Final 2014 Work Program and Budget Adopted by Commission

The final 2014 Work Program and Budget was adopted by the Commission at its January 31, 2014 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 the 2014 fiscal year. The document amends and replaces the July, 2013 preliminary budget which was developed and approved for the sole purpose of establishing the 2014 tax levy.

Highlights of the 2014 budget include a 56.2 percent increase in federal and state grants, mainly related to the receipt of an $837,000 Department of Defense - Office of Economic Adjustment grant. This brings the Commission's projected revenues total to just over $3 million for 2014. Only 22.6% of these revenues are derived from the 2014 charges levied to our member units of government. Overall, the Commission’s finances are healthy and sufficient funds have been accumulated in a ‘cash reserve’ account over the past nine years which will help the agency smooth out any unexpected revenue changes in the years to come. A copy of the 2014 Work Program and Budget is available for review on the Commission’s website at www.ecwrpc.org.

March 20th Grants & Funding Opportunities Conference

Join Congressman Reid Ribble (R-8th District) and a broad array of knowledgeable speakers at his first ever Grants & Funding Opportunities Conference at the DJ Bordini Center in Grand Chute, WI on March 20th, 2014 from 7:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Aimed at local government officials and staff, this event will provide an overview of basic grant programs, grant writing skills and fundraising in order to leverage your local tax dollars for important projects and opportunities.

This no-cost event requires pre-registration. A detailed agenda and registration form and instructions can be found on East Central’s website at www.ecwrpc.org. Register soon to save your spot at this informative event!

April 25th Local and Regional Food Systems Mini-Conference

Mark your calendar for a morning of education and discussion on local and regional food systems within Northeast Wisconsin. East Central’s next mini-conference event will explore these topics on Friday, April 25th, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. until Noon at Liberty Hall in Kimberly, WI.

Working with our partners at Riverview Gardens in Appleton, a number of new ideas and initiatives will be presented that could increase our sustainability and provide expanded economic opportunities for local communities. Come learn about the new Regional Food Hub, the Community Gardens Partnership, the new Community Food Incubator Program, and more! A detailed agenda and registration information will be available in late March, but save the date now!
East Central Staff Competes in “Movember” Contest to Raise Money for Salvation Army Adopt a Family Program

East Central staff spent the month of November growing mustaches to raise money for a Salvation Army Adopt a Family program. The concept is borrowed from the many “Movember” contests that take place in the month of November that seek to raise awareness of men’s cancer by growing mustaches. East Central staff participated in the contest by making a donation to either compete in the mustache growing competition, or by participating in the judging ceremony. The heated rivalry involved nine staff that competed for the “Mophy”, a trophy developed for the contest. At the end of the deliberations, Tom Baron took home the 2013 honors and received the “Mophy” from 2012 champion Nick Musson. Staff used the $230 raised during the contest to purchase holiday gifts for a registered Salvation Army family of five that lives in the Fox Cities area.

Nick Musson Promoted to Associate Transportation Planner

The Commission recently announced the promotion of Mr. Nick Musson from Transportation Planner to Associate Transportation Planner to recognize his outstanding work ethic and leadership.

Nick has worked for the Commission since early 2010 and was primarily responsible for day to day transportation planning activities associated with the Fond du Lac, Oshkosh and Fox Cities MPOs. With the advent of a new federal transportation bill (MAP21) and the subsequent designation of the Fox Cities MPO as a Transportation Management Area (TMA), new planning requirements, such as the ‘congestion management plan’, were picked up by Nick during 2013. Furthermore, Nick stepped up to assume the Commission’s important role in public transit planning which was formerly overseen by Jason Kakatsch.

The Commission appreciates the hard work and dedication Nick, as well as all our staff, so be sure to congratulate him next time your paths cross!

Kraemer Badtke Cited as “Future 15 - Young Professional” in the Fox Cities

In January of 2013, East Central staff member Ms. Melissa Kraemer Badtke was one of only 15 young professionals in the Fox Cities selected to receive a “Future 15” award.

The Fox Cities has thousands of young professionals who excel within their places of employment and in the community. These professionals not only excel in their respective fields and positively influence the quality of life in the Fox Cities, but they have also had a hand in attracting and retaining young talent to the area. Future 15 recipients were chosen based on their dedication, strong sense of vision for the Fox Cities and understanding of the importance of volunteerism and community investment.

Melissa’s passion and dedication for healthy communities and healthy children extend well beyond her role as the Commission’s Regional Safe Routes to School Coordinator. Not only does she volunteer in the community through efforts such as board involvement with the Fox Cities Greenways, but she and her family are dedicated to living healthy and active lifestyles.
Outagamie County Awarded $500,000 Emergency Assistance Program Grant to Assist August, 2013 Tornado and Storm Damage Victims

East Central has been contracted by Outagamie County to administer an Outagamie County Community Development Block Grant - Emergency Assistance Program (CDBG-EAP). The purpose of the Outagamie County CDBG-EAP is to assist local low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents with financial assistance for the repair of owner-occupied homes as a result of the August 6-7, 2013 tornadoes and severe thunderstorms.

To date, East Central has completed an Environmental Review Record, has collected LMI residents’ applications and supporting materials, and has meet with the Wisconsin Department of Administration staff to discuss the CDBG-EAP program. East Central is currently verifying annual household income, collecting and verifying dwelling repair costs, providing initial site visits, providing applicant support where needed, and determining eligibility for each CDBG-EAP applicant.

East Central staff will work with each CDBG-EAP applicant to collect and verify all the necessary documentation and will present each case file to an established County Housing Committee seeking CDBG-EAP funding approval.

For information regarding the Outagamie County CDBG-EAP contact Todd Verboomen at (920) 751-4770 or by email at tverboomen@ecwrpc.org.

2014 Technical Assistance Project Awards Approved

In the fall of 2013, the Commission solicited member units of government (counties, towns, villages, and cities) for potential 2014 Technical Assistance Projects. A total of 39 new project requests were received, ranked and approved by our Steering Committee in December, 2013.

These new projects will be initiated during the course of 2014 while work continues on approximately 21 additional local projects which are still in progress from the pool of projects selected in 2012 and 2013.

If you did not request a project, 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 or efowle@ecwrpc.org to discuss them in more detail.

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

For a listing of approved 2014 Technical Assistance Project Awards, see page 4.
## 2014 Technical Assistance Project Awards

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Oshkosh Region Receives $837,000 Department of Defense Grant to Assist with Economic Diversification

The East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) has received a federal grant of $837,315 that will be the first step in providing assistance to companies and communities that have been affected by recent cutbacks in defense industry spending, particularly those connected to the Oshkosh Corporation.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) assisted ECWRPC with its application for the grant, which was received from the U.S. Department of Defense. Other entities that will be partners in the effort include the City of Oshkosh, the New North, the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and universities and technical colleges throughout East Central Wisconsin, including the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

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

- mapping out the defense industry supply chain and providing assistance to Oshkosh Corporation suppliers to re-engage them in other industry sectors;
- developing research opportunities for advanced manufacturing in the newly developing aerospace industry cluster;
- facilitating the development of an aerospace business accelerator facility; and
- taking steps to create a more cohesive economic development ecosystem throughout the Fox Valley area that emphasizes communication, coordination and collaboration among stakeholders.

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

$2 Million EDA Grant Awarded to the City of Oshkosh and Winnebago County for Aviation Business Park

The City of Oshkosh and Winnebago County were awarded a $2 million Public Works Grant from the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) for an 81 acre Oshkosh Aviation Business Park. With assistance from ECWRPC, the City of Oshkosh and Winnebago County collaborated to apply for funding from the EDA to construct an Aviation Business Park, located in the City of Oshkosh, off the southeast corner of the Wittman Regional Airport.

The Oshkosh Aviation Business Park will provide much needed space for expansion in aviation related business and have direct taxi-way access to the Wittman Regional Airport. Based on the results from an economic impact study conducted in 2010 by the University of Wisconsin - Extension, the 81 acre Oshkosh Aviation Business Park is expected to create an estimated 236 direct jobs over a ten year period which, in turn, will spur over $73 million dollars annually in economic activity for Winnebago County. Additionally, a UW-Oshkosh Business Accelerator is proposed by the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh for the Oshkosh Aviation Business Park which will provide new opportunities for entrepreneurs and serve as a catalyst for further development in the business park.

This collaborative EDA grant award will strengthen the region's aviation network and improve the economic distress of the region impacted by recent Oshkosh Corporation layoffs, diversifying the regional economy.

For questions or additional information on this award, please contact Katherine Ahlquist at kahlquist@ecwrpc.org or (920) 751-4770.
2014-2018 County Human Services Public Transportation Coordinated Plans Prepared by East Central

ECWRPC was designated by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) as the agency to lead the 2008 coordinated county human services public transportation plan update for the counties within the region. ECWRPC worked closely with Winnebago, Calumet, Outagamie, Shawano, Menominee, Waupaca, Green Lake, Marquette and Waushara Counties to develop a comprehensive 2014-2018 coordinated county human services public transportation plan.

Federal transit law, as amended by Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (2005), and continued in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) (2012), requires that projects selected for funding under the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program be “derived from a locally developed, coordinated county human services public transportation plan” and that the plan be “developed through a process that includes representatives of public, private, and non-profit transportation and human services providers and participation by members of the public.” State Statute 85.21 Specialized Transportation Assistance Program funds also require coordination.

A county human services public transportation coordinated plan is a five year plan dedicated to sharing resources both intra- and inter-county to assist the transportation disadvantaged public in getting rides based on their individual mobility needs. Broad and encompassing strategies and actions are developed to enhance the mobility needs of the elderly and disabled for the life of the plan.

According to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) rules, a human service public transportation coordinated plan must include the following four elements:

1. An assessment of available services that identifies current transportation providers (e.g., public, private and nonprofit).
2. An assessment of the transportation needs for individuals with disabilities and older adults. The assessment can be based on the experiences and perceptions of the planning partners or on more sophisticated data collection efforts and gaps in service.
3. Strategies, activities and/or projects to address the identified gaps between current services and needs, as well as opportunities to improve efficiencies in service delivery.
4. Priorities for implementation based on resources (from multiple program sources), time, and feasibility for implementing specific strategies and/or activities identified.

All Wisconsin’s counties 2014-2018 human services public transportation coordinated plans can be found on WisDOT’s website at:

http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/coordination/plans.htm

2030 Brillion Sewer Service Area Plan Update Nearing Final Completion

The 2030 Brillion Sewer Service Area Plan update is wending its way through final approvals in 2014. On January 8th, 2014 the Community Facilities Committee (CFC) heard and acted on a staff presentation justifying the plan update. The CFC acted on Resolution 38-13 which approved the 2030 Brillion Sewer Service Area Plan update, however this approval was contingent upon addressing Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) concerns. Based on the approval of Resolution 38-13, East Central staff completed all revisions and addressed all concerns from those in the review process.

The 2030 Brillion Sewer Service Area Plan update was then scheduled for a presentation to the full Commission slated for January 31st, 2014. This final Commission approval, which in effect would adopt the CFC approval of Resolution 38-13, was needed to move forward with a submittal to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for final plan certification. The East Central Commission overwhelmingly approved the plan update as presented, clearing the way for final draft approval.

The 2030 Brillion Sewer Service Area Plan update is now being prepared for draft publication with the final draft being submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for final certification. It is anticipated WDNR certification is likely in early Spring, 2014. All affected communities within this plan update will receive their certified plan by mid-to-late Spring, 2014.

More information on Sewer Service Area planning can be found on the Commission’s website at www.ecwrpc.org.
Calumet County Withdraws from the NR-135 Regional Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Program

As of January, 2014, Calumet County has withdrawn from the Commission’s NR - 135 Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Program. The reason for the county’s withdrawal from the regional program was not the result of dissatisfaction with the program or the services provided. It was simply a rearrangement of duties to accommodate another full time position in their Resource Management Department. The additional duties from the NR - 135 Program helped to complete that full time position. East Central Planning has appreciated Calumet County’s involvement with, and support for, the regional program over the past 12 years. After conducting an assessment of the program’s viability without Calumet County, the Commission feels that there will be no negative repercussions to the other four counties or their permitted operators who are still involved with the program. East Central will work with Calumet County during 2014 to ensure a smooth transition of the program’s administration.

For questions or comments relating to this matter, please contact Scott Konkle at (920) 751-4770 or skonkle@ecwrpc.org.

2013 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Available

The 2013 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 5-Year Update has been completed for the East Central Wisconsin Economic Development District (EDD). The Commission has served as the designated EDD for its ten county region since 1984, as authorized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). Given this designation, East Central is charged with preparing and updating a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, or the CEDS, for the EDD and its communities to remain eligible for EDA funding programs.

The 2013 CEDS 5-Year Update was unanimously adopted by the Commission on October 25, 2013 and submitted to the EDA. The document analyzes the East Central Wisconsin Region's current economic conditions and serves as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying projects for consideration by the EDA. The 2013 CEDS 5-Year Update and 2013 CEDS Executive Summary can be viewed on the Commission’s website.

To learn more about the CEDS process, determine whether your community is eligible for EDA funding, or request copies of the plan, please contact Katherine Ahlquist at kahlquist@ecwrpc.org or (920) 751-4770.
East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission partnered with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to extend a one year license from the Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI) Analyst program through June, 2014. EMSI Analyst is used by ECWRPC to provide economic data and analysis services to requesting economic development entities or municipalities in the East Central Wisconsin Region. This modeling software taps into over 90 sets of federal, state and private data about the labor market and can help people better understand important connections between people, economies, and work. Typical products that can be developed using EMSI range from individual or combined industry sectors reports for various geographies, to comprehensive impact assessments of job layoffs or gains in a community and the surrounding area.

East Central also uses Esri Business Analyst for economic development and other planning projects within the region. This year’s update has changed business point data providers and has shown to be more detailed in the amount of businesses listed than in the past versions. Demographic, economic and other various reports are generated from this data package to support business decisions.

For questions, comments or to submit an EMSI Analyst data request please contact Katherine Ahlquist, Economic Development Planner, at kahlquist@ecwrpc.org, and Esri Business Analyst questions to Adam Pfefferle, GIS Specialist II, at apfefferle@ecwrpc.org.

Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway Receives Funding for Accessible Kayak Launches

The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway (FWHP) was notified in early 2014 that it was the recipient of a $43,000 grant for the installation of an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) approved kayak launch. The grant is from the Fox Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Frank C. Shattuck fund. FWHP staff are looking at locations in the Cities of Neenah and Little Chute for installation of this ADA accessible launch equipment. An ADA accessible launch utilizes a stable platform to allow users to safely enter and exit kayaks for launch and recovery. This launch is one of 15 ADA compliant launches that are planned for the FWHP corridor and will allow all users to enjoy this historic waterway.

The ADA launch is part of a series of planned improvements for the 280 mile FWHP National Recreation Trail that covers the waters of the Upper and Lower Fox Rivers as well as the Lower Wisconsin River. Improving public access to the river in partnership with government and private sector entities is one of the major goals of the FWHP organization. To learn more about the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway please contact Tom Baron at (920) 751-4770 or tbaron@ecwrpc.org, or visit www.heritageparkway.org for the latest information on projects and programs that are helping our communities.
Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in Final Stages for Appleton and Oshkosh MPO Areas

The Appleton (Fox Cities) and Oshkosh Bicycle and Pedestrian Steering Committee have been meeting over the last few months to finalize a draft of the regional bicycle and pedestrian network. At the February meeting, Steering Committee members reaffirmed a draft of the regional bicycle and pedestrian network and prioritized non-infrastructure programs and projects. The non-infrastructure program and projects include activities associated with the ‘5 E’s’: education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering, and evaluation. Priorities include:

♦ continuing to support the Fox Valley Bicycle Challenge;
♦ developing an annual report regarding the state of walking and bicycling within the Fox Valley;
♦ working with communities and the metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to develop Complete Streets policies;
♦ working with local law enforcement on a bike patrol program; and
♦ developing a study regarding the economic impact of bicycling and walking in the Fox Valley.

The Steering Committee also recommended that this committee or a similar committee continue to meet to ensure that recommendations are implemented. In the upcoming months, East Central staff will be seeking feedback and input from local municipality staff and committees on the draft of the regional bicycle and pedestrian network and non-infrastructure recommendations. Public information meetings are anticipated for the spring of 2014 as well. If your municipality is interested in having East Central staff attend a committee meeting and they would like to provide feedback on the network and recommendations, please contact Melissa Kraemer Badtke at (920) 751-4770 or by email at mbadtke@ecwrpc.org.

For information regarding the bicycle and pedestrian plan, visit http://fcompo.org/planning-activities/bicycle-and-pedestrian-planning/.

Regional Safe Routes to School Program Seeks Continued Funding

In December, 2013, East Central staff submitted a pre-scoping application for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for continued funding of the Regional Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program. Currently, the Regional SRTS Program is funded through 2015 with funds from the WisDOT awarded in December, 2012. If the Commission is awarded a WisDOT Transportation Alternatives Program Grant, the grant would be over a two year period for 2016 and 2017 and there would be a 20% local match from the Commission. At the January, 2014 Commission Meeting, the Commission Board reaffirmed its support of the Regional SRTS pre-scoping application and full application through approved Resolution 35-13.

The Regional Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program was started in 2009 by East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to make the process seamless for schools and communities within the region to develop local SRTS programs. The mission of the program is to engage and empower schools and communities to improve the health and well-being of children and families by advocating safe walking and bicycling.

For more information regarding the Regional Safe Routes to School Program, please contact Melissa Kraemer Badtke at (920) 751-4770 or by email at mbadtke@ecwrpc.org.
Lower Wolf River Watershed Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention and Control Grant Submittal

East Central recently facilitated two working meetings with Calumet, Winnebago, Shawano, Menominee and Waushara County Planning Directors, their county Land Conservation Department staff, two resource conservation and development organizations (RC&Ds), and the WDNR to explore ways of creating sustainable regional AIS control programs that are not heavily dependent on state funding. These meetings resulted in a more logical set of sub-regional boundaries (a watershed approach) for AIS prevention, control and efforts by each entity.

As a result, East Central has now submitted a new two year (April 2014 – April 2016) Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Control Grant (WI Administration Code NR-198) proposal to educate, prevent and control the spread of aquatic invasive species. If funded, East Central will act as a regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator (AISC) for the Lower Wolf River Watershed (LWRW) encompassing all of Menominee County, Shawano County and the northwest two-thirds of Outagamie County.

The proposed LWRW AISC will provide a regional approach to educate, monitor and control the spread of aquatic invasive species to and from the surface waters (lakes, rivers and streams) within the defined LWRW boundaries. The AISC will coordinate with Golden Sands RC&D and Glacierland RC&D AIS staff to cooperatively monitor and control AIS within areas of overlap or adjacency. The AISC will also coordinate with the Calumet and Fond du Lac County AISCs to plan and attend educational outreach events and the recruitment of volunteers.

The Wolf River Basin covers an area of 3,671 square miles and includes all or portions of eleven counties: Waushara, Outagamie, Waupaca, Marathon, Portage, Shawano, Menominee (including almost the entire 233,384-acre Menominee Indian Reservation), Langlade, Oneida, Winnebago and Forest. The proposed AISC will cover approximately 41% of the Wolf River Basin and a small portion of the Green Bay Basin (within the northeast portions of Menominee County) which is an area of 1,492.4 square miles (955,155.3 acres) encompassing all of Menominee and Shawano Counties and the northwest two-thirds of Outagamie County. The proposed LWRW area is rich with surface water resources. There are a total of 189 named inland lakes, 163 unnamed lakes (a total of 14,594 acres) and approximately 50 public boat landings.¹ The LWRW region has a total of 244,695 acres of wetlands, and 10 state natural areas totaling over 30,000 acres.

The WDNR will complete grant ranking for all submitted AIS Prevention and Control Grant proposals in March of 2014 and the Commission will find out soon as to whether its proposal was funded. This WDNR grant cycle will be extremely competitive; however East Central staff worked diligently with Shawano, Menominee and Outagamie County staff prior to submittal to make the proposal as competitive as possible.

More information on aquatic invasive species and this particular state-wide program can be found at [http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/) or by contacting Todd Verboomen at 920-751-4770 or tverboomen@ecwrpc.org.

WDNR Brownfields Financial Resource Guide Available

A new resource is available from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Remediation and Redevelopment Program. The Financial Resource Guide for Cleanup & Redevelopment offers information on grants, reimbursements, loans, tax incentives and waterfront revitalization programs for the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield sites around the state. It also contains detailed information about who may apply, eligibility criteria and more, including the many agency contacts, program descriptions and funding timeframes.

Brownfields continue to be an important focus in environmental clean-up as well as their long term contributions to urban and rural revitalization. To download a copy of the full resource guide, please visit the WDNR at:


WDOA Population Projections Released and East Central Population Projections Available Soon

The Wisconsin Department of Administration’s (DOA) Demographic Services Center has released their 2010-2040 population projections based on the 2010 Census, for the all Wisconsin towns, villages and cities. These projections can be found on DOA’s website or at the following link: http://www.doa.state.wi.us/divisions/intergovernmental-relations/demographic-services-center/projections/preliminary. In spring 2014, ECWRPC staff will be completing its own population projections for all counties and minor civil divisions (MCDs) within the 10 county East Central Region, based on DOA’s population projections. These projections serve as the ‘official’ projections for Sewer Service Area Planning and transportation planning done through the MPO process. For updates or questions, please contact Katherine Ahlquist at kahlquist@ecwrpc.org or (920) 751-4770.

New ‘Neighborhood Partners” Initiative Unveiled in the Fox Valley

In late 2012, Sustainable Fox Valley began to work on the development of a project which focused on existing urban neighborhoods’ roles in sustainability and keeping our cities healthy and vibrant. In 2013, a full project proposal was submitted to and funded by the Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region and the new “Neighborhood Partners” initiative was started.

Neighborhood Partners is a nonprofit business and governmental collaboration with a mission to bring people together to create vibrant neighborhoods and a thriving Fox Valley. In this model, people take ownership of their neighborhoods, becoming stewards of the social, economic and environmental health of their community, helping one another to meet basic needs, and producing their own high quality of life. Neighborhood Partners is predicated on the idea that the health and wellbeing of the Fox Valley region as a whole depends upon the resilience of our neighborhoods – every single one of them. Our neighborhoods are filled with the knowledge, skills, and commitment of people who, when brought together, will produce a strong, sustainable quality of life.

This pilot project involves residents of the Historic Central Neighborhood, located just north of downtown Appleton, anchored by Columbus Elementary School and Arbutus Park. Over the coming year, neighbors in this area are taking on sustainability projects that include: renovating the Columbus School playground for increased green space, addressing erosion problems on the Arbutus Park ravine sides, improving residential energy- and water-efficiency, establishing a community garden in collaboration with St. Therese Parish, creating a neighborhood gardening club, and providing opportunities for local youth to become neighborhood stewards.

Through this pilot, Neighborhood Partners is developing replicable models for asset-based community development, effective community-based planning, and evaluation using credible neighborhood sustainability indicators, and looks forward to future opportunities to share those models with neighborhoods and small rural communities throughout the Fox Valley.

Initial funding for Neighborhood Partners has come from the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region’s Environmental Sustainability Fund, and the initiative has gained life through the efforts of core partners. These partners include Sustainable Fox Valley, Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity, East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Community Garden Partnership of Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin and the City of Appleton. A growing number of other nonprofit business and government entities have also been leveraged to bring resources to bear on a neighbor-to-neighbor approach to community development and sustainability.

For more information about the project, contact Julie Filapek, Project Coordinator at Sustainable Fox Valley (SFV): (920) 217-8744 or julief@sustainfv.org. Additional project information will be shared on SFV’s website at www.sustainfv.org.
Village of Hortonville Comprehensive Plan Nears Completion

Over the past year, the Commission has been working with the Village of Hortonville to update their previous comprehensive plan that was adopted in 2003. Building upon the Village’s recently adopted strategic plan, the comprehensive plan is intended to incorporate the needs and opportunities identified in the strategic plan and the corresponding actions and tasks. Input and data from a variety of sources including the Community and Neighborhood Visioning Workshop (held early in the process), the Village’s strategic plan, the Planning and Zoning Commission, Village staff and background material were used to identify key issues and opportunities.

Generally, the Village’s draft goals are designed to enhance the quality of life and sense of community with the Village; encourage retail, commercial and industrial growth; maintain an adequate supply of housing to meet current and future needs; ensure a well maintained and safe transportation system that provides a range of transportation alternatives; provide high quality, cost effective community facilities and services; maintain the economic viability of the area’s agricultural community; expand access to locally grown products; protect and preserve the natural resources; and establish cooperative working relationships with neighboring towns, and governmental entities.

The Village is expected to take action on the plan at the end of March. A complete copy of the Village of Hortonville Comprehensive Plan Update 2035 can be found at [http://www.hortonvillewi.org/](http://www.hortonvillewi.org/).
Planning for Freight Transport in the Region

The current public transportation law *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (MAP-21) (2012), includes specific provisions for freight planning at the national level. For the first time, the United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT)/Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is required to develop a national freight plan and has recently released a draft of the national highway system Primary Freight Network (PFN). MAP 21 does not require states to have a freight plan, but they are encouraged to develop one and work with FHWA to identify nationally significant corridors that might be added to the Primary Freight Network. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is very active in freight planning and the University of Wisconsin - Madison houses the Center for Freight Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE) and the 10 state Mid-America Freight Coalition (MAFC). East Central has served on various committees, work groups and research review panels with CFIRE and has participated in various research projects and studies. The Mid-America Freight Coalition is currently working with stakeholders to prepare a regional freight plan that will include USH 41 from Milwaukee to Green Bay as identified on the draft National Primary Freight Network. East Central is working with these partners to better understand freight logistics trends that include the containerization of freight and the rise of intermodal trains and container pooling facilities and specialized truck trailers. In 2014, East Central will continue to work with the CFIRE and other stakeholders to identify potential locations and need for freight facilities and improvements to the local system or last mile connections for shippers. Currently, container or intermodal trains pass through the Fox Valley to Chicago where many containers are placed on trucks and are hauled back to northeast Wisconsin. A potential 2014 study would identify the demand for intermodal facilities and a proposed collaborative CFIRE study would identify businesses in the region and state to manufacture and pool containers and specialized shipping boxes. The key to success is demonstrating to the railroad and other shippers that the demand exists to make it a profitable venture. East Central will continue work on strategies and plans to improve the freight system in an effort to ensure the region is in position to adapt to changing logistics trends now and in the future.

“The Cedars at Kimberly” Master Plan Finalized for Former NewPage Mill Site

Over the course of 2013, ECWRPC staff worked with the Village of Kimberly, as well as the property-owner’s consultant, to generate a master plan concept for the redevelopment of the former NewPage paper mill – a 98 acre site along the Fox River. This concept, named “The Cedars at Kimberly” to emphasize nature and celebrate the community’s heritage, was publicly unveiled in November. Since then, staff has created various supplementary materials, including three-dimensional renderings, street cross sections, and a guiding principles document, which were shared at an open house in January. “The Cedars at Kimberly” project and its public engagement process have received very positive feedback and a variety of media coverage. Although many details will continue to be worked out with the Village Board and Plan Commission, some initial project phasing could begin as soon as late 2014. For more information, please contact Dave Kress at dkress@ecwrpc.org or (920) 751-4770.

The Cedars at Kimberly Parkway Perspective

The Cedars at Kimberly Master Plan

The Cedars at Kimberly Parkway Perspective
East Central Helps Numerous Communities with Updates of Local Comprehensive Outdoor and Recreation Plans

As part of East Central’s Technical Assistance Program, staff have been giving support to numerous communities within the region on the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (CORP) update process. A typical process involves updating plan goals and objectives; demographic and park facility data; mapping and needs assessments and well as conducting public surveys and public informational meetings. By updating the CORP every 5 years, the community remains in compliance to apply for funding and grant opportunities, namely the WDNR’s Stewardship Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), along with a host of other grant prospects. As funding is sparse, communities must look into creative ways to generate revenue so that they can become more self-sustaining.

A timeline of completion and progress dates scheduled for the 2014 parks planning work program are listed below as well as previously adopted plans:

- **Town of Grand Chute (2014-2018) (Outagamie County)** – Adoption by the Town Board occurred on December 17, 2013. This was a cooperative effort with the Parks and Recreation Committee and Town staff. The document was done as an online version and can be found at this link: [https://sites.google.com/site/grandchutecors/](https://sites.google.com/site/grandchutecors/).

- **City of Shawano (2014-2018) (Shawano County)** – The final draft document was submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission as well as the City Council. The plan was adopted on February 18, 2014 and now makes the city eligible for grant submittals for the next five years. On a final note, the Parks and Recreation Director, Judy Judd assisted with the process and will be retiring in early March after 31 years. We wish Judy all the best in her retirement and future endeavors.

- **Shawano County (2014-2018)** - The final draft document been completed and includes maps and tables. A public open house was held on January 22, 2014 and on February 18, 2014, the needs assessment and preliminary recommendations were presented to the Highway and Parks Committee. The last step in planning process will be the final adoption of the plan at the March, 2014 Highway and Parks Committee and County Board meetings before the general elections in April, 2014.

- **City of Neenah (2014-2018) (Winnebago County)** – A survey was deployed and is being analyzed. The city along with ECWRPC will be hosting an open house /public informational meeting about the planning process in late April, 2014.

- **City of Clintonville (2014-2018) (Waupaca County)** – A public survey was deployed with analysis now being completed to assist with the planning of preliminary recommendations. A 5-year action program has been developed with adoption occurring in early 2014.

- **Village of Big Falls (2014-2018) (Waupaca County)** – A draft document has been completed with maps and a survey has been mailed to the residents for additional feedback. The next steps are the needs assessment and preliminary recommendations. Adoption will take place in spring/summer of 2014.

For more information on the above plans, or any other park and recreational projects, please contact Trish Nau, Principal Recreation Planner, at: tnau@ecwrpc.org.
UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

March 20, 7:30 A.M.-2:00 P.M. 2014 Grants & Funding Opportunities Conference, DJ Bordain Center in Appleton, WI.

March 20-21 Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Spring Workshop, Heidel House in Green Lake, WI (www.wpraweb.org)

March 25 3:30 P.M.—6:30 P.M. Fox Valley Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Fair at the Appleton Public Library.

April 8, 1:30 P.M. ECWRPC Transportation Committee Meeting, ECWRPC Offices in Menasha, WI.

April 8, 1:30 P.M. ECWRPC Open Space and Environmental Management Committee, Fritsch Park in Menasha, WI.

April 10, 10:00 A.M. ECWRPC Regional Comprehensive Planning Standing Committee, Oshkosh, WI.

April 11-12 Community Initiatives in Sustainable Agriculture (CISA) Conference at Lawrence University. (http://www.cisaconference.org/)

April 23, 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. 2014 Port of Green Bay Symposium, Green Bay, WI.

April 25, 8:30 A.M. ECWRPC Mini-Conference: Local and Regional Food Systems, Liberty Hall in Kimberly, WI.

April 25, 1:00 P.M. Quarterly and Annual Commission Meetings, Liberty Hall in Kimberly, WI.


May 2, 9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Annual Rural Summit, Generations: Responding to Our Future, Rothschild, WI. For more information contact WI Rural Partners at (608) 967-2322.

June 11, 12:30 P.M. ECWRPC Community Facilities Standing Committee, Kaukauna Utilities in Kaukauna, WI.