

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission



Area Served

Membership

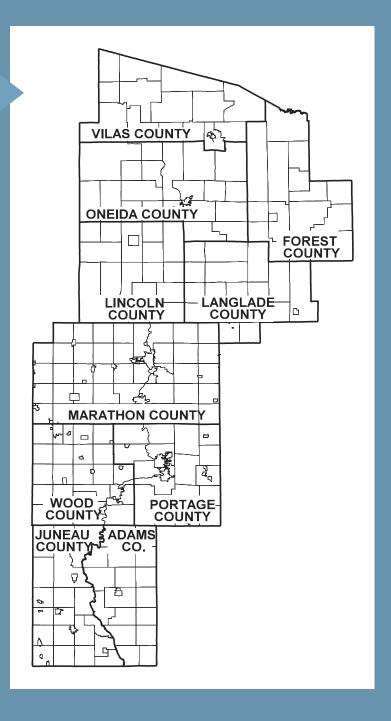
10 counties

22 cities

41 villages

 196_{towns}

4 tribal nations



Regional Facts

451,644 2021 population (DOA estimate)

9,325 square miles

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

210 McClellan Street, Suite 210, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Telephone: (715) 849-5510 Fax: (715) 849-5110 Web Page: www.ncwrpc.org Email: staff@ncwrpc.org



SERVING ADAMS, FOREST, JUNEAU, LANGLADE, LINCOLN, MARATHON, ONEIDA, PORTAGE, VILAS AND WOOD COUNTIES

Dear North Central Wisconsin:

It is our pleasure to present the **2021 Annual Report** for the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC). Throughout the *Annual Report* you will see many regional and local level projects we completed this past year.

Two major efforts included redistricting assistance and administration of the Main Street Bounce Back grant program. These along with over 60 other projects are identified in the report.

The *Annual Report* is prepared to provide interested local, state, and federal officials as well as citizens with an overview of the activities undertaken by the NCWRPC over the last year. The report highlights our five core work areas:

- Economic Development
- Geographic Information Systems

Millan

- Intergovernmental Cooperation
- Land Use, and
- Transportation

In addition, the report meets the requirements as outlined in Wisconsin Statute 66.0309(8)(b) for annual report preparation. This is our 48th Annual Report.

With your continued support, we look forward to another successful year in 2022. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions regarding the *Annual Report*.

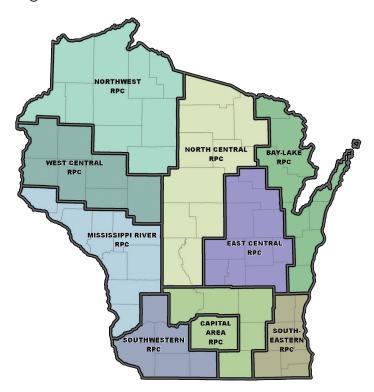
Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Millan Chairperson Dennis Lawrence, AICP Executive Director

Purpose and History:

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) was created in 1973 under Wisconsin Statute 66.0309 by the ten counties of Adams, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas and Wood as a voluntary association of governments with 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 serve as a forum for communication, cooperation and coordination among federal, state, regional, and local interests; and to provide technical assistance.

Regional planning commissions provide assistance throughout the state. NCWRPC is one of nine regional planning commissions serving Wisconsin, while nationwide there are about 500 similar type regional organizations.



Organizational Goals:

NCWRPC maintains and regularly updates a Strategic Plan, as well as other related plans. Some of the goals from these plans are to:

- ✓ Provide cost-effective planning services to our members,
- ✓ Leverage state and federal dollars for the Region,
- ✓ Communicate benefits of regional and local planning,
- ✓ Advance sustainable, resilient growth and development in the Region, and
- ✓ Through planning, assist communities identify strategies and solutions to various issues and challenges facing them.

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.

State and Federal Relationships

NCWRPC is an independent area-wide planning agency created by state statute that is governed by an appointed board, called a Commission, and serves the counties, towns, villages, cities, and tribes within the Region. In addition, there are two long-standing relationships with the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and the federal U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), that support planning. In 1975, NCWRPC was designated as a rural transportation planning region by the WisDOT. As such, the NCWRPC receives a planning grant annually to provide transportation planning assistance to support the state transportation work program throughout the Region. In 1980, the NCWRPC was designated as an economic development district by EDA. The NCWRPC also receives an annual economic development planning grant to provide local economic development assistance and prepare a regional report called a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS); which helps maintain eligibility for EDA grants.

Types of Assistance

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 takes the lead where there is no staff. 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 accomplishments are highlighted on page 6, while Local Assistance projects by county are highlighted on pages 8 and 9.

Publications

Annually the NCWRPC prepares and publishes several planning documents. The NCWRPC also produces a quarterly digital newsletter 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. A list of plans, reports and other information is available at the NCWRPC website. See www.ncwrpc.org.

Program Areas:

NCWRPC provides assistance both regionally and locally in the following five areas:

ED

Economic Development

NCWRPC annually prepares a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) that analyzes the 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 EDA grant applications, among others, to bring funding into the Region.

NCWRPC provides local communities with assistance in a variety of other economic development related studies, including preparing detailed economic development plans that examine the local economy, assess local trends, and identify strategies to spur development. In addition, the NCWRPC provides grant writing and administrative assistance to communities that are seeking funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, as well as a variety of other grant programs, including WEDC, DNR, Wis-DOT, and USDA-Rural Development.



Geographic Information Systems

NCWRPC is a depository for a variety of demographic information for the area, including U.S. Census, American Community Survey, Economic Census, State Employment and Labor Information, and other specialized data sets. We maintain a Regional GIS database and computerized mapping system, including digital orthophotography. In addition, we assist with preparing County Land Information Plans and various grant applications for digital imagery. NCWRPC also coordinates efforts related to securing regional and statewide aerial imagery.

NCWRPC maintains an extensive digital mapping database for local mapping. Custom data sets and maps can also be created for communities on request or as part of larger planning efforts. County Profiles are also prepared and updated as needed. Also, in partnership with WEDC, NCWRPC prepares quarterly economic development reports for each county in the Region using EMSI, specialized economic development analysis software. In addition, the NCWRPC provides redistricting assistance throughout the Region.

Land Use

NCWRPC is responsible for the development of a regional comprehensive plan for the ten-county Region. The Regional Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2004, the first regional comprehensive plan in the state under the new planning law, and was last updated in 2015. A mid-plan review of that document was prepared in 2020. NCWRPC also prepares other regionally focused plans from time to time.

NCWRPC prepares a variety of plans for local 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, among others. In addition, 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 ordinances that implement local plans.

TR

Transportation

NCWRPC prepares regional transportation plans including highway corridor studies, long-range urban area plans, parking studies, bicycle and pedestrian planning, Safe Routes To School (SRTS) plans, and grant writing for various WisDOT funding sources. The NCWRPC also provides on-going assistance to the Wausau Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

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.

IGOV

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, and boundary agreements. Many of these projects include a regional focus because they involve multiple units of government. In addition, the NCWRPC maintains a website and produces a regular newsletter to provide information and other resources.

Regional Accomplishments

NCWRPC prepares, undertakes and manages several regional efforts. Below are some of the highlights of these efforts:

- Secured \$2M for the regional Main Street Bounce Back (MSBB) grant program for business recovery from the pandemic. Provided 125 \$10,000 grants directly to businesses throughout the Region. See page 11.
- Provided redistricting assistance throughout the Region. Prepared eight county supervisory district plans and several city plans along with other general guidance. See page 11.
- Prepared and adopted a Regional Recovery Plan, to assist the Region in recovery from the impacts of the pandemic. See the plan at newrpe.org.
- Working to develop a regional entrepreneur network and establish local innovation centers to encourage new start-ups.
- Staff represent the Region on two state level boards appointed by the Governor, one related to broadband and the other related to 911 Emergency Communications.
- Maintained and developed a Regional Mapping Information System, Census and Demographic Information, and a Planning Library for the Region.
- Prepared a multiyear regional Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant application to WisDOT to fund our regional program to improve walking and biking conditions for schools throughout the Region.
- Continued a partnership with WEDC to provide EMSI economic development modeling tools to communities within the Region. Prepared regional reports.
- Maintained designation as a rural transportation planning region by WisDOT to coordinate transportation strategies on a regional basis, as well as assist local governments prepare and submit required road ratings.
- 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).
- Prepared a housing study for the five northern counties in the Region.
- Provided organizational support to various entities within the region, including: Centergy, NCWDC, NEWCOM, NCWSC, NRTC, and WROC. See the next page.

NCWRPC is involved in various other regional efforts throughout the year that are not mentioned here.

On-going Regional Organizational Support:

NCWRPC provides assistance to a variety of organizations to support or compliment planning efforts throughout the Region.

Centergy

Provide staff support to Centergy, a regional economic development organization serving Adams, Lincoln, Marathon, Portage and Wood Counties. Centergy strives to leverage the collective economic power of its five counties to unite efforts to attract talent and development to the area.

North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation (NCWDC)

Provide management assistance for a revolving loan fund operated by the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation, which provides gap financing to businesses throughout the Region. The Regional Development Fund was funded by a federal program and is in the process of being phased down.

North Central Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition (NCWSC)

Provide staff support to the NCWSC. The North Central Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition is a group of 13 municipalities that coordinate education and outreach efforts to improve water quality in the Central Wisconsin River watershed.

North East Wisconsin Public Safety Communication (NEWCOM)

Provide staff support to NEWCOM to manage and coordinate the organization to promote better emergency service communication throughout a 16-county Region.

Northwoods Rail Transit Commission (NRTC)

Provide staff assistance to the NRTC. The mission of the Northwoods Rail Transit Commission is to sustain and enhance safe, reliable, and efficient rail service critical to the businesses, communities and economies in northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC)

Began as a regional effort in 2005 and now spans the entire state of Wisconsin. This is a collaborative effort to gather orthoimagery for various applications from addressing to 911 to planning. The effort is conducted every five years and covers over 56,000 square miles of aerial imagery. A variety of state and federal partners are involved in this effort as well as over 100 local units of government.

Selected Accomplishments by County 2021

Reflected here are projects
completed or underway
within our ten-county region.
Portage County is a new
full county member for 2021.

Portage County Joins NCWRPC!

The county board of supervisors took action to join the NCWRPC to become our newest member in 2021. As part of county membership all local units are automatically members as well.

We look forward to many successful outcomes resulting from this collaborate relationship.

Working together we all achieve more!

Adams County

- ✓ County Redistricting Plan
- ✓ Town of Easton Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Village of Friendship Road Rating
- ✓ Maintain Online County Records System
- ✓ County GIS Support
- ✓ State Parcel Submission assistance to DOA per state statute
- ✓ Town of Leola Road Rating
- ✓ Quarterly Economic Reports
- ✓ MSBB Award to 1 Business

Forest County

- ✓ County Redistricting Plan
- ✓ County Outdoor Recreation Plan
- ✓ City of Crandon Road Rating
- ✓ County GIS & Parcel Mapping Assistance
- ✓ Town of Wabeno Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ County Highway Road Rating
- ✓ Forest County Potawatomi Bike & Pedestrian Plan
- ✓ Road Rating for Towns of Crandon, Hiles, Lincoln, Nashville, and Wabeno
- ✓ Quarterly Economic Reports
- ✓ MSBB Award to 1 Business

Juneau County

- ✓ County Redistricting Plan
- ✓ County Outdoor Recreation Plan
- ✓ Juneau County Health Assessment Assistance
- ✓ County All Hazard Mitigation Grant Application
- ✓ Camp Douglas Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Sales Tax Report for JCEDC
- ✓ Town of Armenia Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Quarterly Economic Reports
- ✓ MSBB Awards to 6 Businesses

Langlade County

- ✓ County Redistricting Plan
- ✓ County All Hazard Mitigation Plan
- ✓ County Land Records and GIS Assistance
- ✓ Maintain Online County Records System
- ✓ County Outdoor Recreation Plan
- ✓ Campground Economic Impact EMSI Reports
- ✓ State Parcel Submission assistance to DOA per state statutes
- ✓ Road Rating for the Towns of Antigo, Elcho, Polar, Rolling, and Upham
- ✓ Quarterly Economic Reports
- ✓ MSBB Awards to 15 Businesses

Lincoln County

- ✓ County Redistricting Plan
- ✓ County Outdoor Recreation Plan
- ✓ City of Tomahawk Road Rating
- ✓ County Comprehensive Plan Update Assistance
- ✓ Town of Russell Road Surface Management Plan
- ✓ Merrill Safe Routes to School Plan
- ✓ Road Rating for the Towns of Birch, Harding, King, Merrill, Scott, Russell, and Tomahawk
- ✓ Quarterly Economic Reports
- ✓ MSBB Awards to 6 Businesses

Marathon County

- ✓ County Redistricting Plan
- ✓ County Highway Study
- ✓ Village of Rothschild Zoning Assistance
- ✓ City of Mosinee Interactive on-line Zoning Map
- ✓ Kowalski Interchange Economic Impact Analysis
- ✓ Village of Kronenwetter Road Rating
- ✓ Town of Rib Mountain Outdoor Recreation Plan
- ✓ Village of Maine Mapping Assistance
- ✓ Town of Elderon Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Road Rating for the Towns of Harrison, Johnson, Marathon, Rib Falls, Spencer, Wausau, Weston, and Wein
- ✓ Town of McMillan Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Quarterly Economic Reports
- ✓ MSBB Awards to 30 Businesses

Oneida County

- ✓ County Redistricting Plan
- ✓ County All Hazard Mitigation (FEMA) Planning Grant
- ✓ Town of Newbold Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Maintain Online County Survey Records System
- ✓ Town of Monico Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Road Rating for Towns of Crescent, Lake Tomahawk, Pelican, Schoepke, and Stella
- ✓ Quarterly Economic Reports
- ✓ MSBB Awards to 12 Businesses

Portage County

- ✓ Future of Farming Foundation EDA Grant Assistance
- ✓ County Redistricting Assistance
- ✓ Village of Park Ridge Road Rating
- ✓ SPRINT Grant Recipient
- ✓ City of Stevens Point Ward Maps
- ✓ Village of Rosholt Road Rating
- ✓ Partner with MSTC Wisconsin Initiative Grant Effort
- ✓ Road Rating for the Towns of Dewey, Plover, and Stockton
- ✓ Quarterly Economic Reports
- ✓ MSBB Awards to 22 Businesses

Vilas County

- ✓ County Redistricting Plan
- ✓ Lac du Flambeau Business Incubator Study
- ✓ County Highway Road Rating
- ✓ Town of Presque Isle Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ County All Hazard Mitigation (FEMA) Grant
- ✓ Town of St. Germain Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Lac du Flambeau Safe Routes to School Plan
- ✓ Town of Winchester Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Quarterly Economic Reports
- ✓ MSBB Awards to 12 Businesses

Wood County

- ✓ County Bike & Pedestrian Plan underway
- ✓ County Broadband Assistance
- ✓ Town of Sigel Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Saratoga EDA Grant Application
- ✓ Pittsville Outdoor Recreation Plan
- ✓ Wisconsin Rapids EDA Redevelopment Planning Partner
- ✓ Road Rating for the Towns of Port Edwards and Sigel
- ✓ Quarterly Economic Reports
- ✓ MSBB Awards to 20 Businesses

Staff also attend various meetings, respond to inquiries, provide assistance to a variety of departments, agencies, and organizations, and completes numerous projects throughout the region not mentioned above.

2021 Audited Financial Statements:

Each year the NCWRPC engages an independent auditor to provide an examination of financial operations. A copy of the complete 2021 Audit Report and Management Communications Letter is available for review at the NCWRPC Office. Below is the December 31, 2021 Statement of Net Position:

ASSETS		
Current Assets	1,813,679	
Receivables	408,840	
Prepaid Items	18,547	
Noncurrent Assets	793,050	
Other Assets-Net Pension	147,632	
Capital Assets	3,862	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$3,185,610
TOTAL DEFERRED OUTFLOWS:		\$308,299
LIABILITIES		
LIABILITIES Current Liabilities	1,085,130	
	1,085,130 	
Current Liabilities		\$1,292,596
Current Liabilities Long-Term Liabilities		\$1,292,596 \$633,612
Current Liabilities Long-Term Liabilities TOTAL LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities Long-Term Liabilities TOTAL LIABILITIES TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS:	207,466	
Current Liabilities Long-Term Liabilities TOTAL LIABILITIES TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS: Net Invested Capital Assets	3,862	

Annual Levy Rate

By state statute the membership charge or levy rate to local governments cannot exceed 0.003% of equalized real estate value. The rate was set at 0.00275% in 2000 and has been reduced multiple times since. By 2021, that rate was reduced to 0.000757%, which is well less than one third of the statutory limit! In addition, to level out the wide range of valuations of our member counties, the NCWRPC established a cap. The NCWRPC continually seeks other revenue sources to minimize costs to our members.

Leveraging Funds

To keep membership contributions low, additional funds are secured from other sources to operate the organization. A simple Return on Membership (ROM) analysis shows that every membership dollar provided to the NCWRPC leverages additional dollars. In 2021, for every 1 dollar the NCWRPC received from membership it directly leveraged over 6 dollars from grants, local projects, and other sources.

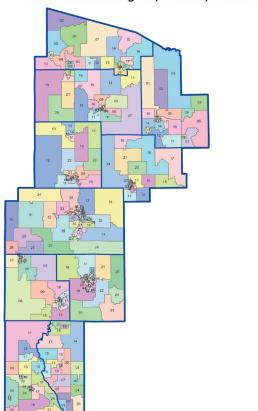
Project Highlights

Redistricting **Efforts**

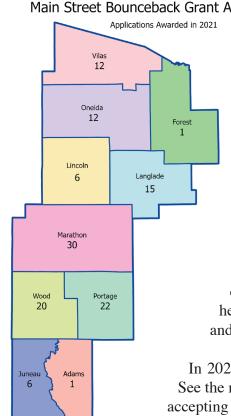
Every ten years local governments are required to undertake a process called redistricting. Following the decennial Census both Federal and state law requires that new boundaries for elected officials be created using new population information.

In 2021, for the release of the 2020 Census, we helped prepare eight County Board Supervisory District Plans, assisted two other counties, and assisted numerous City, Village, and Town Ward Plans. This year marks our fourth decade of redistricting assistance to our Region.

Local Redistricting Supervisory Districts



Main Street Bounceback Grant Applications



Main Street Bounce Back Grants

In an effort to help the North Central Wisconsin economy recover, especially the downtowns and commercial corridors, the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission partnered with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to create the Main Street Bounce Back (MSBB) Grant Program. Two million dollars were allocated to the Region to support to local businesses.

New and existing businesses are eligible for the Main Street Bounce Back Grant Program if they are moving or expanding their business into vacant commercial space. Eligible businesses can receive \$10,000 that they can use to help cover various expenses such as rent, operating expenses, building repairs, and improvements.

In 2021, we awarded 125 Main Street Bounce Back Grants throughout the Region. See the map for the distribution of the grants by county. NCWRPC expects to continue accepting applications for the Main Street Bounce Back Grant Program through the end of 2022.

Our Staff

Dennis Lawrence, AICP, EDFP, Executive Director

Dennis became the 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 also certified as a Geographic Information System Professional (GISP). Andy works in the areas of GIS and land use.

Fredrick Heider, AICP, Planner

Fred has worked with the NCWRPC since 2004. He has a bachelor's degree in natural resources and land use 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.

Dawn Johnson, Office Assistant

Dawn started working with the NCWRPC in 2021. She is pursuing an associate degree in accounting from Northcentral Technical College. Dawn provides program support, staff support, and general office assistance.

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

Eric Sonnleitner, Planner

Eric has worked with the NCWRPC since 2017. He has a bachelor's degree in natural resources and land use from UW-Stevens Point. Eric works mainly in the areas of community development, GIS, land use, and transportation.

Samuel Wessel, AICP, Senior Planner

Sam is a new hire. He has a bachelor's degree from Wisconsin Lutheran College, a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Sam works in the areas of community development and land use.

Commissioners:

An appointed commission oversees the activities of the executive director and the organization. As detailed in Wisconsin statutes, 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. Term ending is also displayed; however, note that all serve until reappointed or replaced.

NCWRPC officers are Paul Millan, Chairperson; Loretta Baughan, Vice-Chairperson; and Ron Nye, Secretary - Treasurer.

Adams County

Rocky Gilner, C (6/24) Jami Gebert, G (6/22) Rick Pease, J (6/26)

Forest County

Bill Chaney, C (1/26) Paul Millan, G (1/24) Cindy Gretzinger, J (1/28)

Juneau County

Appointment Pending, C (6/25) Kenneth Winters, G (6/23) Jerry Niles, J (6/27)

Langlade County

Ronald Nye, C (1/25) Angela Close, G (1/28) Reinhardt Balcerzak, J (1/25)

Lincoln County

Paul Gilk, C (6/25) Loretta Baughan, G (6/27) Hans Breitenmoser, J (6/23)

Marathon County

David Oberbeck, C (6/27) Daniel Guild, G (6/23) Craig McEwen, J (6/25)

Oneida County

Thomas Rudolph, C (1/26) Ted Cushing, G (1/28) Harland Lee, J (1/24)

Portage County

Chris Holman, C (1/23) Larry Raikowski. J (1/27) Allen Haga, Jr., G (1/25)

Vilas County

Robert Hanson, C (1/25) Jay Verhulst, G (1/23) Vacant, J (1/27)

Wood County

Gerald Nelson, C (6/23) Doug Machon, G (6/27) Dave LaFontaine, J (6/25)

Commissioners listed are current as of December 31, 2021. In addition, per Wisconsin Statute, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) - Missy Hughes - is an ex-officio officer of the NCWRPC.





48th Annual Report

North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission 210 McClellan Street, Suite 210 • Wausau, Wisconsin 54403 Phone: 715-849-5510 • Fax 715-849-5110

www.ncwrpc.org