



Autumn 2015
Issue 57



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Quarterly Quote

“Planning is a process of choosing among many options. If we do not choose to plan, then we choose to have others plan for us.”

- Richard I. Winwood

NCWRPC Hosts Summit on Phosphorus Issue

More than 45 municipal, industrial and agricultural stakeholders from around north central Wisconsin met at the UW Center for Civic Engagement in May. The goal of the Summit was to discuss the potential for building partnerships and shared solutions to the growing phosphorus problem, a principal factor in water quality impairment in the Wisconsin River.

The NCWRPC organized the Summit at the request of the North Central Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition. The NCWRPC staffs the Coalition, which is comprised of 13 central Wisconsin communities that work together to address stormwater discharge requirements. As the Coalition has worked to address the developing phosphorus problem, it became evident that there were other groups doing the same thing. The Coalition’s idea was to bring the groups together to have a discussion about phosphorus and develop an awareness of each other’s situations.

To provide that awareness, the NCWRPC invited representatives from each of the four principal stakeholder groups: Municipal Stormwater, Municipal Wastewater, Industrial and Agricultural to present their perspectives on phosphorus. “What brings people together is a common issue,” said Darryl Landeau, NCWRPC Senior Planner who coordinated the Summit.

The second half of the Summit was a roundtable discussion of phosphorus concerns facilitated by Eric Giordano, Director of the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service (WIPPS). According to Giordano, convening stakeholders is critical to finding workable solutions.

Collaboration was a key theme throughout the Summit, with participants discussing future steps for larger scale partnerships working at the county and regional levels. According to Rich Boden, Manager of the Wastewater Utility at the Village of Plover and current chair of the Wisconsin River

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Dischargers Group, “because key players are spread across the watershed with limited connection or interaction, success will require new networks, common education, and changing attitudes.”

Duane Gau, chair of the Stormwater Coalition, echoed those thoughts. “It’s a great opportunity for us all,” said Gau. “We can get more done if we’re working in the same direction.”

At the July meeting of the NCWRPC, DNR staff introduced the Commission to the Wisconsin River Quality Improvement Project. That project will establish limits on phosphorus discharge into the river which will impact communities and private industry.

The NCWRPC envisions assisting with these efforts by continuing to work with the Coalition on outreach to the counties and other entities, perform planning and GIS work related to phosphorus discharge variances under s.283.16 Wis. Stats., and developing new watershed based 9-Key-Element Plans.

If you would like more information about phosphorus contact Darryl Landeau at 715-849-5510, Extension 308, or dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.



Begin Now for Safe Routes to School Applications

Communities across the region have the opportunity to apply for WisDOT’s Safe Routes To School (SRTS) planning or implementation grants every two years. The next SRTS application cycle is scheduled for the Spring of 2016. NCWRPC can assist school districts and communities prepare these applications. Over the last few years we have prepared several successful Safe Routes To School applications for communities, including the cities of Antigo, Rhinelander, and Wisconsin Rapids and the Town of Three Lakes.

Those applications that score the highest have local capacity, have identified partnerships, and have done some initial groundwork. One of the initial steps is organizing a local Walk To School Day, usually held in the fall. Walk to School Day provides visibility for walking to school and also galvanizes local support for SRTS. Implementation projects might include a “Bike Rodeo”. The NCWRPC has worked with the Wisconsin Bicycle Federation to create a training package with hands-on instruction to train local persons. As an example, Wisconsin Rapids developed a successful implementation grant with the assistance of the NCWRPC, which included funding for this training.

For more information about SRTS or to request assistance preparing a SRTS grant application, contact Fred Heider, AICP at 715-849-5510, Extension 310, or at fheider@ncwrpc.org.



NCWRPC Work Plan Being Developed

The NCWRPC is beginning to develop its 2016 Annual Work Plan. In addition to several on-going regional efforts related to economic development and transportation, staff typically provides assistance for numerous local level projects, including comprehensive plans and outdoor recreation plans. Staff is always available to answer a phone call or respond to an email to discuss a potential project.

Contact Dennis Lawrence at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org or 715-849-5510, Extension 304, to discuss a possible project for 2016.

EDA Celebrates 50 Years!

In 1965, Congress passed the Public Works and Economic Development Act which authorized the creation of the Economic Development Administration (EDA). In large part, EDA was established to create and retain jobs and to help stimulate economic growth in distressed communities across the nation. EDA remains the only federal agency with economic development as its exclusive mission.

As part of that mission, EDA has established Economic Development Districts (EDD) throughout the nation to serve as "funnels" to identify and fund projects. The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission was designated an EDD in 1980 and since that time has helped secure nearly \$25 million in various grants for member communities within the region.

Congratulations to EDA for 50 years of collaboration, innovation and job creation!



20th Conference on the Small City and Regional Community

Every two years the Center for Small Cities at the UW-Stevens Points hosts a conference that focuses on the small and rural communities. The theme for this year's event is Re-imagining Public Engagement: Civic Participation in Local Governance. The event will be held Oct 6th & 7th in Wausau at the University of Wisconsin Marathon County. This event is cosponsored by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.



University of Wisconsin
Stevens Point



For more information go to <http://go.wipps.org/smallcities2015>.

Office News

New Staff Members

The NCWRPC has added two new staff persons.



NCWRPC's new Office Assistant, Pam Winkels, has over fifteen years of office experience. She enjoys using her technology, bookkeeping, and customer service skills. She looks forward to learning more about the projects in the region.



Welcome to our new Planner, Brad Sippel. Brad earned a Bachelors degree from UW Eau Claire in Political Science with an Environmental Science minor. He recently completed his Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning degree from the University of Wisconsin Madison.

New Certifications

Coleman Peiffer recently passed the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) exam. AICP members pledge to adhere to ethical standards and engage in continuing education. Congratulations Coleman!

Comprehensive Planning

Since the State’s Comprehensive Plan law was established in 1999, many communities have adopted comprehensive plans. Under current law, certain ordinances enacted or amended by a local governmental unit that affect land use must be consistent with that local governmental unit’s comprehensive plan. The ordinances to which this requirement applies are official mapping, local subdivision regulation, and zoning ordinances.

The law also requires that those plans be updated at least every ten years. Updates can range from a simple review of the existing plan to a complete new plan. The strength of Wisconsin’s planning law is that every local unit of government decides the vision for their own community. The update process is an opportune time for a community to review what has happened over the last decade and more importantly to address anticipated future changes.

Displayed on the Plan Status Map, on page 5, are communities currently underway with a plan update. Also displayed on the map are those communities whose plans are over ten years old, those due for updates in 2015, and those coming due in 2016 and 2017.

The first major cluster of communities to complete plans in the region were in Marathon and Portage Counties, followed by Adams County. Communities in most of the other counties completed plans later, so they are not due for an update.

We can help update comprehensive plans. Give our office a call and we can discuss the best approach for your community. Contact Dennis Lawrence at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.

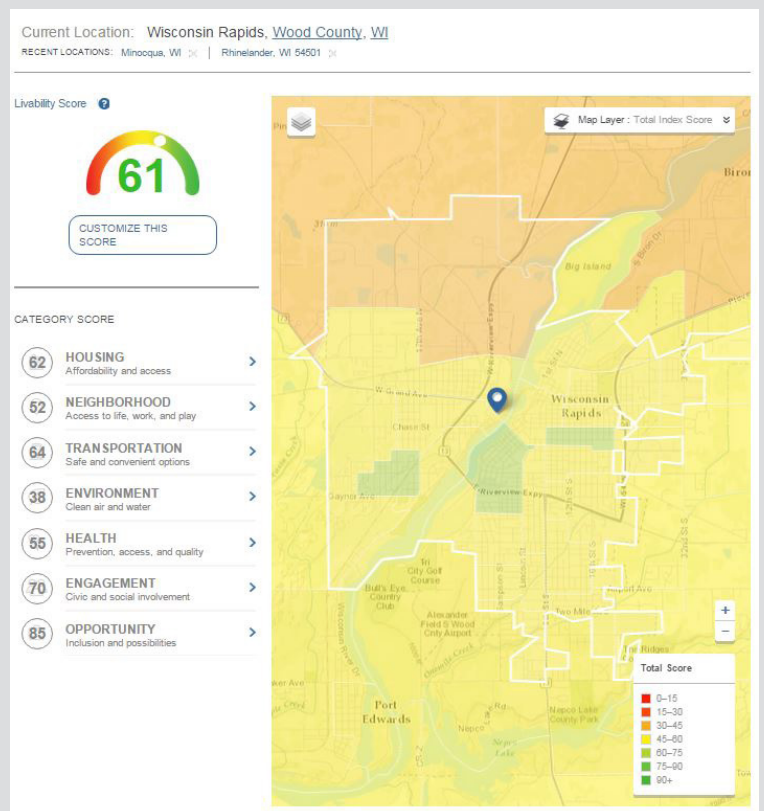
Planning Tools

NCWRPC strives to provide you the tools to plan more effectively in your community, which is why this section occasionally appears in the newsletter.

AARP Livability Index

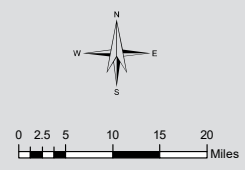
Livability is a way to discuss all of the factors that add up to a community’s quality of life. Consider searching the AARP Public Policy Institute’s Livability Index tool to learn more about the livability of your community. By searching city or address, you can learn the overall livability score for that location, as well as scores in each of the seven major livability categories: housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, health, engagement, and opportunity.

You can customize and weight particular categories of greater importance in your community through this free tool. The image to the left shows Wisconsin Rapids’ score of 61, with some neighborhoods scoring higher than others. Try it yourself or learn more at <http://livabilityindex.aarp.org>.

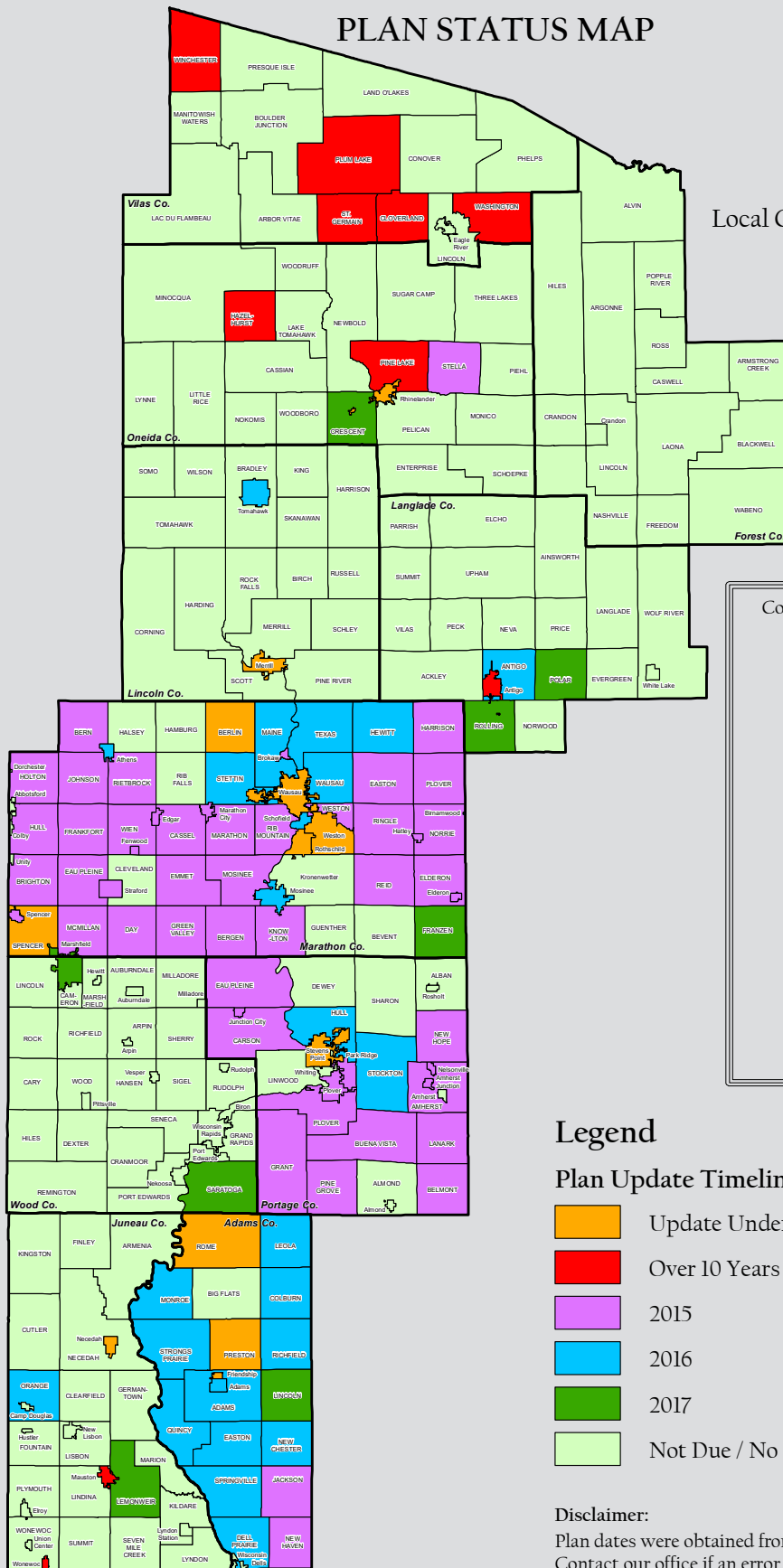
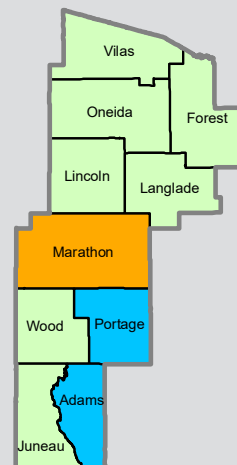


PLAN STATUS MAP

Local Comprehensive Plan Status



County Comprehensive Plan Status



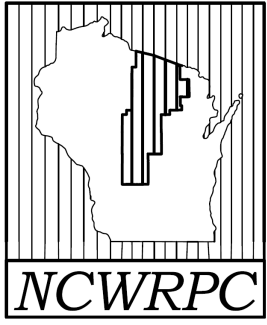
Legend

Plan Update Timeline:

- Update Underway
- Over 10 Years Old
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017
- Not Due / No Plan / Not Available

Disclaimer:

Plan dates were obtained from DOA and various other sources. Contact our office if an error is noticed.



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Farewell Bettye

It is with great sadness we report the death of Bettye Nall. She was 82 and her passing came just days before our quarterly meeting in July. Bettye served on many boards and commissions over the years, including serving as Marathon County Board Chair and Village of Spencer President.

Bettye was always a strong supporter of planning. She represented Marathon County on the NCWRPC for 30 years - from 1985 to 2015, and served as chair from 2013-14. She will be missed.



NCWRPC Commissioners

Adams County

Richard Bakovka

Rocky Gilner

Appointment Pending

Forest County

Bucky Dailey

Jimmy Landru, Jr.

Paul Millan

Juneau County

Jerry Niles

Edmund Wafle

Kenneth Winters

Langlade County

George Bornemann

Ronald Nye

Paul Schuman

Lincoln County

Robert Lussow

Frank Saal, Jr.

Doug Williams

Marathon County

Virginia Heinemann

Craig McEwen

Catherine Wineman

Oneida County

Harland Lee

Thomas Rudolph

Ted Cushing

Portage County

Inactive

Vilas County

Bob Egan

Kim Simac

Appointment Pending

Wood County

Tom Haferman

Gerald Nelson

Appointment Pending