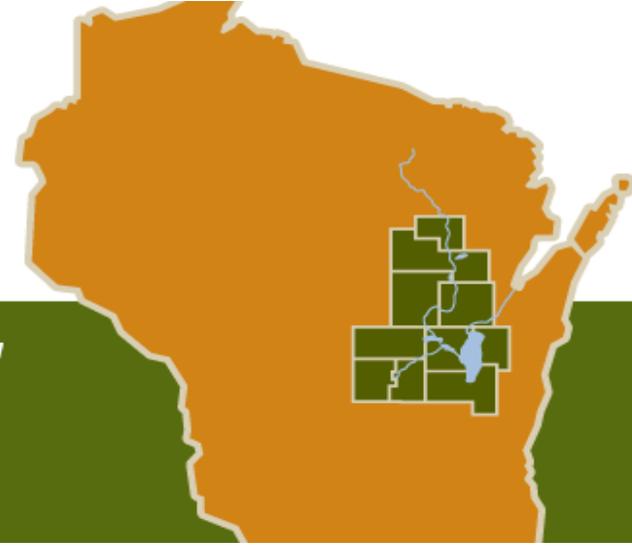




East Central Wisconsin  
Regional Planning Commission  
**ECWRPC**

Calumet • Menominee • Outagamie • Shawano • Waupaca • Waushara • Winnebago



# RAPPORT

Volume 43, Issue No. 2

Summer, 2014

## East Central Welcomes New Commissioners for 2014-15 Term

As a result of the April 2014 elections, a few changes occurred to East Central's Board of Commissioners. Five new commissioners were welcomed to the board in July for the 2014-15 term. Ms. Helen Nagler returns to the Commission after being elected as the Outagamie County Board Chair. She will replace Peter Stueck who served as an alternate for the previous Chair, Judy Schuette. Ms. Nagler will serve on the Steering Committee and the Regional Comprehensive Plan Committee. Two additional County Board appointments for Outagamie County include Mr. Daniel Rettler and Mr. Jeff Nooyen who will replace Mr. Carl Anthony and Mr. Kevin Sturn, respectively. Mr. Rettler will serve on the Open Space and Environmental Management Committee while Mr. Nooyen will be active on the Transportation

Committee. Mr. Thomas Kautza is the new appointment for Shawano County and will replace Mr. Ken Capelle. Mr. Kautza will serve on the Community Facilities Committee. East Central would also like to welcome Robert Schmeichel, Chair of the Town of Neenah, as a Winnebago County Board appointment replacing Mr. Jim Erdman, Town of Oshkosh Chair. Mr. Schmeichel will serve on the Open Space and Environmental Management Committee. We look forward to working with all of the new commissioners and thank the outgoing commissioners for their time and dedication to achieving our mission.



*Robert Schmeichel*



*Jeff Nooyen*



*Helen Nagler*



*Thomas Kautza*



*Daniel Rettler*

## Two Ex-Officio Members Added to East Central Board

As a result of the MAP-21 federal transportation bill, additional requirements must be met given the Fox Cities' recent Transportation Management Agency (TMA) designation for the metropolitan planning organization (MPO). Federal rules now recommend that voting representatives from the state and local transit service provider be part of the MPO Policy Board (of which the Commission Board serves in this role). Ms. Jill Michaelson, Planning Supervisor for WisDOT's (Wisconsin Department of Transportation) NE Region, will represent the State of Wisconsin's transportation interests in this capacity. Ms. Deborah Wetter, Manager of Valley Transit, will represent public transportation. These two ex-officio members will have the same voting rights as other commissioners and they will both add depth to conversations and decisions affecting transportation infrastructure and services within the Fox Cities area. We welcome both of them and look forward to their engagement in the MPO's important planning work.

## New Leadership Elected for Commission at April Meeting

At the April 2014 Annual Meeting, the Commission Board elected two new commissioners to serve in its leadership positions. Mr. Robert Hermes (Menominee County) stepped down as Chair after two years of service in this position and was replaced by Ms. Donna Kalata (Waushara County). Ms. Kalata served as Vice-Chair of the Commission for the previous two years. The Vice-Chair position is now held by Mr. Michael Thomas (Outagamie County). Commission staff thanks Mr. Hermes for his time in the Chair position and welcomes Mr. Thomas to his new role as Vice-Chair.

## 2015 Levy and Preliminary Budget Approved at July Quarterly Meeting

On July 25, 2014, the Commission met in New London, Wisconsin and took action to adopt the preliminary 2015 budget and establish the 2015 annual levy for member counties and communities. For 2015, the levy rate was decreased slightly (from 0.0017376% to 0.0017289%) which, when applied to the 2013 equalized property valuation of member counties and communities, results in a total levy amount of \$692,749 – an overall 0.01% decrease. This levy amount was set by the Commission in response to East Central’s stable revenues as well as ongoing county and municipal budget concerns. Notifications to member units of government were sent out by August 1<sup>st</sup> as required by state statute. The Commission and its staff will be taking considerable time this fall to assess and prepare its *2015 Annual Work Program* as well as its final budget, both of which will be considered at the end of January 2015. For questions regarding the 2015 preliminary budget, the levy establishment processes, or membership opportunities with the Commission, please do not hesitate to contact Executive Director Eric Fowle at (920) 751-4770 or by e-mail: [efowle@ecwrpc.org](mailto:efowle@ecwrpc.org).

## Regional Food Systems Focus of April Mini - Conference

In April, East Central hosted a mini-conference: “Growing Our Economy and Communities through Local and Regional Food Systems”. Laura Brown, Associate Professor from the UW-Extension, discussed community and economic impacts of regional food systems planning and food hubs. Emily Dieringer, from the re:TH!NK Coalition, talked about re:TH!NK’s work in relation to nutrition and healthy food systems and Farm to School Programs within Winnebago County. Emily discussed challenges schools have in securing produce to serve students for school lunch. Oren Jakobson spoke about his work at River-view Gardens, the City of Appleton’s first urban farm, complete with gardens, hoopouses to grow fruit, vegetables, herbs and nuts. The program also serves as a workshare program which

allows individuals to trade time instead of money and potentially receive benefits of the CSA shares. Alex Tyink, of Goodwill Grows, provided insight on the indoor farming unit and how they are working with partners throughout the Fox Cities to build the unit and provide produce to Goodwill employees. The indoor farming system, built by Bassett Mechanical, is 5 feet tall, fits in 12 square feet, has a grow light hanging in the center and is made of stainless steel. Plants are gravity-fed water and there is no soil.

Sarah Lloyd, of the Wisconsin Farmers Union and Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative, shared insight on how the Wisconsin Food Hub provides local farmers with resources to access wholesale markets that were not easily accessible before. The session

## Melissa Kraemer-Badtke Promoted to Principal Transportation Planner



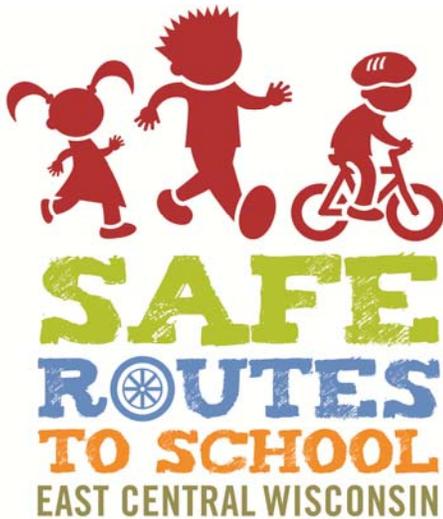
The Commission announced the promotion of Ms. Melissa Kraemer-Badtke to Principal Transportation Planner in recognition of her outstanding work and leadership on various transportation programs and projects. Melissa has worked for the Commission since 2003 and was primarily responsible for daily transportation planning activities associated with the Fond du Lac, Oshkosh and Fox Cities MPOs. Melissa was instrumental in the creation of the first (and only) Regional Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program in 2009 using WisDOT program funding. Melissa and her staff have been recognized nationally for the SRTS Program’s development, management, and implementation. Melissa also manages the new Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) process has become a key resource for local communities on trail, bicycle and pedestrian planning issues. The Commission appreciates Melissa’s hard work, passion and acknowledges her dedicated service. Be sure to congratulate her when you cross paths.

## Statewide Recognition Received for “The Cedars at Kimberly” Master Plan

On June 12, 2014, ECWRPC staff joined representatives from the Village of Kimberly and Stadtmueller & Associates at the American Planning Association – Wisconsin Chapter (APA-WI) Conference to receive a statewide award for “The Cedars at Kimberly” project. The community-based visioning and planning efforts for the 98-acre former NewPage Mill site led to the development and adoption of the master redevelopment plan for “The Cedars at Kimberly”, a proposed mixed-use, urban village concept which boasts access to nearly one mile of Fox River shoreline. The project was commended by APA-WI for its originality, quality, and transferability, as well as its unique methods of gathering public input as part of the community planning process. Along the way, feedback opportunities were offered through neighborhood workshops, open houses, and information found on the village website. In total, nearly 300 participants assisted in developing a vision that will breathe new life into the former industrial site. The Village of Kimberly was provided this planning assistance from ECWRPC at no cost due to Outagamie County’s membership in the organization. For more information, please contact Dave Kress at [dkress@ecwrpc.org](mailto:dkress@ecwrpc.org) or (920) 751-4770.



## Regional Safe Routes to School Program Receives WisDOT Grant



On August 4, 2014, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation announced approximately \$13 million in funding will go to 27 Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) projects around the state. TAP allocates federal funds to transportation improvement projects that expand travel choice, strengthen the local economy, improve the quality of life and protect the environment. East Central received a state allocation of \$852,000 to continue the Regional Safe Routes to School Program through 2018. The program will continue to work with local SRTS coalitions to develop local action plans and assist in the implementation of their local SRTS Programs. Winnebago County received a TAP grant for the development of the *Winnebago County Rural Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan*. A full listing of the grant award recipients can be found at the following website: [http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news\\_4948.html\\_786229440.html](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/opencms/export/nr/modules/news/news_4948.html_786229440.html).

## East Central Unveils New and Improved Website

ECWRPC was pleased to announce the release of a new website in March designed with a fresh new look, user-friendly navigation and updated with the latest information about East Central’s programs and services. Upcoming meetings and events are located on the calendar, there is also a blog to provide updates of East Central activities, with better organization and regular posting of new content. The new website is mobile friendly, meaning it is compatible with a smartphone or tablet.

One of East Central’s main goals was to build a user-friendly and simple to navigate site. The new design allows users to quickly find programs and services of interest. We hope that you will enjoy browsing [www.ecwrpc.org](http://www.ecwrpc.org) and that it will be yet another tool for strengthening relations with regional stakeholders.

## 2015 Technical Assistance Request Forms Available in August

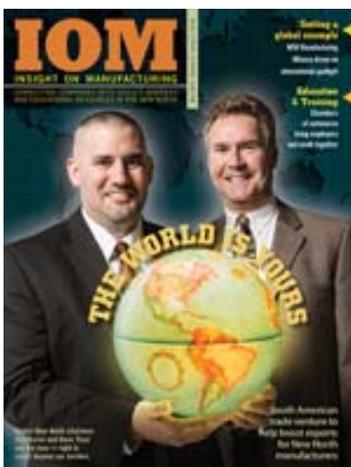
The Commission's 2015 Technical Assistance Program began with the annual mailing of project request forms in late August of this year. The Technical Assistance Program has been a long-standing service of East Central and is available only to member counties and communities. This program provides the opportunity to receive professional planning assistance on small-scale plans or projects at no cost. Please note that the Commission does not provide engineering or legal services and that projects typically need to be completed with a maximum of three to five days of staff time. Project ideas normally fall within one of the following categories:

- General Planning (Comprehensive planning, plan implementation strategies, etc.)
- Economic Development (Project development/grant assistance, funding identification, industrial park planning/site layouts, etc.)
- Transportation (Local road and street issues, traffic forecasts, etc.)
- Community Facilities / Infrastructure (Sewer, water, stormwater, utilities, etc.)
- Park, Open Space and Recreation (Recreation plan, trail plan, park site planning, etc.)

- Environmental Management (Wetland, floodplain, farmland, conservation, etc.)
- Demographic Services (Census data, trend analysis/interpretation, housing studies/assessments)
- Geographic Information Systems (Data development, custom mapping, map updates, tourism/marketing materials)

Project request forms are due at East Central's offices no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 14, 2014. The Commission's Steering Committee will review, evaluate and rank all requests in December 2014 for possible inclusion in the *2015 Work Program*. Communities which are selected will be notified upon approval of the work program after January 2015 at which time staff will schedule the projects for work later in the year. Please note that as much as the Commission wishes that it could meet every request, it is virtually impossible to do so given the current level of staffing, obligations to existing contract projects and federal and state programs. However, please remember that Commission staff are always available for quick phone or e-mail questions, verbal or written guidance, letters of support for projects that conform with the goals of the *Regional Comprehensive Plan*, as well as public informational presentations. Please contact Eric Fowle, Executive Director, at (920) 751-4770 or via e-mail at [efowle@ecwrpc.org](mailto:efowle@ecwrpc.org) with any questions.

## "Global New North" Featured in Insight on Manufacturing Magazine



East Central Associate Planner Tom Baron and Waupaca County Economic Development Corporation's Dave Thiel shared the May 2014 cover of *Insight on Manufacturing's* magazine. As co-chairs of the Global New North, Mr. Baron and Mr. Thiel were interviewed for the feature article of the publication which focuses on connecting companies with resources in the New North region. The article focused on the promotion and awareness of exporting for small to medium sized enterprises in the New North region.

Global New North was developed as an outcome of the Global Trade Strategy report researched by global experts Newmark Grubb Knight Frank and written by East Central and Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission. The report, finalized in 2012, was primarily funded by the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Community Trade Adjustment Assistance (CTAA) grant. The goal of the report was to develop a strategy to increase exports in small to medium size companies in Northeast Wisconsin. The report highlighted immediate export potential for Northeast Wisconsin companies that manufacture aerospace components, chemical products, agricultural equipment, and food products. Global markets with immediate potential for these products include Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, Colombia, and China.

To read the article visit [www.insightonmfg.com](http://www.insightonmfg.com) and to learn more about the Global New North initiative visit [www.thenewnorth.com](http://www.thenewnorth.com). Tom Baron can be contacted at (920) 751-4770 or [tbaron@ecwrpc.org](mailto:tbaron@ecwrpc.org).

# Transform WI Shawano County Keeps Moving



During the summer of 2012, East Central was one of 30 organizations throughout the state to receive the Transform WI grant. This grant seeks to create healthier places to live, work and play in Shawano County. East Central staff have worked with local coalition members on multiple projects during the grant period that have increased recreational opportunities and the amount of physical activity students receive during the school day. While the grant will conclude at the end of 2014, East Central and local coalition members are developing plans to keep this work moving forward and growing. To learn more about this project please contact Tom Baron at (920) 751-4770 or [tbaron@ecwrpc.org](mailto:tbaron@ecwrpc.org).

## Comprehensive Outdoor and Recreation Plan (CORP) 2014 Adoptions

As part of East Central's Technical Assistance Program, staff has been giving support to numerous park and recreation departments in the region on the outdoor recreation plan update process. Goals and objectives have been identified, background information completed, inventory maps printed, needs assessments/level of service analyzed, public surveys initiated, and public informational meetings completed. By updating the CORP every 5 years, the community remains in compliance to apply for funding and grant opportunities, namely the WDNR Stewardship Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), along with a host of other grant prospects. As funding is sparse, departments must look into creative resources or become self-sustaining.

Below is a list of previously adopted plans for the 2014 work program:

- **City of Shawano (2014-2018)** (Shawano County) – The final draft document was submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission as well as the City Common Council. The plan was adopted on February 18, 2014 and now makes the city eligible for grant submittals for the next five years.
- **Shawano County (2014-2018)** - A public open house was held on January 22, 2014. A needs assessment and preliminary recommendation session with the Highway and Parks Committee was completed. Final adoption occurred by the Parks and Highway Committee and County Board at their March 4, 2014 meetings.
- **City of Clintonville (2014-2018)** (Waupaca County) – The final document was submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission as well as the City Common Council. The plan was adopted on April 8, 2014 with an advantageous 5-year action program developed to refurbish the parks system.
- **Village of Big Falls (2014-2018)** (Waupaca County) – A final document has been completed with maps and a survey mailed to the current residents for additional feedback. A needs assessment was performed along with preliminary recommendations. Adoption of the plan occurred at the Vil-

lage Board Meeting on June 26, 2014 with prior approval from the Planning Commission.

Parks are vitally important places that are highly valued, deeply loved, and supported by our communities. It has been shown that they provide additional health benefits, increase economic value of homes near them, create an overall sense of place and promotion of historic importance as well as environmental preservation. Having a plan and vision for a community to follow creates obtainable measures, management tools, and a course of action for the future.

For more information on all the above plans and current park and recreational projects or how ECWRPC can help your community, please contact Trish Nau, Principal Recreation Planner, at: [tnau@ecwrpc.org](mailto:tnau@ecwrpc.org).



*Arlington Park, City of Shawano*



*Oconto River Park, Shawano County*



*Big Falls Picnic Area, Village of Big Falls*



*Pickeral Point Park, City of Clintonville*

# Draft of the Appleton (Fox Cities) & Oshkosh Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Available for Review

A draft of the *Appleton (Fox Cities) and Oshkosh Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* has been completed. The purpose of the plan is to develop a regional bicycle and pedestrian network that links the Appleton (Fox Cities) and Oshkosh MPO communities and provides residents bicycle and pedestrian accommodations to various destinations throughout the Fox Valley. Public information meetings were held July 29<sup>th</sup> and July 30<sup>th</sup> to receive comments from residents

within the Fox Valley area. Residents had an opportunity to review and provide comments on the draft plan, regional bicycle and pedestrian network, recommendations, and the implementation plan. A copy of the draft plan and the bicycle and pedestrian network can be viewed at the following website: <http://fcompo.org/planning-activities/bicycle-and-pedestrian-planning/>. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Melissa Kraemer Badtke at (920) 751-4770 or at [mbadtke@ecwrpc.org](mailto:mbadtke@ecwrpc.org).

## Town of Greenville's "Greenbelt" Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) Approved by DATCP

Secretary Ben Brancel of the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) recently announced the designation of a new Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) within the Town of Greenville, Outagamie County. AEAs are part of Wisconsin's farmland preservation program and are intended to encourage preservation of agricultural land use and to promote agricultural economic development appropriate to each area. In turn, the designation provides some certainty for farmers and agribusinesses that their area will remain in agriculture so they can be confident about investing in their businesses. Landowners in AEAs are not subject to any new land use regulation, but can receive tax credits in exchange for signing an agreement to keep their land in agricultural use for at least 15 years.

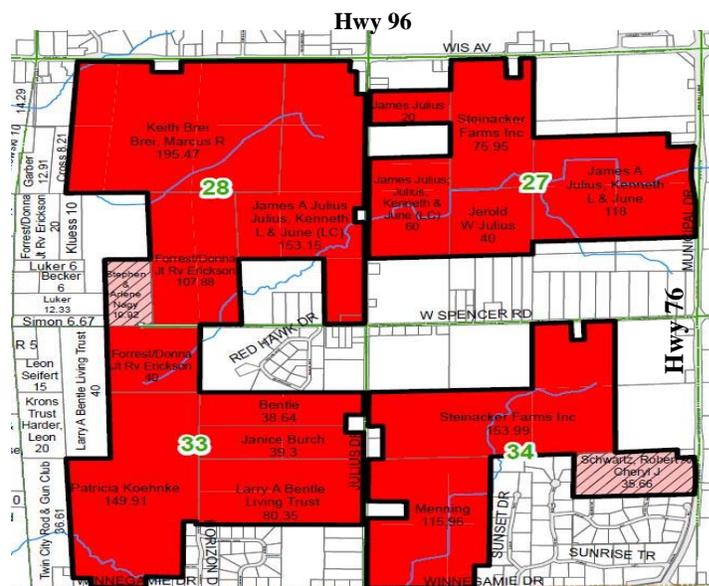
The new Greenville Greenbelt AEA covers 1,444 acres in the southern portion of the Town of Greenville, west of Highway 76 and south of Highway 96, where cash cropping accounts for the most agricultural activity. The petitioners' goals include maintaining the existing farmland for agriculture by supporting policies to increase development densities in the urban portion of their town, and to promote infill development that targets land adjacent to urban areas. The current farmers wish to provide support to ensure successful transitions of existing farm businesses between generations or to new ownership. In addition, the town offers many agro-tourism opportunities and enjoys support for agriculture through programs at the Fox Valley Technical College.

Greenville's AEA designation is the culmination of years of proactive planning work by the town's Plan Commission and recently appointed Land Stewardship Committee. The town designated a "Greenbelt" area in the western and southern portions of the

community through the comprehensive planning process and intends to seek further expansion of the AEA in the future.

Greenville's AEA is part of a 191,300 acre expansion of the program that will become official Jan. 1, 2015. Wisconsin will then have 29 AEAs that total 940,000 acres in 22 counties, 85 towns and the Bad River Reservation. This is the fifth round of AEA designations which added a total of 190,000 acres to new or existing AEAs. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection can designate up to 2 million acres as AEAs. Originally, the department had authority to designate up to 1 million acres, but the Legislature recently doubled that figure.

Questions regarding Greenville's new Greenbelt AEA can be directed to Mr. Dave Tebo, Town of Greenville Administrator, at (920) 757-5151 or via e-mail at [dtebo@townofgreenville.com](mailto:dtebo@townofgreenville.com).



Greenville AEA

# Oshkosh Region Defense Industry Diversification Initiative Receives \$1 Million Supplemental Funding Boost

The East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) has been awarded \$1,026,065 in supplemental funding from the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment (DoD-OEA) to assist with the current progress of the Oshkosh Region Defense Industry Diversification Initiative (ORDIDI) and evolving local and regional needs in response to the elimination of additional positions at the Oshkosh Corporation. ORDIDI projects are anticipated to be completed by December 31, 2015.

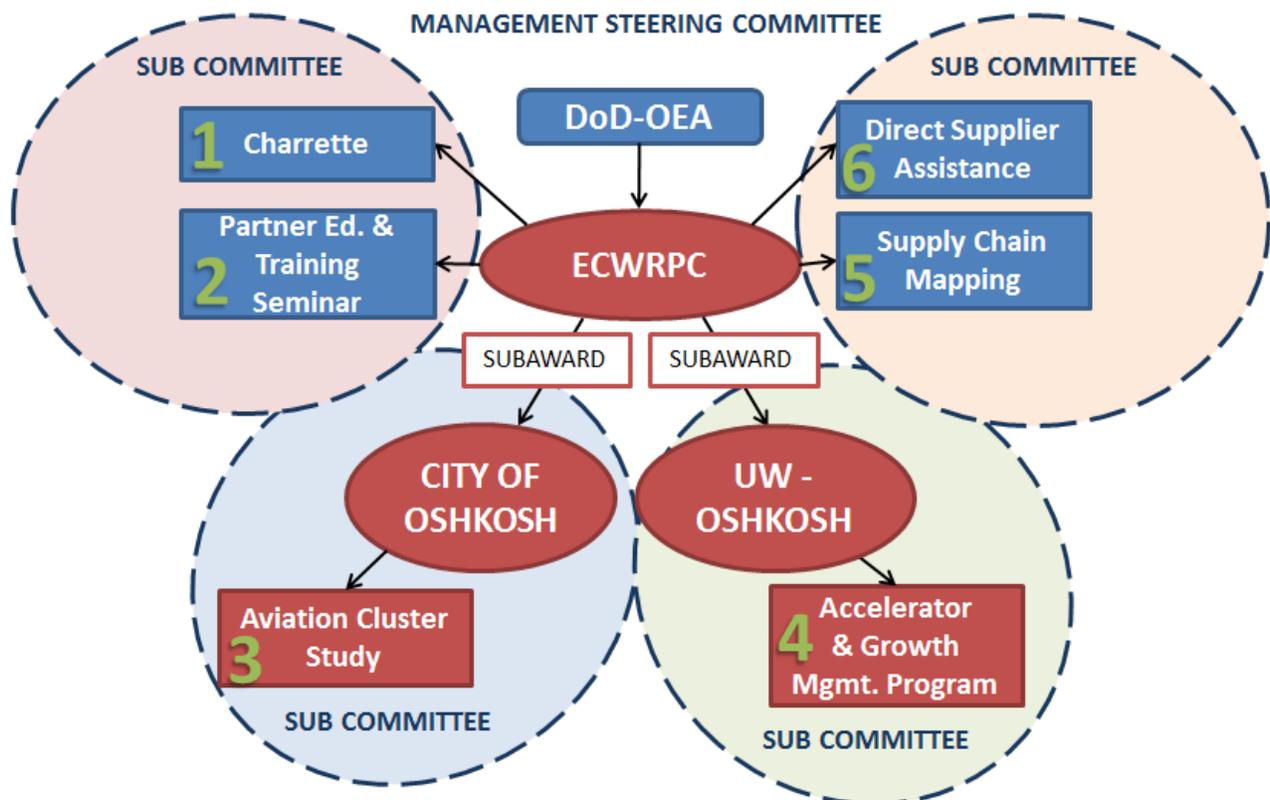
In December 2013, ECWRPC was awarded an \$837,315 federal grant from the DoD-OEA, which includes sub-awards to the City of Oshkosh and UW-Oshkosh. ORDIDI is the first step in providing assistance to companies and communities that have been affected by recent cutbacks in defense industry spending, particularly those connected to the Oshkosh Corp.

This grant is being used to undertake studies of specific initiatives aimed at assisting in the growth and expansion of new industry clusters that are less reliant on federal defense contracts. The initiatives include:

- Charrette and Partner Education Training Seminar: Taking steps to create a more cohesive economic development ecosystem throughout the region that emphasizes communication, coordination and collaboration among stakeholders;
- Aviation Cluster Study: Developing research opportunities for advanced manufacturing in the newly developing aerospace industry cluster;
- Accelerator and Growth Management Program: Facilitating the development of an aerospace business accelerator facility; and
- Supply Chain Mapping and Direct Supplier Assistance: Mapping out the defense industry supply chain and providing assistance to Oshkosh Corp. suppliers to re-engage them in other industry sectors.

For questions or additional information on this initiative, please contact Katherine Ahlquist at [kahlquist@ecwrpc.org](mailto:kahlquist@ecwrpc.org) or (920) 751-4770.

## Oshkosh Region Defense Industry Diversification Initiative PROGRAM MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



## City of Waupaca to Create Vision for Downtown



The City of Waupaca is embarking on a project to reconstruct Main Street in the coming years. A project of this magnitude requires a great degree of planning and public involvement, particularly for community members directly impacted by construction. For that reason, the Waupaca City Council appointed a 14-person Downtown Visioning Committee comprised of business owners, residents and city representatives to provide input on physical improvements to the street, as well as establish a vision for the future of downtown Waupaca. To facilitate this pro-

cess, the city sought assistance from ECWRPC. Since February 2014, ECWRPC staff have led four committee meetings and a variety of exploratory exercises which helped frame the issues and opportunities. Thus far, topics covered include community identity, assets and connections, gaps and needed improvements, and placemaking. Ultimately, committee input will help in crafting a broader “concept plan” to guide how Main Street and the downtown will look, function, and feel in the future. For more information, please contact Dave Kress at [dkress@ecwrpc.org](mailto:dkress@ecwrpc.org) or (920) 751-4770.



*Downtown Main Street in Waupaca, WI*



*City of Waupaca Downtown Visioning Committee*

## 2014 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update Underway

The East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) was designated as an Economic Development District (EDD) by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) in 1984 for the purpose of developing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS document facilitates and promotes local and regional economic development within the ten-county region and is designed to assist in alleviating economic distress and unemployment. CEDS Performance Reports are required on an annual basis and a major CEDS update is required every five years. 2014 marks the first CEDS Performance Report since the 2013 major CEDS update.

The CEDS Committee is a critical part of this process, charged with helping to set regional economic development policy through the preparation of the CEDS document, helping prioritize public and private economic development projects for EDA funding consideration, and assisting ECWRPC staff on other items as warranted.

The CEDS Committee will meet in early fall to review the 2014 CEDS Performance Report document and will rank the economic development projects submitted from local governments and economic development professionals throughout the region. These projects are to be submitted to ECWRPC by September 5, 2014 in order to become part of the approved 2014 CEDS Performance Report and to be eligible for possible EDA funding consideration.

To submit new projects to be included in the 2014 CEDS, please fill out the basic request form found on our website ([www.ecwrpc.org/ceds/](http://www.ecwrpc.org/ceds/)) and submit to Katherine Ahlquist at [kahlquist@ecwrpc.org](mailto:kahlquist@ecwrpc.org). Please duplicate the form if you have more than one project to submit.

For questions or more information on the CEDS update process, please contact Katherine Ahlquist at [kahlquist@ecwrpc.org](mailto:kahlquist@ecwrpc.org) or (920) 751-4770 x 6821.

# Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Control Program Ends

The WDNR (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources) is currently exploring ways to sustain the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention and Control grants. AIS Prevention and Control grants are awarded on a competitive basis and the grants are seen as seed money to establish a program that will not depend on state funds year after year.

For the past three and a half years, East Central has provided AIS control and educational outreach for the Winnebago Pool Lakes. Although state funding was not awarded during the last grant cycle, East Central is committed to developing a regional AISC program. East Central is working with WDNR staff and other partners to explore ways of sustaining a regional AIS program.

East Central's Open Space and Environmental Management Committee recognizes that controlling invasive species (both aquatic and terrestrial) is an issue that counties will need to address on an annual basis. AIS control projects, educational outreach, lake association assistance, and early detection will vary throughout the region. A regional AIS program would have to recognize geographic differences and work to meet each county's needs.

For more information contact Todd Verboomen at [tverboomen@ecwrpc.org](mailto:tverboomen@ecwrpc.org) or (920) 751-4770.

# Town of Matteson Well Water Testing Program Completed

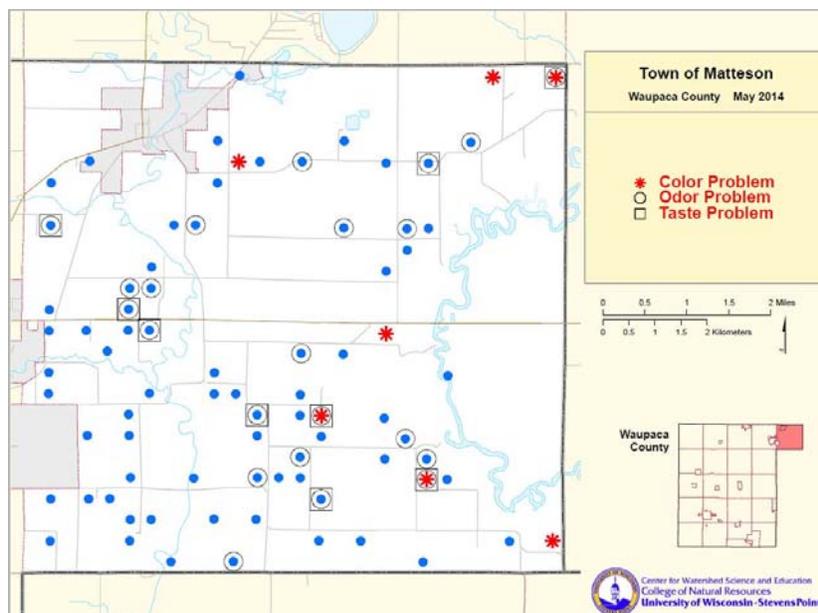
The Town of Matteson utilized American Transmission Company (ATC) funding to offer residents free well water testing in order to educate and inform residents on groundwater quality issues. East Central staff assisted the town in the coordination and collection of approximately 100 water samples from private wells. These samples were brought to the Center for Watershed Science and Education, UW-Stevens Point and UW-Extension for testing.

The town paid for the Center's "homeowners test" which tested each sample for coliform bacteria, nitrate, chloride, hardness, alkalinity, pH, and saturation index. Homeowners were given the option to test for metals and pesticides at their own cost. Approximately 50% of the participants tested for either metals or pesti-

cides. The majority of wells tested in the town's well water testing program have not been tested for years.

Individual test results were not made public, however the data collected was used by the Center for Watershed Science and Education staff to evaluate overall ground water quality as public health data. This data can be very useful when looking at town maps for patterns where high levels of nitrate, arsenic and chlorides were found. The maps can be overlaid on the town's land use, soils, and bed rock maps to identify potential problem areas and assist in making better long-term land use decisions that protect the quality and quantity of groundwater resources.

For more information contact Todd Verboomen at [tverboomen@ecwrpc.org](mailto:tverboomen@ecwrpc.org) or (920) 751-4770.



# East Central Receives Environmental Records Review Certification

Todd Verboomen, Associate Planner, has completed the WDNR's Endangered Resources Certification Program. With this certification East Central will be able to provide certified Environmental Record Reviews (ERR) as a service to the region's counties and municipalities.

As a Certified Environmental Record Reviewer, East Central will use the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) data and associated information to review proposed projects and land management activities upon request for potential impacts to endangered resources. This process includes making preliminary determina-

tions regarding the potential taking of endangered resources and provides necessary steps that will protect these resources.

The WDNR requires a fee between \$75 - \$150 for each WDNR approval. East Central is currently establishing an ERR fee structure that includes the WDNR approval fees, however East Central's staff time to conduct the ERR will not be included.

If you have any questions regarding the Environmental Records Review program contact Todd Verboomen at [tverboomen@ecwrpc.org](mailto:tverboomen@ecwrpc.org).

## 2014 Fox Cities Street Index Available

East Central's Geographic Information System (GIS) Department has just completed the *2014 Fox Cities Street Index*. The index includes up to date road name information provided by Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties. There is also up to date park information taken directly from East Central's land use data collected this past year. The index also includes municipal boundary updates, most notably the Village of Harrison. Maps can be purchased from East Central for either \$20 (3 foot by 4 foot index) or \$12 (3 foot by 2 foot index). For more information contact Tyler DeBruin at [tdebruin@ecwrpc.org](mailto:tdebruin@ecwrpc.org) or (920) 751-4770.



*Doty Island, 2014 Fox Cities Street Index*

## Preferred Sustainability Status (PSS) Sunsets on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>



The Preferred Sustainability Status (PSS) designation granted to the Commission by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will no longer be in effect with the start of HUD's FY2015 budget which starts October 1<sup>st</sup>.

This designation was granted to

regions that took extraordinary steps toward strategic planning and the development of regional plans aligned with the federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities livability principles. As part of this status, the Commission was able to receive two bonus points for its FY2011 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant competition; participate in a range of training opportunities offered by the Partnership for Sustainable Communities; request technical assistance from other partners; provide two bonus points to the Greater Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity, the Habitat for Humanity of Oshkosh, and the Greater Green Bay

Habitat for Humanity for grants such as the Self-Help Homeowners Opportunity Program (SHOP) grant application; and provide two bonus points to UMOs, Inc. for a Rural Capacity Building for Economic Development and Affordable Housing Grant designed to benefit non-metropolitan areas in Brown and Outagamie Counties and to assist a local rural housing group to build affordable housing for very-low and low income persons employed as farm laborers. Even though this status is ending, the Commission will still have access to many of the resources available to PSS regions. For questions, please contact Kathy Thunes at (920) 751-4770 or email her at [kthunes@ecwrpc.org](mailto:kthunes@ecwrpc.org).

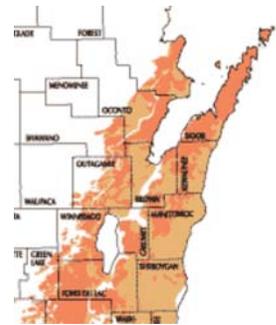
# Save the Date! Karst Areas & Stormwater Management Workshop Set for October 9, 2014 in Kimberly, WI

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, partnering with Bay-Lake RPC, the UW-Extension and Niagara Escarpment Resource Network are sponsoring a workshop regarding managing urban and rural stormwater runoff in karst environments. The event will take place Thursday, October 9, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Liberty Hall in Kimberly, Wisconsin.

“Karst” is a landscape created when water dissolves rocks such as dolomite and some limestone. The rocks are dissolved along fractures to create sinkholes, caves and other conduits. Water moves readily through these openings carrying sediment, nutrients, pathogens and other pollutants directly into groundwater. These environments are prevalent within Northeast Wisconsin (see map) and many population centers lie within these zones. In several

cases, karst sinkholes and local groundwater resources are impacted (or will potentially be impacted) as urban development and stormwater infrastructure are constructed.

The workshop will provide planning and public works staff, consultants, stormwater engineers, and elected officials with background information on these issues, as well as current ‘best practices’ to be considered in these environments. A detailed program and agenda will be available and mailed to affected member communities and posted on East Central’s website: [www.ecwrpc.org](http://www.ecwrpc.org).



## Outagamie County New Park Needs Study Visioning Process Started

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Ad Hoc Committee met to begin the exploratory process in addressing the question of whether a new park is needed. Committee members went through visioning sessions and were asked questions such as:

- What was their favorite park and why?
- What contributes to the identity of the county?
- What would they like to see available funding spent on?

A variety of answers from National Parks, scenic areas, water features, another park, more trails, a campground, more conservation land, etc. were listed.

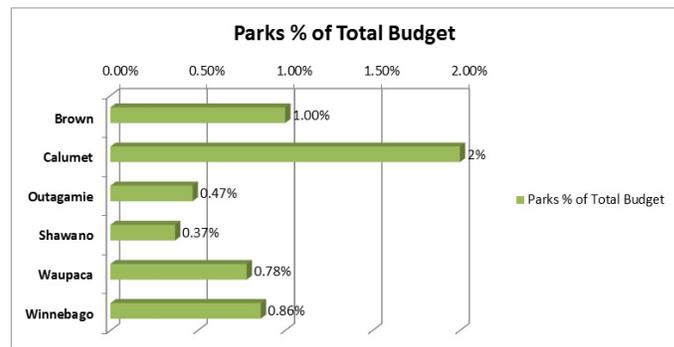
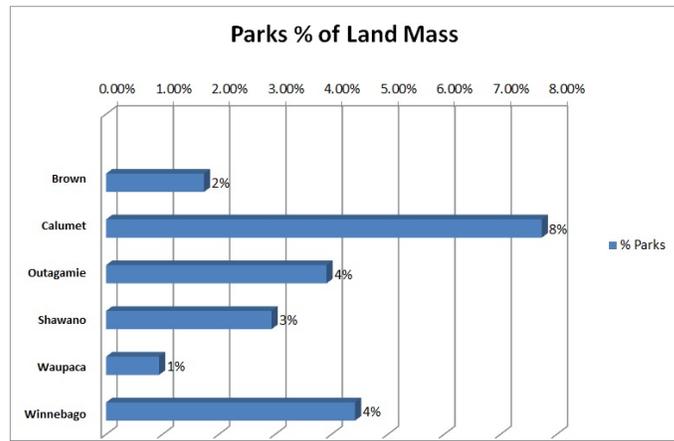
The committee members went on a tour of the county parks and facilities on July 30<sup>th</sup> to get a perspective of what the county has available to residents. During the tour, members were asked to write down comments/recommendations for each of the 14 points of interest visited. Information was gathered on improvements, great spaces, and future recommendations.

At the meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup>, the agenda included a discussion on comparison statistics from the surrounding counties of Brown, Calumet, Shawano, Waupaca, and Winnebago on population projections, land mass, park expenditures, and standards. In depth explanations of the needs analysis were presented. Below were some of the findings\*:

Future meetings will include public feedback sessions, best site location GIS analysis for a new park, economic value of parks as well as health significance, and alternate facilities such as trails. The final objective will be to create a three-part detailed report that will address need, best location siting, and financials of land

cost and value with final recommendations made to the County Board in early 2015.

For more information on the project visit the planning website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/outagamiecoparkneedsstudy/home> or contact Trish Nau, Principal Park and Recreation Planner, at [tnau@ecwrpc.org](mailto:tnau@ecwrpc.org) or (920) 751-4771.



\*Sources: County parks acres gathered from County Land Information GIS data. Percentage of parks total budgets taken from adopted 2014 county budget reports.



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## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**September 14-16** 2014 WCA Annual Conference, Wisconsin Dells, WI

**September 17, 10:00 a.m.** Community Facilities Committee Meeting, ECWRPC Offices

**October 6-7, 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.** Grant Writing Workshop in Green Bay, WI. Contact the Client Services Team at Grant Writing USA: 800-814-8191 or Lt. Dan Sandberg at the Brown County Sheriff's Office: (920) 448-6450 for additional information.

**October 8, 1:30 p.m.** Economic Development Committee Meeting, ECWRPC Offices

**October 9, 9:00 a.m.-3:00p.m.** Karst Areas and Stormwater Management Workshop, Liberty Hall in Kimberly, WI

**October 14, 1:30 p.m.** Transportation Committee Meeting, ECWRPC Offices

**October 15, 10:00 a.m.** Regional Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting, Location TBD

**October 26-28** 67th Annual Wisconsin Towns Association Convention, Stevens Point, WI

**October 31, 10:00 a.m.** Quarterly Commission Meeting in Wautoma, WI, Location TBD

**November 4-7** Wisconsin Parks and Recreation (WPR) 2014 Annual Conference, Chula Vista Resort and Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI

**November 5-7** APWA WI 2014 Fall Conference, Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan, WI

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