

**NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes**

July 30, 2025

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

REINHARDT BALCERZAK
LORETTA BAUGHAN
ANGELA CLOSE
TED CUSHING
RANDY FIFRICK
JAMI GEBERT
ROCKY GILNER
JASON GRUENEBERG
JOSHUA KLINGBEIL
DENNIS KREJCI
DAVE LAFONTAINE
DOUG MACHON
BETTY MANSON
PAUL MILLAN
JOHN PAVELSKI
LARRY RAIKOWSKI
TOM TALLIER
MICHAEL TAUTGES
HOLLY TOMLANOVICH
KENNETH WINTERS

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDY FAUST
DAWN JOHNSON
DENNIS LAWRENCE
SAM WESSEL

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

ALAN BISHOP
HANS BREITENMOSER
CINDY GRETZINGER
ROBB JENSEN
RON NYE
RICK PEASE
RAY RESER

1.) CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

MR. MILLAN called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. MR. TALLIER, returning as a Commissioner representing Forest County, introduced himself.

2.) APPROVAL, ADDITIONS, OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE 4/30/25 MEETING:

MR. MILLAN asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes as mailed. Hearing none, MR. LAFONTAINE made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by MR. BALCERZAK. Motion passed.

3.) BUSINESS & DISCUSSION:

3.1 CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

MR. MILLAN welcomed everyone to the Wausau Business Incubator.

3.2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

MS. BAUGHAN provided a recap of the discussion items, including the four open commission seats and the recent influx of open records requests targeting several government-funded entities. Due to Lincoln County's IT efforts to identify the requests as phishing attempts and involving the Wisconsin Cyber Response Team and subsequently the FBI, the issue has been resolved. She also highlighted ongoing succession planning, announcing that Sam Wessel will begin serving as Senior Planner/Assistant Director on August 1, 2025.

3.3 STATE & FEDERAL UPDATES

There were no legislative updates.

MR. TALLIER shared that Forest County recently advocated on Capitol Hill for the sale of federal land to a private business seeking to expand its operations and support the local economy. The proposed legislation has passed the House of Representatives and is currently under consideration in the Senate.

3.4 RESOLUTION 2025-2: ESTABLISH 2026 LEVY RATES & CAPS

MR. LAWRENCE provided an overview of the levy rates and caps. Under Wisconsin statute, the NCWRPC is authorized to levy a service charge not to exceed 0.003 percent of the equalized real estate value to each member government. Based on the projected 2026 Work Program and Annual Budget, the NCWRPC will require a

service charge not to exceed 0.0004449%. Counties with a property valuation exceeding \$15 billion will be capped at \$41,000, while those over \$9 billion will be capped at \$39,000. MR. GRUENEGER made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by MR. BALCERZAK. Motion passed.

3.5 REVIEW OF WISCONSIN REGIONAL ORTHOIMAGERY CONSORTIUM (WROC)
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION, PROCESS, AND TIMELINE

MR. FAUST provided a brief overview of the WROC program's history and the selection process for choosing the program's partner to acquire aerial photography. The NCWRPC will manage the qualifications-based selection process and act as the fiscal agent for applicable federal and state grants. A selection committee will review and evaluate all submissions in accordance with the established criteria.

MR. LAFONTAINE made a motion to approve moving forward with the WRO RFQ process, seconded by MR. CUSHING. Motion passed.

3.6 PRESENTATION OF 2025 DRAFT REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
SAM WESSEL, SENIOR PLANNER

MR. WESSEL provided a brief overview of the comprehensive plan. He recapped key discussions from the June committee meeting, emphasizing how public input and stakeholder engagement have shaped the plan's direction. Mr. WESSEL presented a summary of the community survey results, identifying the top issues raised by respondents and outlining corresponding solutions proposed through the planning process. He concluded with a chapter-by-chapter review of the draft comprehensive plan, highlighting major themes, strategies, and goals designed to guide regional growth and development.

3.7 PUBLIC HEARING: COMMENTS RELATED TO THE DRAFT REGIONAL
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

MR. MILLAN announced the start of the public hearing at 11:45 am, noting that comments would be limited to three minutes per person.

MS. TOMLANOVICH asked for information on the transportation section of the plan, specifically regarding freight and railroad infrastructure.

MR. KREJCI asked about trends in agricultural acreage and the development of farmland and also raised questions about the role of outdoor recreation as a driver of economic activity.

MR. KLINGBEIL inquired about the alignment between the overall survey responses and comments, and whether there was any significant variation from what the steering committee had anticipated.

MR. CUSHING, a member of the steering committee, commended MR. WESSEL for the outstanding job he has done coordinating and organizing the overall project.

MR. MILLAN adjourned the public hearing at 11:55 am.

3.8 ANNOUNCEMENTS

MR. LAWRENCE announced that the 2024 annual reports were mailed, and each commissioner should have received one via mail. He noted that the next meeting is scheduled for October 29th, with the primary agenda items being the approval of the Annual Budget and the adoption of the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

4.) ADJOURNMENT

MR. MILLAN adjourned the meeting at Noon.

The meeting was advertised and open to the public. The meeting was held at the Wausau Business Incubator, 100 N. 72nd Avenue, Wausau, WI.

Minutes Approved on October 29, 2025:
