

**NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT

LORETTA BAUGHAN
TED CUSHING
ROCKY GILNER
DAVID LAFONTAINE
BETTY MANSON
PAUL MILLAN
RON NYE

STAFF PRESENT

DENNIS LAWRENCE
SAM WESSEL

MEMBERS EXCUSED

OTHERS PRESENT

1.) ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M., and the roll call was as presented.

2.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 29, 2025 MEETING.

On the motion of MR. LAFONTAINE, second by MR. GILNER, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3.) DISCUSSION/BUSINESS

3.1 Executive Director's Report

MR. LAWRENCE provided an update on Commissioner status. Currently, we have 26 of 30 positions filled. The four vacancies include one in Adams, one in Forest, and two in Vilas County. Staff will continue to work with the Governor's Appointment Office and the counties to get these positions filled. Next, he mentioned that the new GIS person started in December and had some overlap with our retiring employee.

He then stated that there had been some issues with the NCWRPC's credit cards. Basically, the cards are being declined, and the bank cannot get the hold removed so they work properly. We will keep working with the bank to get this resolved. Then he mentioned that the Annual Association of Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions meeting will be held on May 29 in Green Bay. Agenda is still being developed.

Finally, he stated that at the next meeting we will hold elections for officers. All of the current officers expressed interest in continuing in their respective roles.

3.2 Current Financial Report

MR. LAWRENCE referred to the Year End financial report. The report identifies about \$2,165,000 in cash and deposits, and about \$101,000 in outstanding receivables, for a total of \$2,267,467. Payables total about \$63,000, which leaves a current financial position of \$2,204,467. At the previous meeting, the financial position was \$2,281,826. Overall, the organization continues to be in a good financial position.

On the motion of MR. LAFONTAINE, second by MS. MANSON, the financial report was accepted and placed on file. All were in favor.

3.3 Programs, Grants & Agreements Update

MR. LAWRENCE reviewed the report in the meeting packet. First, he discussed the current EDA and the DOT planning programs underway for the region. The primary EDA task is the update of the CEDS, while the primary DOT tasks are transit plans and safe routes to school efforts. He then mentioned some local work agreements prepared for various communities, including Wausau and Marathon City.

3.4 Review 2026 Work Program

MR. LAWRENCE referred to the information in the meeting packet. Annually, the NCWRPC prepares a work program to guide work efforts during the year. The Work Program includes nearly 70 projects over all five of the major work areas of economic development, geographic information systems, intergovernmental cooperation, land use, and transportation. He highlighted some projects in each of the work areas. Additional projects will be added over the year.

3.5 Review and Update of Commissioner Purpose & Duties

MR. LAWRENCE referred to the Commissioner Purpose & Duties handout in the packet. This was first created as a brief job description of a Commissioner for our county chairs and clerks to use when recruiting people to fill Commissioner positions. It was last updated over a decade ago. Recently, when a Commissioner was being reappointed, it was included in the county board packet, and a supervisor noticed the reference to affirmative action. There was some confusion with the term since a recent Presidential Executive Order phased out affirmative action and replaced it with merit-based opportunity. It was suggested that the reference be removed from the Purpose & Duties and a more generic staff recruitment reference be added.

On the motion of MS. BAUGHAN, second by MR. LAFONTAINE, the Commissioner Purpose & Duties document was approved as discussed. All were in favor.

3.6 Review and Update of Vehicle, Credit Card & Reimbursement Guidelines

MR. LAWRENCE reviewed the Lodging section of the handout. Currently it references the "state rate" and that language would be eliminated and instead reference "conference rate" for booking lodging associated with conferences. It will also add a reference to in-region lodging for emergency stays.

On the motion of MR. LAFONTAINE, second by MR. NYE, the guidelines were approved as discussed. All were in favor.

3.7 Review and Approval of WROC Agreement with Ayres

MR. LAWRENCE reviewed the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to select Ayres and provided a general overview of the agreement. The new agreement is very similar to previous versions of this agreement. A new section has been added related to our ten member counties being eligible only if they are current members in the NCWRPC. This is to maintain the benefit for those that are members of the NCWRPC. There was some discussion of billable rates.

On the motion of MR. NYE, second by MR. LAFONTAINE, the agreement was approved. All were in favor.

3.8 Announcements

MR. LAWRENCE stated that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on April 22, 2026, and Officer Elections would be held.

4.) ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Committee Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 A.M.

The meeting was held at the Wausau Business Incubator,
advertised, and open to the public.

Minutes Approved on April 22, 2026
