



BAY-LAKE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

BAY-LAKE RPC COMMISSIONERS

Volume II

September 2009

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Brown County

William Clancy
Toni Loch
Chris Swan

Door County

Paul DeWitt
Mariah Goode

Nomination Pending

Florence County

Edwin Kelley
Bruce Osterberg
Yvonne Van Pembrook

Kewaunee County

Jim Abrahamson
Mary Hanrahan
Charles Wagner, Vice-Chair

Manitowoc County

Donald Markwardt
Valerie Mellon
NyiaLong Yang

Marinette County

Alice Baumgarten
Cheryl Maxwell, Chairperson
Mary Meyer

Oconto County

Donald Glynn
Thomas Kussow
Lois Trever, Sect./Tres.

Sheboygan County

Mike Hotz
Ron McDonald
Ed Procek

Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce

Sec. Richard Leinenkugel

This summer, I have had the opportunity to reflect on the Commission's role in the region and what type of impact we have had. We have spent a great deal of effort over the course of the last nine years helping many of the communities in our region develop comprehensive plans in order to meet the state's January 1, 2010, consistency deadline. By this December, we will have worked with more than half the communities in our region since 2000. At the same time, we have been working diligently on projects that bring together the region as a whole. Our recent recognition as a one of only two Regional Centers of Excellence in the country is proof that the Commission's efforts have an impact locally, regionally and beyond. The environmental corridors and green infrastructure efforts that led to this award spanned more than a decade of work, and represent important tools that can be used to implement a comprehensive plan. We have done our best to incorporate the concepts and mapping into our local planning efforts. As we move forward, the Commission will be focusing on helping communities to implement their plans and advising those communities about changes at the state and federal level, that may impact their planning efforts.

Another regional effort that impacts local communities is the update of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS focuses on economic development projects that are priorities for each community in the region. This list of projects will be used to provide a focus for funding from state and federal agencies.

As we move forward, we are looking at the impact the state and federal budgets will have on our work program and budget. At the state level, we are examining the changes that the Working Lands Initiative will have on the Farmland Preservation Plans prepared by each county. At the federal level, we are also looking at renewable energy programs, Lake Michigan restoration activities, ground and surface water assessments, and greenhouse gas emissions as we look to develop a regional climate action plan.

Although we have many projects underway, there is always room for a few more as we are committed to providing assistance to our members. If you would like to know more about our work and our abilities, contact any of our planners who can provide you with more information. I encourage all of our communities to contact us if you have any projects in which you need help.

Please contact me if you have comment or questions about the services the Commission offers.

Executive Director

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2010-2011 WISCONSIN COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANT PROGRAM

The Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) is soliciting proposals for projects to enhance, preserve, protect, and restore resources within the Wisconsin's coastal zone, which includes all counties adjacent to Lakes Superior and Michigan.

WCMP grants are available for coastal land acquisition, coastal wetland protection and habitat restoration, nonpoint source pollution control, coastal resource and community planning, Great Lakes education, public access and historic preservation. Projects must start no earlier than July 1, 2010 and be completed by the end of June 2011.

Applications are due November 2, 2009.

Some past projects that have been funded by this program include outdoor recreation plans; shoreland zoning ordinance development; public access acquisition, studies, and enhancements; trail signage; invasive species control efforts; pharmaceutical waste collection; watershed assessments; riparian restoration; wetland protection and restoration; and non-point source pollution control to name a few.

Applicants within the Bay-Lake Region are encouraged to contact Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission staff if you would like to discuss project ideas, collaboration opportunities, and assistance with completing an application. Application materials and the Request for Proposals (RFP) are available on the WCMP website at <http://coastal.wisconsin.gov>.

WCMP held an informational workshop at the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission office on September 9th to enable potential applicants to discuss the grant application process and funding priorities. If you missed this workshop and would like to discuss your potential project or you have questions about the application process, please call Angela Pierce, Natural Resources Planner or apierce@baylakerpc.org.



URBAN FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAM

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Urban Forestry Grant Program provides funding to communities for projects that stimulate and support the development of urban forestry management programs. The grant funds assist communities with tree inventories, management plans, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) preparedness plans, ordinances, and public outreach and education, to name a few. For 2010, emphasis for the grants will be placed on EAB preparedness projects.



Grants are available from \$1,000 to \$25,000 with a 50/50 match. **Applications are due October 5, 2009.** Bay-Lake RPC would like to extend an invitation to help your community with the grant application and/or with EAB preparedness planning. If you have questions please contact Kimberly Miller, Community Planner.

2010 BAY-LAKE RPC WORK PROGRAM

The Commission is currently seeking projects for its 2010 Work Program. With counties, local communities, and organizations attempting to meet growing demands on services and facilities with less and less revenue, the Commission is a valuable resource to help bridge those gaps. Our staff brings a multi-disciplinary approach to all of our planning work based on many years of experience in community planning, economic development, transportation and natural resources. With the knowledge we have regarding many state and federal programs, we can assist communities in a number of areas, including grant writing and administration, technical and administrative assistance, and project development and management. If your municipality would like assistance with projects, staffing, or general technical assistance, please contact the office to schedule an appointment.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS RECOGNIZES BAY-LAKE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION AS A *REGIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE* FOR ITS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WORK

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, recently recognized the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission as a *Regional Center of Excellence* for its green infrastructure (i.e. environmental corridor) work. NARC serves as the national voice for regionalism by advocating for regional cooperation as the most effective way to address a variety of community planning and development opportunities and issues. Bay-Lake RPC will serve as a national model of land conservation and natural resource protection along with one other RPC in the U.S., the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission in Philadelphia, PA. As a *Regional Center of Excellence*, Bay-Lake RPC was awarded a grant, and was featured at NARC's 43rd Annual Conference in Denver, CO in June 2009.

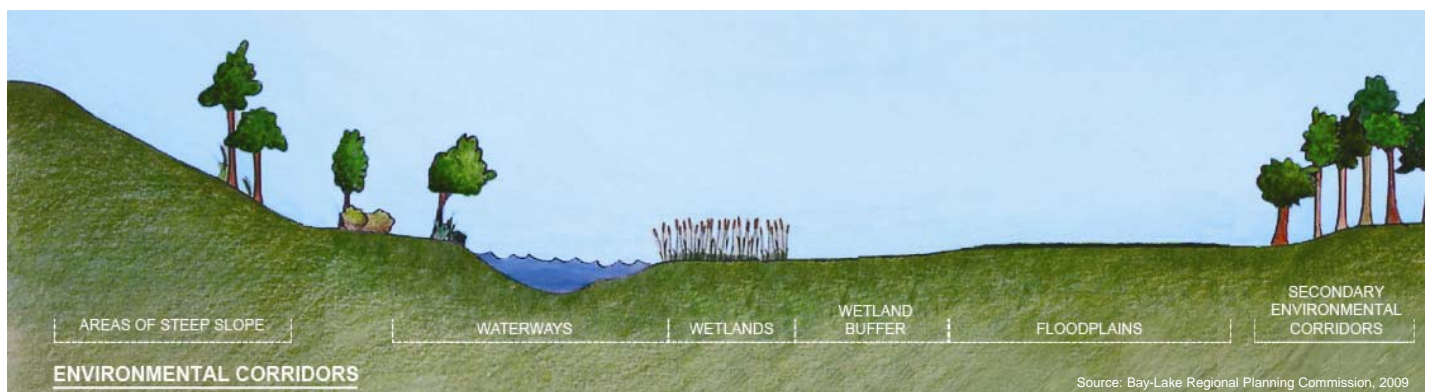
"We are excited to acknowledge the achievements of these distinguished regional planning organizations and provide additional funding to further their efforts," said NARC President Stephen Cassano. "The expertise of these regions in promoting green infrastructure and Landcare highlights the importance of working regionally on environmental issues."

Green infrastructure is the network of natural lands, working landscapes and other open spaces that are strategically planned and managed to conserve their ecological functions while providing associated

benefits to human populations. Green infrastructure, which can include landscape features such as woodlands, floodplains, wetlands, meadows, or wildlife habitat, plays an important role in improving water quality, reducing air pollution, filtering stormwater, maintaining ecological balance, and increasing the effectiveness of traditional infrastructure.

In 1997, Bay-Lake began defining and mapping environmental corridors and providing information to counties and communities to facilitate green infrastructure protection in local planning and zoning efforts. With the *Regional Centers of Excellence* grant, Bay-Lake RPC will prepare, publish, and distribute, mini-posters/brochures providing information about the benefits and tools for protecting valuable regional green infrastructure. Bay-Lake RPC will work with communities, partner organizations, universities, and natural resources organizations to raise awareness about green infrastructure protection.

To date, Bay-Lake RPC has developed a draft of a regional mini-poster/brochure. Public comment on the brochure content is welcomed and encouraged. The draft brochure is available for download at: http://www.baylakerpc.org/env_corridors. Comments or questions can be directed to Angela Pierce, Natural Resources Planner, at apierce@baylakerpc.org. The comment period will close on September 30, 2009.



COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING GRANTS DUE NOVEMBER 2ND

The WDOA Division of Intergovernmental Relations has recently announced that it is now accepting applications for the 2010 grant cycle. Approximately \$2 million will be available to local units of government, tribes, and regional planning commissions for the development of comprehensive plans. Awardees (local governmental units that have been awarded grants) are eligible for one comprehensive planning grant award every ten years. As a result, communities that received funding through the Comprehensive Planning Grant Program in 2000 are now eligible to receive funding for an update to their comprehensive plan.

The 2010 grant application and manual are available on the WDOA's website at www.doa.state.wi.us. **Applications are due November 2, 2009**, with notification of approval likely made in March 2010.

The Commission has a significant amount of experience with the comprehensive planning grant application process having successfully written more than 30 grants. By the end of this year, the Bay-Lake RPC will have successfully completed over 90 comprehensive plans since grant monies became available in 2000. Please contact Brandon Robinson of the Commission staff if you would like to submit a planning grant application or have questions regarding comprehensive planning.

SHEBOYGAN MPO TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Commission staff has processed numerous amendments and administrative modifications to the *Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Calendar Years 2008 – 2011* to date in 2009.

In February, the Commission approved an administrative modification to the *2008 – 2011 TIP* to program funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for various transit capital projects that have already been identified in the *2008 – 2011 TIP* and are "ready to go." A second administrative modification to the TIP which served as a technical correction to the initial administrative modification was approved by the Commission at its June meeting.

In March, the Commission approved a major amendment to the *2008 – 2011 TIP* to incorporate two projects from the Sheboygan County Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program (NMTTP) into the TIP.

In May, the Commission approved a major amendment to the *2008 – 2011 TIP* to include construction of an "event only" interchange on Interstate Highway 43 at Rowe Road in the Town of Mosel; the *Year 2035 Sheboygan Area Transportation Plan (SATP)* was also amended to include this project.

In July, the Commission approved a minor amendment to the *2008 – 2011 TIP* to program new and additional program oversight funding for the Sheboygan County NMTTP into the TIP.

In September, the Commission approved a minor amendment to the *2008 – 2011 TIP* to program ARRA funding for the reconstruction of North Taylor Drive between Superior and Saemann Avenues in the city of Sheboygan.

The Sheboygan MPO Technical and Policy Advisory Committees were notified of the two administrative modifications to the *2008 – 2011 TIP*. The Sheboygan MPO advisory committees recommended approval of all major and minor amendments to the TIP. In addition, major amendments to the TIP (normally additions to the TIP in excess of \$1 million) required a 30 day public comment period and a public hearing, and the TIP amendment involving the "event only" interchange required an air quality conformity analysis.

Work now turns to development of a new *2010 – 2013 TIP* for the Sheboygan area.

Please contact Jeff Agee-Aguayo of the Commission staff if you have questions regarding the *Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area TIP* or regarding any other Sheboygan MPO transportation planning matter.

MARITIME METRO TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (TDP) UPDATE

Commission staff has been in the process of completing a Transit Development Program (TDP) for the Maritime Metro Transit System (the transit operation for the cities of Manitowoc and Two Rivers) since April 2008. This effort has involved intense consultation with Maritime Metro Transit staff and with a TDP review committee which has typically met monthly since the project began.

Commission staff has prepared the following TDP chapters: Transit System Overview; Community Profile; Route Ridership Patterns; Transit System Performance; and Goals, Objectives and Standards. The chapter on Route Ridership Patterns was recently completed, and was based on the results of a boarding and alighting survey facilitated by Commission staff in late May (with the assistance of a Manitowoc-based temporary employment agency under subcontract with the Commission).

Commission staff is currently tabulating the results of a ridership opinion survey that was facilitated by Commission staff in early June (with the assistance of the same temporary employment agency). Once the survey results are tabulated, the Ridership Opinion chapter of the TDP will be completed. It is expected that this chapter will be presented to the TDP Review Committee in mid September.

TDP chapters that remain to be completed include the Alternatives Analysis and the Recommended Plan. The TDP should be completed by the end of 2009, and will cover an implementation period of 2010 through 2014.

Please contact Jeff Agee-Aguayo of the Commission staff if you have any questions regarding the Maritime Metro TDP.

FLORENCE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS



For the past nine months, Commission staff have been working on Comprehensive Plans for Florence County as well as the towns of Aurora, Commonwealth, Fence, Fern, Florence, and Homestead. The County Resource document has been completed in draft form. This complete physical inventory and demographic analysis of the county serves as the building block for the preparation of both the county and local plans. Several meetings have been held with the six participating towns, and their plans are nearing completion. Once the local plans are prepared in full draft form, work will commence on finalizing the Resource Document and the *Florence County 20-Year Comprehensive Plan*. With the process expected to go according to schedule, each of the six towns will be adopting their plans around January 2010 with the county plan being finished and adopted by the Florence County Board in March 2010. All Florence County planning materials can be viewed on the Commission's website under the "Current Projects" tab.

GREEN BAY SPECIAL WETLANDS INVENTORY STUDY (SWIS) GIS DATA CONVERSION

In the early 1990s, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed a detailed study of wetlands located in the Green Bay watershed as part of the Special Wetlands Inventory Study (SWIS) in cooperation with the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, US Army Corp of Engineers and US Environmental Protection Agency. Extensive biological data was collected regarding the wetland systems. The data collected provides an invaluable baseline for future watershed management efforts. More than 2,000 slides of each wetland site were taken as part of the study as well. Of special note is that the data was collected prior to the rapid spread of *Phragmites australis* that has been seen in the watershed over the last decade, and therefore allows some comparison of pre- and post- invasion wetland conditions.

Bay-Lake RPC's role in the project will be linking the database to a geographic information system (GIS), converting the slides to a digital format, and making the GIS information more broadly available via an internet mapping site.

Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2009

September 29 - October 1

State of Lake Michigan Conference
Milwaukee, WI

October 6

Northwoods Economic Summit V
Four Seasons Resort
Pembine, WI

October 9

Executive Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m. – Noon
Florence, WI

October 20 & 21

WLIA Fall Regional Meeting
Metropolis Hotel
Eau Claire, WI

October 29 & 30

ESRI - Wisconsin User Group
Paper Valley Hotel
Appleton, WI

November 2

WCMP and DOA Grant Applications Due

November 5

Association of Wisconsin RPCs Day at the Capitol
Capitol Rotunda
Madison, WI

November 13

Commission Meeting
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Green Bay, WI

BAY-LAKE RPC STAFF

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Community Planner

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.