

West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Liaison Report (April,2022)

The West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) is a multi county planning agency created by state statute in 1971 dedicated to serving local governments in the counties of Baron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk and Saint Croix. The organization is governed by a 21 member board which includes three members of each county. WCWRPC staff provides technical assistance and planning services to the region with the goal to improve the economic development and physical conditions of the region, and is a public consultant that operates solely for the benefit of local government and it's citizens with efforts by skilled and experienced staff.

It is the mission of the WCWRPC to be a leader in responsible planning and development of the region to coordination, partnerships and advocacy and service. WCWRPC provides technical assistance, advice and services to local governments and agencies in the region to coordinate local programs and activities to advance regional objectives.

Through each of the regions.

Economic development

- Development planning coordination
- Community and business financing
- County economic population.
- Community and industrial park profiles

Transportation

- Highway, rail and airport planning
- Safe roads to schools plans
- Rural and urban transit plan
- Traffic and parking studies
- Pedestrian and bicycle facilities plans

Community development

- Comprehensive plans
- Zoning and subdivision regulations
- Land use planning
- Grant writing and administration
- Emergency preparedness in hazard planning
- Tax increment finance projects
- Outdoor recreation
- Housing assistance.

Conservation and mapping

Water quality programs
Lake management plans
Base and customized mapping
GIS, special mapping and graphics

Current Eau Claire Efforts

DNR lake protection management grants
Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition
"Healthy Soils, Healthy Waters" literature
"Safe Routes to School" for many communities
Bicycle and pedestrian plans
Chippewa Valley Innovation Center market study
"Rain to River Stormwater Project
EPA project for Eau Claire county land conservation
Assistance to regional broadband groups
New opportunities zones, continuing effort
Economic Development seminars
Metropolitan planning seminars
Broadband development seminars
"EDA Cares" funding
Administration Eau Claire County ARPA funding
ARPA program set up

Conclusion and Comments

The commission is a very productive organization with a professional staff that is a valuable resource for the seven counties that take advantage of the expertise available through this staff. They enjoy a positive rating by audit reports of their financial management. Eau Claire County should take greater advantage of these resources: Small business development with the regional loan fund to aid smaller communities, Main Street Bounceback, conservation programs, water resource programs, and lake management. These would help the county gain a better regional perspective for the future. As a whole, WCWRPC could be a terrific partner towards reaching our goals.

Current Commissioners;

John Frank
Connie Russell
Dane Zook