

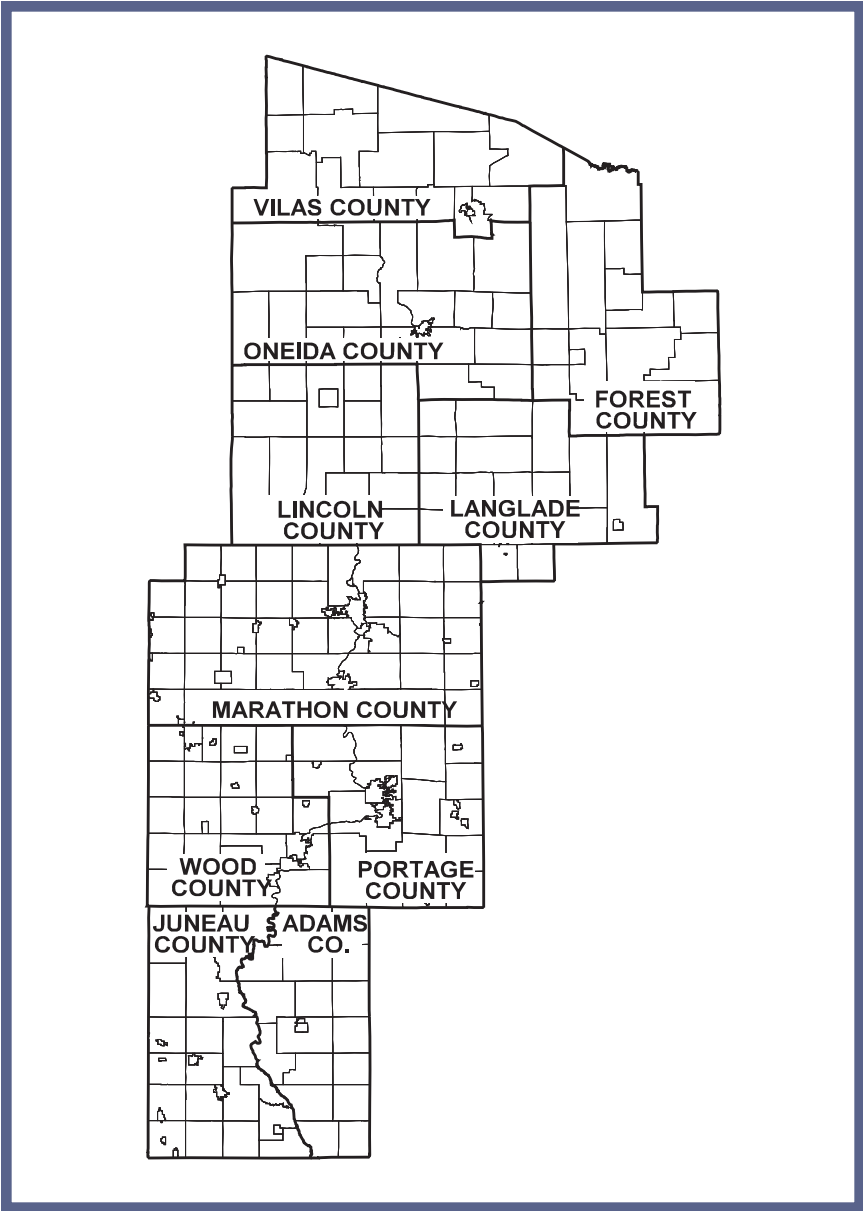


**NORTH CENTRAL  
WISCONSIN  
REGIONAL  
PLANNING  
COMMISSION**

**Serving the Region Since 1973!**

**2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

# OUR SERVICE AREA



**REGIONAL FACTS:**

<b>2017 Population (DOA Estimate):</b>	<b>440,037</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

Summer 2017

## *NCWRPC 2017 Annual Report*

To the Citizens and Elected Officials of North Central Wisconsin:

On behalf of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC), I am pleased to provide you with the **2017 Annual Report**. When you look at what this small organization has accomplished for the Region, I think you will be impressed. As you will see throughout this 44<sup>th</sup> *Annual Report*, NCWRPC staff has completed many regional and local level projects, many in partnership with numerous agencies, organizations and communities.

This report is prepared to provide interested citizens and local officials 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. Also included in this report is information for the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation (NCWDC), our economic development organization responsible for managing two revolving loan funds.

We look forward to continuing to serve the Region by providing planning services to address the issues and needs of North Central Wisconsin. I'd also like to thank you for your continued support of the NCWRPC over these many years. Please feel free to contact Dennis Lawrence, our Executive Director, 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,

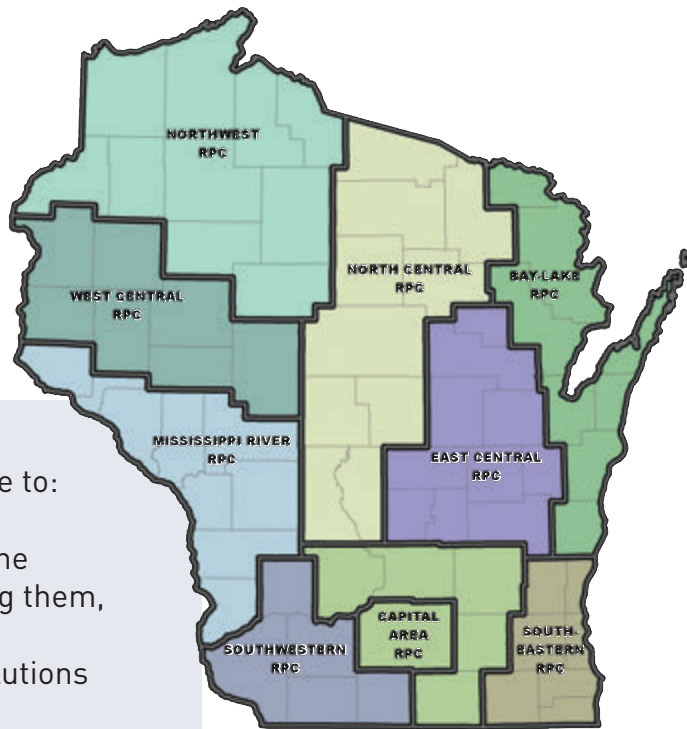
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Millan".

Paul Millan  
NCWRPC Chairperson

# PURPOSE & HISTORY

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 serve 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.



The goals of the NCWRPC are to:

- Help communities meet the planning challenges facing them,
- Identify strategies and solutions to planning issues.
- Provide cost-effective planning services to our members.

## 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 are secured from other sources to fund the organization. A simple Return on Membership (ROM) analysis shows that every membership dollar provided to the NCWRPC leverages additional dollars. In 2017, for every 1 dollar the NCWRPC received from membership it directly leveraged another 3.4 dollars from grants and local projects.

## PUBLICATIONS:

Annually the NCWRPC prepares and publishes several planning documents. The NCWRPC also publishes a quarterly print 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 electronically distributes Economic Development NEWS, which is focused on economic and community development issues.

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:

NCWRPC is an independent area-wide planning agency that is governed by an appointed board, called a Commission, and serves the towns, villages, cities, tribes, and counties within the Region. In addition, 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 rural transportation planning region in 1975. As such, the NCWRPC receives a planning grant annually to provide transportation planning assistance to support the state transportation work program.

## TYPES OF ASSISTANCE:

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 Accomplishments are highlighted on page 5 and Local Assistance projects are highlighted by county on pages 8 and 9.

# REGIONAL PROGRAMS



## REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING:

NCWRPC annually prepares a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) 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.

## NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:

NCWRPC provides management assistance for two multi-county revolving loan funds operated by the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation, 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.

## 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).

## REGIONAL LAND USE PLANNING:

NCWRPC is responsible for the development of a regional comprehensive plan for the ten county Region. The Regional Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2004, the first regional plan under the state's new planning law, and was last updated in 2015. NCWRPC also prepares other regionally focused plans from time to time.

## REGIONAL DATA AND MAPPING CENTER:

NCWRPC is a depository for a variety of demographic information for 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. Also, in partnership with WEDC, NCWRPC prepares quarterly economic development reports for each county in the Region using EMSI, a specialized economic development software.

# REGIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 2017

- Coordinating initial efforts for the 2020 WROC air photo project, similar to previous efforts in 2005, 2010 and 2015. As part of this effort, also working to secure state and federal grants to reduce costs for county and local projects.
- Provided staff assistance to the North Central Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition, which serves thirteen communities throughout the Region.
- Continued to provide assistance to the 13 county Northeast Wisconsin Emergency Management Region to ensure that communication interoperability addresses both local and regional concerns.
- 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).
- Maintained and developed a Regional Mapping Information System, Census and Demographic Information, and a Planning Library for the region.
- Continued to coordinate the North East Wisconsin Public Safety Communication (NEWCOM) organization to promote better emergency service communication throughout a 16 county Region.
- Continued a partnership with WEDC to provide EMSI economic development modeling tools to communities within the Region.
- Maintained designation as a rural transportation planning Region by WisDOT to coordinate transportation strategies on a regional basis.
- Prepared an online presence for the Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway in Forest, Langlade, Oneida and Vilas Counties. Previously prepared the Corridor Management Plan to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to obtain designation.
- Completed numerous urban-rural boundaries throughout the Region with WisDOT.
- Completed a Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the ten county area. Funded in part by WisDOT, this effort inventoried existing trails and routes, and recommended a framework for future development in the Region.
- Provided assistance to the US Census Bureau related to regional demographics and mapping for the upcoming 2020 Census.
- Provided staff assistance to the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation.

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:

ED

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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. In addition, the NCWRPC provides grant writing and administrative assistance to communities that are seeking funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, as well as a variety of other grant programs, including WEDC, DNR, WisDOT, and USDA-Rural Development. We also provide economic modeling software assistance.

GIS

## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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 and American Community Survey, Economic Census, State Employment and Labor Information, and other specialized data sets. In addition, we 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 statewide air photo acquisition.

IGOV

## 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, and boundary agreements. Many of these projects include a regional focus because they involve multiple units of government.



A square icon with a dark blue background and the letters 'LU' in white.

## LAND USE

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. In addition, the 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 ordinances that implement local plans.

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## TRANSPORTATION

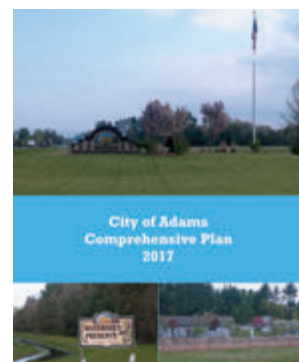
NCWRPC prepares specialized transportation studies including: highway corridor studies, long-range urban area plans, parking studies, county-wide bicycle planning, Safe Routes to School plans, and grant writing for various WisDOT funding sources. In addition, the NCWRPC assists local governments in a 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.

# SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY COUNTY - 2017

NCWRPC prepares numerous projects throughout the region each year. The projects reflected below are for those completed within our eight full member counties. Note that we do have local members in the other two counties, but those communities and projects are not listed below.

## ADAMS COUNTY

- ✓ Initiated County Comprehensive Plan Update
- ✓ Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- ✓ County All Hazard Mitigation Plan FEMA Grant Application
- ✓ City of Adams Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Town Comprehensive Plans for Adams, Easton, and Preston
- ✓ Online County Records System
- ✓ Completed Road Ratings for Village of Friendship and Town of Rome



## FOREST COUNTY

- ✓ County Land and Water Resource Management Plan
- ✓ County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan FEMA Grant Application
- ✓ County GIS & Mapping Assistance
- ✓ Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- ✓ County Land Information Plan assistance
- ✓ Economic Development Loan to Local Business
- ✓ Nicolet - Wolf River Byways Website Development
- ✓ Completed Road Ratings for the County, the City of Crandon, and the Towns of Crandon, Lincoln, and Nashville



## JUNEAU COUNTY

- ✓ County Housing Study
- ✓ County Outdoor Recreation Plan
- ✓ Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- ✓ Town of Lemonweir Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ County All Hazard Mitigation Plan
- ✓ City of Mauston Outdoor Recreation Plan
- ✓ Updated County Land Use Coverage



## LANGLADE COUNTY

- ✓ County All Hazard Mitigation Plan FEMA Grant Application
- ✓ Land Records and GIS Assistance
- ✓ County Outdoor Recreational Map
- ✓ Antigo School District Maps
- ✓ Updated County Land Use Coverage
- ✓ Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- ✓ City of Antigo Comprehensive Plan Update
- ✓ Completed Road Ratings for Towns of Antigo, Elcho, Rolling, and Upham



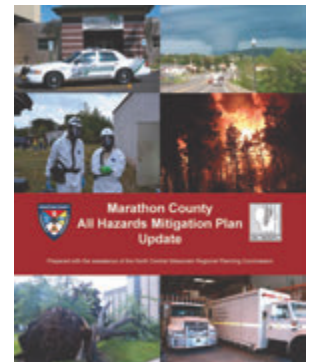
## LINCOLN COUNTY

- ✓ County Land and Water Management Plan
- ✓ City of Tomahawk Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ County Outdoor Recreation Plan
- ✓ County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- ✓ Merrill Outdoor Recreation Plan
- ✓ City of Tomahawk TAP Grant Application
- ✓ Completed Road Ratings for the City of Tomahawk and the Towns of Birch, Harding, King, Merrill, and Tomahawk



## MARATHON COUNTY

- ✓ Villages of Brokaw & Maine and Town of Texas Planning Assistance
- ✓ County All Hazard Mitigation Plan
- ✓ Towns of Ringle & Mosinee Comprehensive Plan Updates
- ✓ Town Comprehensive Plans for Mosinee and Spencer
- ✓ Villages of Schofield and Spencer Outdoor Recreation Plans
- ✓ Wausau Metro Sewer Service Area Plan
- ✓ Villages of Stratford and Spencer Comprehensive Plan Updates
- ✓ Town of Rib Mountain Comprehensive Plan Update
- ✓ Completed Road Ratings for the Villages of Brokaw, Kronenwetter, and Marathon City and the Towns of Harrison, Johnson, Wausau, Weston and Wien



## ONEIDA COUNTY

- ✓ Online County Survey Records System
- ✓ Rhinelander/County Airport Website Assistance
- ✓ Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- ✓ Safe Routes to School Grant Application for MHLT Elementary School
- ✓ Town of Hazelhurst Comprehensive Plan Update
- ✓ County All Hazard Mitigation Plan
- ✓ Completed Road Ratings for the Towns of Lake Tomahawk, Pelican, and Stella



## VILAS COUNTY

- ✓ County All Hazard Mitigation Planning FEMA Grant Application
- ✓ Lac du Flambeau Workforce Training & Development Center Feasibility Study
- ✓ Developing County Bike & Trail Plan Study
- ✓ Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- ✓ Updated County Land Use Coverage
- ✓ Safe Routes to School Grant for Lac du Flambeau Elementary School
- ✓ Economic Development Loan to Local Business



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

# AUDITED 2017 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 December 31, 2017 Statement of Net Position:

## ASSETS:

Cash and Investments .....	1,319,640
Restricted Cash .....	593,291
Grants and Projects Receivable .....	67,036
Member Levy Receivable .....	215,169
Prepaid items and deposits .....	15,256
Net Pension Asset.....	-
Capital Assets.....	10,037

**TOTAL ASSETS: .....\$2,220,429**

**Deferred Outflows .....\$181,652**

## LIABILITIES:

Accounts Payable .....	-
Accrued and other Liabilities .....	33,690
Unearned Revenues .....	1,321
Deposits Held for Others.....	593,291
Compensated Absences.....	96,746
Net Pension Liability .....	24,007

**TOTAL LIABILITIES: .....\$749,055**

**Deferred Inflows .....\$293,695**

Deferred Member Levy .....	215,169
Invested Capital Assets .....	10,037
Restricted for Pension Benefits .....	78,526
Reserved and Unrestricted Funds: .....	1,349,294

**NET POSITION: .....\$1,359,331**

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

## ANNUAL LEVY RATE:

By state statute the membership charge or levy rate cannot exceed 0.003% of equalized value. In 2000 the NCWRPC rate was set at 0.00275%, by 2017 that rate was reduced to 0.000915% - less than one third of the statutory limit. Since 2000, the rate has been reduced several times.

# NORTH CENTRAL WI DEVELOPMENT CORP.

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	Marathon County	Jim Warsaw
Forest County	Bev Collins, Pres.	Oneida County	Roger Luce
Juneau County	Terry Whipple	Portage County	Todd Kuckkahn
Langlade County	Angie Close, VP	Vilas County	Bob Egan
Lincoln County	Ken Maule	Wood County	Zach Vruwink
NCWRPC	Craig McEwen, Sec./Tres.		

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.

Although a small fund, since 1995, the NCWDC has made over 20 loans and created or retained over 445 jobs in the Region. As of the end of 2017, there are 2 active loans in the portfolio.

The Statement of Financial Position is below:

Assets:	USDA-RD IRP Funds	\$177,659	
	HUD Funds	\$369,269	
	RBEG Funds	\$ 12,918	
	Loans Outstanding	\$ 82,324	
			\$642,170
Liabilities:	Accrued Interest	\$ 911	
	IRP Note Payable	\$136,641	
		\$137,552	
Net Assets:	Restricted - IRP	\$ 57,224	
	Unrestricted	\$447,394	
		\$504,618	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets:			\$642,170

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. Term ending is also displayed. Commissioners serve until reappointed or replaced. Commissioners listed are current as of December 31, 2017.

NCWRPC officers are: Paul Millan, Chairperson; Richard Bakovka, Vice-Chairperson; and Edmund Wafle, Secretary – Treasurer.

## **Adams County**

Rocky Gilner, C (6/18)  
Richard Bakovka, G (6/22)  
Peter Hickethier, J (6/20)

## **Forest County**

Bucky Dailey, C (1/20)  
Paul Millan, G (1/18)  
William Connors, Jr., J (1/22)

## **Juneau County**

Edmund Wafle, C (6/19)  
Kenneth Winters, G (6/23)  
Jerry Niles, J (6/21)

## **Langlade County**

Ronald Nye, C (1/20)  
Angela Close, G (1/22)  
Paul Schuman, J (1/18)

## **Lincoln County**

William Zeitz, C (6/19)  
Loretta Baughan, G (6/21)  
Frank Saal, Jr., J (6/23)

## **Marathon County**

Catherine Wineman, C (6/21)  
Daniel Guild, G (6/23)  
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)  
Jay Verhulst, G (1/23)  
Charles Rayala, III, J (1/21)

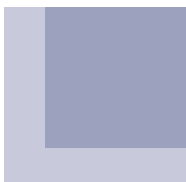
## **Wood County\***

Gerald Nelson, C (6/23)

In addition, by Wisconsin Statute, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) - Mark R. Hogan - 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.

## **Alexander Brown, Planner**

Alexander started with the NCWRPC in 2017. He has a bachelor's degree in political science and environmental studies and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from UW-Madison. Alexander works mainly in the areas of land use and community development.

## **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 also certified as a Geographic Information System Professional (GISP). Andy works in the areas of GIS and intergovernmental cooperation.

## **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.

## **Eric Sonnleitner, Planner**

Eric started with the NCWRPC in 2017. He has a bachelor's degree in natural resources and land use from UW-Stevens Point. Eric works mainly in the areas of land use, community development and GIS.

## **Pam Winkels, Office Assistant**

Pam started with the NCWRPC in 2015. She has a bachelor's degree in graphic communications from St. Norbert's. She provides program support, staff support, and general office assistance.



NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

44th Annual Report

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