

# NCWRPC NEWS

The official newsletter of North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC).

Fall 2013, Number 51

Serving: Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, and Wood counties since 1973.



## Director's Welcome

As you may know, 2013 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. As the year comes to an end and as we look forward to the next 40 years, it is a good time to reflect upon organizational accomplishments.

Over the years we have directly or indirectly assisted every town, village, city and county in the region. We were the first regional planning commission in the state to prepare a Regional Comprehensive Plan under the new law, not to mention all of the various planning, transportation and mapping projects completed at the county and local level. We have helped secure funding to build Business and Industrial Parks from Crandon to Mauston, and many places in between. Over \$20 million dollars have been brought to the region for economic development projects alone. In addition we have lent over \$1.5 million to businesses throughout our region to help create over 400 jobs.



Accomplishments cannot be achieved without having a knowledgeable staff and a strong Board. It is through the hard work and dedication of those individuals that make these accomplishments possible. With that said, it is my pleasure to announce two new

commissioner appointments to our organization. Harland Lee will represent Oneida County and Bucky Dailey will represent Forest County. I know both will do a great job.

On behalf of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, thank you all for your support over the years; and we look forward to your continued support in the

years to come. Remember, together everyone achieves more!

As always, feel free to contact me about anything related to the organization or any planning related questions you may have. I can be reached at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or at [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org).

Dennis Lawrence, AICP  
Executive Director

**Commission Meetings**  
**See our website for future dates and locations.**  
**The public is always welcome.**

## Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update

The NCWRPC is a designated Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). To maintain that designation, the NCWRPC is required to prepare what is called a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS provides an assessment of economic development conditions in the District, identifies a Regional Economic Development Strategy, and lists potential public works projects.

One of the more important reasons to maintain this designation is that it provides access to grant funds from EDA. Annually, EDA has over \$200 million dollars available nationally for public infrastructure to spur economic development. Some recent projects in our region include the Wood Technology Center of Excellence in Antigo, business park expansions in the cities of Adams and Mauston, and a wastewater treatment plant upgrade in Wisconsin Rapids.



A committee has been established to oversee the CEDS update over the next few months. The committee will review data and maps, create a new regional development strategy, and create a work plan for the NCWRPC. Projects will also be reviewed and identified for inclusion in the CEDS. It is essential that a project be listed in the CEDS for EDA grant consideration. Only projects from active (member) governments will be listed.

For those non-members this is something you might want to consider, you are minimizing grant opportunities by not being part of the District.

If you have any questions about the CEDS process or how to become active in the process, contact Coleman Peiffer at 715-849-5510, Extension 306 or at [cpeiffer@ncwrpc.org](mailto:cpeiffer@ncwrpc.org).



## October is Community Planning Month

Each year the American Planning Association, its state chapters, and members sponsor National Community Planning Month to raise the visibility of the planning function and profession. For more information on Community Planning Month, visit [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org).



[ PEOPLE AND PLACES ]

As part of the celebration, the NCWRPC extends thanks to all of its member communities, commissioners, and all planning & zoning staffs, as well as members of local plan commissions throughout the ten county region. It is the hard work of all of you that that helps make north central Wisconsin a great place!



## NCWRPC's 40th Anniversary

On July 31<sup>st</sup> the NCWRPC celebrated 40 years as an organization. A variety of guests were in attendance including former Executive Director Arno Haering, State Representative Shankland, and Congressman Duffy's outreach director. Governor Walker sent a Proclamation congratulating the NCWRPC on 40 years.

Executive Director Dennis Lawrence presented an overview of the organization and highlighted the many accomplishments and awards received. A brief report summarizing the presentation entitled "Celebrating 40 Years!" was prepared and is available at [www.ncwrpc.org](http://www.ncwrpc.org).



The NCWRPC was formally created in 1973 by then Governor Lucey, acting on petitions submitted by the Boards of Supervisors of Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas and Wood Counties. Four decades later we are still here assisting the counties and communities of North Central Wisconsin and in doing so have become one of the best examples of intergovernmental cooperation.



## 2014 Work Plan Being Developed

Annually the NCWRPC develops its Work Plan over late summer and fall. There are numerous on-going regional programs, including economic development and transportation. However, staff also provides substantial local assistance as requested, from comprehensive plans to outdoor recreation plans. We urge your community to contact us if you are thinking of a project or planning effort. Staff are always available to answer a phone call, respond to an email, or attend a meeting any time during the year.

Not only do we help do the work we will also help identify possible funding sources to offset the cost of your project. Unfortunately grants are more and more difficult to secure as state and federal budgets shrink for these programs. Our goal is to keep the cost as low as possible and still provide high quality professional service to our members.

Contact Dennis Lawrence at [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org) or 715-849-5510, Extension 304, to discuss a possible project.



## Specialized Services Provided

Over the past few years the NCWRPC has been assisting the Rhinelander/Oneida County Airport. Working with Airport Director, Joe Brauer, the NCWRPC has created a website for the airport, completed two studies, and designed a billboard.

The website [www.fly-rhi.org](http://www.fly-rhi.org) went live about two years ago. The website provides information about parking, rental cars, security, and airlines to the public. The website averages about 30,000 visits per year. NCWRPC also assisted with the live webcam feed from the airport to the National Weather Services (NWS) in Green Bay. The NWS is now able to view a live webcam of the airport to confirm current weather conditions. Go to: [www.fly-rhi.org/cam.html](http://www.fly-rhi.org/cam.html).

Two specialized studies were also created for the airport. One categorized out-of-state property ownership in the area to help the airport market to potential customers. The second report detailed the fiscal impact the airport has on the region.

Most recently the NCWRPC helped with the creation of a new billboard for the airport. See below:



*"In these times of tight budgets the airport could not afford the many projects NCWRPC has provided for us and the traveling public."  
- Joe Brauer, Airport Director*

If you have a special project that you need help with contact NCWRPC. We have a diverse staff with a broad range of technical skills. For more information contact Andy Faust at 715-849-5510, Extension 305, or [afaust@ncwrpc.org](mailto:afaust@ncwrpc.org).



## New Staff

We are pleased to announce that Coleman Peiffer has joined our staff as a Senior Planner. He will be working with community and economic development projects throughout the region and will also be our contact person for the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation (NCWDC).



Coleman has experience in the area of economic development having worked in business development, sports tourism and facility development. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Arizona State University, and Master's Degrees in Public Administration and Urban Planning from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

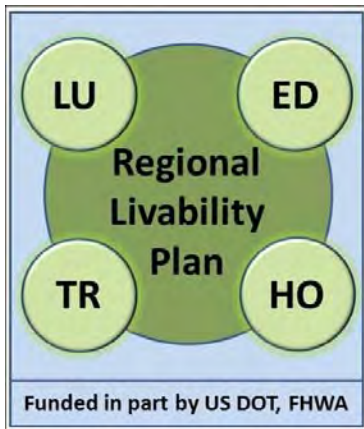
Feel free to contact Coleman Peiffer at [cpeiffer@ncwrpc.org](mailto:cpeiffer@ncwrpc.org) or at 715-849-5510, Extension 306.



## Regional Livability Plan Update

The NCWRPC is currently preparing a Regional Livability Plan (RLP) to update the 2003 Regional Comprehensive Plan.

The RLP will examine economic development, housing, and land use, and how together with transportation we can become a more livable and sustainable region. A ten person committee has been established to oversee the development of the RLP. Educational and other materials will be developed and distributed throughout the region to increase awareness and advance the discussion of livability and sustainability.



The result of this planning effort will be a Demographic Report, four Assessment Reports (Transportation, Economic Development, Housing, & Land Use) and a Regional Livability Plan. More information is available at the website [www.ncwrpc.org/rlp](http://www.ncwrpc.org/rlp).

If you have any questions about the Regional Livability Plan or how to become active in the process, contact Dennis Lawrence at 715-849-5510, Extension 304 or at [dlawrence@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlawrence@ncwrpc.org).



## Northern Rail Effort Growing

Across northern Wisconsin, freight rail service has been in a steady decline over the past decade. In 2001, the Canadian National Railway (CN) took over much of the track in northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan when it purchased the Wisconsin Central Limited. Today, many feel CN is not providing the local freight service needed to develop business in their communities.

In response, a number of northern counties joined together to form the Northwoods Rail Transit Commission in May of 2012. Initially a Wisconsin initiative, the founding counties included Forest, Florence, Lincoln, Marinette, Oneida, Price, Rusk and Vilas. Since then interest has continued to grow with Langlade, Ashland, Oconto and Marathon signing on. Now, the Commission has expanded into an interstate cooperative agreement with Michigan as counties in the Upper Peninsula grapple with the same kinds of rail service issues. So far, the Michigan counties of Dickinson, Iron and Ontonagon have officially joined and a number of other U.P. counties are contemplating membership.

The Northwoods Rail Transit Commission has been organized to negotiate on behalf of its counties, cooperate with both state DOTs and take other actions designed to improve local rail service for northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula. The group has been working to obtain market data to share with CN to encourage improved rail service either by them or, if necessary, through a short-line company interested in operating the tracks.

The NCWRPC provides administrative services for the Northwoods Rail Transit Commission and coordinates their meetings. For more information, contact Darryl Landeau at 715-849-5510, Extension 308 or email to [dlandeau@ncwrpc.org](mailto:dlandeau@ncwrpc.org).





## North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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## Farewell

It is with great sadness we report the death of Erhard Huettl. He was 82. His passing came just days before our 40th Celebration meeting in July.

Erhard was the last remaining founding member of the NCWRPC, and he had served as our Chair since 1984. He also served on the Forest County Board of Supervisors from 1968 until his death, and served as Chair from 1975 to 2012.

He will be missed!



## NCWRPC Commissioners

### Adams County

Richard Bakovka  
Glenn Licitar  
*Appointment Pending*

### Juneau County

Edmund Wafle  
Kenneth Winters  
*Appointment Pending*

### Lincoln County

Robert Lussow  
Frank Saal, Jr.  
Doug Williams

### Oneida County

Harland Lee  
Thomas Rudolph  
*Appointment Pending*

### Vilas County

Bob Egan  
Ralph Sitzberger  
*Appointment Pending*

### Forest County

Bucky Dailey  
Jimmy Landru, Jr.  
Paul Millan

### Langlade County

George Bornemann  
Ronald Nye  
Paul Schuman

### Marathon County

Virginia Heinemann  
Craig McEwen  
Bettye Nall

### Portage County

Inactive

### Wood County

Gerald Nelson  
Tom Haferman  
*Appointment Pending*