



NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

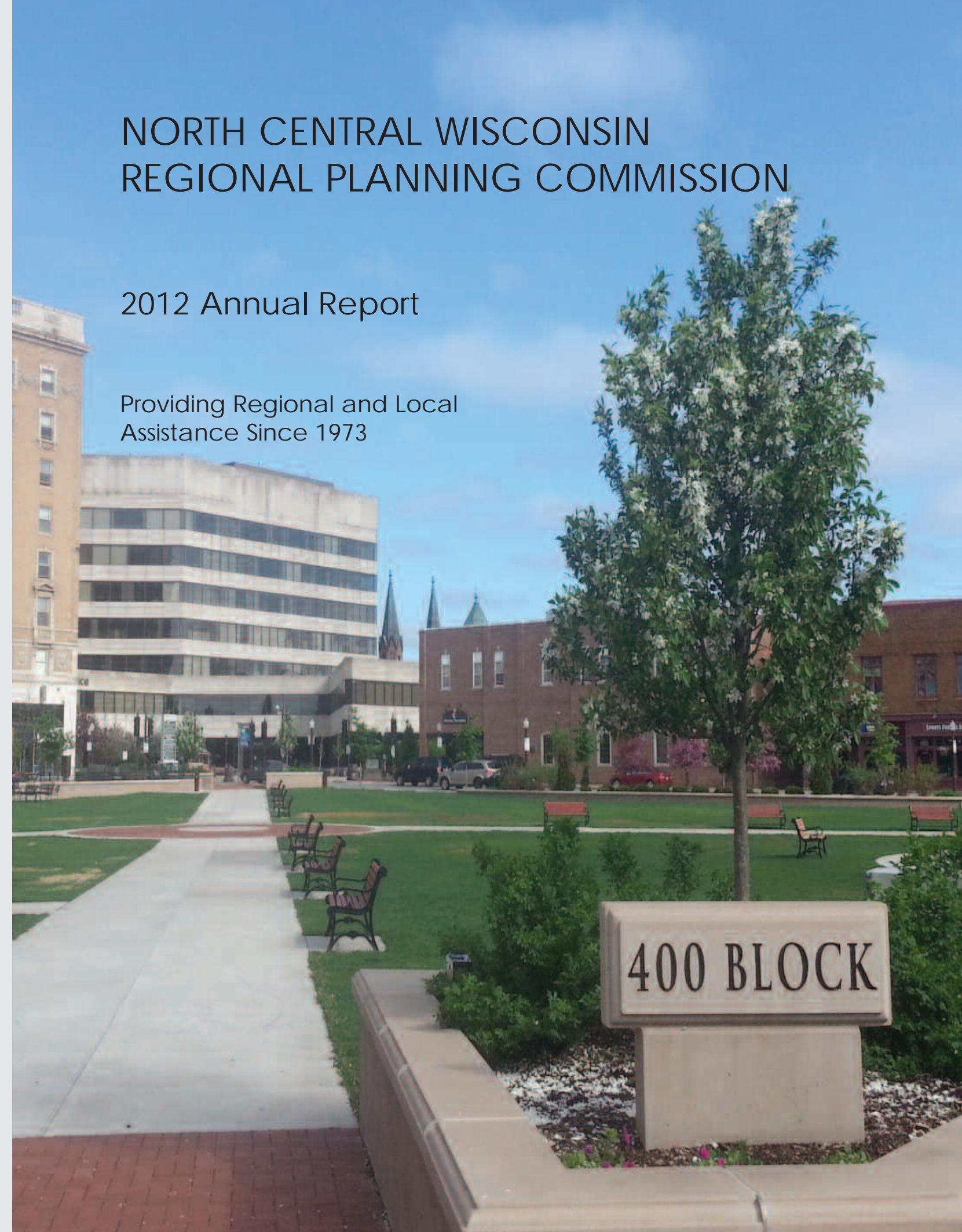
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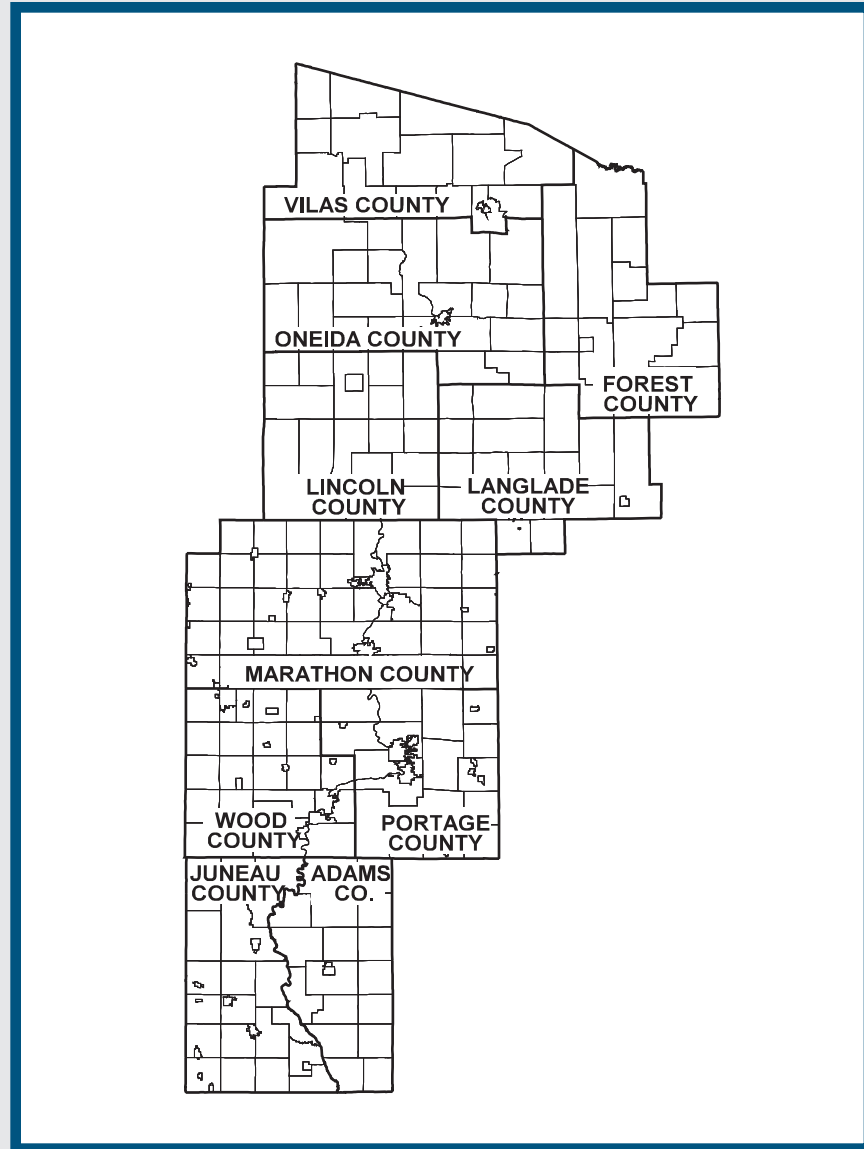
NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

2012 Annual Report

Providing Regional and Local
Assistance Since 1973



Our Service Area



Regional Facts:

2010 Population (US Census):	443,067
Square Miles:	9,325
Counties:	10
Cities:	21
Villages:	39
Towns:	197
Tribal:	4
Total Governmental & Tribal Units:	271

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 final is a Joint (J) selection between the Governor and County.

Commissioners serve until reappointed or replaced. Term ending is also shown.

Commissioners listed are current as of December 31, 2012.

NCWRPC officers are Erhard Huettl, Chairperson; Bettye Nall, Vice-Chairperson; and George Bornemann, Secretary – Treasurer.

Adams County Ron Jacobson, J (6/14) Donald Krahn, G (1/16) Glenn Licitar, C (6/12)	Marathon County* Virginia Heinemann, G (6/17) Craig McEwen, J (6/13) Bettye Nall, C (6/15)
Forest County Erhard Huettl, C (1/14) Jim Landru, Jr., J (1/16) Paul Millan, G (1/18)	Oneida County Jack Sorensen, G (1/16) Thomas Rudolph, C (1/14) Appointment Pending
Juneau County Edmund Wafle, C (6/13) Kenneth Winters, J (6/15) Appointment Pending	Portage County No Representation
Langlade County George Bornemann, G (1/16) Ronald Nye, C (1/14) Paul Schuman, J (1/12)	Vilas County Bob Egan, J ((1/15) Ralph Sitzberger, C (6/13) Appointment Pending
Lincoln County Robert Lussow, C (6/13) Tom Rick, J (6/17) Doug Williams, G (6/15)	Wood County* Fred Camacho, G (6/15) Tom Haferman, J (6/13) Gerald Nelson, C (6/17)

In addition, by Wisconsin Statute, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation 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.

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.

Mike Agnew, AICP, Senior Planner

Mike has worked with the NCWRPC since 2001. He has a bachelor's degree in architectural history from the University of Minnesota and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of New Orleans. He is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Mike works mainly in the area of land use 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

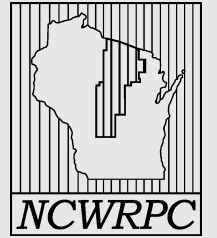
Fred has worked with the NCWRPC since 2004. He has a bachelor's degree in natural resources from UW-Stevens Point and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Fred works mainly in the areas of land use and transportation.

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 also a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Darryl works mainly in the areas of transportation and land use.

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

June 2013

Subject: **2012 NCWRPC Annual Report**

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

We are pleased to provide you with the **2012 Annual Report** of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC), which provides a summary of regional projects; local projects completed by county, and audited financial information. Also included is information for the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation.

This report is prepared to provide local officials and interested citizens with an overview of the activities undertaken by the NCWRPC 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 facing North Central Wisconsin.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dennis Lawrence at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or dlawrence@ncwrpc.org should you have any comments regarding the **2012 Annual Report** or any questions related to the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erhard Huettl
Chairperson

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,
- do more with less, and
- provide cost-effective planning services to its members.

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) is a public agency dedicated to providing professional planning services throughout the ten county Region. The agency 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.

The NCWRPC is one of nine regional planning commissions in the state of Wisconsin. Nationwide there are about 500 regional organizations similar to the NCWRPC.

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.

North Central WI Development Corp.

To date the NCWDC had made 18 loans and created or retained over 420 jobs in the Region. Currently, there are 9 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 manages the NCWDC. One person from each of the counties in the Region serves on the board, along with one representative from the NCWRPC. The current Board of Directors is displayed below:

Adams County	Daric Smith
Forest County	Bev Collins, President
Juneau County	Terry Whipple
Langlade County	Chris Berry, Vice-President
Lincoln County	David Koth
Marathon County	vacant
Oneida County	Roger Luce
Portage County	Lori Dehlinger
Vilas County	vacant
Wood County	Zac Vruwink
NCWRPC	Bettye Nall, Secretary / Treasurer

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, Jack Sroka, Linda Prehn, and Bill Vanden Heuvel.

2012 Audited Balance Sheet

Assets:	IRP Funds	\$62,931	
	HUD Funds	\$33,308	
	USDA Funds	\$1,738	
	Loans Outstanding	<u>\$622,386</u>	
			\$720,345
Liabilities:	Accrued Interest	\$1,466	
	IRP Note Payable	<u>\$219,839</u>	
			\$221,305
Net Assets: Restricted/Unrestricted			<u>\$499,040</u>

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

Impact

NCWRPC Audited Financial Statements:

The NCWRPC is funded from three basic sources. These are grants from federal and state programs; a local membership fee (levy) based on equalized valuation of its member governments and local project contracts.

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS (Balance Sheet):

ASSETS:	
Cash and Investments	1,155,517
Levy Receivable	240,625
Grants and Projects Receivable	104,438
Prepaid Expenses	17,179
Capital Assets	19,687
Restricted Cash	104,370
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$1,641,816
LIABILITIES:	
Deposits Held for Others	104,370
Long-Term Obligation	70,892
Employee Earnings Payable & Withholdings	29,770
Other	4,039
TOTAL LIABILITIES:	\$209,071
Deferred Taxes	240,625
Invested Capital Assets	19,687
Reserved and Restricted Funds:	1,172,433
NET POSITION:	\$1,192,120

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, and doing more with less, we froze our membership charge. By state statute the levy rate cannot exceed 0.003%. In 2000 the NCWRPC rate was set at 0.00275%, by 2012 that rate was 0.001% - just one third of the statutory limit.



One organizational priority is to leverage membership funding directly and indirectly for the region. A simple Return on Investment (ROI) analysis shows that every membership dollar provided to the NCWRPC leverages additional dollars. In 2012, for every 1 dollar the NCWRPC received from membership it directly leveraged another 3.2 dollars.

Publications:

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission prepares and publishes several planning reports each year. A list of reports is available at the NCWRPC website. 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 maintains a robust website. The website contains substantial information about the organization, including all recently completed plans. See 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 and counties within the Region. However, there are two on-going 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.

NCWRPC has maintained EDA designation as an economic development district since 1980. As such, the NCWRPC receives an annual economic development planning grant to prepare a regional report called a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) and to provide local economic development assistance. In 1975, WisDOT designated the NCWRPC as a Regional Planning Organization. As such, the NCWRPC receives a planning grant annually to provide 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 where there is none takes the lead. 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 7 and Local Assistance projects are highlighted by county on pages 8 and 9.

Regional Planning

NCWRPC is responsible for the development of a regional comprehensive plan for the ten county Region. The Regional Comprehensive Plan 2000-2020 was adopted in 2003. 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.

Regional Transportation Planning Program

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).

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. Increasing jobs and expanding local tax base within the region are the two primary goals of this program. In 2012, the NCWDC approved two loans that will create 60 new jobs in the region.

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.

Regional Data & 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.

- Marathon County*
 - Village of Spencer Zoning Maps
 - County Comprehensive Planning Assistance
 - Mosinee Mapping Assistance
 - Village of Kronenwetter Outdoor Recreation Plan
 - Ice Age Trail Planning Assistance
 - Brokaw Brownfields Area Wide Planning Grant
- Oneida County
 - Online County Survey Records System Hosting
 - LiDAR Project Assistance
 - Rhinelanders Schools Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan
 - Rhinelanders/County Airport Owner Database Development
 - OCEDC Assistance
 - Emergency Management Search and Rescue Exercise
 - County Land and Water Resource Management Plan
- Portage County*
 - Village of Rosholt Zoning Assistance
 - Almond-Bancroft Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan
- Vilas County
 - County All Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - County Forest and Recreation Map and Brochure
 - County Land Use Coverage Update
 - VCEDC Assistance
 - County Bike Route & Trails Plan
 - LiDAR Project Assistance
- Wood County*
 - Wisconsin Rapids Outdoor Recreation Plan
 - EDA Grant Administration for Wisconsin Rapids Treatment Plant Expansion
 - Wisconsin Rapids Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan
 - Assisted Walk Audit with School District for Grand Avenue
 - Nekoosa Comprehensive Plan

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

* Note: Only some local communities participate with the NCWRPC in these counties.

2012 Selected County Accomplishments

- Adams County
 - County Outdoor Recreation Plan
 - Big Flats Comprehensive Plan Update
 - County Land Use Coverage Updated
 - Assisting Online County Survey Records System
 - County Bike & Pedestrian Plan
- Forest County
 - City of Crandon All-Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Potawatomi Mapping Assistance
 - Motorized Recreation Area Feasibility Study
 - County GIS Assistance
 - Prepared County All-Hazard Mitigation Grant Application
 - Wolf River – Highway 55 Scenic Byway Assistance
- Juneau County
 - Updated County Land Use Coverage
 - EDA Grant Administration - City of Mauston Industrial Park
 - JCEDC Assistance
 - County Fire Zone Atlas Updated
 - City of Mauston Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Langlade County
 - County Outdoor Recreational Map
 - Emergency Zone Atlas Development
 - All Hazard Mitigation Planning Assistance
 - County Outdoor Recreation Plan
 - Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) Assistance
 - County Land Use Coverage Updated
- Lincoln County
 - County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - LIDAR RFP Assistance
 - Loan to HURD in Merrill
 - County Building Footprint Mapping
 - City of Merrill Transportation Enhancement Grant
 - Town of Tomahawk Road Surface Management Plan

Local Assistance

NCWRPC provides
members with
assistance in the
following five areas:

Economic Development

The 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 developing detailed economic development plans that examine the local economy, assess local trends and identify strategies to spur development.



In 2012 the NCWRPC was awarded an Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the Wood Technology Center of Excellence. This was a partnership with Langlade County, Northcentral Technical College (NTC), Langlade County Economic Development Corporation, and the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to address workforce issues in northern Wisconsin, particularly related to the forest product industry, where firms are struggling to find employees with the skill set they need.

The NCWRPC submitted a grant application to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration and secured \$1.28 million to build a state of the art facility dedicated to forestry workforce training. Langlade County and NTC together provided the local match to move the project forward. The Wood Technology Center of Excellence, a 22,000 square foot facility on NTC's Antigo campus, opened in 2011. The project strengthens the forest products manufacturing sector and maintains Wisconsin's competitiveness in this sector.

2012 Region Accomplishments

Intergovernmental Cooperation

The NCWRPC is available to conduct specialized studies on request. In the past, the NCWRPC has completed studies on subjects such as merging ambulance services, community consolidation, economic impact analysis, regional juvenile detention, and boundary agreements. Many of these projects also have a regional focus involving many units of government.

Transportation

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. 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

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 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.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

The NCWRPC maintains an extensive digital mapping database for the region. In addition, the NCWRPC has access 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 communities prepare County Land Information Plans, grant applications and RFP's for GIS services. Custom data sets and maps can also be created for communities on request or as part of larger planning efforts. Also coordinate efforts related regional and state wide air photo.

- Prepared the 2012 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to maintain the Region's Economic Development District designation, as defined by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).
- Provide staff assistance to the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation (NCWDC) to manage two Regional Revolving Loan Funds.
- Maintain designation as a rural transportation planning organization by WisDOT to coordinate transportation strategies on a regional basis.
- 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.
- Established the Northwoods Rail Commission working with several counties with the goal of maintaining and promoting freight rail in northern Wisconsin.
- Prepared and submitted a Federal Transportation grant to initiate a Regional Livability Plan.
- Continue to provide assistance to the 13 county Northeast Wisconsin Emergency Management Region to ensure that communication interoperability addresses both local and regional concerns.
- Established a partnership with WEDC to provide economic development tools to communities within the Region.
- Coordinated discussions related to a 2015 air photo effort, similar to efforts in 2005 and 2010.
- Explored future Regional efforts, including business entrepreneurial centers, brown-field redevelopment, sustainability, scenic byways, and bike planning.
- Participated on a number of Boards and Committees in the Region and State, including American Planning Association - Wisconsin and Wisconsin Land Information Association, among others.

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