Award Received From Winnebago Co. re:TH!NK Leadership Council

In December, 2015, the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission was honored with a collaboration award entitled “Without Collaboration there is No Creation” from the re:TH!NK Leadership Council and the Winnebago County Health Department. East Central began working with the re:TH!NK coalition and the Winnebago County Health Department in 2007 with the Safe Routes to School Program. ECWRPC staff have worked to advance the efforts of re:TH!NK through:

- leading a community team through the Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute;
- dedicating resources to a full-time Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator;
- working with public health and other partners to write for the APA Plan4Health grant;
- incorporating public health concepts into processes, plans and documents;
- collaborating within Winnebago County and regionally to lead Health in Planning work groups and participate in health equity work through Fox Valley THRIVES; and
- recognizing the importance of health education and youth engagement in Regional Safe Routes to School planning efforts.

The partnership between ECWRPC, the re:TH!NK leadership committee and the Winnebago County Health Department has been invaluable and creates a larger collective impact to improve the health outcomes and quality of life for Winnebago County and Fox Valley residents. We appreciate the acknowledgements and look forward to working with re:TH!NK and others in the future!

Final 2016 Work Program & Budget Adopted by Commission

The final 2016 Work Program and Budget was adopted by the Commission at its January 29, 2016 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 2016. The document amends and replaces the July 2015 preliminary budget which was developed and approved for the sole purpose of establishing the 2016 tax levy. Based on the levy, expected revenues and expenditures, the Commission continues to be in solid financial condition.

Highlights of the 2016 work program include continuation of the Commission’s important roles in federal planning programs for transportation (FHWA) and economic development (EDA), as well as the state roles for sewer service area planning (WDNR) and the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program.

Of particular interest for 2016 is the inclusion of significant time and resources to initiate an update of the regional comprehensive plan which is scheduled for completion in early 2018. This and other activities can be reviewed in more detail by visiting our website www.ecwrpc.org.
In the summer and fall of 2015, the Commission solicited member units of government (counties, towns, villages, and cities) for potential 2016 technical assistance projects. A total of 35 new project requests were received, ranked and approved by the Steering Committee in November 2015 as listed in the table below. These new projects will be initiated during the course of 2016 while work continues on approximately 20 additional local projects which are still in progress from the pool selected in 2014 and 2015.

If you did not request a project, please be aware that Commission staff can still provide a minor level of additional assistance throughout the year in areas specific to transportation, economic development, 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 for applicable projects.

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 providing direction to the resources you need.

### 2016 Technical Assistance Project Awards Approved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Entity</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calumet</td>
<td>Calumet Co.</td>
<td>2015 Land Use GIS Data Set for Calumet County</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Economic Impact Analysis of Businesses Outside of County</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C. Brillion</td>
<td>County-Wide Park &amp; Recreation Survey</td>
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<td>Downtown Redevelopment Visioning</td>
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<td>Peters Park - Little League Field Planning</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C. New Holstein</td>
<td>Trail Planning / Connectivity for Tourism</td>
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<td>Zoning Ordinance Modifications for Shoreland Zoning</td>
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<td>Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update</td>
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<td>Fond du Lac</td>
<td>C. Fond du Lac</td>
<td>Downtown Parking/Transit Evaluation</td>
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<td>C. Waupun</td>
<td>Market Analysis</td>
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<td>T. Byron</td>
<td>Downtown Visioning</td>
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<td></td>
<td>T. Auburn</td>
<td>Comprehensive Plan Update (contract discount)</td>
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<td>T. Friendship</td>
<td>Town Road Culvert Survey</td>
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<td>T. Lamartine</td>
<td>Road Sign Retroreflectivity Inventory</td>
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<td>T. Oakfield</td>
<td>Road Sign Retroreflectivity Inventory</td>
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<td>Town Road Culvert Survey</td>
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<td>Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update</td>
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<td>Outagamie</td>
<td>Heart of the Valley MSD</td>
<td>Interceptor Sewer Manhole Location Mapping</td>
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<td>(and Calumet)</td>
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<td>Outagamie</td>
<td>C. Appleton</td>
<td>Bike/Pedestrian Accommodations RFP Development/Implementation (contract discount)</td>
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<td>go and Calumet</td>
<td>V. Hortonville</td>
<td>Industry Cluster Analysis for Economic Development</td>
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<td>T. Grand Chute</td>
<td>Design Standards for Downtown District / Sketch-Up Modeling</td>
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<td>Town Center Park Design</td>
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<td>Shawano</td>
<td>C. Shawano</td>
<td>Downtown / Green Bay Road Corridor Visioning</td>
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<td>Shawano Co.</td>
<td>Highway 29 Corridor Group Coordination</td>
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<td>Preservation Overlay GIS Layer for Development Rights Availability</td>
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<td>Economic Development &quot;Storymap&quot; for Shawano County</td>
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<td>Waupaca</td>
<td>C. Waupaca</td>
<td>Tree Canopy Survey</td>
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<td>T. Caledonia</td>
<td>Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update</td>
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<td>Community Park Long-Range Plan</td>
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<td>Winnebago</td>
<td>C. Oshkosh</td>
<td>Comprehensive Plan Update (contract discount)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C. Neenah</td>
<td>Comprehensive Plan Update (contract discount)</td>
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<td>V. Winneconne</td>
<td>Industrial Park Expansion Planning</td>
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<td></td>
<td>T. Nepeuskun</td>
<td>Agricultural Preservation Base Farm Tract Mapping/Recording</td>
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“Working Together” Theme of 2040 Regional Comprehensive Plan Update

This spring, the Commission will be kicking off a formal process to update the 2008 Regional Comprehensive Plan. Comprehensive plans are developed for a 20-year planning horizon and must be updated no less than once every 10 years. Within the statutory provisions of Wisconsin State Statutes (SS) 66.0309, East Central’s main function and duty is that “of making (preparing) and adopting a master (comprehensive) plan for the physical development of the region.” This basic enabling legislation is complemented by the comprehensive planning law, SS 66.1001. The updated regional plan will be entitled *Working Together: A 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the East Central Wisconsin Region* and cover a ten-county area. The document will serve as an advisory policy document to guide where future conservation, growth, and development activities should occur at the largest of scales. When completed, the “Working Together” plan will outline a series of “best practices” that our counties and communities should consider in order to achieve better alignment and collaboration when dealing with issues of mutual (regional) concern.

At the January 29, 2016 Quarterly Commission meeting, action was taken to kick off this process by approving an updated citizen participation plan which outlines the process and public engagement efforts. The Commission firmly believes that public participation is the key to any successful planning process and that input should be sought at all stages during this process. The Commission’s planning and programming efforts benefit from a well-informed regional population. A number of structures, processes and techniques are listed in this document that will be used to raise awareness of, and engage, the public in the development of the “Working Together” report.

During the first half of 2016, staff will be focused on updating all of the necessary demographic and GIS mapping information in order to accomplish the “inventory” tasks for the various plan elements. Initial input will be sought to help identify regional issues of concern and how those might fit within the plan’s newly developed framework of “themes” (see sidebar). Online surveys, meetings with county representatives and the establishment of Technical Advisory Committees for each “theme” are just some of the tasks to be addressed in the coming months.

Refer to the Commission’s website ([www.ecwprc.org](http://www.ecwprc.org)) for more information about this project and process. If you have questions or would like to be involved on a particular Technical Advisory Committee for this effort, please contact Eric Fowle, AICP – Executive Director at efowle@ecwprc.org or via phone at 920-751-4770.

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**“Working Together” Plan Framework**

Traditional comprehensive plans follow the statutory 'outline' regarding the plan’s contents. The “Working Together” plan will certainly consider these 9 elements; however, it intends to “package” various pieces of the 9 elements into 7 different “themes” which are more relatable to the public’s knowledge/perception of everyday issues and solutions.

**“Smart Growth” Nine Elements**
1. Issues & Opportunities
2. Agriculture, Natural & Cultural Resources
3. Economic Development
4. Housing
5. Community Facilities (include Recreation)
6. Transportation
7. Land Use
8. Intergovernmental Cooperation
9. Implementation

**Regional Plan “Themes” (Chapters)**
1. A Regional Sense of Place
2. A Livable Region
3. A Connected & Mobile Region
4. A Resilient Region I – Environment
5. A Healthy Region
6. A Smarter Region
7. A Resilient Region II – Economy
Oshkosh Region Defense Industry Diversification Initiative (ORDIDI) Updates

In January 2016, ECWPRC staff submitted a Phase II Implementation request to the Department of Defense – Office of Economic Adjustment (DoD-OEA) in hopes of obtaining additional funding to move forward on various I-41 Corridor initiatives related to industry diversification. The two-year grant is requesting $2.8 million for use by partners, such as the City of Oshkosh, UW-Oshkosh and the Fond du Lac County Economic Development Corporation, to pursue initiatives focused on the aerospace/aviation cluster and the entrepreneurial development programs.

The DoD-OEA and Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness staff visited the East Central region February 2-3, 2016 while they conducted a site visit and interviews with ORDIDI project partners. Their purpose was to collect success stories and challenges from several DoD-OEA grantees across the nation so that a summary of “best practices” can be developed and shared. East Central was the first grantee in the nation out of approximately 36 total grant awards. The group ended with a visit/tour at Oshkosh Coil Spring, a defense supplier who was assisted by Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP) through East Central’s grant program.

The Commission hosted a kickoff meeting with its new consultant, Leonard & Finco, on February 12, 2016 to prepare a public outreach strategy and video which will help to better tell the “story” of the previous three year effort on the ORDIDI project. This Department of Defense funded project has had many positive impacts on the region in its relatively short lifespan. Sharing those success stories from the many partners involved in this project is critical as we move forward into a second phase of the project which centers on collaboration along the entire Interstate 41 Corridor.

For more information on the ORDIDI project, or the proposed implementation request, please contact Eric Fowle or Sarah Van Buren at (920) 751-4770.

Town of Fond du Lac Comprehensive Plan Update Near Completion

Over the last 8 months, the Commission has been working with the Town of Fond du Lac to update their previous comprehensive plan that was adopted in 2005. Key issues and opportunities were identified; vision statements for the nine elements were established; and goals, strategies and recommendations were identified by utilizing input from the Community Visioning Session (held in August), the Planning Commission, Board of Appeals, elected officials, town staff, as well as background material.

Generally, the town’s draft goals are designed to enhance the quality of life and sense of community within the town; promote economic development that complements existing businesses and the overall wellbeing of residents without compromising the natural resources and quiet rural character; maintains an adequate housing supply that meets the needs of current and future residents; ensures a well maintained and safe transportation system that provides alternatives, including opportunities for active lifestyles; provides high-quality, cost-effective community facilities and services; protects the economic viability of existing farm operations; preserves and protects the natural, cultural and historical resources; and maintains cooperatively working relationships with neighboring communities and government entities.

An intergovernmental meeting was held at the end of February to gather input from neighboring communities, government entities and others. The town is in the process of completing the draft plan and should be taking action on the plan in late spring.
City of New Holstein Zoning Code Update Completed

ECWRPC staff recently completed an update of the city of New Holstein’s zoning code. The zoning code was originally written in the early 1980’s and had become dated and inefficient for current building trends. The update process was formed around the following goals:

- The development process is streamlined and predictable.
- Graphics are included to make the code accessible for all.
- The city’s visions and goals are utilized to create a sense of place.
- The updated zoning code will be reflective of current building trends while preserving local character.

New Holstein’s City Council took action in January to adopt the code and ECWRPC staff are finalizing several forms based on the adopted code. For more information about the project please contact Tom Baron at (920) 751-4770 or tbaron@ecwrpc.org.

High Interest Received at Menasha Lock Site Visioning Workshop

On January 23, 2016, a highly successful public visioning workshop was hosted by East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the Fox River Navigation System Authority (FRNSA) and the Post-Crescent to examine the potential future use of a 2.4 acre piece of property associated with the Menasha Lock. The Menasha Lock has been operational since the 1850’s and provides a key linkage within the system of 17 locks that tamed the rapid elevation change of the Lower Fox River. In 2005, the Friendship Trestle Trail opened, connecting the City of Menasha with the Town of Menasha, and instantly making the lock site an “anchor” on the eastern shore of Little Lake Buttes des Morts.

The purpose of the public workshop was to examine the current and potential future conditions of the vacant 2.4 acre site within the context of the neighborhood, the city and the region. A total of 66 people registered and participated in the Saturday morning event - quite a few more than originally expected!

Regional Planning Commission, the Fox River Navigation System Authority (FRNSA) and the Post-Crescent to examine the potential future use of a 2.4 acre piece of property associated with the Menasha Lock. The Menasha Lock has been operational since the 1850’s and provides a key linkage within the system of 17 locks that tamed the rapid elevation change of the Lower Fox River. In 2005, the Friendship Trestle Trail opened, connecting the City of Menasha with the Town of Menasha, and instantly making the lock site an “anchor” on the eastern shore of Little Lake Buttes des Morts.

The participants were split into seven smaller groups who spent the next two hours getting oriented to the site and diving into six separate mapping and worksheet-based exercises. Each exercise was designed to mine the individual’s knowledge of the site, community and region in order to provide context and grounding for the site itself. Ideas, thoughts and concerns were generated that explored the concepts of “identity”, “connectivity”, “assets”, “improvements”, and “impacts”. The generation of “big ideas” was next, with the groups being encouraged to list/map out visionary and perhaps transformational uses for/near the site that adhered to none of the typical constraints such as property ownership, regulatory or funding restrictions. Lastly, individuals were asked to give their ideas on which places could be considered for improvements related to “placemaking” within the City of Menasha.

A significant amount of enthusiasm was shown by participants and an equally significant amount of data was created as a result. The data is currently being compiled into a written summary report which is expected to be released and shared with the community in March 2016. This collection of written and mapped feedback will be used “up-front” by the Fox River Navigation System Authority and the City of Menasha in future planning for this important site’s use and function. Check East Central’s (www.ecwrpc.org) or the FRNSA’s (www.foxlocks.org) website in March or April to view/download your copy of the report.

Statewide Re-Use Program Successes Highlighted in Agency Report

Fiscal Year 2015 successes and milestones are front and center in the latest annual report from the Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Air, Waste, and Remediation and Redevelopment (AWaRe) Division. The 29-page report examines and highlights program successes in customer service, new laws and regulations, emerging and ongoing issues, and measuring program performance. During the reporting period, the program celebrated its 20th anniversary. Since 1995, staff have worked with partners across the state, helping to clean up more than 15,000 brownfield properties and returning more than 20,000 acres back into productive use. The program marked the anniversary by continuing to work with their external advisory partner, the Wisconsin Brownfields Study Group, to create its 2015 report – Investing in Wisconsin, which outlines proposals that will make a strong program even better. This is the AWaRe Division’s final annual report, as the Division has merged with several DNR water programs and has formed the new Environmental Management Division.
The Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, in partnership with the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, has received a $100,000 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant from the U.S. Forest Service to assist communities, counties and tribes with mitigating Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) impacts. The funding will be provided to Wisconsin jurisdictions and tribes within the Great Lakes Basin that are under an EAB quarantine (see table below). Funded projects for communities within the Basin will be selected through a mini-grant process utilizing an advisory panel made up of representatives from Southeastern Wisconsin RPC, East Central Wisconsin RPC, North Central Wisconsin RPC, Northwestern Wisconsin RPC, and the Wisconsin DNR. The DNR will also help to get the word out to communities, counties and tribes that funding is available. More information will be available in future e-newsletters as the mini-grant program develops over the next couple months.

Please contact Angela Kowalzek-Adrians, Natural Resources Planner at Bay-Lake RPC (920) 448-2820, if you have any questions or comments.

### WI EAB Quarantined Counties within the Great Lakes Basin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adams</th>
<th>Door</th>
<th>Manitowoc</th>
<th>Racine</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>Outagamie</td>
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<td>Calumet</td>
<td>Fond du Lac</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>Washington</td>
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<td>Columbia</td>
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<td>Oneida</td>
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<td>Dodge</td>
<td>Kewaunee</td>
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*Includes Oneida Tribe

### Now Available – 2035 Eden Sewer Service Area Plan

The 2035 Eden Sewer Service Area Plan supersedes and updates the 2000 Eden Sewer Service Area Plan. The 2035 Eden Sewer Service Area Plan was adopted by the East Central Commission at the July 31, 2015 quarterly meeting. Subsequently, the draft plan was finalized and submitted to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for final certification. The Department of Natural Resources and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) ultimately certified the plan on September 2015.

As part of the State of Wisconsin Water Quality Management Plan, the 2035 Eden Sewer Service Area Plan provides population, housing and land use projections thus delineating future growth in and around the Eden area. Just as importantly, environmentally sensitive areas are identified for restricted development as well as policy recommendations for cost-effective and compact orderly development. This plan and its associated mapping is available for viewing at East Central’s Community Facilities webpage.

Please contact Joe Huffman with any questions on the sewer service area process: (920) 751-4770 or jhuffman@ecwrpc.org.
Commission to Assist the Cities of Oshkosh, Neenah and the Town of Byron in Comprehensive Plan Updates

Over the next year and a half, East Central will be assisting the cities of Oshkosh and Neenah (Winnebago County), as well as the Town of Byron (Fond du Lac County) in updating their current comprehensive plans under contract agreements. Preliminary work, including adoption of public participation plans, is underway in all three communities and kickoff meetings have either been held or are planned with the communities’ respective Plan Commissions.

Each process will begin with public visioning, through a combination of established workshops and focus groups. Listening to the community up front is critical so as to define issues and challenges associated with future land use, transportation, economic development, or other needs. The visioning process helps to root the final plan to the current-day community while at the same time, serving as path to the future.

While each community differs to a certain degree, we know that demographic changes to our population will be a major driver of conversations regarding land use in each community. With these updated plans, they should ultimately be better prepared to deal with those challenges.

For questions, please contact Kathy Thunes at kthunes@ecwrpc.org regarding the City of Neenah and Town of Bryon projects and Tom Baron at tbaron@ecwrpc.org for the City of Oshkosh project.

East Central Staff Celebrate Milestone Anniversaries this Quarter

This year marks a number of notable anniversaries amongst East Central’s 23 staff members. Many of them have served the agency for multiple decades, while some are just beginning what we hope to be a long and enriching employment career. As of the end of the first quarter of 2016, the following staff will have celebrated an anniversary for the number of years indicated.

- Eric Fowle, AICP – Executive Director, 19 yrs.
- Melissa Kraemer Badtke - Principal Transportation Planner, 13 yrs.
- Tom Baron – Associate Community Development Planner, 8 yrs.
- Nick Musson – Associate Transportation (Transit) Planner, 6 yrs.
- Tyler DeBruin – GIS Assistant, 3 yrs.
- Sarah Van Buren – Associate Economic Development Planner, 1 yr.

Regardless of their tenure, East Central staff take great pride in their work and in serving the needs of the region. Their passion, commitment and dedication help to produce quality plans and solutions that affect positive change at all levels of government. We would like to take more time this year to acknowledge and celebrate their individual accomplishments. Next time you see one of these folks, wish them a hearty congratulations!
UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**March 16, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Housing and the Community, Local Land Use Planning & Zoning WisLine Teleconference Series  
http://lgc.uwex.edu/WisLines/index.html

**March 23, 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.** Insight Publications’ 7th Annual InDevelopment Conference, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, WI

**April 2-5** National American Planning Association Conference, Phoenix, AZ, www.planning.org

**April 12, 1:30 p.m.** Transportation Committee Meeting, ECWRPC Offices in Menasha, WI

**April 13, 1:00 p.m.** Open Space and Environmental Management Committee Meeting, location TBD

**April 13, 1:30 p.m.** Economic Development Committee Meeting, ECWRPC Office in Menasha, WI

**April 20, 10:00 a.m.** Regional Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting, ECWRPC Office in Menasha, WI

**April 20, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Community Vitality & Placemaking, Local Land Use Planning & Zoning WisLine Teleconference Series  
http://lgc.uwex.edu/WisLines/index.html

**April 28** Clean Water Clean Lakes Conference, Discovery World in Milwaukee, WI  
http://www.swtwater.org/clean-rivers-clean-lake-conference/

**April 29** ECWRPC Mini-Conference: Rural Transportation Issues, Waushara WWII Veterans Memorial in Wautoma, WI

**April 29** Quarterly Commission Meeting and Annual Meeting, Waushara WWII Veterans Memorial in Wautoma, WI

**May 18, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Case Law and Legislative Update, Local Land Use Planning & Zoning WisLine Teleconference Series  
http://lgc.uwex.edu/WisLines/index.html