



# BAY-LAKE Regional Planning Commission

## *NEWSLETTER* 1st Quarter 2000

The Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission was established by Governor Lucey in April 1972 by Executive Order 35 to provide planning services on area-wide issues, to represent local interests on state and federal planning program activities, and to provide local planning assistance to communities in the northeastern Wisconsin region.

### CDBG GRANTS AWARDED IN SPRING OF 2000

Two of the four CDBG housing applications prepared and submitted by the Commission in late 1999, were recently funded by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Housing and Intergovernmental Relations. The city of Marinette and Florence County will receive housing grant funds in the amounts of \$260,000 and \$503,125, respectively, for housing rehabilitation and various other housing related activities. Statewide, a total of 12 housing grants received funding in this CDBG grant competition cycle.

One final CDBG-Public Facilities application was prepared by the Commission in 1999. That successful application was written for the city of Algoma. Under this grant award, the city will receive a grant amount of \$273,700 from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to replace utilities and make street improvements on a local street. This year's CDBG grant competitions run from now into September. For further information, please contact Cindy Wojtczak at (920)448-2820.

### WISCONSIN COASTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 2000-2001 COASTAL GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Wisconsin Coastal Management Council (WCMC) met on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2000 in the city of Sheboygan to review a sub-committee's recommendation on projects for funding. Final federal approval is expected by September, at which time contracts will be offered to those communities with approved projects. The following are the projects within the Bay-Lake Region selected for final WCMP approval on April 6, 2000:

- Bay-Lake RPC project to identify and map coastal resources within Kewaunee County, \$15,000.
- Bay-Lake RPC project to provide technical assistance to local governments regarding coastal issues, \$7,500.
- City of Marinette Waterfront Development Plan Update with Bay-Lake RPC assistance, \$12,611.
- City of Marinette's project which will preserve a historic building as a maritime fishing museum, \$49,692.
- Manitowoc County's project to conduct the first stage of a land use plan for the towns of Gibson, Mishicot, Two Creeks, and Two Rivers, \$25,200.
- Town of Scott's (Brown County) project to do a stormwater management plan to implement their comprehensive plan, \$7,500.
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on-going project to staff positions that will provide technical assistance to local governments, \$277,115.
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources project to conduct a wetland inventory, \$63,098.

### TOWN OF ABRAMS BEGINS USH 41/141 CORRIDOR LAND USE PLAN

Recently the Commission began working with the town of Abrams on the development of a land use plan to address future development along USH 41/141. The plan is a proactive response by the town in anticipation of WisDOT highway improvements including conversion from a four lane divided highway to a freeway with controlled access, frontage roads, an overpass, and diamond interchange for the portion of the highway south of the USH 41/141 "split" in the town of Abrams. North of the "split", WisDOT improvements will include conversion from a two-lane highway to a four-lane divided expressway with at-grade intersections. *(continued on page 2)*

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The town established a 16 member Corridor Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) made up of town officials, plan commission members, and residents living along the highway to work with the Commission in the development of the plan. A nominal group survey was held to identify important issues specific to the highway corridor in Abrams. The top three issues identified by residents include; 1) restricting off-premise signage (billboards) and the lighting of them, 2) maintaining the rural setting, and 3)

developing design standards to promote quality buildings and development.

The *Town of Abrams USH 41/141 Corridor Land Use Plan* is scheduled for completion August 2000. If you would like more information regarding highway corridor plans or other transportation studies, please call Matt Peters or Jim Van Laanen of the Commission staff at (920) 448-2820.

## TRANSPORTATION NOTES

### Status of Major Highway Construction Projects

**A**ided by dryer and warmer than usual weather conditions, the 2000 highway construction season is well under way. If you are planning to travel through areas of the state where major highway construction is ongoing - WisDOT has an informational web page "*Travel Easy*" that provides a map and a description of possible travel delays of all major construction areas. Contact opa.exec@dot.state.wi.us

Within the Bay-Lake Region construction has continued on USH 41 between Kaukauna and De Pere to a freeway, the conversion of USH 41/141 between CTH B in Brown County and Lade Beach Road in Oconto County to a freeway; the development of an interchange at STH 57 and STH 54; the addition of two lanes to STH 57 between STH 54 and Church Road; the addition of two lanes to USH 141 between Abrams and STH 22; the construction of an interchange at USH 141 and STH 22; the reconstruction of a segment of STH 64 in Marinette County; the reconstruction of USH 2 in Florence County; and the reconstruction of STH 42 in Door County.

**USH 41 Freeway Conversion** (from Kaukauna at CTH J north to De Pere at CTH F) Upgrading of USH 41 from an expressway to a freeway began last summer with completion of interchanges at CTH JJ in Outagamie County and CTH U and CTH S in Brown County. The project will continue through this year with the completion of lane additions, and frontage roads on both sides of the highway.

**USH 41/141 Freeway Conversion** (from Brown County Highway B to Lade Beach Road in Oconto County). Last summer the interchange at USH 41/141 and CTH S in Oconto County was completed. The freeway conversion project will be completed by November, 2000, with construction of frontage roads, an interchange at Brown Road, and a grade separation at Northfield Road.

**STH 57 Add Lanes** (STH 57/54 Interchange and addition of two lanes to STH 57 from STH 54 north to Church Road) Construction of the interchange is scheduled to be completed and opened by mid-July.

**STH 64 Reconstruction** (From USH 141 at Pound west to CTH S) Reconstruction and repair will close the highway

between April and October with a detour posted via CTH Z, CTH B and USH 141.

**USH 2 Reconstruction** (from Spread Eagle to WI/MI State line.) Reconstruction and repair will limit travel on USH 2 to one 12' lane through the summer.

**STH 42 Reconstruction** (from STH 57 north of Sturgeon Bay to village of Egg Harbor - 12.7 miles.) Repairs with traffic reduced to one-lane from August through the end of the construction season and a detour scheduled for September 5<sup>th</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup> via STH 57 to CTH A to CTH E.

### Transportation Planning Legislation

Wisconsin's "Smart Growth" law (1999 Wisconsin Act 9) – signed into law by Governor Tommy Thompson on October 27, 1999, has important implications for comprehensive planning at the county, city, village, town and regional levels. This law encourages state agency consistency with local comprehensive goals and provides State financial incentives for planning.

### Planning Grants

Initially, a general planning grant, available in the spring of 2001, and a transportation planning grant program, which was available this past spring and will be available again in 2001, were created to assist local communities in financing the cost of developing comprehensive plans. Counties, cities, villages, towns and regional planning commissions are eligible for both of these grant programs. Both grant programs will be administered by the Department of Administration through the Office of Land Information Services. \$1.5 million will be available for the 2000-2001 grant cycle for the general planning grant.

The transportation planning grant program, funded by federal transportation funds through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, is for the development of the transportation element of the comprehensive plan as specified in s. 66.0295. Local governments will be required to match at least 25 percent of the grant request. \$1 million is available for 1999-2000 and another \$1 million will be available in fiscal year 2000-2001. Applications for 1999-2000 funding were due on May 1, 2000. The Commission assisted and submitted transportation planning grants for the city of Marinette,

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the city of Kiel, the village of Sister Bay, the village of Mishicot and the town of Grover. The successful grant recipients will be notified in June 2000.

### ***Planning Criteria***

To meet the requirements of the new legislation and to be eligible for the planning and transportation planning grants communities must develop a comprehensive plan that will include, as a major component, a transportation element developed in accordance with s. 66.0295. Pursuant to the newly adopted legislation, the transportation element of the comprehensive plan must include a compilation of objectives, goals, policies, maps and programs to guide the future development of the various modes of transportation, including, roads and highways, transit, transportation

systems for persons with disabilities, bicycles, pedestrian travel, railroads, air transportation, trucking and waterborne transportation.

The transportation element must also compare the communities objectives, policies, goals and programs to state and regional transportation plans. The transportation element must identify highways and streets within the community by function and incorporate other applicable transportation plans, including transportation corridor plans, county highway functional and jurisdictional studies, urban or rural area transportation plans, airport master plans and rail plans, that apply to the community. For more information, please contact Jim Van Laanen of the Commission staff.

## **RIVERS AND LAKES PLANNING GRANT PROGRAMS**

**T**he Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources administers two grant programs that provide assistance for the management and protection of lakes and rivers in Wisconsin through the River Protection Grant Program and the Lakes Planning Grant Program. The programs provide local organizations funds to obtain information on aquatic and riverine ecosystems and learn about the causes of lake and river problems, as well as improve ecosystem assessment and planning.

Any unit of government as defined in s. 66.299(1)(a), tribal governments, not-for-profit conservation organizations, town sanitary districts, and lake districts are eligible to apply. Lake associations that meet certain qualifications [s. 144.253(1), Stats.] and qualified river management organizations are also eligible.

### **Lakes Grant Program**

Under the Lakes Planning Grant Program, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides funding to local governments and lake management organizations for the collection and analysis of information needed to manage lakes. Local organizations are encouraged to obtain basic water quality, water use and land use information which are factors that can affect the quality of inland lakes. The program also aims to develop stronger state/local partnerships, and effective watershed protection and lake management.

The state pays up to 75 percent of the cost of a planning project and up to \$10,000 for any one project. The remaining 25 percent must be provided by the local organization from its own revenues or cash contributions from other sources except state funds administered by DNR. In addition, each lake is eligible for more than one planning project as long as the total amount of state dollars does not exceed \$50,000. Applications are due by February 1 and August 1 of each year.

In 1999, the Commission on behalf of Marinette County and the towns of Goodman and Wausaukee, applied for grant funding from the Lakes Planning Program to begin

two cooperative projects with the Marinette County UW-Extension Community Resource Development Agent and the Marinette County Solid Waste and Zoning Office on lakes assessment plans for the towns of Goodman and Wausaukee in Marinette County. The Commission gathered data and conducted analyses of the physical, social, land use and regulatory conditions that impact on the water quality of the lakes and development in the towns. These projects are a first step in the development of comprehensive land use plans for the towns of Goodman and Wausaukee.

### **Rivers Grant Program**

In March of 2000, the WDNR initiated a Rivers Protection Grant Program to provide assistance for the formation and development of river management organizations and other local organizations interested in the management and protection of rivers. The program also provides local organizations funds to obtain information on riverine ecosystems and learn about the causes of river problems, as well as improve river system assessment and planning.

River management activities such as land acquisition, development of local regulations or ordinances, and the restoration of in-stream or shoreland habitat are also eligible activities under this program.

Eligible rivers include any naturally flowing, navigable water body (or sections) including streams, creeks and flowages. The rivers must be located within the boundaries of, or bordering Wisconsin. They must also be recommended for protection in a management plan produced by a federal, state or local resource management agency.

Up to 25 percent of the total project cost may be donated materials or labor. The maximum grant award is \$10,000 for a planning project, or \$50,000 for a management project. Applications are due by March 15 and September 1 of each year. For more information on these two grant programs, please contact Mark Walter of the Commission at (920) 448-2820 or the WDNR.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**June 20;** 10:00 a.m.  
GIS Users Group  
Commission Offices  
Green Bay, WI

**July 14;** 10:00 a.m.  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Kewaunee County, WI

**July 20;** 1:30 p.m.  
Sheboygan MPO Technical & Policy  
Advisory Committees  
Sheboygan, WI

**August 11;** 10:00 a.m.  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Manitowoc, WI

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