Milwaukee. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and is also certified as an Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP). Dennis provides overall management to the organization and works in all areas of planning.

## **Andrew Faust, GISP, Senior GIS Analyst**

Andy has worked with the NCWRPC since 1995. He has a bachelor's degree in urban and regional studies from UW-Oshkosh. He is certified as a Geographic Information System Professional (GISP). Andy works in the areas of GIS and intergovernmental cooperation.

## **Matt Guptail, GISP, GIS/Planning Technician**

Matt has worked with the NCWRPC since 2001. He has a bachelor's degree in geography from UW-Stevens Point. He is certified as a Geographic Information System Professional (GISP). Matt works in the areas of GIS and transportation.

## **Fredrick Heider, AICP, Planner**

Fred has worked with the NCWRPC since 2004. He has a bachelor's degree in natural resources from UW-Stevens Point and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Fred works mainly in the areas of land use and transportation.

## **Darryl Landeau, AICP, Senior Planner**

Darryl has worked with the NCWRPC since 1993. He has a bachelor's degree in natural resources from UW-Stevens Point and a master's degree in urban studies from Mankato State University. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Darryl works mainly in the areas of transportation and land use.

## **Paula Priebe, AICP, Planner**

Paula has worked with the NCWRPC since 2014. She has a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in urban planning from UW-Milwaukee. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Paula works mainly in the area of land use.

## **Brad Sippel, Planner**

Brad started with the NCWRPC in 2015. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from UW-Eau Claire and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from UW-Madison. Brad works mainly in the areas of land use and community development.

# NOTES



**NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**210 McClellan Street, Suite 210  
Wausau, Wisconsin 54403  
Phone: (715) 849-5510  
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