

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 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 nine Wisconsin regional planning commissions, while nationwide there are about 500 regional similar type organizations.

State Map (Insert 3x3ish...wrap text around...jpg is attached).

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:

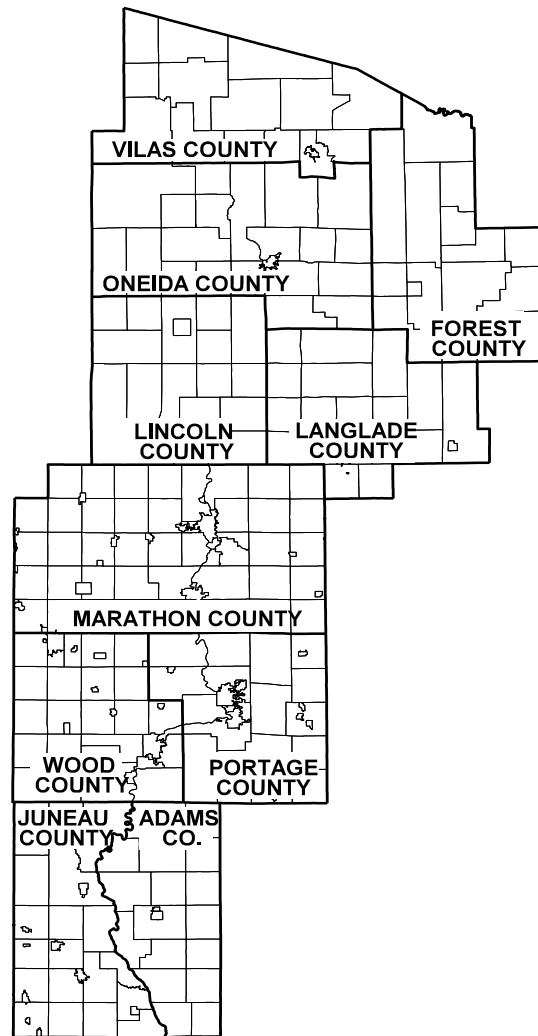
The goals of the NCWRPC are to:

- ✓ 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 our members.

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 2014, for every 1 dollar the NCWRPC received from membership it directly leveraged another 3.3 dollars from grants and local projects.

**North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Service Area:**



Regional Facts:

2013 Population (DOA Estimate):	443,938
Square Miles:	9,325
Counties:	10
Cities:	22
Villages:	40
Towns:	197
Tribal:	4
Total Governmental & Tribal Units:	273

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 an EDNEWS publication focused on economic development.

A list of plans, reports and other information is available at the NCWRPC website. 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, tribes, 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.

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 as well as 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 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 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) 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.

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 program. Increasing jobs and expanding the local tax base within the region are the primary goals of this program.

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).

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 is currently being updated. The new planning effort will result in the creation of a 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.

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.

Regional Accomplishments - 2014:

- 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 TIGER Grant.
- Provide staff assistance to the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation (NCWDC) to manage two Revolving Loan Funds promoting job creation in the Region.
- Prepared the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 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 economic development tools to communities within the Region, such as EMSI modeling software.
- Maintain and develop a Regional Mapping Information System, Census and Demographic Information, and a Planning Library for the region.
- Continue to coordinate discussions related to a 2015 air photo effort, similar to efforts in 2005 and 2010. Sought and secured state and federal grants to reduce costs for local projects.
- Continue to coordinate the Northeast Wisconsin Public Safety Communication (NEWCOM) organization to promote better emergency service communication throughout a 16 county Region.
- Preparing a Regional Livability Plan, with grant funding from the Federal Highway Administration, to replace the current Regional Comprehensive Plan.
- 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.

Local Assistance:

NCWRPC provides members with assistance in the following five areas:

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

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.

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.

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 preparing 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. In addition, coordinate efforts related to regional and state wide air photo acquisition.

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.

Success

Over the last few years the NCWRPC has been honored with several state and national awards. Some of these are shown below.

Cluster of Recent Awards/Gov. Proclamation/Ribbons

Selected Accomplishments by County - 2014:

Adams County

- Rome Comprehensive Plan Update
- Prepared County All Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant
- County Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Stuff
- Assisting Online County Survey Records System
- County Bike & Pedestrian Plan

Forest County

- County GIS & Mapping Assistance
- Prepared Mole Lake All-Hazard Mitigation EPA Grant Application
- County Road Rating Assistance
- Town of Argonne School Site Feasibility Study

Juneau County

- Updated County Land Use Coverage
- County Fire Zone Atlas Updated
- Village of Necedah Comprehensive Plan Assistance
- JCEDC Assistance
- County Quarterly Economic Reports with EMSI

Langlade County

- County Farmland Preservation Plan
- County Quarterly Economic Reports with EMSI
- Emergency Zone Atlas Development
- County Outdoor Recreational Map
- County Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Ice Age Trail Corridor Plan

Lincoln County

- County Zoning Assistance
- City of Tomahawk Road Surface Management Plan
- City of Merrill HWY 64/Pine Ridge Intersection Safety Plan
- Town of Lake Tomahawk Road Surface Management Plan
- City of Merrill Area Bike Plan Development
- County Shoreland Property Owners Guide

Accomplishments by County continued:

Marathon County

- County Comprehensive Planning Assistance
- EPA Brownfield Grant Administration
- Village of Kronenwetter Maple Ridge Assistance
- Town of Rib Mountain Outdoor Recreation Plan
- County Transportation Program Needs Assessment Plan
- Ice Age Trail Corridor Plan
- North Central Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition Staffing
- Village of Rothschild Outdoor Recreation Plan

Oneida County

- County Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Online County Survey Records System Hosting
- Rhinelander/County Airport Website Assistance & Billboard Design
- Assisted preparing Farmland Preservation Planning Grant
- Business Incubator Proposal

Portage County (Only some communities participate with NCWRPC)

- Village of Rosholt Mapping Assistance
- County Human Services Transportation Plan

Vilas County

- County Land & Water Resource Management Plan
- County Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Prepared Farmland Preservation Plan
- County Emergency Response Atlas

Wood County (Only some communities participate with NCWRPC)

- Wisconsin Rapids Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Assistance
- County Quarterly Economic Reports with EMSI

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

Audited 2014 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	1,275,083
Restricted Cash	433,640
Grants and Projects Receivable	133,854
Member Levy Receivable	232,903
Prepaid items and deposits	14,101
Capital Assets	<u>6,831</u>

TOTAL ASSETS: \$2,096,321

LIABILITIES:

Employee Earnings Payable	22,868
Employee Withholdings	16,175
Deposits Held for Others	433,640
Long-Term Obligations	70,947
Other (Unearned revenues)	<u>54,217</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES: \$597,847

Deferred Member Levy	232,903
Invested Capital Assets	6,831
Reserved and Unrestricted Funds:	<u>1,258,740</u>

NET POSITION: \$1,265,571

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 2014 that rate was 0.001% - just one third of the statutory limit.

**North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation
2014 Annual Report:**

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	Marathon County	Vacant
Forest County	Bev Collins, Pres.	Oneida County	Roger Luce
Juneau County	Terry Whipple	Portage County	Lori Dehlinger
Langlade County	Angie Close, VP	Vilas County	Bob Egan
Lincoln County	David Koth	Wood County	Zach Vruwink
NCWRPC	Bettye Nall, 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, Linda Prehn, and Bill Vanden Heuvel. There is one vacancy.

To date the NCWDC has made 20 loans and created or retained over 440 jobs in the Region. Currently, there are 8 active loans in the portfolio.

The 2014 Audited Balance Sheet is below:

Assets:	USDA-RD IRP Funds	\$244,707	
	HUD Funds	\$164,019	
	RBEG Funds	\$6,130	
	Loans Outstanding	<u>\$286,931</u>	\$701,787
Liabilities:	Accrued Interest	\$1,249	
	IRP Note Payable	<u>\$187,056</u>	<u>\$188,305</u>
Net Assets:	Restricted/Unrestricted		<u>\$513,482</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets:			<u>\$701,787</u>

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

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

Coleman Peiffer, Senior Planner

Coleman has worked with the NCWRPC since 2013. He has a bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from Arizona State University and master's degrees in public administration and urban planning from UW-Milwaukee. Coleman works mainly in the areas of economic development and land use.

Paula Priebe, Planner

Paula has recently joined the NCWRPC. She has a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in urban planning from UW-Milwaukee. Paula works mainly in the area of land use.

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, 2014.

NCWRPC officers are Robert Lussow, Chairperson; Paul Millan, Vice-Chairperson; and George Bornemann, Secretary – Treasurer.

Adams County

Glenn Licitar, 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)
Appointment Pending, J (6/15)

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

Bettye Nall, C (6/15)
Virginia Heinemann, G (6/17)
Craig McEwen, J (6/19)

Oneida County

Thomas Rudolph, C (1/20)
Appointment Pending, G (1/16)
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)
Tom Haferman, 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.