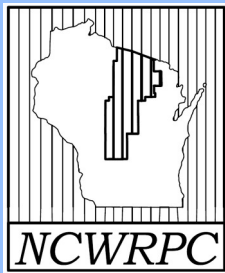


NCWRPC News

The official newsletter of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Serving Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, and Wood Counties since 1973.

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Winter 2020
Issue 69



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QUARTERLY QUOTE

“A hundred years after we are gone and forgotten, those who never heard of us will be living with the results of our actions.”

-Oliver Wendell Holmes

NCWRPC News is Going Digital

Over twenty years ago, in the spring of 1998 we launched NCWRPC NEWS, our printed newsletter. The goal of the newsletter was to inform county, city, village and town elected and appointed officials, staff and other interested parties about projects underway, important news, and other information. There have been a few layout changes and other formatting adjustments over the last two decades, but every quarter the newsletter has shown up in the mail. However, all things eventually change and over the next year we will transition from four printed newsletters to two with the other two being distributed digitally via email. In the following year we will likely go fully paperless, except for the Annual Report. In addition, our already digital ED News, which focuses on economic and community development, will be phased out and the content merged with the new digital newsletter. In preparation for going digital, we have been building our email list. However, we are sure to miss one or two. So far our database of emails includes just over 1,000 email addresses. **To avoid any disruption in service, go online, type in the link below, and answer a few quick questions:**

ncwrpc.org/register

Regional Trends

As we begin a new year it is important to review demographic and economic changes in our Region. The ten counties of northcentral Wisconsin are home to over 425,000 persons and provides over 203,000 jobs. In all, the population is about 8 percent of the entire state and about 7 percent of total jobs.

According to WI Department of Administration, between 2000 and 2018, our Regional population grew by over 16,800 persons or about 3.9 percent, meanwhile the state grew at over 8.9 percent. Our largest county is Marathon County with 136,000 persons, while our smallest is Forest County with about 9,200. However, since 2000, five counties lost population, which includes Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, and Wood. Of the five that gained population, Juneau County showed the greatest percentage growth, followed by Marathon and Portage Counties.

Continued on Page 2.

Regional Trends continued.

One important segment of the population is the 25 to 54 age group. This is the core working population. Between 2010 and 2018, all ten of our counties have seen decreases in the 25 to 54 age segment ranging from a 7.9 percent decrease in Marathon County to a 17.7 percent decrease in Adams County. Another sought after segment are the millennials, those ages 25 to 39. When comparing our ten county region with 73,506 millennials to the rest of the nation, we should have over 90,000. Thus, we are lagging behind in this important segment.

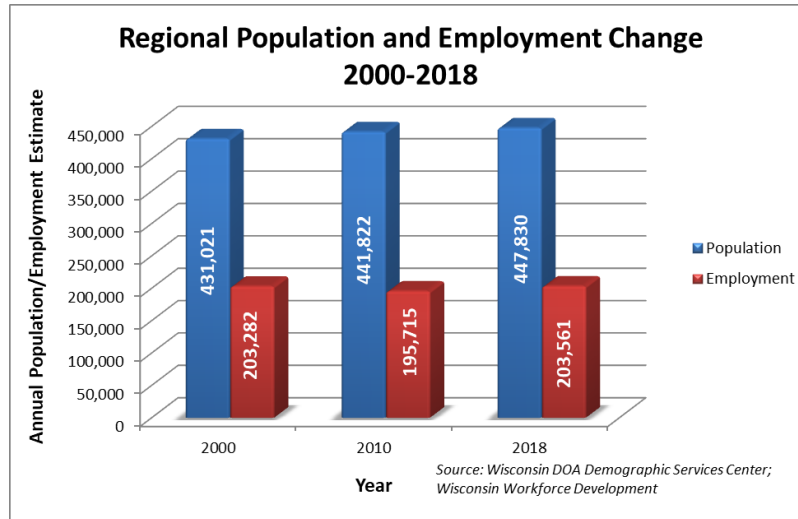
The sectors with the most employment continue to be manufacturing, government (includes education), and health care & social assistance. The 2018 Median Per Capita income for the region was \$46,324, with the lowest income in the region in Juneau County with \$37,898 and the largest in Vilas County with \$53,983.

A shrinking labor force is a widespread issue. As the population growth slows and residents age, the labor force starts to contract. Between 2010 and 2018, the regional labor force shrunk from 235,679 to 227,926, a

loss of nearly 8,000 workers or 3 percent. Nine of our ten counties had their labor force shrink. Only Marathon County had some growth, but it was less than one percent. When comparing the population segment 55 and older to the rest of the nation we have 160,132, while on average we

According to WI Department of Workforce Development, between 2000 and 2018, total regional employment has been virtually flat, with an increase of just 0.1 percent. During that same period the state increased by 5 percent. Most of the Region is still

recovering from the Great Recession. Marathon County also has the largest employment base in the region with over 71,000 jobs. Over the period only four counties, Marathon, Portage, Adams and Juneau, had an increase in employment. The other six lost employment over the period.



should have 127,290. Attracting people and labor are critical issues for North Central Wisconsin.

For more information contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.

Opportunity Zones

Opportunity Zones is a new community investment tool established by Congress in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 to help encourage long-term investments in low-income urban and rural communities nationwide. Opportunity Zones provide a tax incentive for investors to re-invest their unrealized capital gains into dedicated Opportunity Funds fostering private sector investment. More than 8,700 opportunity zones have been designated across the United States, including 12 here in North Central Wisconsin.

help the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, an EDA-designated Economic Development District (EDD), as well as county and local economic developers and investors, target private investment to economically-distressed areas where private investment may be eligible for capital gain tax incentives under the Opportunity Zones initiative. In addition, EDA has updated its comprehensive economic development strategies guidelines and application requirements to help communities attract investment.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Indiana University recently launched the USA Opportunity Zones tool. This new web-based tool will

For more information contact Dennis Lawrence, AICP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 304, or dlawrence@ncwrpc.org.

WROC Ready to Hit the Air

Wisconsin Regional Orthoimagery Consortium (WROC) will be flying this spring to capture aerial imagery across the state. The NCWRPC coordinated the effort to develop specifications, identify the consultant, and secure funding from various federal and state partners to reduce the cost to our participating communities.



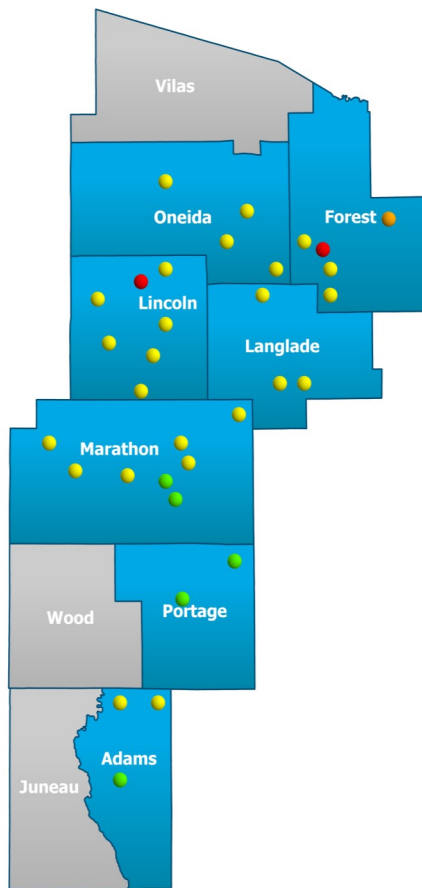
The goal of the consortium is to build and sustain a program to acquire digital orthoimagery and elevation data throughout Wisconsin. Every five years since 2005 this program has been operating, and every time there are more participants. We now have 67 counties participating. The consortium provides several benefits to participants, including: cost savings, specifications and standards support, data sharing between participants, and procurement support.



For more information about the consortium contact Andy Faust, GISP, at 715-849-5510, Extension 305, or afaust@ncwrpc.org.

NCWRPC Road Rating Review 2019

Every other year, the NCWRPC assists communities with rating their roads. Listed below is an overview of the road rating assistance provided by NCWRPC as well as some facts and information from 2019.



Road Rating Overview

- Required by State Statute 86.302 (2)
- Conducted every other year
- Ensures the safety, efficiency, and fiscal well-being of roads

NCWRPC Role

- Rate the roads and input data
- Provide related assistance, such as development of a local road improvement plan
- In 2019, NCWRPC helped 32 communities across 7 counties, and rated over 1,554 miles of road

Communities Served

- County Highways (1), [Miles: 109]
- Cities (2), [Miles: 66]
- Villages (5), [Miles: 165]
- Towns (24), [Miles: 1,214]

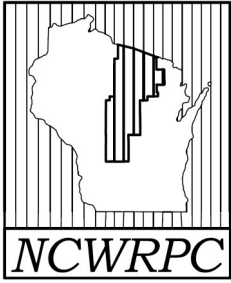
For information on local road rating and the assistance the NCWRPC can provide, contact Darryl Landeau, at 715-849-5510 extension 308 or dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.

Respond to the 2020 Census to shape the future.

Responding to the census helps communities get the funding they need and helps businesses make data-driven decisions that grow the economy. Census data impact our daily lives, informing important decisions about funding for services and infrastructure in your community, including health care, senior centers, jobs, political representation, roads, schools, and businesses. More than \$675 billion in federal funding flows back to states and local communities each year based on census data.

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States[®]
Census
2020



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Regional Planning Commission**

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Welcome Wood County!

On behalf of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, we would like to extend a warm welcome to Wood County and all its communities. The Wood County Board of Supervisors recently took action to become a fully participating member in the NCWRPC. Over the years, many of the cities, villages and towns have been members, but not the county itself. We would like to thank the County Board for its visionary decision and its support of intergovernmental cooperation.

We encourage county organizations and communities to give our website a look or give us a call to explore the many services we provide and see how we might be able to help. We look forward to working with many of you in the coming years. Remember, working together, everyone achieves more!

Commissioner News

NCWRPC is pleased to welcome **Chuck Bolder** as a New Commissioner from **Lincoln County**. He was appointed in Fall of 2019. Welcome aboard!

NCWRPC Commissioners

Adams County

Rocky Gilner
Peter Hickethier
Appointment Pending

Juneau County

Jerry Niles
Edmund Wafle
Kenneth Winters

Lincoln County

Loretta Baughan
Chuck Bolder
Frank Saal, Jr.

Oneida County

Ted Cushing
Harland Lee
Thomas Rudolph

Vilas County

Robert Hanson
Charles Rayala, III
Jay Verhulst

Forest County

Cindy Gretzinger
Paul Millan
Tom Tallier

Langlade County

Reinhardt Balcerzak
Angela Close
Ronald Nye

Marathon County

Daniel Guild
Craig McEwen
Catherine Wineman

Portage County

Inactive

Wood County

Gerald Nelson
Appointment Pending
Appointment Pending