



RAPPORT

MEMBER COUNTIES

CALUMET
MENOMINEE
OUTAGAMIE
SHAWANO
WAUPACA
WAUSHARA
WINNEBAGO

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 2

FALL 2011

Farewell Kara and Angie!

The Commission regretfully acknowledges the recent departure of two staff during the late summer months: Ms. Kara Homan and Ms. Angie Cottrell.



Kara served as the Commission's Principal Economic Development Planner since April of 2007 and was responsible for our EDA funded Economic Development District (EDD) program. Kara's ambition and passion for her work led to many great accomplishments during her tenure, including an \$850,000 EDA grant for the City of Omro to be used for industrial park expansion; a \$438,000 EDA grant to the Fond du Lac County Economic Development Corporation for initiation of an 'economic gardening' program known as Impact!; as well as a \$1 million dollar CDBG grant for the City of Oshkosh's planned stormwater facilities which will alleviate some of the flooding that was experienced in 2008. Kara now works across the river from East Central serving as the Principal Planner in the Community Development Department for the City of Menasha.



Angie started as the Financial Specialist with the Commission in December, 2006. Her attention to detail, business-oriented mind-set, and desire to see the agency flourish resulted in her promotion to a newly created position, Controller. As a result of her dedication, numerous internal changes to our financial tracking, grant reporting, and billing procedures were made over the years. Angie always went the extra mile to ensure that the long-term needs of the agency were being met. Angie now works in the Green Bay area after taking advantage of a private-sector opportunity with a new start-up company.

In their relatively short five-year employment spans, each of these staff members made long-lasting marks on the Commission, and the region, with their dutiful and passionate service. The Commission wishes both Kara and Angie the best in their new career ventures.

Welcome Pam and Katherine!

The Commission is pleased to announce our two newest employees who replace the vacancies created by Kara and Angie.



Ms. Pam Scheibe-Johnson was hired as the Commission's Financial Specialist in late September of this year. Pam is a skillful veteran of the accounting world and brings with her ten years of experience working for the Building for Kids: Fox Cities Children's Museum. Her non-profit background and operational knowledge will undoubtedly serve the Commission well.



Ms. Katherine Ahlquist was hired in November to serve as the Commission's Economic Development Planner. Katherine's roots are in southern Michigan where she graduated from Michigan State University before pursuing employment in the planning field. Katherine gained useful, on-the-ground experience in urban planning, environmental planning and community development in places like Spartanburg, South Carolina before moving to the Fox Cities in the spring of 2011. Katherine will slowly be immersed into the Commission's EDA program and has the skill sets to take on a variety of projects in the coming years.

The Commission welcomes Pam and Katherine to our team and we hope that you find the time to introduce yourself to them in the near future.

Raith to Serve on TDA Board

At the September meeting of the Transportation Development Association (TDA), ECWRPC Assistant Director, Walt Raith was selected to serve on the organization's Board of Directors. Founded in 1971, the Transportation Development Association of Wisconsin is a statewide alliance committed to a strong, interconnected transportation network that will support a robust economy and enhance the quality of life for everyone in Wisconsin. TDA serves more than 400 members and is recognized for nonpartisan expertise, advocacy and leadership on transportation issues.

Southeast Fox Cities/WIS 441 Transportation Study Continues

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, being the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Fox Cities Urbanized Area, is continuing to study the WIS 441/CTH KK area of the Fox Cities with the help of the consultant HNTB. Due to recent traffic congestion and safety issues at interchanges with USH 10, CTH KK, and CTH CE, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is looking for short and long-term design options for these facilities.

The study will take into account data from recently adopted comprehensive plans from the communities within the study area. This will be done through an analysis of planned land uses and the construction of planned state, county, and local road facilities. Also, a look at the existing conditions in the area reveals that there are significant access issues, traffic operation deficiencies and crash histories at many intersections along the CTH CE and CTH KK corridors.

Currently, HNTB in coordination with ECWRPC, will continue to use their paramics traffic model to simulate existing and future traffic conditions and study long-term design options to improve traffic flow throughout the study area. The study recommendations for improvements to existing highways and interchanges are ongoing, and will be finalized in mid-2012.

For more information on this project you can contact Dave Moesch, Associate Transportation Planner, at (920) 751-4770



Traffic Sign Retroreflectivity Management Planning Completed

ECWRPC, as part of technical assistance, prepared a traffic sign inventory and 5-year management plan to meet the new MUTCD traffic sign retroreflectivity standards for the Town of Friendship in Fond du Lac County. The sign inventory was developed utilizing GIS and GPS to map and store attributes for each sign post. The end result is a geo-database that includes the entire Town of Friendship's approximately 210 post locations and 250 signs.

To view the Town of Friendship Traffic Sign Retroreflectivity Management Plan please visit ECWRPC's website at: <http://www.eastcentralrpc.org/planning/transportation.htm>

For more information on the MUTCD retroreflectivity requirements and sign management planning, please contact Nick Musson at (920) 751-4770, ext. 6819 or email at nmusson@eastcentralrpc.org.

Fox Cities and Oshkosh Urbanized Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to Begin

Recently, the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission was awarded a Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program (BFPF) grant to produce a bicycle and pedestrian plan for the Fox Cities and Oshkosh Urbanized Areas. Although there has been a multitude of municipal bicycle and pedestrian plans done throughout the tri-county area of Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago, there is not a current plan that focuses on the *regional* connectivity of bicycle and pedestrian networks throughout this study area. This plan will not only identify existing and planned facilities, but identify gaps, barriers, and needed connections to enhance a safe, accessible, and efficient *regional* bicycle and pedestrian network throughout and between the two urbanized areas. Connectivity with Valley Transit and Oshkosh Transit System buses, which include bicycle racks, will also be addressed. A Steering Committee is currently being developed to assist in guiding the planning process, which is anticipated to kick-off in early 2012 and conclude in late 2013. If you would like more information, please contact Jason Kakatsch, Principal Transportation Planner at jkakatsch@eastcentralrpc.org or (920) 751-4770.



2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Adopted

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Fox Cities and Oshkosh Urbanized Areas, 2012 - 2016 is now adopted. East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, being the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), is required under the federal transportation bill SAFETEA-LU, to prepare this document. The TIP is an annually prepared program of transportation projects that will be utilizing federal or state funding in their implementation. The listing includes highway, bridge, trail, safety, and transit capital and operating projects that have funding committed through the first four years of the program. Also included, are the funding recommendations for the Surface Transportation Program (STP-Urban) for the Appleton and Oshkosh urbanized areas.

In preparing this report, East Central has worked with WisDOT Northeast Region, transit operators, and local government jurisdictions to compile this listing of transportation projects for each urbanized area. Now that the document is adopted, the TIP will be forwarded to WisDOT for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Fox Cities and Oshkosh Urbanized Areas - 2012 can be viewed on the web at: <http://www.eastcentralrpc.org/AppletonMPO/index.htm> and <http://www.eastcentral-rpc.org/OshkoshMPO/index.htm>

Outagamie CTH JJ Corridor Pedestrian/Bicycle Study Update Road Safety Audit

East Central is in the process of studying the CTH JJ Corridor to address the growing concern over pedestrian and bike safety. The CTH JJ Corridor (CTH A to STH 55) is located in Outagamie County at the northern fringe of the Fox Cities.

A Road Safety Audit (RSA) took place September 26 and 27, 2011, to evaluate the entire corridor for safety deficiencies. The RSA was a collaborative effort between Outagamie County Highway Department, Planning Department, Sheriff's Department; the City of Appleton; Town of Grand Chute; Fox Cities Greenways; North STARS; East Central; Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). As part of FHWA's Peer to Peer Program, FHWA paid for Gene Calvert, Principal Project Manager of Traffic Operations from Collier County, Florida, to travel to Appleton and assist in the RSA process.



RSA Team Evaluating Waterford and CTH JJ Intersection

The RSA team consisted of a County engineer, WisDOT traffic engineer, police officer, trail advocate and Safe Routes To School planners. The RSA involved an in-depth performance examination of existing roadway and intersections by the audit

team to identify potential road safety issues and suggest opportunities for improvements in safety for all road users. A public meeting will be scheduled shortly to review the RSA report and to solicit comments.

For more information on the CTH JJ Corridor Study or RSAs, please contact Nick Musson at (920)751-4770, ext. 6819 or email at nmusson@eastcentralrpc.org



Gene Calvert evaluating an intersection warning sign

Calumet County Receives Foth's 2011 Good Government Award

The Commission would like to congratulate Calumet County as the recipient of the 2011 "Good Government Award" sponsored by Foth, a statewide consulting firm. The County received the award in recognition for its efforts in reducing costs and improving services.

Calumet County's focus on employee health has stabilized its health insurance costs and serves as a model for proactive employee wellness. The County's implementation of a High-Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) paired with a Health Savings Account (HSA) has worked well to accomplish goals for all parties. Progressive changes such as this have placed the County in an enviable position when compared to other entities.

You may remember that, in 2007, that ECWRPC received the same award for its innovative regional program to administer the State's NR-135 Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation requirements.

Federal Transit Administration Grants Awarded for Local Transit Improvements

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently awarded \$929 million in transit grants to more than 300 transportation projects across the nation. The grant funds are derived from the 2011 Alternative Analysis, Bus Livability and State of Good Repair programs. Of the grants awarded in Wisconsin, two landed in East Central's region, including: a \$578,730 award for the City of Fond du Lac for bus replacement, and; a \$220,800 grant to the City of Appleton (Valley Transit) to replace bus shelters, bus parts, support vehicles and ADA facility improvements. These improvements will enhance their respective systems and are necessary to keep transit as a viable transportation alternative.

2011 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Adopted

On October 28th, 2011, the Commission took formal action to adopt the 2011 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region. East Central serves as a designated Economic Development District (EDD) for the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) and receives a three year planning grant to assist in the development of this plan, as well as other economic development activities. The report, which contains a wealth of socioeconomic data and analysis, also contains a listing of community and county level economic development projects which are potentially eligible for funding assistance. The 2011 edition is the third of four supplements to the 2008 CEDS 5-year update. Copies of the CEDS Summary Report were distributed to each county board within the region and are also available for viewing on the Commission's website at www.eastcentralrpc.org.

Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway Action Plan concept adopted by Commission!



The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway (FWHP) Action Plan concept was adopted by East Central at the October 2011 Quarterly Commission meeting. The Action Plan focuses on the development of the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway through the review of goals identified in previous FWHP planning efforts and breaking them down into manageable objectives and actions. New goals have also been identified based on visioning session comments, FWHP volunteer recommendations, and meetings with communities and organizations along the FWHP. The implementation of the Action Plan will be overseen by the FWHP Non-Profit Board.

Previous to full Commission adoption, the Action Plan concept was adopted by the FWHP Non-Profit Board and the East Central Open Space and Environmental Management Committee. For more information please contact Tom Baron, Planner at tbaron@eastcentralrpc.org or 920.751.4770 x 6823.

NE Wisconsin Global Trade Strategy

In partnership with Bay Lake RPC, and Newmark Knight Frank (NKF, economic consultant) East Central continues work on the Northeast Wisconsin Global Trade Strategy. This project focuses on how Northeast Wisconsin can leverage our core assets and overcome weaknesses to increase exporting capabilities to key foreign markets.

East Central's current work involves the administration of a business survey to determine current and potential exporting along with identifying hurdles to exporting in the Northeast Wisconsin region. Additionally, East Central is in the process of determining organizational capacity in the region to develop recommendations for greater success in exporting. NKF's, the project's economic consultant, current work has focused on identifying and analyzing certain manufacturing business groups that their research has indicated has strong export potential. The goal of the project is to create a Strategic Implementation Plan to enhance Global Trade competitiveness for the Northeast Wisconsin region.

This project is funded, in part, by a grant from the US Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration. For more information please contact Tom Baron, Planner at tbaron@eastcentralrpc.org or 920.751.4770 x 6823.



re:TH!NK Winnebago County develops review for Comprehensive Plans



The Healthy Recreational Opportunities (HRO) committee of the Winnebago County re:TH!NK program has developed a review process for local Comprehensive Plans. The review focuses on how communities connect the Comprehensive Plan with human health. Many of these connections focus on land use and transportation planning. The review is advisory and seeks to identify opportunities for education related to planning for human health. The committee is now refining the review process document and applying it to comprehensive plans within Winnebago County.

For more information please contact Tom Baron, Planner at tbaron@eastcentralrpc.org or 920.751.4770 x 6823.

Shawano County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Approved

The Shawano County Board approved the final Shawano County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan document at their regular meeting in September, 2011. Subsequently, the formal approval of the plan was received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in early November, 2011. The East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission assisted Shawano County in the preparation of this plan under a contractual agreement which utilized grant funding from the Wisconsin Emergency Management department. The All-Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies various levels of risk for natural disasters within the County and provides recommendations and guidance on various tasks, activities, and projects that can serve to proactively mitigate damages or injury should future events occur. The adoption of this plan also makes the County and its communities eligible for Disaster Mitigation Grant Funding to pursue a variety of projects noted in the plan. For more information on this project please contact Eric Fowle at 920-751-4770 or via e-mail at efowle@eastcentralrpc.org

NEW Wilderness Alliance Launches Website

NEW Wilderness Alliance (NEWWA) is launching its new website: www.newwildernessalliance.org. Formed in 2010 and Chaired by Paul Linzmeyer, the NEW Wilderness Alliance, is a large-scale collaborative approach to optimizing the quality of life for all people, plants and animals that live in Northeastern Wisconsin. More information on their efforts can be found at www.newwildernessalliance.org.

DATCP Seeking New Agricultural Enterprise Areas in the State

Now is the time for local governments and farmers interested in protecting their agricultural land base and strengthening their rural economy to apply for the 2012 Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) designation. Receiving designation as an AEA can encourage additional investment in the local economy; create a sense of certainty about the future of agriculture in the community, and enable farmers to claim an income tax credit for eligible land. "Establishment of AEAs is an approach to create an area of land that not only supports agricultural production, but that also supports agricultural service and processing sectors," said Ben Brancel, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. "We need a balance between all of these sectors to ensure a successful agricultural industry."

The department's goal is to designate 250,000 additional acres throughout Wisconsin as agricultural enterprise areas as part of the 2012 petition cycle. To date, 17 areas totaling 340,000 acres have been designated as AEAs. The state has the authority to designate up to 1,000,000 acres total. Farmers and local governments jointly develop a petition for an AEA. More than 400 landowners, 14 counties and 39 towns worked together to develop the 17 petitions that were selected in 2010 and 2011. Go to datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Working_Lands_Initiative/AEA/index.aspx to learn more about the designated AEAs in Wisconsin and to use the new interactive map of the areas.

The AEA petition materials are available online at: <http://workinglands.wi.gov>, then click on the link to Agricultural Enterprise Areas. Applicants should use the materials for 2012 as there are changes from last year. Petitions must be postmarked by March 30, 2012. Communities in Northeastern Wisconsin can attend a free workshop in Oshkosh on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012 at the J.P. Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Road Y. Registration for this, and other sites, is available online at https://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/confreg/AEAworksh_ops.jsp or call AEA Program Manager Coreen Fallat at (608) 224-4625.

UW-Extension Offering Renewable Energy Capital Project Workshops

Facing significant waste-water treatment system upgrades? Looking at methods of controlling energy costs over the next 10, 15 or 20 years? Exploring options for industrial recruitment for energy intense businesses or firms with strong sustainability missions? Interested in ways to convert organic wastes, municipal construction, demolition or forestry materials into useable fuels?

The University of Wisconsin-Extension is announcing a series of workshops specifically designed to help municipal leaders and professionals evaluate their community's potential for renewable energy capital projects. These workshops, scheduled across Wisconsin during the early

part of December, will focus on providing local leaders improved capacity to evaluate their municipality's assets and circumstances to justify a more thorough investigation of local energy project initiatives, both electrical and thermal generation.

Renewable energy generation projects, especially those utilizing regional biomass resources, can provide communities with multiple benefits. Not only are energy dollars staying closer to home, but increased investment provides both employment opportunities and a strengthened tax base. However, these often complex and capital intensive projects require careful consideration of all of the elements found in a successful energy project.

In today's economic environment, public/private partnerships are often the key to successful pursuit of sustainable energy projects. The UW-Extension regional workshops will address the process of evaluating a community's "puzzle-pieces", describe the various elements of a successful energy project, and help prepare municipal officials to guide a project from concept to operation. Participants in the regional workshops will then have the opportunity to continue building upon their capabilities through two additional programs provided by UW-Extension and UW-Madison's Engineering Professional Development program in early 2012.

Two regional workshops are being held within East Central's area. One on December 8, 2011 in the City of Shawano at the Shawano Lake Park Pavilion, and one on December 13, 2011 in the City of Fond du Lac at UW-Fond du Lac. To register, please contact Angela Chopp at angela.chopp@ces.uwex.edu.

For more information on the event itself, please contact: Jay Moynihan, Shawano County UW-Extension at jay.moynihan@ces.uwex.edu.

2030 Freedom Sewer Service Area Plan Adopted

The 2030 Freedom Sewer Service Area Plan update made its final journey through the approval process during the summer months in 2011 after experiencing delays in 2009. In June, 2011 final drafts of the plan, including mapping updates, data tables and document preparation were completed. This gave way to local plan approval by the Freedom Sanitary District followed by a recommendation to approve and ultimate approval by the Freedom Plan Commission and Freedom Town Board, respectively, in late June, 2011. Finally, July, 2011 brought an end to the local process with completion of a Public hearing.

At the Commission level the Community Facilities Committee acted on Resolution 19-11 approving the updated 2030 Freedom SSA Plan on September 14, 2011. Based on this action, Resolution 19-11 was presented to the full Commission at its October 28, 2011 quarterly meeting and it was unanimously approved. These series of approvals now sets the stage for submittal to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for their certification. East Central expects the WDNR to provide its certification by year's end. For more information contact Joe Huffman at jhuffman@eastcentralrpc.org



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UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- ♦ **December 5, 2011**, 1:00 P.M., *Steering Committee Meeting*, ECWRPC Offices
 - ♦ **December 8, 2011**, *Renewable Energy Capitol Project Workshop*, Shawano Lake Park Pavilion, Shawano. For more information contact Jay Moynihan at jay.moynihan@ces.uwex.edu. To register contact angela.chopp@ces.uwex.edu. (See article on page 5)
 - ♦ **December 13, 2011**, *Renewable Energy Capitol Project Workshop*, UW-Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac. For more information contact Jay Moynihan at jay.moynihan@ces.uwex.edu. To register contact angela.chopp@ces.uwex.edu. (See article on page 5)
 - ♦ **December 19, 2011**, 1:00 P.M., *Steering Committee Meeting*, ECWRPC Offices
 - ♦ **December 14, 2011**, 1:00 P.M., *Community Facilities Meeting*, Grand Chute Town Hall
 - ♦ **January 10, 2012**, 1:30 P.M., *Transportation Committee Meeting*, ECWRPC Offices
 - ♦ **January 11, 2012**, 1:30 P.M., *Open Space and Environmental Management Committee Meeting*, ECWRPC Offices
 - ♦ **January 11, 2012**, 3:00 P.M., *Economic Development Committee Meeting*, ECWRPC Offices
 - ♦ **January 11, 2012**, 3:00 P.M., *Economic Development Committee Meeting*, ECWRPC Offices
 - ♦ **January 19, 2012**, 10:00 A.M., *Agricultural Enterprise Area Workshop*, J.P. Coughlin Center, Oshkosh. Register at <https://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/confreg/AEAworkshops.jsp> or call Coreen Fallat, AEA Program Manager at (608) 224-625. (See article on page 5)
 - ♦ **January 27, 2012**, 10:00 A.M., ECWRPC Quarterly Meeting, ECWRPC Offices
- 2011-2012 WisLine Teleconference Series*:**
- ♦ **December 7, 2011**, 10:30 A.M., *Sand and Other Non-Metallic Mining: Issues and Regulations*
 - ♦ **December 21, 2011**, 10:30 A.M., Plan Commission and BOA members as Local Officials
 - ♦ **January 11, 2012**, 10:30 A.M., *Using and Amending your Comprehensive Plan*
 - ♦ **February 8, 2012**, 10:30 A.M., *State Land Use Programs Updates*
 - ♦ **February 15-17, 2012**, *Wisconsin Land Information Association Annual Conference*, Holiday Inn, Stevens Point. Please visit <http://www.wlia.org/displayconvention.cfm>

*For more information and more dates for WisLine events visit:
<http://lcgr.uwex/WisLines/AllAboutWisLines.html>

Check our website for additional upcoming meetings and events at: <http://www.eastcentralrpc.org>