



RAPPORT

MEMBER COUNTIES

CALUMET
MENOMINEE
OUTAGAMIE
SHAWANO
WAUPACA
WAUSHARA
WINNEBAGO

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 3

WINTER 2011

Commission Celebrates 40 Years of Fostering Regional Collaboration!

Forty years ago, on June 29, 1972 the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission was created under Governor Patrick J. Lucey's Executive Order No. 41. Wisconsin counties recognized the need for collaboration across their boundaries and petitioned for the creation of Regional Planning Commissions (RPC). Since that time, the Commission has provided invaluable regional and local planning services to its member counties, communities, special districts, community groups, citizens, and often to the State of Wisconsin itself. The Commission has played a vital role in maintaining and improving both the quality of life and the economy within our diverse Region.

In tribute to the Commission's achievements over the past four decades, we will be sharing - through various means - some of our biggest 'success stories', as well as information on some of the upcoming challenges that the Region will face in years to come. As 2012 progresses look for: 1) a special Fall publication which documents the Commission's critical role in planning; 2) special articles in this, our quarterly newsletter; 3) a new set of free and interactive educational workshops (similar to our past 'mini-conference' events), and; 4) a formal report on our progress in implementing and monitoring the *Year 2030 Regional Comprehensive Plan* which was adopted in 2008.

Lastly, the Commissioners and its staff wish to thank those individuals and agencies that have supported us, engaged with us, and trusted us, and we especially thank those that have challenged us to show the value in our day-to-day planning work. We look forward to the next forty years of serving the planning needs of local and state government by providing a forum for continued collaboration.

Final 2012 Budget & Work Program Adopted by Commission

The final 2012 Budget and Work Program was adopted by the Commission at its January 27, 2012 Quarterly Meeting. The updated document contains a detailed listing of program areas and specific projects, as well as the expected revenues and expenditures associated with FY 2012. The document amends and replaces the July, 2011 preliminary budget which was developed and approved for the sole purpose of establishing the 2012 tax levy.

Highlights of the 2012 Budget include a reduction in federal grants of -4.9 percent, but is more than offset by an increase of 32.5 percent in State funding sources. In summary, the Commission's projected revenues total \$2.239 million for 2012. Only 31 percent of these revenues are derived from the 2012 charges levied to our member units of government, the same as 2011. However, it should be noted that the 2012 levy amount was decreased for the fourth year in a row and was lowered by 5.53 percent from its 2011 level. This puts the Commission's levy down to the levels it was at in 2000, over ten years ago. Meanwhile expenditures are expected to decrease slightly, from \$2.269 million in 2011 to \$2.184 million in 2012. A copy of the 2012 Work Program and Budget is available for review on the Commission's website at www.eastcentralrpc.org.

Diversity in Planning Workshop Scheduled for April 27th

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the East Central region is becoming more culturally diverse. While whites continue to dominate the composition of the region, the share of non-white residents has been slowly increasing. Between 2000 and 2010, the portion of whites in the region decreased from 94.6 percent of the population to 92.4 percent. While this decrease does not seem large, between 2000 and 2010, more than half of the total gains in population in Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Menominee, Shawano and Waupaca occurred within the non-white segment of the population. Traditionally, individuals from minority and ethnic groups and low income households, have experienced barriers to participation in the public decision making process. This workshop is designed to give community leaders and planners the knowledge and skills to engage people from diverse cultures in local planning efforts and to identify barriers that preclude diverse populations from participating. This free workshop is being planned for the morning of Friday April 27, 2012 at Bridgewood Resort in Neenah. Please watch for a future mailing or check the East Central website for more information. Questions can be directed to Kathy Thunes at (920) 751-4770 or email Kathy at kthunes@eastcentralrpc.org.

2012 Technical Assistance Project Awards Approved

In the fall of 2011, the Commission solicited member units of government (counties, towns, villages, and cities) for potential 2012 Technical Assistance Projects. A total of 32 project requests were received and ranked by staff for review by our Steering Committee and in December, 2011 thirty-one of the projects were selected for assistance as listed in the table below.

These new projects will be initiated during the course of 2012 while work continues on approximately 10 additional local projects which are still in progress from the pool of projects selected in 2011.

If you did not request a project, or for some reason, your request failed to make the selection process, please be aware that Commission staff can still provide your community with additional limited assistance throughout the year in the areas of transportation, economic development, demographic data services, and sewer service planning. These programs areas are funded separately from the Technical Assistance Program, and therefore limited staff time can be used on an 'as needed' basis throughout the year.

If your community has additional needs throughout the year in these areas, please call the appropriate staff person, or Eric Fowle, Executive Director at (920) 751-4770 to discuss them in more detail.

And lastly, remember that our staff is always available for quick phone calls or e-mail questions from member communities regarding planning related issues, guidance, and directing you to the resources you need.

2012 Approved Technical Assistance Projects

County	Entity	Project Description
Calumet	Calumet County	441 Area Regional Park Planning
Calumet	The City of New Holstein	2012 Urban Forestry Grant Implementation (Civic Park)
Menominee	The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	Demographic Information for Land Use Plan / Long-Range Transportation Plan
Outagamie	The Town of Greenville	Conduct Comprehensive Plan Annual Review Process
Outagamie	The Village of Hortonville	Transportation - Official Map Development
Outagamie	The Village of Hortonville	WIOUWASH Trail Connection(s) through Village
Outagamie	The Town of Buchanan	Park & Open Space Plan Update
Outagamie	The Town of Buchanan	Economic Development Strategy / Analysis
Outagamie	The Village of Black Creek	Demographic / Marketing Profile
Outagamie	The Village of Hortonville	Hortonville Business Park Mapping / Marketing Materials
Outagamie	The Town of Greenville	Development of Purchase & Transfer of Development Rights Program
Shawano	Shawano County	Conduct Comprehensive Plan Annual Review Process
Waupaca	The City of Manawa	Village-Wide Bike / Pedestrian Trail Planning
Waupaca	The City of Clintonville	Park & Open Space Plan Update
Waupaca	Waupaca County	Waupaca Area Communities Economic Analysis (ESRI Business Analyst)
Waupaca	Waupaca County	2010 Census Data Development for Comprehensive Plan Update
Waupaca	The City of Waupaca	Update of Stormwater Ordinance based on WDNR Model Ordinance)
Waupaca	The City of Waupaca	Simplification of Comprehensive Plan "Preferred Land Use Map"
Waupaca	The City of Waupaca	Elimination of "Split-Parcels" on Zoning Map
Waupaca	The Town of Caledonia	Codification of Existing Land Development Ordinances
Waushara	Waushara County	Town Future Land Use Map Amendments
Waushara	Waushara County	Waushara County Food Connections Project
Waushara	Waushara County	Waushara County Land Use Committee
Waushara	The Town of Rose	Review of Draft Lighting Ordinance
Waushara	The City of Berlin	On-Site GIS Capacity Training
Winnebago	The Town of Black Wolf	Sign Inventory / Retroreflectivity Management Plan
Winnebago	The Town of Vinland	Sign Inventory / Retroreflectivity Management Plan
Winnebago	Winnebago County	Park & Open Space Plan Update
Winnebago	The Town of Menasha	Comprehensive Plan Update - Demographic Data
Winnebago	The Town of Menasha	Sustainability Zoning Overlay District
Winnebago	Winnebago County	Zoning Ordinance Administration for Extraction Activities

GIS Staff honored at the 2012 WLIA Annual Conference



The Wisconsin Land Information Conference was held in Stevens Point this year. As part of the conference, an awards ceremony luncheon honored individuals and groups that have worked hard to keep Wisconsin's land records program moving forward.

ECWRPC's GIS staff was recognized for their hard work and contributions to the State in land records. The Commission received an award in the Outstanding Contribution category. This award is usually given to an individual or an organization that is a WLIA member and has made a substantial contribution to WLIA activities or the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP).

East Central's GIS department contributed through its involvement in key state-wide initiatives such as the Wisconsin Regional Ortho-photography Consortium (WROC) program; organization and distribution of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) grants for its regional Counties, (those county-area aerials located within sections of the Urban Areas Program through the USGS); serving on the Wisconsin Geographic Information Coordination Council (WIGICC); its role and involvement in economic development by preparing various community profile documentation using the ESRI Business Analyst extension; and serving as professional liaisons to local GIS user groups, i.e. (Fox Valley GIS User Group, FVGISUG) and County Land Information Councils.



Individual Honors were also given to Ms. Trish Nau, GIS Coordinator, and Mr. Michael Zuege, GIS Planning Specialist II, for their entries into the annual poster contest. Ms. Nau placed first in the small map category for her entry in the mapping of the Waushara County Ice Age Trail alternative routes, and Mr. Zuege earned a second place ribbon for his efforts in producing an atlas book for the Town of Friendship sign inventory.



Ms. Nau will also serve a 2-year term on the WLIA Board of Directors for 2012-2014 being nominated by her peers. She will continue to support the Wisconsin Land Information Association by assisting in land record activities. Congratulation goes out to all of ECWRPC's GIS staff on

their hard-work and dedication.



NE Wisconsin Global Trade Strategy Update



In partnership with Bay Lake RPC, and Newmark Knight Frank (NKF, economic consultant) East Central is working on the final stage of 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 preparation of the final report for the project. This final report is based on the research, interviews, and surveys completed by the core planning team and will include a strategic implementation plan to enhance Global Trade competitiveness for the Northeast Wisconsin region. The project's core planning team includes economic consultant Paul Hampton from Newmark Knight Frank, Rich Heath from Bay Lake Regional Planning Commission, and Dave Thiel from the Waupaca County Economic Development Corporation. The core planning team will be presenting the Northeast Wisconsin Global Trade Strategy project at the WI APA annual conference in Oshkosh on March 1, 2012 as one component of the project's outreach plan.

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, Associate Planner at tbaron@eastcentralrpc.org or (920) 751-4770.

City of Waupaca Interim Planning Services



East Central and the City of Waupaca have recently renewed a contract to provide planning services to the city until fall 2012. The contract received Commission approval at the January Quarterly meeting. Provisions in the contract include East Central providing two days of planning services per month to staff the city's Plan Commission and to complete a list of projects developed by the city and East Central.

East Central started providing staffing services to the City in 2009 with the departure of their Community Development Director. Each year the contract has been modified to accommodate changes in planning services needed and budget conditions. For more information please contact Tom Baron, Associate Planner at tbaron@eastcentralrpc.org or (920) 751-4770.

Verboomen to Serve as Liaison to Lake Michigan Forum Executive Committee

East Central's Todd Verboomen was recently selected to be a Watershed Academy Liaison to the Lake Michigan Forum Executive Committee.

East Central's region is often overlooked because it is not considered a coastal region; however East Central's watersheds encompass 4,173.01 square miles (over 25%) of Wisconsin's 14,200 square mile Lake Michigan Basin.¹

Taking an active role on this committee will provide opportunities to have our region recognized as an important water quality and quantity contributor to Lake Michigan.

The Lower Green Bay and Fox River Area of Concern (AOC) is considered a priority AOC which means a great deal of attention will be given to eleven beneficial use impairments (BUIs).² As clean up continues to move forward on the Lower Fox the upper watershed including Lake Winnebago and the Fox-Wolf watershed will also be targeted and managed for better downstream water quality. Better land use management, agricultural practices, and stormwater management within the Fox-Wolf Watershed will help the Lower Green Bay and Fox River AOC meet the BUI goals and in the long-term discharge better water quality into the bay of Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

¹ ECWRPC 2010, USGS Water Resources NSDI Node, 1:250,00-scale Hydrologic Units of the United States

² <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/greatlakes/priorities/greenbay.htm>



Source: WDNR
http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/greatlakes/discover/drainage_basins_map.pdf

Baron and Pfefferle Receive Staff Promotions

The Commission recently announced two staff promotions within the agency to recognize outstanding work ethic and leadership.



Tom Baron was promoted to Associate Planner to acknowledge his increased role and responsibility associated with the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway (FWHP) planning activities. Tom, who has been working for the Commission since 2008 has also taken on a number of staff assistance projects with the City of Waupaca and has now assumed some of the projects, such as the EDA Global Trade Strategy, that were left when our economic development planner departed last year. Tom continues to serve the Commission and its constituents well and gets involved enthusiastically with new/emerging issues at the community and regional level.



Adam Pfefferle, was promoted to GIS Specialist II in light of his increased roles in providing GIS support for the Commission's Economic Development Program, as well as his past/future work with the Niagara Escarpment Management Program. Adam has been employed by the Commission since 2001 and has forged ahead in the development and use of ESRI's Business Analyst software package to assist communities, counties, and the region in assessing business assets and opportunities. Adam's role will continue to increase in this program area and his continued efforts will enhance his already polished GIS skill-sets.

The Commission appreciates the hard work and dedication of Tom and Adam in their respective fields. Be sure to congratulate them next time your paths cross!

Kraemer Badtke Selected to Serve on Fox Cities Greenways Board



At the Fox Cities Greenways Annual Meeting in January, Melissa Kraemer Badtke, East Central's Regional Safe Routes to School Coordinator, was selected to serve on the Fox Cities Greenways Board. The Fox Cities Greenways was established in 1995 with the mission to foster the development and preservation of trails and greenways in the Greater Fox Cities Region. For more information on the Fox Cities Greenways Organization, visit their website <http://www.focol.org/greenways/>

Omro Middle School Receives the 2011 James L. Oberstar Safe Routes to School Award

The Omro Middle School was honored at the national level on Thursday, February 23, 2012 for their excellence in creating a bicycling culture for students in a rural community in northeastern Wisconsin. Lauren Marchetti, Director of the National Center for Safe Routes to School and Congressman Tom Petri presented Omro Middle School with the 2011 James L. Oberstar Safe Routes to School Award. This national honor is given each year to recognize an exemplary Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program for outstanding achievement in promoting safe walking and bicycling to school. Renee Callaway, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation SRTS Coordinator and Kevin Hardman, the Executive Director of the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin were also in attendance and spoke of the importance of SRTS programs in Wisconsin.

Omro Middle School staff and faculty believe that the common bicycle can play a major part in the development of healthy individuals, communities, and environment. All students, regardless of the travel mode they use to get to/from school, are exposed to a wide variety of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) education and encouragement activities. The Omro Middle School SRTS Program has received federal funding through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the National Center for SRTS to develop creative SRTS activities and improve safety for all students attending Omro Middle School. Federal funds from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation will help to expand their Bike Shoppe and Young Mechanics Program. Their Bike Shoppe and Youth Mechanics Program is just one of the many excellent examples that could serve as a model across Wisconsin and the nation to provide technical career skills and healthy lifestyle opportunities.

Omro Middle School currently has a bicycle fleet that is maintained by "young mechanics" (high school and middle school students) in a fully tooled Bike Shoppe. Students are able to utilize the fleet of over 35 bicycles during physical education classes, noon lunch hour and special events and trips. The "Young Mechanics" Program provides students the opportunity to work on bicycles after school, during noon recess and study hall with teacher approval. Mechanics are able to work on their own bicycles, bicycles in the "Bike Fleet", or perform tune-ups on bicycles brought in by the general public. "Bike Bucks" are paid to "Young Mechanics" that can be redeemed for new parts, tires, and even sale bikes.

Congratulations to Omro Middle School on this tremendous accomplishment!

CTH JJ Corridor Study Recommendations

ECWRPC, as part of its technical assistance program to assist local communities, has been studying the CTH JJ Corridor from CTH A to STH 55 in Outagamie County for the past year to develop recommendations to improve the safety of bicycle and pedestrians along the corridor. The bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns stem from the high school students, neighborhood kids and recreationists who want access to this integral connection to area parks, schools, trails and businesses without relying on an automobile.

The study included a Road Safety Audit (RSA) analysis and a Travel Demand Model (TDM) analysis, which were both used to formulate the recommendations for the corridor for the next 20 years. A RSA is a formal safety performance examination of an existing road or intersection by an independent audit team that attempts to identify safety concerns and identify opportunities to eliminate or mitigate those issues. A Travel Demand Model (TDM) is used to evaluate a transportation system and predict future traffic demands. Both methods allowed us to evaluate the corridor's current condition and potential future traffic demand.

Major Recommendations included: a 10 foot-wide, year round, multi-modal path to be constructed in 3 phases; that the entire corridor be "complete streets" compatible by the end of 20 years; and to either re-route Appleton North High School's exit/entrance on to CTH JJ to Lighting Drive or to restrict left turns exiting the school with a median. Further details on the recommendations will be available shortly at a link on ECWRPC's website at: <http://www.eastcentralrpc.org/JJCorridor/index.html>. Recommendations were presented at a public information meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at the Girls Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes Center in Appleton. The public turnout at the information meeting was very encouraging considering it was during a snow-storm; there was total of 65 people with a number of them submitting written comments. For more information contact Nick Musson at (920) 751-4770.

2030 Freedom SSA Plan Approval

The Commission adopted the *2030 Freedom Sewer Service Area Plan* at its October, 2011 Quarterly Commission meeting clearing the way for this community's third plan update since 1985. In the subsequent weeks, two draft revisions of the planning document including several mapping exhibits were submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Certification of the *2030 Freedom Sewer Service Area Plan* was received from the WDNR on January 25, 2012. Final production of the plan document is currently underway with hardcopies to be delivered to affected parties by the end of February, 2012. In addition, the *2030 Freedom Sewer Service Area Plan* may be viewed on East Central's webpage by following the link <http://www.east-centralrpc.org/planning/community%20facilities/ssa.htm> or by contacting Joe Huffman at (920) 751-4770.



Commission to Assist Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin in Planning Effort

East Central has contracted with the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (MITW) to prepare two planning documents; a Long Range Transportation Plan and Land Use Plan. These plans will be used to build and document the consensus of the Menominee Indian Community for the future use and priorities for the Tribal Lands. Funding for this project was obtained through a HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant which was awarded to NiiJii Enterprises. Work has already begun on this joint planning effort, which began with the development of a public participation plan that is considered to be a key component in the planning process. It is anticipated that the planning portion of the project will be completed by December 31, 2012. For more information about this project contact Kathy Thunes at kthunes@eastcentralrpc.org or Nick Musson at nmusson@eastcentralrpc.org or call (920) 751-4770.

Commission Receives Preferred Sustainability Status (PSS)

The Preferred Sustainability Status (PPS) designation was again granted to the Commission by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This designation is granted to regions that HUD feels are taking extraordinary steps toward strategic planning and the development of regional plans that are aligned with the federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities Livability Principles. This designation specifically will benefit four of our counties: Calumet, Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Winnebago and the municipalities and other entities within those counties. Benefits will include several technical assistance opportunities that will help to advance sustainable planning and development within the East Central region. Additionally, in FY2012, HUD will award two bonus points to grant applicants (includes counties, municipalities and other entities) applying for grants that utilize HUD discretionary funding. It is anticipated that other federal agencies that are partnering with HUD, will also be unveiling their own plans to recognize PSS status this year. If you have any questions or would like to be included on an email list to receive additional updates, as we receive them from HUD, please contact Kathy Thunes at (920) 751-4770 or email her at kthunes@eastcentralrpc.org.

Register ASAP for March 1st Statewide Planning Conference in Oshkosh!

The Commission is pleased to be a sponsor of, and participant in, the annual American Planning Association - Wisconsin Chapter (APA-WI) Conference being held in downtown Oshkosh on Thursday, March 1, 2012. This one day event is a valuable source of current information for the State's planning practitioners, including local Plan Commissioners. Find the agenda and registration materials at www.wisconsinplanners.org.

City of New Holstein Awarded 2012 WDNR Urban Forestry Grant

In late 2011, East Central staff assisted the City of New Holstein in the preparation of a WDNR Urban Forestry Grant application. Subsequently, the City was awarded the \$1,986 matching grant in January, 2012. While the grant dollar amount is somewhat small, the importance of the project that it will fund will have lasting impacts on the City. The monies will be utilized to hire a tree consultant to evaluate the condition of the many mature trees in Civic Park, a major gathering area for City residents. The goal of the project is to identify recommendations which will help to preserve and manage the canopy (and shading effect) of the park's stand of 100+ year old trees. Figuring out how and where to plant new trees will also be addressed. A GIS inventory of the park's trees has already been completed by Calumet County's GIS staff and will be updated/append once the consultant's work is done.

The project also includes an analysis of tree canopy coverage throughout the entire City which is being prepared by the Commission using NAIP infrared photography and GIS. The amount of tree canopy covering the City's various land uses will be identified and used by the Tree Committee to establish goals for future canopy targets. Preliminary information already shows that over 15% of the City is covered with canopy. This tree canopy provides significant 'ecological services' ranging from cooling (nature's air conditioning), stormwater uptake, air pollution removal and even habitat.

Lastly, information generated through both of these projects will be included in a user friendly display that will be posted in various locations around the City in order to build awareness amongst residents on the importance of urban trees. The Tree Committee will also be hosting short "tree walks" during the annual Fireman's Picnic - held at Civic Park in early July - to give interested residents an 'on the ground' perspective of the work being done under this grant.

If you have questions regarding this project, or how East Central is assisting the City, please contact Eric Fowle, Executive Director at (920) 751-4770.

ESRI Business Analyst Services Available



The Commission will begin taking limited requests from communities looking to boost economic development strategies.

With the addition of Esri's Business Analyst extension, East Central can visually show demographic and economic details within a given area. Gaining access to location, demographic, trade area, and drive time data can help communities and businesses make better decisions to boost local economies. For more information on possible services please contact East Central's Economic Development Planner, Katherine Ahlquist or GIS Specialist, Adam Pfefferle at (920) 751-4770.

Town of Greenville Adopts Land Stewardship Strategy

In early 2011, the Town of Greenville Board appointed an ad hoc Land Stewardship Committee to further evaluate the Town Comprehensive Plan recommendations pertaining to the conservation and protection of its vast natural and agricultural resources. The ad hoc Committee, working with East Central RPC and Outagamie County UW-Extension staff, completed its work in late 2011 and prepared a short report entitled Town of Greenville Land Stewardship Strategy. (See full report on the homepage of www.eastcentralrpc.org).

This report, which details the aspirations of the Committee and sets a direction for the continued advancement and discussion of numerous strategies which can be developed and used by the Town, was approved by the Town Board in early 2012. The Land Stewardship Strategy effectively represents the beginning of a long-term commitment by the Town to proactively address the needs and ideals of its residents by focusing on five (5) distinct areas for further action:

1. *Natural Resource Protection* - Ensuring permanent protection of the Town's most valuable natural resources in order to preserve their natural function, protect wildlife, and enhance rural character.
2. *Agricultural Land Protection & Management* - Identify and permanently protect the most valuable agricultural lands within the Town.
3. *Rural Economic Development* - This component answers the basic questions of "How can the Town support current agricultural operations?" as well as "How can the Town relate small-scale farming opportunities to economic development?"
4. *Preserving Rural Character, Identity and Heritage* - This Focus Area looks at the myriad of 'details' which come into play when trying to preserve the Town's identity, or enhance some of the little-known cultural heritage of the community.
5. *The Land Development Process* - Work with the Town's Plan Commission to seek improvements to current land use regulations that ensure consistency with the vision established by the Land Stewardship Strategy.

Town of Greenville Land Stewardship Vision:

Actively promote the development of a Land Stewardship Program which affirms the identity of the Town by protecting key agricultural and open space resources for our future generations' environmental, economic, and social well-being.

Now that the initial vision for stewardship is established, the Town will be working toward building capacity on the Stewardship Committee and developing a more formalized program to unveil the Stewardship Strategy to primary stakeholders and the general public.

National Groundwater Awareness Week is March 11-17, 2012



Now in its second decade, Groundwater Awareness Week spotlights one of the world's most important resources - groundwater. Sponsored by the National Ground Water Association (NGWA), this annual event

helps build awareness about this vital resource and asks: "Who should be aware of groundwater?" The answer, quite simply, is "everyone."

Groundwater is essential to the health and well-being of humanity and the environment. Whether you're on a public water system or a private well, whether you are a health care official, policymaker, regulator, or someone interested in water resources or the environment in general, groundwater is important to you. Groundwater is an extremely valuable resource to the entire East Central Region. Consider this:

- ◆ Groundwater is the source of potable drinking water for over 50 percent of the Fox River Valley's metropolitan areas (Fond du Lac, Oshkosh, Fox Cities, and Green Bay)¹;
- ◆ Groundwater contributes directly to the local economy in the western part of the region by allowing for irrigation in order to grow valuable vegetable crops;
- ◆ Groundwater serves as the main source of many coldwater Class I and II trout streams and is the root of a resource

which supports millions of dollars in annual tourism expenditures, and:

- ◆ The region's geology makes many portions of our groundwater system vulnerable to pollution and contamination, particularly areas of 'karst topography' in Calumet and Fond du Lac Counties.

As a community which likely relies on this resource in some fashion, what are you doing to manage groundwater? How are you informing and educating your citizenry about this resource and the localized issues that may exist in your part of the region? The Commission urges its communities and local officials to recognize this important resource by doing one or more of the following:

- ◆ Adopt an official proclamation for your town/village/city/county which alerts area residents to both the regional state of groundwater issues, as well as issues specific to your community;
- ◆ Take the National Groundwater Association's pledge to protect and conserve groundwater; (www.ngwa.org).
- ◆ Take steps to educate your elected officials and decision makers on how groundwater systems function and how it impacts your community and your life;
- ◆ Consider the formation of a local or county Groundwater Guardian team (www.groundwaterguardians.org).

Find more information about groundwater and water well stewardship by visiting NGWA's website for well owners, www.wellowner.org.



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UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- ♦ **March 1, 2012**, 8:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M., *American Planning Association -WI Chapter 2012 Annual Conference - Planning for the Next Generation*, Oshkosh Convention Center. For more information contact Deb Nemeth at (608) 259-1000 or dmemeth@1kfriends.org.
- ♦ **March 28, 2012**, 6:30 P.M., *White Pelicans & Double-Crested Cormorants*, a Lakes Council Speaker event at the Stone Toad, Menasha. Art Techlow III, DNR Biologist, will discuss the exploding population of white pelicans and double-crested cormorants in the area.
- ♦ **April 3, 2012**, 7:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M., *10th Annual Northeastern Wisconsin Global Trade Conference*, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton. To register online go to www.titletown.org.
- ♦ **April 10-12, 2012**, *34th Annual Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention*, KI Convention Center & Hyatt, Green Bay. See program details and registration info at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/conventions>.
- ♦ **April 10, 2012**, 1:30 P.M., *Transportation Committee Meeting*, ECWRPC Offices.
- ♦ **April 11, 2012**, 1:00 P.M., *Open Space and Environmental Management Committee Meeting*, Location TBD.
- ♦ **April 11, 2012**, 1:30 P.M., *Economic Development Committee Meeting*, ECWRPC Offices.
- ♦ **April 27, 2012**, 8:30 A.M. - Noon., *Diversity in Planning Mini-Conference*, Bridgewood Resort Hotel & Conference Center, 1000 Cameron Way, Neenah.
- ♦ **April 27, 2012**, 1:00 P.M., *ECWRPC Quarterly Meeting*, Bridgewood Resort Hotel & Conference Center, 1000 Cameron Way, Neenah.
- ♦ **April 27, 2012**, immediately following 1:00 P.M. meeting, *ECWRPC Annual Meeting*, Bridgewood Resort Hotel & Conference Center, 1000 Cameron Way, Neenah.

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