



RAPPORT

MEMBER COUNTIES

- CALUMET
- MENOMINEE
- OUTAGAMIE
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VOLUME 41 NUMBER 2

FALL 2012

Shawano County's Marshal Giese Returns to Commission Board as Governor's Appointee



The Commission welcomed back Mr. Marshal Giese to the Board as the new Governor's Appointee representing Shawano County. He will serve a four-year term and replaces Mr. M. Eugene Zeuske who retired in July of this year. Mr. Giese previously served with the Commission from 2004 through 2010 as the (then) Shawano

County Board Chair and also served as the Commission Vice-Chair during 2009 and 2010. In addition to being part of the full Commission Board, Mr. Giese will be serving on the Economic Development Standing Committee. The Commissioners and staff of East Central welcome Mr. Giese back in his new role and we look forward to working with him as part of the economic development initiatives and strategies throughout the region.

2013 Technical Assistance Requests Due November 19th

The Commission's 2013 Technical Assistance Program kicked off with our annual mailing of Project Request Forms in August of this year. The Commission's Technical Assistance Program has been a long-standing service of our agency and is available only to our member counties and communities. This program provides the opportunity to receive professional planning assistance on small-scale plans or projects at no cost.

Project Request Forms are due back at East Central's offices no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 19, 2012. The Commission's Steering Committee will review, evaluate and rank all requests for possible inclusion in the 2013 Work Program. Communities which are selected will be notified upon approval of the Work Program in January, 2013. If you have any questions about the Technical Assistance Program, please contact our offices at (920) 751-4770.

Happy Thanksgiving



"Exploring Sense of Place" Symposium Scheduled for January 10th & 11th, 2013



The Commission has been supporting the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network's (NERN) effort to bring about more appreciation and awareness of the escarpment's importance within our region and State. Since the organization's inception in 1998, numerous accomplishments have been achieved which has elevated (pun intended) the escarpment's status here in Wisconsin.

In Wisconsin, "Love the Ledge" is a heartfelt expression. Much of this love is the result of residents' and visitors' personal and emotional ties to the landscape.....or what we typically call its 'sense of place'. To further explore these concepts, and to celebrate this wondrous geologic formation, an exciting 1-1/2 day symposium will be held on Thursday and Friday, January 10th and 11th, 2013, at UW-Green Bay. Program sponsors include the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, Bay-Lake and East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions, Milwaukee Audubon Society, Foth, and NERN's parent organization, the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership.

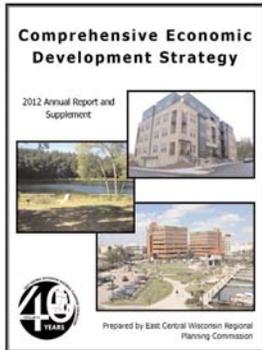
Participants will learn in-depth lessons related to concepts and applications of 'sense of place' and how to fill their 'toolbox' for conservation. This conference is essential for land managers, planners, elected officials, non-profit organizations, academia, and tourism and economic development professionals, particularly those whose work or passion is associated with the Ledge. The program could also be of value for anyone working on large scale conservation and planning projects, regardless of the geography as the program is not entirely escarpment-centric.

Presenters include keynote speaker, Karen Harwell from Palo Alto, California, the author of *Exploring a Sense of Place: How to Create Your Own Local Program for Reconnecting with Nature*. A slate of expert speakers and practitioners from around the state will provide informative, practical, and inspirational topics throughout the event.

Pre-registration is required and complete details and registration information will be available on NERN's website, www.escarpmentnetwork.org after November 15th. Mark your calendars now and do consider attending this one-of-a-kind event!

CEDS Adopted

On October 26, 2012, the Commission took formal action to adopt the 2012 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 2012

edition is the fourth 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 <http://www.eastcentralrpc.org/planning/economic/EconDevelopmentDistrict.htm>. For more information contact Katherine Ahlquist at (920) 751-4770.

Commission Receives NADO Award

East Central was recognized with a *2012 Innovation Award* from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation.

East Central assisted with the EDA's Disaster Recovery Collaborative of Wisconsin, which recently received the Award for the development of the Community Economic Recovery Guidebook funded by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The Recovery Guidebook was implemented in partnership with various state and local government agencies.

East Central's staff participated in the development, organizational framework, and content of the Community Economic Recovery Guidebook designed to assist economic development organizations, businesses and community leaders in preparation of economic recovery from a natural disaster.

The Community Economic Recovery Guidebook provides a framework to help local leaders speed disaster recovery by addressing key economic stabilization and recovery issues before a disaster occurs. The Guidebook was designed to provide real situations and national best practices that connect disaster management functions with economic development principals to identify strategies and suggest action steps that can be taken by local businesses, community leaders and economic development organizations before and after a disaster.

To obtain a copy of the Community Economic Recovery Guidebook visit: <http://bit.ly/wirecovery>

Commission Contracts with WEDC to Provide Economic Development Services to Communities within the Region

The Commission approved an agreement with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to provide some limited economic development analysis services for its communities. The agreement allows for the Commission to obtain a relatively expensive economic modeling program, Analyst, created by EMSI (Economic Modeling Specialists International (www.economicmodeling.com)) which can then be utilized by our trained staff in a variety of ways to assist in local and regional economic development efforts.

The Analyst program provides economic developers with a strategic and competitive advantage in serving the needs and questions of businesses, educators, and workforce professionals. Using a mixture of industry/occupation data, impact assessments, and economic base analysis, the tool is equipped to target high-impact businesses for recruitment and retention; craft successful revitalization plans for beleaguered communities or parlay the loss of jobs into successful business recruitment by showing the availability of skilled workers.

Analyst is a web-based tool that puts in-depth, local employment data and analysis in the hands of regional planners, researchers, and developers. Analyst provides quick, easy access to EMSI's well-known labor market data the most comprehensive and up-to-date employment data available and is a great starting point for making clear, data-driven decisions.

East Central staff will be obtaining the EMSI software in November and, after training, should be able to provide custom reports upon request. More information about this newly developing service will be provided soon, but in the interim, if you have questions, please feel free to contact Katherine Ahlquist at kahlquist@eastcentralrpc.org or by calling (920) 751-4770.

Winnebago County Comprehensive Outdoor and Recreation Plan Initiated

As part of East Central's 3-5 day Technical Assistance Program, Winnebago County's Park and Recreation Plan Update process has begun. A kickoff meeting with the Winnebago Parks Committee was held on October 9, 2012 to discuss goals and objectives for the County's park plan update. The Committee reviewed the background information, inventory maps, and started on survey questions to get public feedback. Staff has been working diligently on a needs assessment and revision of survey questions for the next meeting of the Committee in November.

Also on the timeline, future meetings will cover preliminary recommendations and an Action Program for implementation of future park areas. Final adoption should be in early 2013. For more information on this plan or other park and recreational updates please contact Trish Nau, tnau@eastcentralrpc.org.

Commission Reaffirms Involvement with Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway



At its October 26, 2012 meeting, the Commission went on record to continue support for the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway (FWHP) project amid localized concerns regarding the effort's impact on private property rights. During the summer and early fall of 2012, a local political-based organization called the Fox Valley Initiative voiced concerns about the potential impact of a proposed National Heritage Area (NHA) designation for the 275 mile long Fox/Lower Wisconsin River corridor. Such a designation requires action by Congress and currently, proposed bills (H.R. 4148 / S. 2158) are awaiting action in both houses.

The Commission's Open Space and Environmental Management Committee took up the issue in August and heard from representatives of both sides. After lengthy discussion and consideration of the Commission's long-standing history in the project, the Committee (and subsequently the Commission) took action to reaffirm support at the current level. The Commission provides technical assistance and support to the FWHP non-profit organization and serves on its Board of Directors, currently staffed by Tom Baron, Community Planner.

Efforts have been made by the FWHP non-profit board and the Commission to refute erroneous information that has been distributed by the Fox Valley Initiative (www.foxvalleyinitiative.com), and; in an attempt to clarify the intent and benefits of the Parkway project, the FWHP has crafted a response to the Fox Valley Initiative's claims citing specific provisions within the proposed NHA legislation and the Board's by-laws as well as the existing project feasibility study and separate 'action plan'. This information can be viewed at www.heritageparkway.org.

Elected officials who may have questions or concerns about the ongoing FWHP project and proposed NHA designation should view the website materials. Further questions can be addressed by contacting Tom Baron at tbaron@eastcentralrpc.org, or Candice Mortara at mortara@heritageparkway.org.



East Central Staff Help to Lead Neighborhood Visioning Workshops in Kimberly

During a three-part "neighborhood workshop" series, Kimberly community members had an opportunity to discuss topics related to the former NewPage Mill property and share their vision for the future of this site and the surrounding neighborhood. These workshops, held in late August and early September, were developed in close consultation between ECWRPC, Village of Kimberly staff/officials, and AIM Development USA. The workshops were designed to gather public input upfront and help guide future

development in a manner that is beneficial for the property-owners and the Kimberly community.

Over the course of the three workshops, a number of broad, community and site-level, issues and opportunities were covered. "Workshop #1 - Site Context and Connections" explored topics such as regional context, physical location and scale, economic opportunities, community identity, connections, and asset identification. "Workshop #2 - Land Use, Density, and Intensity" covered street patterns, urban morphology, mixed-use development, and land use intensity/density. "Workshop #3 - Placemaking and Low-Impact Development" looked at urban design features in greater detail, including a focus on places for people, places for cars, architectural form and character, and natural stormwater management. Although themes varied, each workshop was arranged with the same main components: 1) background/introductory information; 2) presentation of key planning concepts and examples, and; 3) audience participation through interactive exercises. This provided workshop attendees with quick learning experiences and allowed them to discuss how the area could look, function, and feel in the future.

Given the scale, proximity to the Fox River, and redevelopment potential of the former NewPage Mill property, the neighborhood visioning workshops were set up to give this unique site some extra attention. Area residents and stakeholders were appreciative of this opportunity, as more than 110 people participated in the three workshops. The input gathered is currently being compiled, organized, interpreted and will be available in mid-November. This information will be included in a document being prepared by ECWRPC staff, which will summarize the workshops, highlight key exercise results, and provide recommendations for moving forward. To learn more, please contact Eric Fowle or Dave Kress at (920) 751-4770.

2030 Fond du Lac Sewer Service Area Plan Updated

The 2030 Fond du Lac Sewer Service Area Plan update was initiated on July 17, 2012 with a Kickoff Meeting hosted by the City of Fond du Lac. Attending the meeting were several sanitary district presidents, town officials, city/village administrators and planning directors, wastewater treatment staff and county officials. This orientation included current condition data in terms of land use and existing service area boundaries along with strategies and timelines for completing the plan. Central to the Fond du Lac SSA plan update is the Fond du Lac area Outlying Sewer Users Group(OSG) consortium. This association includes all area sewer users contributing wastewater flows to the treatment plant. The OSG agreement is also under review and update thereby coinciding with the 2030 Fond du Lac SSA plan update. East Central and the OSG committee will work in parallel with one another in an effort to share and coordinate data.

ECWRPC Receives Transform Wisconsin Grant

The Commission was notified in late July that it was the recipient of a Transform Wisconsin Active Communities Grant. The \$160,000 grant will invest in the development of joint-use agreements and policies in the Shawano School District area over the next two-and-a-half years.

The Transform Wisconsin funding allows the East Central Wisconsin Safe Routes to School Program to enhance its work to promote physical activity. The program focuses on empowering local communities and school districts with the resources and knowledge needed to implement SRTS activities. The Safe Routes to School Program will begin to focus their work with Shawano School District as one of the five focus areas of the Regional SRTS strategic plan to develop and implement joint use agreements for parks and athletic facilities to increase healthy recreational opportunities.

Research shows that making recreational facilities more accessible to the public significantly increases a person's ability to be physically active. Physical activity is critical to achieving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, as well as curbing chronic diseases. Study show that nearly half of people in Wisconsin fail to get the recommended amount of physical activity.

The East Central Wisconsin Planning Commission will continue this work, while bringing together new and existing partners to make meaningful, long-term improvements to the health and wellness of the community. The first year of the grant will build off of the SRTS Program and will utilize existing relationships in the Shawano County Health Department, Shawano School District, and the Shawano Pathways Organization for Kids, Environment, and Safety (S.P.O.K.E.S.) to expand recreational opportunities by using joint use agreements. The staff will then work with Transform Wisconsin to provide programming for year two of the grant.

The East Central Wisconsin Safe Routes to School coalition is one of 30 communities around the state awarded Transform Wisconsin grants in an effort to create healthier places to live, work and play. \$6.6 million will be invested over the next 26 months with the goal of creating healthier communities and reducing preventable chronic diseases. The Transform Wisconsin project will directly reach about half the state's population -- over 2.6 million residents. All across the state, communities will be building on local efforts to improve health by empowering individuals to make healthier choices and preventing chronic disease.

For more information on Transform Wisconsin grants and to sign up to volunteer for this project, please visit www.transformwi.com or contact Tom Baron, ECWRPC Planner, at 920-751-4770 or tbaron@eastcentralrpc.org.

Global Trade Taskforce to Host Breakout Session at New North Annual Summit



As part of the implementation of the recently completed NE Wisconsin Global Trade Strategy final report, staff is preparing to host a breakout session at the New North Annual Summit. The session, "New North Global Trade: An Innovative Pathway to Increasing Regional Exports" will include presentations by the Global Trade Strategy project consultant and a business leader in our region that will describe his success in the global trade arena. We are excited to be a part of the New North Summit as it annually draws over 800 attendees. The summit is scheduled for December 7, 2012 at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. You can register by visiting www.newnorthsummit.com. We hope to see you there!

East Central staff has worked on other implementation activities including participating in the Global Trade Taskforce to implement the five major goals that were identified in the final report. The final report can be viewed by visiting www.eastcentralrpc.org and clicking on the Global Trade Strategy Reports. Please contact Tom Baron at 920-751-4770 or tbaron@eastcentralrpc.org with questions or comments.

Town of Algoma Supports Safe Routes to School Initiatives

Representatives from the Town of Algoma, along with staff from the Planning Commission and the Oshkosh SRTS Task Force, participated in a bike and walk audit at Oakwood Elementary School in October. During their observation of afternoon dismissal, audit participants noted that the location of school zone and speed limit signage creates confusion, sidewalks are non-existent, shoulder striping is faded, pedestrian signs were not flashing along Omro Road, and some vehicles were travelling too fast through the area. In response, the Algoma Town Board passed a Resolution of Support for Safe Routes to School a few days later. The Town Board also approved a motion to improve school zone signage near the intersection of Omro and N. Oakwood Roads, so motorists are aware of pedestrians and understand the speed limit. The Town of Algoma is the first community in the East Central Region to approve such a resolution. If your community or school is interested in approving a Resolution of Support for Safe Routes to School initiatives, please contact Melissa Kraemer Badtke (mbadtke@eastcentralrpc.org) or David Kress (dkress@eastcentralrpc.org) at 920 751-4770.



State Orthophotography Activities - The Importance of Aerial Photos

An orthophoto, orthophotograph or orthoimage is an aerial photograph geometrically corrected ("orthorectified") such that the scale is uniform. The corrected photo has the same lack of distortion as a map. Unlike an uncorrected aerial photograph, an orthophotograph can be used to measure true distances, because it is an accurate representation of the Earth's surface, having been adjusted for topographic relief, lens distortion, and camera tilt.

The talk at the state level recently has been how can we develop an orthophotography plan for the State of Wisconsin and what is the best route to take. The State Cartographers Office received a grant earlier this year and has hired a consultant to write a plan for the future of aerial photography in Wisconsin. Meetings, workshops, and interviews have been completed so far on the benefits and challenges of what would be the best for the state. Items being looked at include state agency support and leadership, a non-profit solution, public/private relationship, i.e. (Michigan and Bing maps), or a voluntary consortium like the Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC).

Questions being asked at the state level are the following:

- > Who will be the custodian(s) of the data?
- > Who will maintain the data?
- > Where will the funding come from?
- > How will the data be shared and distributed?
- > What specifications will the photos be flown and captured at?
- > How can this be a sustainable project year after year?

Intergovernmental coordination and funds to complete the task at hand are the biggest obstacles faced besides the product itself. There are many needs and specifications that each constituent considers acceptable. These vary from 3" to a half of foot to 12-18" orthophotography depending on use.

WROC has started the process of outreach to possible partners for a 2015 flight. They will be seeking an RFO early next year to gather the best pricing packages. The timeframe is usually every 5-10 years to coincide with the Census. Unfortunately, a regional approach may not suit every partner's needs. Most Counties have to go through a competitive bid process before they can participate.

But again why do we need expensive orthophotos when Google and Bing have this already? Sound familiar? This is what we hear consistently from our Municipal and County Boards when budget time comes around. The need is definitely out there for a better resolution product than the web can currently deliver. Accurate aerial photography allows public works and other departments the ability to perform tasks from their desks that would take hours of survey work and consulting contracts. Good quality and resolution is important in everything from mapping manholes to developing emergency management strategies. Surveyors would have to spend more time in the field, and asset management more costly. Aerials are used for a variety of planning activities from transportation needs to parks, to planning for development in general. It is also a great cost savings in labor as we don't have to spend money on gas to see what is on the ground. The answer still lies in the quality and accuracy of those photos. The online choices may work for some applications but they are just not good enough for every use out there. The bottomline is that good orthophotography is still in need for planning activities.

To solve this dilemma will not be an easy one for Wisconsin. We can look at other states as examples, but what it comes down to is coordinating, centralizing, sustaining, and funding resources that will be unique and work for our State.

For more information on current state orthophotography activities please visit: <http://orthoplan.sco.wisc.edu/> or <http://www.ncwrpc.org/WROC/>



Source: Outagamie County Orthos 2010, Appleton/Grand Chute, 1 foot.

Federal Highway Administration and TDA Staff Discuss New Transportation Bill, MAP-21

Ms. Alexis Kuklenski, USDOT-Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Craig Thompson of the Transportation Development Association (TDA) addressed the Commission at the regular quarterly meeting on October 26, 2012 regarding the latest federal transportation funding bill. Portions of the transportation law, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP 21) went into to effect on October 1, 2012, while much of the law will be phased in as federal and state guidance is developed to meet the new requirements. While the details are unknown, new requirements for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), like the Commission, includes the development of additional performance measures to track and improve transportation system efficiency.

Ms. Kuklenski presented information on the important role of the Commission as the Policy Board for the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), with the authority and requirement to develop and approve long range transportation plans that are supported locally. She explained that every metropolitan area in the country with a population over 50,000 is required to establish an MPO as a prerequisite to federal transportation funds. MPOs nationwide are required to prepare Long Range Transportation Plans and administer a Transportation Improvement Program of projects and funding for federally designated Urbanized Areas. She explained the annual MPO unified transportation work program and certification process that ensures funding programs and work activities are documented and approved. Metropolitan planning is a public decision making process that considers goals needs and constraints to develop a plan to guide investment for a multimodal transportation system. Ideally the plan should meet the mobility needs of people and freight.

She noted that, with the results of the 2010 Census, the Appleton (Fox Cities) metropolitan area has exceeded 200,000 in population and has been designated as a "Transportation Management Area" (TMA), the next tier of metropolitan areas with a population over 200,000. TMA designation recognizes that larger metropolitan areas typically struggle more with traffic safety, conges-

tion and delays on the system. She explained that the TMA must develop a formal Congestion Management Process that helps to identify deficiencies and measure system performance over time as alternatives and strategies are implemented to improve mobility. She said FHWA would be working closely with East Central and WisDOT to transition into the new transportation law.

Mr. Thompson said that MAP 21 replaces the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and maintains many of the same regulations and requirements, but combines a number of programs providing a bit more flexibility to state departments of transportation to prioritize funding. He said that Wisconsin will receive about the same funding level as the previous bill and described the changes to some programs like Transportation Enhancements, Bicycle and Pedestrian, Safe Routes to School and a few others that have been combined into a single program called Transportation Alternatives. It was noted that TMA communities like the Fox Cities will be receiving dedicated Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding available through a competitive grant program administered by the MPO. The TA competitive grant program will be developed in collaboration with FHWA and WisDOT over the next year or so. MAP 21 emphasizes a national transportation system and is a policy shift from the prior earmarks for specific projects to projects of national significance. The National Highway System has been expanded to include all principal arterials in the country, not just the National Highway and interstate systems. These important roadways will be part of the Enhanced National Highway System and should have priority in local, regional and state plans. He noted that MAP 21 also calls for the development of a national freight plan comprised of plans prepared by each of the states. Map 21 ensures two years of solvency to the Highway Trust Fund and authorizes the program through 2014. Mr. Thompson concluded by saying it is important to have the transportation bill enacted so that local, regional and state funding levels are known and stable for a specific period of time.

Fox Cities and Oshkosh Transportation Improvement Programs Adopted

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Fox Cities Transportation Management Area (TMA) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Oshkosh Urbanized Area - 2013 have received final approval at the October 26 quarterly commission meeting. East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission being the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is required to prepare these documents. In years past this was a combined document for both urbanized areas, however since the Fox Cities has been designated as a Transportation Management Area (TMA), population over 200,000, it was determined that these documents should be prepared separately. 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.

In preparing this report, East Central has worked with WisDOT Northeast Region, Valley Transit, Oshkosh Transit, and local government jurisdictions to compile the listing of transportation projects for each urbanized area.

These TIPs will be forwarded to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

The final Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) for the Fox Cities Transportation Management Area (TMA) and the Oshkosh Urbanized Area - 2013 can be viewed on the internet at: <http://www.fcompo.org>

Commission Convenes Ground Water Workshop in New London

East Central hosted a Groundwater workshop on July 27, 2012 that provided information to decision makers on a variety of topics regarding the region's groundwater resources. Eric Fowle, AICP - Executive Director of ECWRPC provided the open remarks and introduced the workshop's speakers.

Dr. David Hart, Hydrogeologist, with the Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey (WGNHS) discussed the results of the Groundwater Recharge Model for Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties. WGNHS ran the Soil-water Balance (SWB) model to delineate and categorize recharge to the three county shallow aquifers. The final recharge map can be used to identify important groundwater recharge areas at a 30 meter resolution. These areas should be incorporated into planning and land development decisions that enhance recharge areas for long-term protection.

Bill Hafs, Director, Brown County Land Conservation Department discussed groundwater contamination in Brown County's karst landscapes. Mr. Hafs discussed various ways the County has reduced ground water contamination within the mapped depressions and karst bedrock formations. Mr. Hafs also discussed the number of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) within Brown County and the added challenges of land spreading over shallow soils and the underlining karst bedrock.

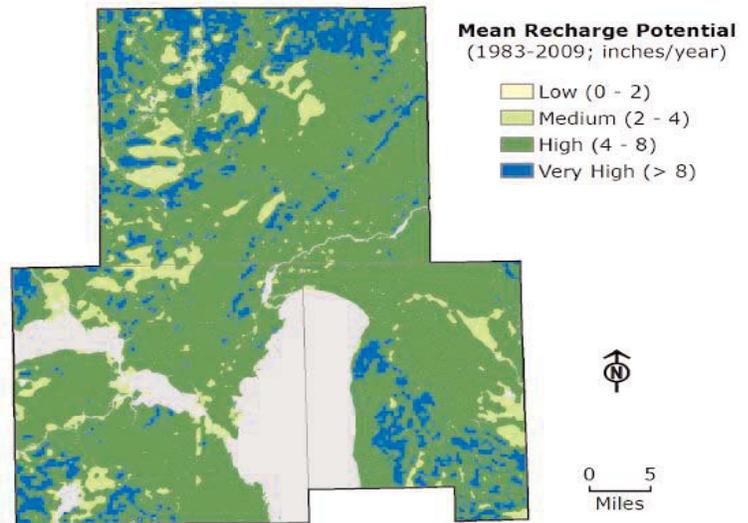
Mike Rupiper, Environmental Engineer of the Capital Area RPC, discussed various implementation tools that communities can utilize that protect or enhance groundwater recharge. Mr Rupiper discussed recent successes and challenges of ground water policy implementation efforts by communities with in the Madison area.

Mary Ellen Vollbrecht, Section Chief, Division of Water / Drinking Water WDNR discussed the Department's current management policies related to the protection of ground water. Ms. Vollbrecht also discussed future WDNR budgets, priorities and possible funding sources all related to ground water.

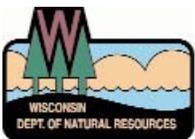
Todd Verboomen, Associate Planner, ECWRPC closed the workshop by discussing the *Protecting Groundwater Recharge and Aquifer Quality* municipal guide pamphlet. East Central developed this municipal guide to ignite the interest among the region's elected officials to recognize stormwater as a vital part of our groundwater system versus our common view of a volume control nuisance. We need to start thinking 'outside of the pond' and be open to land use decisions and the use of low impact development and/or green infrastructure that protect or enhance our groundwater resources.

All too often the lowest cost option of containing the flow of stormwater by the use of a detention pond is favored over other best management practices (BMPs) that protect or enhances infiltration. By utilizing BMPs that encourage or enhances infiltration we essentially reduce runoff and give stormwater a chance to saturate the soil that (in the long-term) either protects the base flow of our region's streams, rivers, and lakes or becomes groundwater recharge (depending of geology).

Please contact Todd Verboomen at (920) 751-4770 or at tverboomen@eastcentralrpc.org if you are interested in obtaining a copy or East Central's *Protecting Groundwater Recharge and Aquifer Quality* municipal guide.



DNR-Funded Brownfields Assessment Awards Available



In May 2012, the U.S. EPA awarded the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition a \$500,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant to continue the Contractor Services arm of the Wisconsin Plant Recovery Initiative (WPRI) Assessment Monies (WAM) program. The WAM program has already provided DNR-funded assessments at 20 sites throughout Wisconsin.

With the \$500,000 grant, the WDNR hopes to assess 12 additional small-scale, closed or closing manufacturing sites (service stations, dry cleaners, agricultural co-ops and retail/commercial facilities are not eligible to apply). Once an award is made, the DNR will work with

the program's pre-selected contractors to begin assessment work. The applicant will only need to provide access and requested materials to the contractor for the assessments. The DNR handles all of the eligibility and assessment reporting and funds administration. This is a great opportunity for small communities that do not have the resources to pay for or oversee brownfield assessments.

The application process is now open! The program is open to local governments and qualifying property owners. For more information and an application, please contact the WDNR's Jenna Soyer at jenna.soyer@wisconsin.gov or (608) 267-0543.



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The East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's CY 2012 planning program is supported by state and federal assistance. A portion of the funding for this publication was provided by the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the Economic Development Administration, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the official views and policies of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- ♦ **November 27, 2012**, 5:30 P.M., *Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Meeting*, UW-Fox Valley-Student Union, 1478 Midway Road, Menasha
- ♦ **December 4, 2012**, 1:00 P.M., *Fox Valley GIS User Group (FVGISUG)*, Town of Greenville. For more information see www.omni.com/fvgisusergroup
- ♦ **December 5, 2012**, 5:30 P.M., *Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Meeting*, Oshkosh City Hall - Room 404 (4th Floor), 215 Church Avenue, Oshkosh
- ♦ **December 7, 2012**, *New North Annual Summit*, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton (see article on page 4)
- ♦ **December 10, 2012**, 1:00 P.M., Steering Committee, ECWRPC Offices.
- ♦ **December 11, 2012**, 5:30 P.M., *Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Meeting*, Little Chute Village Hall, 108 West Main Street, Little Chute
- ♦ **December 12, 2012**, 1:00 P.M. *Community Facilities Committee Meeting*, Grand Chute Town Hall.
- ♦ **December 20, 2012**, 9:30 A.M., *Northeast Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Organization (NEWPRO)*, City of Neenah, Washington Park Shelter. For more information <http://www.wprweb.org/>
- ♦ **January 8, 2013**, 9:00 A.M., *Open Space and Environmental Management Committee Meeting*, ECWRPC Offices.
- ♦ **January 8, 2013**, 1:30 P.M., *Transportation Committee Meeting*, ECWRPC Offices.
- ♦ **January 9, 2013**, 1:30 P.M., *Economic Development Committee Meeting*, ECWRPC Offices.
- ♦ **January 10 - 11, 2013**, *"Exploring Sense of Place" Symposium*, UW-Green Bay (See article on page 1)
- ♦ **January 25, 2013**, 10:00 A.M., *ECWRPC Quarterly Meeting*, ECWRPC Offices.
- ♦ **February 13-15, 2013**, *Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA)*, Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva. For more information see www.wlia.org

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