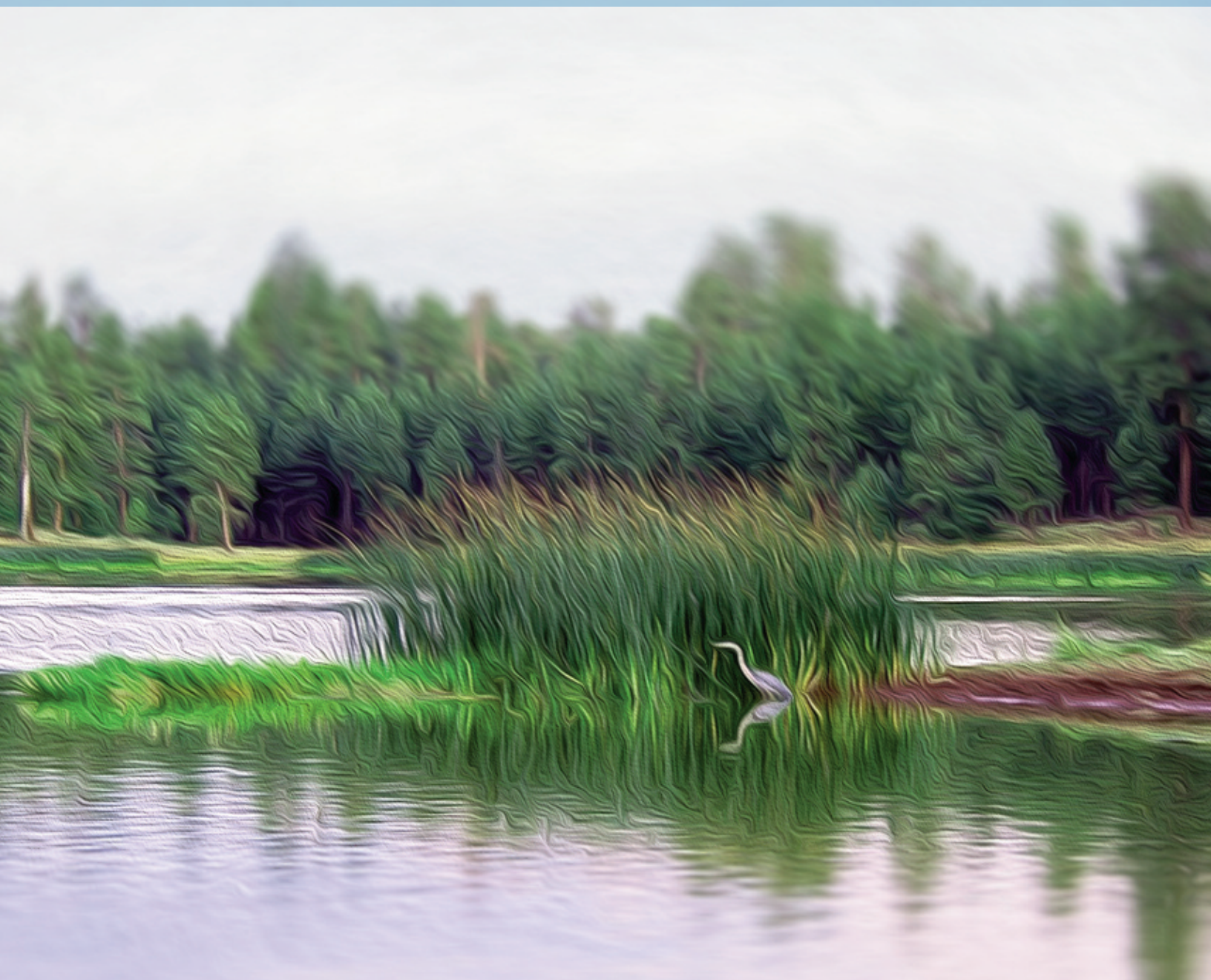
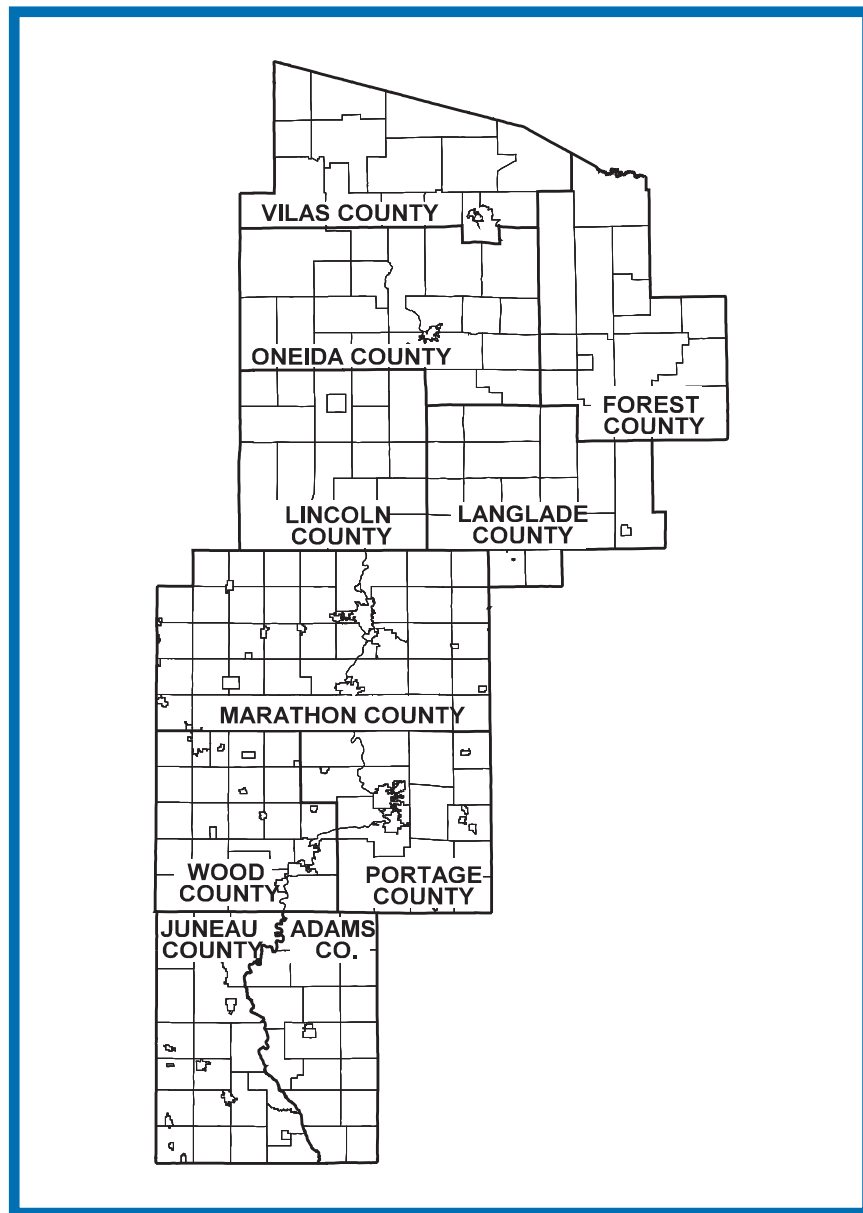


North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

2019 ANNUAL REPORT





REGIONAL FACTS:

2019 Population (DOA Estimate):	447,830
Square Miles:	9,325

Counties:	10
Cities:	22
Villages:	41
Towns:	196
Tribal:	4

Total Governmental & Tribal Units:	273
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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

Summer 2020

To the Citizens and Elected Officials of North Central Wisconsin:

On behalf of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC), we are proud to present you with the **2019 Annual Report**, our 46th. Throughout the *Annual Report*, you will see many regional and local level projects NCWRPC has accomplished this past year.

The report is prepared to provide interested citizens and local officials with an overview of the activities undertaken by the NCWRPC over the last year. The report highlights the five core work areas of economic development, geographic information systems, intergovernmental cooperation, land use, and transportation. 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 a revolving loan fund.

On behalf of the entire organization, we would like to thank you for your continued support over these many years. We look forward to continuing to serve the Region by providing planning services to address the issues and needs of North Central Wisconsin. Please feel free to contact us 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

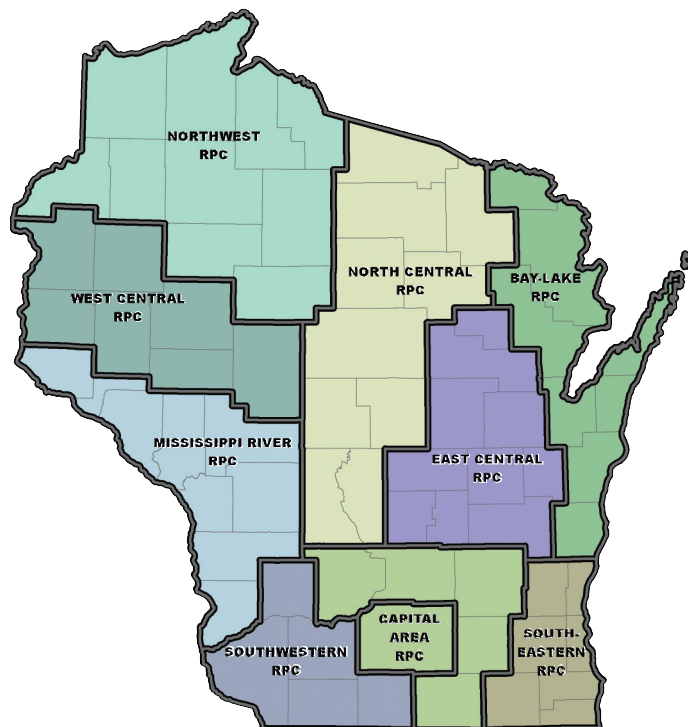
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Lawrence".

Dennis Lawrence, AICP
Executive Director

Purpose and 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.



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.

Organizational Goals

NCWRPC maintains and regularly updates a Strategic Plan, as well as other related plans. Some of the goals from these plans are to:

- ✓ Leverage state and federal dollars for the region,
 - ✓ Provide cost-effective planning services to our members,
 - ✓ Advance sustainable growth and development of the region,
 - ✓ Communicate benefits of regional and local planning, and
 - ✓ Help communities identify strategies and solutions to planning issues and challenges facing them.
-

State and Federal Relationships

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

In 1975, NCWRPC was designated as a rural transportation planning region by the WisDOT. As such, the NCWRPC receives a planning grant annually to provide transportation planning assistance to support the state transportation work program throughout the region. 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); which maintains eligibility for various EDA grants for active members.

Publications

Annually the NCWRPC prepares and publishes several planning documents. The NCWRPC also published 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 distributed EDNews, 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.

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 6 and 7.

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 EDA grant applications, among others, to bring funding into the Region.

North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation

NCWRPC provides management assistance for a revolving loan fund operated by the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation, which provides gap financing to businesses throughout the Region. The Regional Development Fund has recently been de-federalized. The goal of this program is to increase jobs and expand the local tax base within the Region.

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 comprehensive plan in the state under the new planning law, and was last updated in 2015. The mid-plan review of that document will be developed in 2020. 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, specialized economic development analysis software. In addition, the NCWRPC provides redistricting assistance throughout the Region.

Regional Accomplishments 2019

- Secured substantial state and federal grants to reduce overall costs for county and local projects related to air photo acquisition as part of the 2020 Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC). Also coordinating implementation of WROC, now state-wide, similar to previous efforts in 2005, 2010 and 2015.
- Sought and received funding from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to provide regional Business Disaster Recovery Microloan loans to businesses. These loans provided funding to businesses impacted by declared disasters in 2019.
- Continued implementation of a multiyear regional Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program to improve walking and biking conditions for 25 schools in eleven different school districts throughout the Region.
- Provided staff assistance to the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation (NCWDC) to manage a revolving loan fund, which is now de-federalized to provide more flexibility with the program.
- Maintained and developed a Regional Mapping Information System, Census and Demographic Information, and a Planning Library for the Region.
- Provided staff assistance to the Northwoods Rail Transit Commission, a multicounty, bi-state organization promoting freight rail in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.
- 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, as well as assist local governments prepare and submit required road ratings.
- Provided region-wide assistance to the US Census Bureau related to demographics and mapping for the upcoming 2020 Census and subsequent redistricting.
- Continued implementation of our Regional Bike Plan, which stems from our Regional Livability Plan, as a framework for county and local level bike and pedestrian planning efforts. Two county and one community plan were prepared.
- Provided staff assistance to the North Central Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition, which serves thirteen communities throughout the Region.
- 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).

NCWRPC is involved in various other regional efforts throughout the year that are not mentioned here.

Selected Accomplishments by County 2019

NCWRPC develops an annual work program with its members and completes those projects. Reflected below are projects completed or underway within our eight full county members. Note that we do have local members in both Portage and Wood Counties, but those communities and projects are not listed below.

Adams County

- ✓ County Strategic Plan
- ✓ City of Adams Outdoor Recreation Plan
- ✓ Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)
- ✓ Town of Leola Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Village of Friendship Road Rating
- ✓ Census Boundary Annexation Survey (BAS)
- ✓ Maintain Online County Records System
- ✓ State Parcel Submission assistance to DOA per state statutes
- ✓ Road Rating for the Towns of Leola and Rome

Forest County

- ✓ County Highway Road Rating
- ✓ Census Boundary Annexation Survey (BAS)
- ✓ City of Crandon Road Rating
- ✓ State Parcel Submission assistance to DOA per state statutes
- ✓ Regional Economic Development Loan to Local Business
- ✓ County GIS & Parcel Mapping Assistance
- ✓ Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)
- ✓ Initiated Forest County Potowatomi Bike & Pedestrian Plan
- ✓ Road Rating for the Towns of Crandon, Lincoln, and Nashville

Juneau County

- ✓ County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan
- ✓ Human Services Transportation Needs Assessment Study
- ✓ Census Boundary Annexation Survey (BAS)
- ✓ Assistance with County Forest Plan
- ✓ Mauston Safe Routes To School Plan (SRTS)
- ✓ Initiated City of New Lisbon Comprehensive Plan

Langlade County

- ✓ County Comprehensive & Farmland Preservation Plan
- ✓ County Land & Water Resource Management Plan
- ✓ County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan
- ✓ Prepared County Outdoor Recreational Map
- ✓ County Land Records and GIS Assistance
- ✓ Towns of Antigo and Polar Comprehensive Plans
- ✓ Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)
- ✓ Maintain Online County Records System
- ✓ State Parcel Submission assistance to DOA per state statutes
- ✓ Census Boundary Annexation Survey (BAS)
- ✓ Road Rating for the Towns of Antigo, Elcho, and Polar

Lincoln County

- ✓ City of Tomahawk Outdoor Recreation Plan
- ✓ County Comprehensive Plan Update Assistance
- ✓ Initiated Merrill Safe Routes To School Plan (SRTS)
- ✓ City of Tomahawk Road Rating
- ✓ County Land Use Inventory Update
- ✓ Road Rating for the Towns of Birch, Harding, King, Merrill, Scott and Tomahawk

Marathon County

- ✓ Stratford Safe Routes To School Plan
- ✓ Village of Weston Housing Assessment Report
- ✓ City of Mosinee Interactive on-line Zoning Map
- ✓ Village of Kronenwetter Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ City of Wausau Economic Indicators Dashboard
- ✓ Village of Rothschild Zoning Assistance
- ✓ Regional Disaster Microloan to local business
- ✓ Mosinee Safe Routes To School Plan (SRTS)
- ✓ Road Rating for the Towns of Harrison, Johnson, Marathon, Wausau, Wein, and Weston

Oneida County

- ✓ County Land & Water Resource Management Plan
- ✓ City of Rhinelanders Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan
- ✓ Minocqua J1 Safe Routes To School Plan
- ✓ Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)
- ✓ Town of Pelican Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Census Boundary Annexation Survey (BAS)
- ✓ Maintain Online County Survey Records System
- ✓ Road Rating for the Towns of Lake Tomahawk, Pelican, Schopke, and Stella

Vilas County

- ✓ County All Hazard Mitigation Plan
- ✓ Initiated Lac du Flambeau Safe Routes To School Plan (SRTS)
- ✓ Census Boundary Annexation Survey
- ✓ Town of Washington Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Updated County Land Use Coverage
- ✓ Town of Phelps Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)
- ✓ City of Eagle River EDA Grant Application Assistance and Award

Staff also attends various meetings, responds to inquiries, provides assistance to a variety of departments, agencies, and organizations, and completes numerous projects throughout the region not mentioned above.

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.

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.

LU 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.

TR Transportation

NCWRPC prepares specialized transportation documents including: highway corridor studies, long-range urban area plans, parking studies, county-wide bicycle planning, Safe Routes To School (SRTS) 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.

Audited 2019 Financial Statement

Each year the NCWRPC engages an independent auditor to provide an examination of financial operations. A copy of the complete 2019 Audit Report and Management Communications Letter is available for review at the NCWRPC Office.

Below is the December 31, 2019 Statement of Net Position:

ASSETS:	
Current Assets	1,502,121
Noncurrent Assets	185,050
Other Assets	357,812
Capital Assets	<u>13,226</u>
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$2,058,209
TOTAL DEFERRED OUTFLOWS:	\$263,568
LIABILITIES:	
Current Liabilities	383,911
Long-Term Liabilities	<u>232,180</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES:	\$616,091
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS:	\$406,016
Net Invested Capital Assets	13,226
Unrestricted	<u>1,286,444</u>
TOTAL NET POSITION:	<u>\$1,299,670</u>

Annual Levy Rate

By state statute the membership charge or levy rate to local governments cannot exceed 0.003% of equalized real estate value. The rate was set at 0.00275% in 2000 and has been reduced multiple times since. By 2019 that rate was reduced to 0.000851% - well less than one third of the statutory limit. In addition, to level out the wide range of valuations of our member counties, the NCWRPC established a cap. The NCWRPC continually seeks other revenue sources to minimize costs to our members.

Leveraging Funds

To keep membership contributions low, additional funds are secured from other sources to operate the organization. A simple Return on Membership (ROM) analysis shows that every membership dollar provided to the NCWRPC leverages additional dollars. In 2019, for every 1 dollar the NCWRPC received from membership it directly leveraged another 3.4 dollars from grants, local projects, and other sources.

North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation – NCWDC

2019 Annual Report

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 economic development loan funds. The NCWDC has made over 20 loans and created or retained over 445 jobs in the Region.

The NCWDC Board recently took action to de-federalize and consolidate the two current funds into one fund. Two funds managed were de-federalized and merged into one fund in 2019, there was only one active loan in the portfolio during this period. A revised loan manual and application form is being prepared for the new fund. Total Assets of the fund, as of December 31, 2019, are \$499,540. The new fund is now called the Regional 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. Board of Directors listed is current as of December 31, 2019:

Adams County	Daric Smith
Forest County	Bev Collins, Pres.
Juneau County	Terry Whipple
Langlade County	Angie Close, VP
Lincoln County	Ken Maule
Marathon County	Vicki Ruesch
Oneida County	Stacey Johnson
Portage County	Todd Kuckkahn
Vilas County	Bob Egan
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.

Professional Staff

Dennis Lawrence, EDFP, AICP, Executive Director

Dennis has worked with the NCWRPC since 1992 and became the 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 certified as an Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP) and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Dennis provides overall management to the organization and works in all areas of planning.

Carrie Edmondson, Planner

Carrie started work with the NCWRPC in 2018. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Arizona State University and a master's degree in public administration with an emphasis in urban and regional planning from Cal State Fullerton. Carrie works mainly in the area of transportation.

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 land use.

Fredrick Heider, AICP, Planner

Fred has worked with the NCWRPC since 2004. He has a bachelor's degree in natural resources and land use 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 land use and transportation.

Eric Sonnleitner, Planner

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

Pam Winkels, Office Assistant

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



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; however, note that all serve until reappointed or replaced. Commissioners listed are current as of December 31, 2019.

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

Adams County

Rocky Gilner, C (6/24)
Appointment Pending, G (6/22)
Peter Hickethier, J (6/20)

Forest County

Tom Tallier, C (1/20)
Paul Millan, G (1/24)
Cindy Gretzinger, 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)
Reinhardt Balcerzak, J (1/24)

Lincoln County

Chuck Bolder, C (6/25)
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 (1/24)

Portage County

None Participating

Vilas County

Robert Hanson, C (6/25)
Jay Verhulst, G (1/23)
Charles Rayala, III, J (1/21)

Wood County

Gerald Nelson, C (6/23)
Appointment Pending
Appointment Pending

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



NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

46th Annual Report

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