



BAY-LAKE Regional Planning Commission

NEWSLETTER 1st Quarter 1999

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.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Commission continues to administer the Department of Administration, Emergency Assistance Grant for Sheboygan County. The grant targets low to moderate income homeowners whose houses sustained damage as a result of the August 1998 flood event. Eligible homeowners may be reimbursed for costs of repair or replacement of structural damage in their home. Examples of reimbursable repairs include hot water heater, furnace, foundation repair, electric and plumbing repairs or replacement. The committee governing decisions concerning the grant consists of five Sheboygan area citizens who were asked to serve on the committee by Mr. James Gilligan, Sheboygan County Board Chairman.

Eligible homeowners may be reimbursed for costs of repair or replacement of structural damage in their home.

Applications for the grant are being accepted and processing includes elements regarding home ownership, income eligibility and other payments received for damages. The program is in effect until March, 2000. Questions regarding this program may be directed to Cathy Welter at the Commission at (920) 448-2820.

Please note that the grant program does not include the city of Sheboygan; homeowners residing in the city of Sheboygan are covered under a different program and may call the city of Sheboygan Development Office at (920) 459-3377 for information on low interest loans.

WCMP AWARDS BLRPC \$15,000 IN A STUDY OF THE WEST SHORE OF THE BAY OF GREEN BAY

The Wisconsin Coastal Management Program awarded the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission a grant in the amount of \$15,000 under the category of "Cumulative and Secondary Impacts" to prepare a report for the West Shore of the bay of Green Bay. The Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission will work cooperatively with Brown County Planning Commission, city of Green Bay Planning Department, village of Howard Planning Department, and the town of Suamico Plan Commission.

The report will build on a series of past reports on the bay of Green Bay conducted by the Bay-Lake Regional

Planning Commission under similar grants. The final report will include an inventory of the physical setting, note development trends, assess impacts of existing and proposed land use, assess transportation and service related impacts on key resources. The final report will also summarize problems and provide recommendations to include delineation of environmental corridors that will help to mitigate impacts of development on key resources. The report's study area will include the entire town of Suamico and a 1,000 foot corridor along the bay of Green Bay within the village of Howard and the city of Green Bay.

SHEBOYGAN TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (TDP): 1999-2003 AVAILABLE

Final copies of the 1999-2003 Sheboygan Transit Development Program (TDP) were produced in the first quarter. Copies of the 1999-2003 TDP have been distributed to local governments which participate in the Sheboygan Transit Utility, and to pertinent state and federal agencies. Please contact Jeff Agee-Aguayo of the Commission office if you are interested in obtaining a copy of the 1999-2003 TDP.

What's Inside

Sheboygan County Emergency Assistance Program.....	1
WCMP Awards BLRPC \$15,000....	1
Sheboygan TDP Available.....	1
Comprehensive Plans Adopted.....	2
Florence County Land Use and Lake Protection Plan.....	2
Grants Awarded.....	3
Niagara Escarpment.....	3
Did You Know?.....	4
Calendar of Events.....	4

VILLAGE OF SURING AND TOWN OF RED RIVER ADOPT COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

The Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission developed comprehensive plans for the village of Suring, Oconto County, and the town of Red River, Kewaunee County. These comprehensive plans are the first for both communities developed under §62.23 and are a statement of public policy concerning the development for each of the communities.

The plans provide a guide to where future growth and development should occur and will be consulted when making future decisions concerning land use. Both plans inventoried and analyzed the communities respective population figures, physical setting, economy, land use,

transportation, outdoor recreation areas, community facilities and housing. The Commission, working closely with community officials, developed a general land use design for each of the communities. The village of Suring and town of Red River adopted their plan in the first quarter of this year. The Commission is expected to adopt each of these plans as part of the region-wide master plan later this year.

For more information on developing a comprehensive plan or developing the ordinances used to enforce one, please contact Dale W. Mohr of the Commission.

FLORENCE COUNTY LAND USE AND LAKE PROTECTION PLAN

In 1971, a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources study, *Surface Water Resources of Florence County*, stated that there are 261 natural lakes located within Florence County. Those 261 lakes have an aggregated total surface area in excess of 6,830 acres and are comprised of more than 173 miles of shoreline. There is a high public demand for access to these lakes as well as a demand for the purchase of lands adjacent to or near the lake shoreline for the development of homes and cottages. The demand for lake lots and public access and the continuing development along the lake shoreline has impacted, and will continue to impact the very qualities of the lakes that attract thousands of tourist and sports enthusiasts to the county each year.

In order to address these issues, Florence County applied for, and received, a \$114,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Lake Protection Program. Florence County is currently working with the Commission to update the *1971 Florence County Land Use*

and Transportation Plan. Florence County, the Florence County University of Wisconsin - Extension Office, and the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission will gather data and conduct subsequent analyses of the physical, social, land use and regulatory conditions that impact lake and land development, and the water quality of the lakes and other natural systems located in Florence County.

A second and equally important component of the plan will include conducting public information and education workshops focusing on the impacts of development on the county's lake resources. Additionally, the plan will

include an assessment and analysis of existing regulatory tools and will develop recommendations for improvements to existing public policies and lake management ordinances. Finally, the plan will strive to form a consensus of public opinion that would lead to the adoption of new and/or improved ordinances which will protect the county's lakes.

The Commission began working on the plan in March of 1999. A field inventory of the existing land use for the entire county has since been completed. In addition to

collecting the land use data, Commission staff met with citizen committees appointed by the towns of Aurora, Commonwealth, Fence, Fern, Florence, Homestead and Tipler to carry out nominal group surveys, in order to determine some of the important issues in each of the towns. Based on the results of the nominal group surveys, a unique survey will be developed for each town in the County. The town of Long

Lake and the Spread Eagle Area were participants in two earlier pilot projects, and already went through the process of developing and mailing a survey. The results of the county-wide surveys will be used to develop goals, objectives and policies to guide the growth and development of Florence County.

Please contact Aaron Schuette of the Commission if you are interested in learning more about the *Florence County Land Use and Lake Protection Plan*, or the grant opportunities to fund a similar project.



Keyes Lake Park

CDBG PF AND LAKES PLANNING GRANTS AWARDED

Grants totaling \$1,204,944 for public facility grant applications written by the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission were recently awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. Those communities receiving grants this year included the city of Marinette and the city of Algoma.

The city of Algoma was awarded a grant of \$730,000 to help fund improvements to streets, storm sewers and sanitary sewers in the central part of the city. The city of Marinette was granted \$474,944 to make street, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and watermain improvements on the city's west side.

During the first quarter of 1999, the Commission wrote

COMMISSION STUDYING RESOURCES OF THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT IN WISCONSIN

Under a grant received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office, the Commission began a study of the Niagara Escarpment in Wisconsin in October of 1998. The study covers a corridor more than 150 miles long from Door County to Dodge County centered on the Niagara Escarpment in Wisconsin.

The Commission became aware of the lack of concise information detailing the location and resources of the Niagara Escarpment while conducting a study of the impacts of development along the east shore of the bay of Green Bay. Some issues of concern include: condominium, residential and commercial development along both the base and the top of the escarpment, removal of vegetation along the escarpment to improve the view of the bay, development of gravel pits along the escarpment, channelization of waterways draining through the escarpment, numerous archeological sites at the base of the escarpment being disturbed by development, and unique wildlife habitats and species being disturbed by extensive development pressures along the escarpment.

The study will be conducted jointly with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Nature Conservancy, East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay to inventory the natural resources and land uses associated with the Niagara Escarpment. The inventory will include a detailed analysis and description of the land use and land cover of the area, as well as the flora, fauna, geology, soils, wetlands and wildlife habitat on or adjacent to the escarpment. The study will also provide a summary of problems and recommended solutions, including

and submitted Lakes Planning Grant Applications to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for two towns in Marinette County. These grants were funded by the WDNR in May and included \$10,000 for the town of Goodman and \$10,000 for the town of Wausaukee. These projects are the first step in the development of comprehensive land use plans for the two towns and provide funding for gathering data and conducting subsequent analysis of the physical, social, land use and regulatory conditions that impact development and water quality of the lakes.

For further information on these projects or grant programs, contact Cindy Wojtczak at (920) 448-2820.

delineation of environmental corridors, to mitigate impacts of development on key resources. A background of the history of settlement and development along the escarpment will be provided, as well as an analysis of the impacts to vital natural and unique resources above and below the escarpment.

A map detailing the location of the escarpment from the tip of Door County south to the Horicon Marsh south of Lake Winnebago has been compiled from information supplied by two geologists from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and mapped within the Commission's Geographic Information System. The Commission met with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Bureau of Endangered Resources (BER) in February and March to coordinate data collection schedules and methodologies. The Commission is currently conducting a field inventory of land uses along the escarpment in Door, Kewaunee, Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac, and Dodge counties which will subsequently be used by the BER to refine the scope of their studies.

The study will be assembled into a written report that will detail the resources of the escarpment in a reach by reach description. All data gathered as part of the study will be entered into the Commission's Geographic Information System (GIS) and supplied to all study participants. A GIS application for use in determining the impacts of development on the resources of the escarpment will be developed as a result of this study. The Commission will complete the project by September of 2000. For more information, please contact Mark Walter of the Commission.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that one pound of phosphorous from common grass fertilizer can produce up to 500 pounds of aquatic plant or algae growth if it washes into a lake? (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - *Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality*, 1999). Accordingly, the way a lakeshore lawn is managed or mismanaged frequently contributes to the problems of nuisance weed and algae blooms in Wisconsin Lakes.

One way to improve the water quality of a body of water is to use a buffer zone of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses and emergent and submergent aquatic plants. The buffer zone of plants will help reduce the amount of runoff from lakeshore yards and replace lost shoreline habitat. For additional information how to get started on improving the water quality of your lake or river, please call the Commission at (920) 448-2820.

1999 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 9; 10:00 a.m.
Executive Committee Meeting
Green Bay, WI

July 15; 1:30 p.m.
Sheboygan MPO Technical and Policy
Advisory Committees Joint Meeting
Sheboygan, WI

July 20; 10:00 a.m.
North Side Traffic Circulation Study
Review Committee Meeting
Sheboygan, WI

August 19; 10:00 a.m.
Economic Development Advisory Committee
Green Bay, WI

August 13; 10:00 a.m.
Executive Committee Meeting
Sheboygan, WI

Published quarterly by the Bay-
Lake Regional Planning
Commission.

EDITOR:

Brenda L. Rehberg

CONTRIBUTORS:

Dale W. Mohr
Aaron M. Schuette
Mark A. Walter
Catherine M. Welter
Cindy J. Wojtczak

BAY-LAKE Regional Planning Commission

Suite 211, Old Fort Square, 211 N. Broadway, Green Bay, WI 54303-2757
tele: 1 (920) 448-2820 fax: 1 (920) 448-2823
website: www.baylakerpc.org

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No.171
Green Bay, WI

Newsletter
1st Quarter
1999



Printed on Recycled
Paper
