2015 PROFILE
WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS
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STATUTORY JURISDICTIONS OF WISCONSIN'S REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

1. BAY - LAKE
2. CAPITAL AREA
3. EAST CENTRAL
4. MISSISSIPPI RIVER
5. NORTH CENTRAL
6. NORTHWEST
7. SOUTHEASTERN
8. SOUTHWESTERN
9. WEST CENTRAL

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

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functions

Under Wisconsin law, regional planning commissions have the following functions:

1. Conduct all types of research studies; collect and analyze data; prepare maps, charts and tables; and conduct necessary studies;
2. Make and adopt plans for the physical, social, and economic development of the region;
3. Publish and advertise their purposes, objectives and findings, and may distribute reports, literature, and provide advisory services on planning problems to the local governmental units within the region and to other public and private agencies in matters relative to its functions and objectives.

Over the years, the demands on the regional planning commissions (RPCs) have changed. These changes, however, have not altered the basic advisory role of the commissions. The original and traditional role of the commissions was to plan for the physical development of the areas they served. This involved planning issues such as land use, transportation, natural resources, and water and sewer services. While this function has continued to be important, additional program responsibilities have been assumed, including technical assistance in such areas as economic development, grant and loan services, and local government management.

The broad range of functions and services performed by Wisconsin’s regional planning commissions is exemplified by the adjoining listing of planning and assistance activities. Wisconsin’s RPCs are a vital resource with the technical skills and administrative infrastructure already in place to assist local communities, counties and the state in addressing the challenges of today’s world. The variations in the services provided are a result of the different needs and levels of financial support provided by each commission’s member units of government.

Commissions receive funds through a statutory and authorized charge, State and Federal planning grant programs, and contracts with local governments for special planning services. Local funds are available from State and Federal planning grant programs, and contracts with public and private agencies.

RPCs have relationships with local units of government, private and non-profit groups, as well as with State and Federal agencies. These relationships have been directed at providing liaison and assistance between the local and State/Federal levels of government, especially in planning, transportation, economic development and resource conservation. These relationships have allowed RPCs to foster strategic partnerships to address regional issues and opportunities.

RPCs play a critical role by providing the venue and infrastructure for a broad and multidisciplinary discussion of issues and opportunities. Furthermore, by acting as a broker for creating the needed collaborative partnerships to address these issues, RPCs foster efficient and effective solutions.

RPC DESIGNATION

Seven of the commissions are designated or authorized as Economic Development Districts by the U.S. Economic Development Administration for purposes of areawide economic planning and to guide the investment of Federal funds for economic development.

All nine commissions are affiliated with the Wisconsin State Data Center, whereby they provide data services (particularly census data) to local units of government and to the public. In addition, four commissions have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Transportation as Metropolitan Planning Organizations for carry out a comprehensive transportation planning process in the State’s urban areas. Two commissions are designated water quality planning agencies.
PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY SUMMARY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
The Commission fulfills its economic development responsibilities through the ongoing monitoring of economic conditions in the Region and through the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Through the CEDS planning process, the Commission has identified four regional strategies to pursue. These strategies are:

» The linkage and coordination of Federal, State, local, and private economic development programs;
» Regional and community economic development programs;
» Regional and community economic development; and
» Create opportunities for investment.

NATURAL RESOURCES
A major environmental focus of the Commission continues to be the Great Lakes issues associated with Lake Michigan and Green Bay. Working in conjunction with the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Commission has worked on issues such as the impacts of development in coastal areas, beach improvements, bluff stability along Lake Michigan, public access and natural areas protection. The Commission has also been involved with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources addressing issues related to Lake Michigan and the lower portion of Green Bay, as well as the Manitowoc/Two Rivers/Mishicot, Oconto County, Luxemburg, Marinette and Sheboygan area-wide sanitary sewer plans.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE
The Commission provides technical assistance on a variety of planning issues for local communities in the Region. Commission staff works with local communities on specific projects, such as comprehensive plans, hazard mitigation plans, outdoor recreation plans, zoning ordinances, grant applications and community surveys.

TRANSPORTATION
Through its annual transportation work program, the Commission addresses issues on air and harbor planning, highway studies and plans, rail transportation and acquisition issues, elderly and disabled transportation, and local transportation assistance plans. In addition, the Commission conducts urban transportation planning activities as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area. The Commission also conducts special projects such as transit, bicycle facility, and corridor planning.

INFORMATION AND DATA SYSTEMS
The Commission functions as a depository of technical information and data derived from Federal, State, and Local sources. Information is provided to public and private groups and individuals as required. The Commission maintains its status as an affiliate of the Wisconsin State Data Center. The Commission has an established Geographic Information System (GIS), which is used extensively to provide mapping and database integration, as well as for analysis of development trends and identification of critical natural resources. Aerial photography is available for the Region.

2014 BUDGET
$628,708

FUNDING BREAKDOWN

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE
38%
NATURAL RESOURCES
18%
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
6%
LOCAL LEVY
5%
FEDERAL
33%
LOCAL CONTRACTS
18%
VACANT
6%
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commission work activities focus on collecting and providing economic data necessary for the county and communities to prepare the economic development element of the Smart Growth Law. This activity also provides data necessary to evaluate regional economic trends and to assess the interfacing relationship between regional development policies and economic development.

The commission partners with the Madison Area Transportation Board to generate economic development projections concurrent with new Census information as a basis for allocating growth projections for the region.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Commission maintains the Dane County Land Use and Transportation Plan, the general land use plan for the region, by reviewing requests to amend 20-year service area boundaries to accommodate urban growth. The Commission also provides information and technical assistance to local communities and others regarding Census data and demographics, housing, urban design, density, redevelopment and infill studies. A central work activity involves working with local communities in the Future Urban Development Area (FUDA) planning program, which is a collaborative long range local community planning initiative in the context of local comprehensive planning. FUDA planning creates an opportunity to inform local planning activities of regional issues and opportunities, and concurrently informs regional planning activities of local needs and interests.

The Commission served as the lead agency for the Sustainable Community Planning Grant awarded to the Capital Region by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The $2 million, three-year grant (2010 - 2014) provides funding to foster regional collaboration, conduct planning and pursue demonstration projects for sustainable communities. Recognizing that regional challenges – healthy environment, mobility, economic opportunities for all, and quality of life – require collaborative and integrated approaches, the commission partners with the Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MAMPO) upon the re-organization of the OCRPC in 1999. The OCRPC contracts with the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board (TPB), formerly MAMPO for transportation planning work associated with amendments to the Land Use and Transportation Plan and for the rural portions of the region.

As part of the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, the Commission retained a project-term restoration biologist to perform a qualitative inventory of habitat resources in the region.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation planning activities were part of the work of the Dane County Regional Planning Commission and were separately outsourced by the creation of the Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MAMPO) upon the re-organization of the OCRPC in 1999. The MAMPO contracts with the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board (TPB, formerly MAMPO) for transportation planning work associated with amendments to the Land Use and Transportation Plan and for the rural portions of the region.

As part of the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, in partnership with the TPB, transit corridor studies were completed for the Central Urban Area in conjunction with a bus rapid transit feasibility study.

INFORMATION & DATA SYSTEMS

The Commission maintains and updates GIS layers on natural resources, land use, service area boundaries and environmental corridors for the Capital Region. Its staff also participates in interdepartmental staff meetings to coordinate the GIS activities of the RPC with the rest of GIS enterprises in the region. The Commission also conducts a Land Use Inventory, which involves the use of aerial photography, field reviews, and GIS databases to produce maps and land use statistics. The Commission is a Census data clearinghouse and maintains community data on growth, development, economic activity, and transportation for the region, and posts the information on its website.

FUNDING BREAKDOWN

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Local levy</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>$1,258,601</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>Walton County</td>
<td>8%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dane County</td>
<td>11%</td>
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EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
400 Ahnapee St., Suite 100
Menasha, WI 54952

MEMBERSHIP

DuWayne Federwitz
Gary Barrington
Alice Connors
Pat Laughrin
CALUMET FOND DU LAC MENOMINEE OUTAGAMIE SHAWANO
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920-751-4770
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WAUPACA WAUSHARA WINNEBAGO
Dick Koeppen
Brian Smith
Brenda Schneider
Allen J. Buechel
Martin Farrell
Neal Sharlow
Helen Nagler
Tom Nelson

COMMISSION & METHOD OF SELECTION

1) The County Board Chairman - the County Board Chairman serves ex-officio as the first Commissioner on the Commission.
2) The County Executive if such a position exists - the County Executive of the county which has the largest population.
3) A community with the largest population in the county that is not represented on the Commission (if vacant the county is not represented and a new seat is appointed by the County Board in a 3 year term).
4) A Governor’s appointee from a list of 6 County Board members, 4 of whom must be private citizens - 2 of the County Board nominees are appointed to 4-year terms and 2 to 2-year terms.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Commission provides information and technical assistance for ongoing community planning and grant applications, develops open space plans, prepares park site and trail plans. The Commission offers a cost-sharing program, project services contracts for community land use planning, East Central contracts directly with local governments for various types of other planning services, such as the preparation of development codes, capital improvement programming, concept site development plans, and public facility and service planning.

LAND USE & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

The Commission maintains regional development policies, serves as the sewer service area management agency, provides technical assistance for groundwater studies and water quality management, and promotes wetland preservation and service area management agency, provides technical assistance for groundwater studies and water quality management, and promotes wetland preservation and...
PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY SUMMARY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 1977, the Commission was designated an Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration (EDA). Since then the Commission has updated its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Report that analyzes the regional economy and proposes an economic development strategy based on the region's strengths and weaknesses. This report maintains the eligibility for all local governments, economic development organizations, and businesses throughout the Region to apply for public works grants, business loans and research grants from EDA. Economic development services provided by the Commission as a result of this designation include: revolving loan funds to assist business financing needs, grant writing assistance for industrial parks and business development projects, and flood recovery assistance. Through maintaining this designation as an Economic Development District millions of Federal EDA funds have been invested in the region.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Commission’s professional staff and office resources are cost shared in an affordable manner among the member counties and communities. Assisting local interests in responding to state and federal programs, providing advisory service on local planning problems, and coordinating regional programs are examples of these services. Past contracts included: assisting counties with their multi-hazard plans to reduce future losses from disasters; developing a regional assessment of assets to help persuade the Pentagon to keep Fort McCoy open, preparing a competitive regional assessment and strategy that resulted in $5 million in State Technology Zone credits being awarded to help business and industry expand, and competitive regional assessment and strategy that resulted in $5 million in State EDA. Economic development services provided by the Commission as a result of this designation include: revolving loan funds to assist business financing needs, grant writing assistance for industrial parks and business development projects, and flood recovery assistance. Through maintaining this designation as an Economic Development District millions of Federal EDA funds have been invested in the region.

LAND USE & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

The Commission is actively involved in land use and environmental resource advisory work. Community and county comprehensive planning, zoning and subdivision ordinance preparation, Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping, park and recreation planning, urban sewer service area planning, and environmental assessment reports are examples of these services.

TRANSPORTATION

The Commission’s transportation services include: assisting the Mississippi River Parkway/Commission in its planning and promotion activity for the Great River Road; assisting the La Crosse Area Planning Committee in meeting its Federal and State transportation planning requirements; assisting in expanding or establishing new multi-modal transit services; advising local governments on funding and financing transportation needs of the elderly and handicapped; preparing public Human Service Transportation Plans for all nine counties, coordinating the involvement of Federal and State transportation plans and policies for consideration into local land use plans; providing a roadway management program that enables local governments to systematically prioritize their roadway maintenance needs based on sound evaluation criteria; and assisting in the development of harbor plans and projects for communities along the Mississippi River. The Commission also helped plan, fund and implement a regional transit system that provides four round trip connecting bus service a day during the work week to communities in Crawford, Vernon and La Crosse counties.

INFORMATION & DATA SYSTEMS

The Commission’s planning activity, coupled with its designation as a State affiliate data center, allows the Commission to maintain a wealth of socioeconomic and geographic data on the Region. The Commission’s computer database and library is available to local governments, businesses, churches, hospitals, students, utility companies, civic groups, and development organizations.

MEMBERSHIP

BUFFALO
Mary Ann McMillan Urell
Del Treut
Daria Barr
GREG FLOGSTAD, AICP
Director

CRAWFORD
Ron Leys
Greg Russell
Vicki Burke (Sec./Treas.)

Pierce
Richard Purdy
Margaret Baclander (Vice Chair)
James Ross
William Schroeder

TREMPLEAUS
La Crosse
Eugene Savage (Chair)

Vernon
Nancy Jankel
Jo Ann Nickielletti

LAND USE & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Mary Ann McMillan Urell
William Schroeder
Richard Purdy
James Neubauer
Esra Hidalgo

COMMISSION & METHOD OF SELECTION

Three Commissioners from each county serve on the Commission. One Commissioner is appointed by the County Board; One Commissioner is appointed by the Governor from a list of names submitted by the County Board.

FUNDING BREAKDOWN

2014 BUDGET

$443,374

21% LOCAL CONTRACTS

36% STATE

30% LOCAL LEVY

13% FEDERAL

2014 BUDGET

STAFF CONTACTS

BUFFALO
CRAWFORD
JACKSON
LA CROSSE
MONROE
PEPIN

BRYAN BURZ
Administration Assistant

GREG FLOGSTAD, AICP
Director

PETER FLETCHER
Transportation Planner

BRYAN LAW
Economic Development Planner

DAVID BONFAS
Community Development Planner

VICKI BURKE (Sec./Treas.)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Robert Beckwith
James Christenson
John Ehrsam
Tara Johnson

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mary Ann McMillan Urell
William Schroeder
Richard Purdy
James Neubauer
Esra Hidalgo

INFORMATION & DATA SYSTEMS

Richard Purdy
Margaret Baclander (Vice Chair)
James Ross
William Schroeder

FIELD OFFICE

BUFFALO
La Crosse

GREG FLOGSTAD, AICP
Director

PETER FLETCHER
Transportation Planner

BRYAN LAW
Economic Development Planner

DAVID BONFAS
Community Development Planner

BRYAN BURZ
Administration Assistant

The Commission’s transportation services include: assisting the Mississippi River Parkway/Commission in its planning and promotion activity for the Great River Road; assisting the La Crosse Area Planning Committee in meeting its Federal and State transportation planning requirements; assisting in expanding or establishing new multi-modal transit services; advising local governments on funding and financing transportation needs of the elderly and handicapped; preparing public Human Service Transportation Plans for all nine counties, coordinating the involvement of Federal and State transportation plans and policies for consideration into local land use plans; providing a roadway management program that enables local governments to systematically prioritize their roadway maintenance needs based on sound evaluation criteria; and assisting in the development of harbor plans and projects for communities along the Mississippi River. The Commission also helped plan, fund and implement a regional transit system that provides four round trip connecting bus service a day during the work week to communities in Crawford, Vernon and La Crosse counties.

INFORMATION & DATA SYSTEMS

The Commission’s planning activity, coupled with its designation as a State affiliate data center, allows the Commission to maintain a wealth of socioeconomic and geographic data on the Region. The Commission’s computer database and library is available to local governments, businesses, churches, hospitals, students, utility companies, civic groups, and development organizations.
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
The NCWRPC annually prepares a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) as a way to monitor the economic condition of the Region and to provide a basic development strategy for the Region. The NCWRPC provides technical assistance to members to prepare local economic development plans and apply for loans and grants from State and Federal sources. The NCWRPC has inventoried the Region’s available industrial sites and buildings and maintains that database. These sites and buildings are marketed worldwide, via the Internet, in an effort to attract new jobs to the Region.

In addition, the NCWRPC administers two regional revolving loan funds, on behalf of the North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation. These funds are designed to provide low cost financing to businesses that increase employment, add to the local tax base, and bring general economic stability to the Region.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
The NCWRPC assists local communities with a range of community development activities, including grant writing and administration, tax incremental financing planning, downtown revitalization, capital improvements planning, housing and public facility needs surveys and studies, park layout and design, zoning ordinance development and other general technical assistance.

As part of its statutory function of preparing a master plan for the Region, the NCWRPC was the first regional planning commission to update its regional plan under the new comprehensive planning law. The Regional Comprehensive Plan has recently been updated and is now called the Regional Livability Plan (RLP). The RLP serves as a framework for the region and as a model for county and local comprehensive plan updates.

**LAND USE & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**
The NCWRPC provides land use planning assistance to counties and local communities. It prepares comprehensive plans, sewer services plans, all-hazard mitigation plans, wellhead protection plans, community wildfire protection plans, and outdoor recreation plans. In addition, zoning codes and ordinances and other implementation tools are developed.

**TRANSPORTATION**
The NCWRPC participates in transportation in a variety of ways, including the development of local road improvement plans, traffic count assistance, highway access plans, and alternative route plans. It also provides assistance in preparing grant applications to fund local transportation related projects, including Federal Enhancements and State TEA programs. The NCWRPC conducts special projects such as highway corridor studies as well.

**INFORMATION & DATA SYSTEMS**
The NCWRPC is a regional data center, a State Data Center affiliate, and a U.S. Census clearinghouse. As such, the NCWRPC maintains a wide range of socioeconomic information, including population, income, and employment data. In addition, the NCWRPC has developed and maintains a regional Geographic Information System (GIS) to assist in the planning analysis process. The NCWRPC also maintains base maps and aerial photography for the Region.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
The Commission annually updates its Overall Economic Development Program that examines the regional economy and identifies locally significant economic development projects. The inclusion of economic development projects allows communities to gain access to the Economic Development Administration’s grant programs. In addition, the Commission works with local communities to secure grants from State and Federal sources.

The Commission’s revolving loan funds, operated out of the Northwest Wisconsin Business Development Corporation, targets economic development opportunities in the Region. These funds continue to provide financial assistance for numerous businesses in the Region. The Wisconsin Business Innovation Corporation is a corporation linking markets, technology and enterprise formation to create higher skilled/high paying jobs. The Corporation offers a unique array of technical, financial and business support services along with capital and real estate critical to enterprise formation and growth.

Other avenues of economic development available within the Commission include the Enterprise Center Network of business incubators, innovation services and linkages, access to technology services and transfer, the Wisconsin Rural Enterprise Fund equity investments, venture fund, and access to international markets via international joint ventures.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
The Commission provides technical assistance to county and local units of government. It also engages in a range of community development activities, including grant writing and administration, tax incremental financing district development and administration, downtown revitalization, capital improvements planning, housing and public facility needs studies, transportation studies, site planning for businesses, harbor studies, and other planning and community development activities.

Regional housing assistance is provided through the Commission by Northwest Affordable Housing Inc. Northwest Affordable Housing assists low- and moderate-income families in obtaining home ownership and is developing multifamily housing units in areas of need.

LAND USE & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
The Commission provides technical assistance to local units of government relating to land use planning. Geographical Information System development and mapping services are available to local units of government. The development of comprehensive land use plans provides assistance to communities in their development of local lands and policies to encourage proper growth and development activities.

The Commission engages in a range of coastal management activities in its role as liaison between the State Coastal Management Program and local units of government. Examples of activities include studies of dredge disposal alternatives, development of coastal hazard management strategies, lakes management and classification systems, and waterfront redevelopments.

The Commission is also very active in waste management planning, including technical assistance in the form of pollution prevention strategies, waste to energy studies and recycling. A hazardous waste collection program service for households, businesses and municipalities has been implemented in the Region. In addition, services are also available for brownfield site remediation in local municipalities and environmental management assistance to businesses.

TRANSPORTATION
The Commission’s Roadway Management Program helps local officials make effective real investment decisions through studies that result in a timetable for roadway maintenance and upgrading. The Commission has also been active in expressing the Region’s needs relating to regional highway improvement plans and transportation infrastructure improvements.

FOREST RESOURCES
The Commission’s Forest Resources Program supports economic development efforts which utilize the Region’s abundant forest resources. The Commission provides technical assistance to forest products industries, conducts applied efforts which utilize the Region’s abundant forest resources. The Commission’s Forest Resources Program supports economic development efforts which utilize the Region’s abundant forest resources. The Commission provides technical assistance to forest products industries, conducts applied efforts which utilize the Region’s abundant forest resources. The Commission engages in a range of coastal management activities in its role as liaison between the State Coastal Management Program and local units of government. Examples of activities include studies of dredge disposal alternatives, development of coastal hazard management strategies, lakes management and classification systems, and waterfront redevelopments.

INFORMATION AND DATA SYSTEMS
The Commission serves as a clearinghouse for a range of resources, demographic and economic development information. The Commission also maintains local and regional maps and assists local governments in creating new mapping systems.

PROFILE | ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
The Commission assists county and local units of government in the Region in pursuing economic development activities, and coordinating county and local economic development plans and programs. Five basic types of services are provided: economic development program planning, data provision, grant application preparation and grant award administration, revolving loan fund administration and project management.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
The Commission assists local units of government in the Region in the conduct of local planning efforts, thereby promoting coordination of local and regional plans and plan implementation actions, and generally promoting good public administration, as well as sound physical development within the Region. Four basic types of services are provided: education, advisory, review, and project planning.

LAND USE & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
Land use planning responsibilities include the preparation of plan recommendations concerning the physical aspects of land use development, and also includes responsibility for developing demographic, economic, and public financial resource data that serve as the basis for regional and subregional plans. The Commission conducts planning activities regarding the protection of the Region’s environment, including: regional water quality, nonpoint source pollution abatement, local sewerage facilities, floodland and stormwater management, and coastal management.

TRANSPORTATION
The Commission conducts a range of transportation planning activities, including: data collection, collation, and development, long-range planning, transportation systems management, traffic engineering, transportation improvement programming, rail system planning, air transportation planning, and data provision and technical assistance.

INFORMATION & DATA SYSTEMS
The Commission creates and maintains a series of regional planning base maps; serves as a regional coordinating center for the conduct of large-scale topographic and cadastral mapping efforts that serve as an automated mapping base to support land records modernization efforts; and secures orthophotography of the Region at five-year intervals. The Commission also maintains an extensive data bank and processes requests for data retrieval from a broad range of internal and external sources.

FUNDING BREAKDOWN
- LOCAL LEVY: 18%
- STATE: 43%
- FEDERAL: 6%
- LOCAL CONTRACTS: 33%
- OTHER: 6%

TOTAL: $7,090,000

KEY CONTACTS
- KENNETH R. YUNKER, PE
  Executive Director
- MICHAEL G. HAHN, PE
  Deputy Director
- ELIZABETH A. LARSEN
  Assistant Director - Administration
- NANCY M. ANDERSON, AICP
  Chief Community Assistance Planner
- CHRISTOPHER T. HIEBERT, PE
  Chief Transportation Engineer
- ROBERT W. MERRY, RLS
  Chief of Surveying and Mapping
- LAURA KLETT, PE
  Chief Environmental Engineer
- JOHN M. MCDOUGALL
  Geographic Information Systems Manager
- THOMAS M. SLAWSKI
  Chief Biological
- DAVID A. SCHILLING
  Chief Land Use Planner
- STEPHEN P. ADAMS
  Public Involvement and Outreach Coordinator
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
The Commission provides assistance to local units of government and economic development organizations, and maintains eligibility for financial assistance from the Economic Development Administration, annually preparing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The Commission provides assistance in determining possible financing alternatives for business expansion and job creation; supports the creation of small businesses through entrepreneurial activities such as the establishment of business incubators and counseling programs; and assists in developing financing proposals for business location and expansion. In addition, the Commission promotes the region and provides broad support for local economic collaboration and cooperation.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
The Commission provides a range of planning services to local communities, including: preparation of comprehensive development plans and updates; assistance with zoning ordinances and other regulations and codes to guide development, identification of community facility needs; mapping/GIS services; community visioning; preparation of grant applications for financing public projects; assistance with capital improvement planning and budgeting; public recreation plans; tax incremental financing; downtown revitalization; traditional neighborhood design; historic preservation; extra-territorial zoning; outdoor recreation plans; and other community development projects.

LAND USE & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
The Commission provides land use and natural resource information such as streams, watersheds, wetlands, topography, vegetation, and other natural features as well as current land uses, proposed land uses, and zoning. The Commission works with local communities in implementing the farmland preservation plans (Working Lands Initiative) completed for each county in the Region. The Commission also provides assistance in the coordination of land use with plans of other agencies, including: state agencies, county land conservation departments, local zoning administrators, and foresters.

TRANSPORTATION
SWWRPC provides transportation planning services to local governments in the region, coordinating with WisDOT and local communities for corridor studies, highway planning, bypass studies, airport developments, and rail preservation programs. The Commission also conducts functional and jurisdictional highway planning studies for member counties, administers three Rail Transit Commissions in the region to maintain rail service to southern Wisconsin, assists with bike and pedestrian planning, and participates in a variety of local transportation-related organizations and projects to bring higher quality transportation services to our area.

GIS / WEB DEVELOPMENT
The Commission provides data, maps, and analysis using its Geographic Information System (GIS) software. Data and maps are available for use by local officials in developing land use plans, market assessment, farmland preservation plans, transportation plans, zoning maps, recreation plans, etc. The Commission can provide communities with detailed analysis that can incorporate a variety of data sources (natural resources, cultural resources, economic, transportation, housing, demographic, jurisdictional, land use, zoning, aerial photography, flood plans, etc.) to inform decision makers and community members. In addition, the Commission has the capability of developing online mapping applications and interactive websites to access and share information.
WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

MEMBERSHIP

BARRON
Ken Jost, Chair
Travis Turner
Jess Miller

CHIPPENWA
Bill Waichulis, Chair
Florian Skwierczynski
Larry Weisenbeck

CLARK
Barry Johnson
Sharon Nelson

DUNN
John Jost
Norman Wesenberg

EAU CLAIRE
Norman Wesenberg, Chair
Steve Rasmussen

EST 1971

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC), as an EDA Economic Development District, prepares and maintains a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Region. It provides technical assistance to local governments regarding industrial park development and improvement, business finance, economic research and plan development, and coordinates area-wide development. It administers a regional revolving loan fund for business finance. WCWRPC also manages numerous local and county revolving loan funds. The Commission maintains valuable partnerships and cooperates with local economic development corporations, the regional workforce development board and the regional economic development marketing organization.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WCWRPC provides community development assistance to local communities, including activities such as placemaking, economic analyses, industrial site evaluations, tax increment finance district plans, special industry studies, grant writing and administration, costs of community service studies, and business financial packaging. The Commission is also active at the county and community levels in such activities as zoning ordinance revision, outdoor recreation plan development, and downtown revitalization. It provides housing grant writing and administration to counties and local governments.

LAND USE & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

WCWRPC provides land use and environmental planning services to cities, villages, towns, and counties. It prepares groundwater management plans, urban sewer service area plans, and computerized land use maps for watershed plans. It also coordinates with various stakeholders to address relevant environmental issues affecting the region. The Commission provides assistance to local governments and counties on comprehensive planning, including plan development and implementation.

COMMUNITY & METHOD OF SELECTION

The Commission consists of 21 Commissioners. Three Commissioners are appointed by the County Boards of Commissioners in each of the member counties.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Senior Planner, Sustainability and Community Development
ERIC ANDERSON
Associate Planner, Community Development
TOBI LOHMANN
Assistant Planner, Transportation
JASON DUBA
Assistant Planner, Mitigation and Preparedness
LEVI WAGNER
Economic Development Lending Specialist
ANNE SCHELL
Senior Planner, Transportation
BETH WALDHART

COMMISSION & METHOD OF SELECTION

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INFORMATION AND DATA SYSTEMS

WCWRPC serves as a State Data Center affiliate. In this capacity, it disseminates a wide range of economic, housing, land use, transportation, and general demographic data. The Commission prepares socioeconomic reports and profiles for the member counties and the Region. The Commission also houses digital geographic (mapping) data for the region.

GIS, VISUALIZATION AND URBAN DESIGN

WCWRPC provides Geographic Information Systems services to its local governments and performs landscape and development visualizations. The Commission can also assist communities with urban design projects.

HAZARD MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS

The Commission provides services for preparedness planning, including hazard mitigation, communications interoperability, and wildfire protection.

ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

WCWRPC can perform sustainable community planning, energy audits, bio-energy studies, Natural Step programming, and LEED certification.

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TRANSPORTATION

In the area of transportation planning, the WCWRPC has undertaken activities including road management planning, highway bypass impact analysis, highway relocation assistance, highway jurisdictional planning, rail line planning, airport review, and bicycle and pedestrian planning and safe routes to school plans. In addition, the Commission serves as the administrative entity for the Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization. This responsibility involves a range of planning, traffic analysis, land use studies, and technical assistance.

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EDUCATION & TRAINING

WCWRPC can perform sustainable community planning, energy audits, bio-energy studies, Natural Step programming, and LEED certification.

FUNDING BREAKDOWN

2014 BUDGET

LOCAL CONTRACTS

$1,239,385

56% LOCAL LEVY

18% LOCAL CONTRACTS

24% FEDERAL

2% STATE