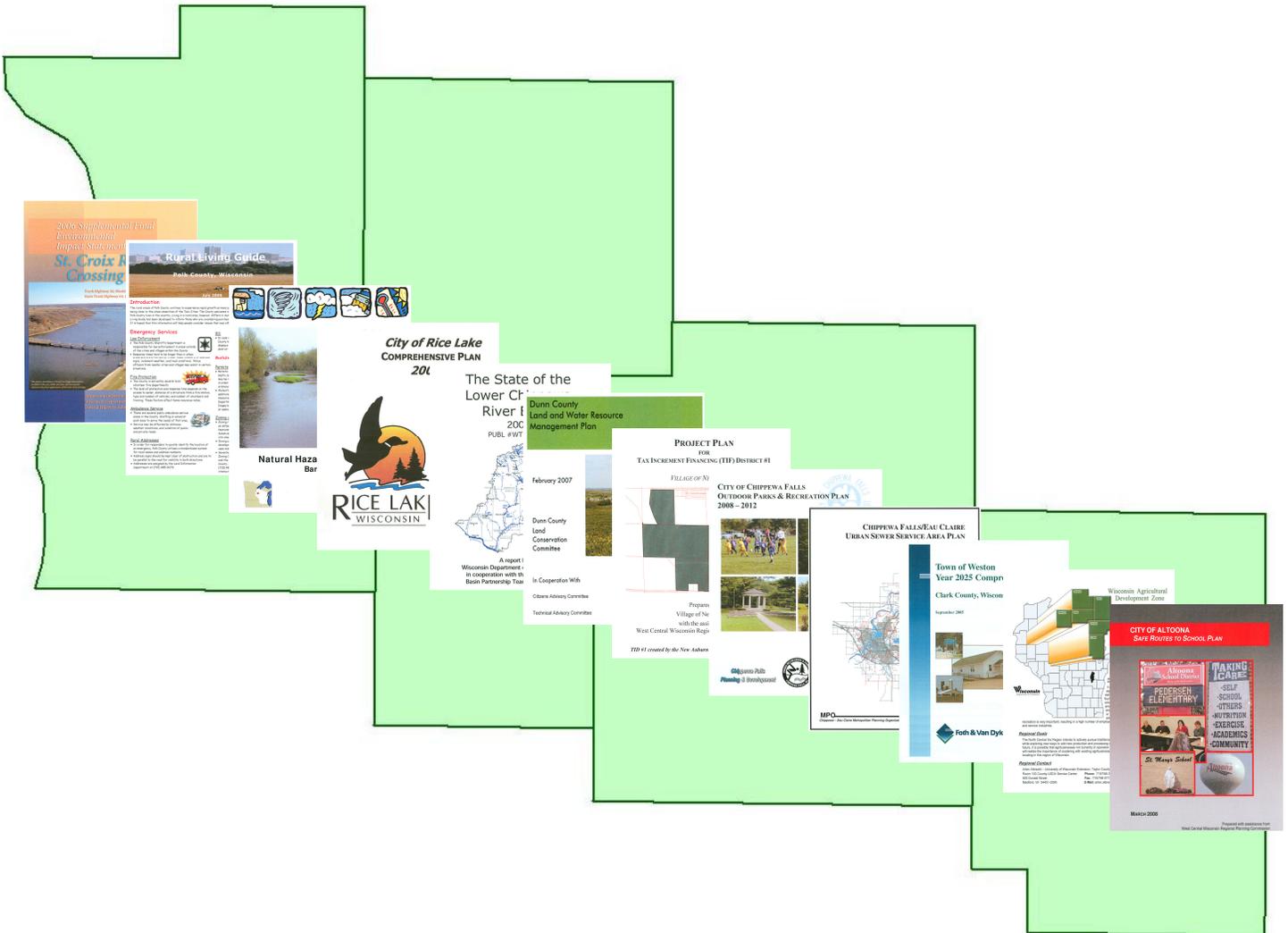


# INVENTORY OF PLANS, PROGRAMS, AND LAND USE POLICIES IN WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN



A SPECIAL ADDENDUM TO THE  
WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN  
CONDITIONS AND TRENDS REPORT



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AND LAND USE POLICIES IN  
WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN**

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WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN  
CONDITIONS AND TRENDS REPORT**

**PREPARED BY  
WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING  
COMMISSION**

**OCTOBER 24, 2008**



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# I. INTRODUCTION

This special addendum inventories the key existing programs, plans, and land use policies as of Summer 2008 which are pertinent to comprehensive planning efforts in west central Wisconsin. The State Comprehensive Planning Law (§66.1001) requires comprehensive plans to include such an inventory for numerous plan elements (e.g., housing, transportation, economic development). The results of this inventory will not only identify current planning trends in our region, but local jurisdictions will obtain insight into programs, plans, and land-use policies in their respective areas. Such insight is valuable to comprehensive planning efforts while encouraging intergovernmental coordination which maximizes existing resources while mitigating potential conflicts.

This inventory was compiled from three general sources:

- 1) A review of pertinent federal, state, county, and other pertinent plans, web pages, programmatic materials, and direct contacts. (*Examples: state housing programs; WisDOT projects; County land use controls; industrial parks*)
- 2) Readily available reports and other such previously completed inventories, often compiled at the state level for grant, tax, or other such purposes. (*Examples: outdoor recreation plans; TIF districts; cooperative boundary agreements*).
- 3) In September 2008, WCWRPC distributed a survey with self-addressed stamped envelope by mail to town, city, and village clerks to obtain input on programs not inventoried elsewhere. A follow-up reminder E-mail was also sent to those clerks for whom we had E-mail addresses. Of 225 potential respondents, over 150 surveys were returned. This data was also supplemented from other sources when known for a community. (*Examples: extraterritorial plat review; historic preservation ordinances; conservation design standards*)

For many counties and communities in the region, this inventory will sufficiently meet the comprehensive planning requirements. However, no such inventory can be all inclusive. Counties and local communities may need to expand on this inventory to include additional programs, plans, and ordinances which are pertinent and unique to their community and relevant to their comprehensive planning efforts. Further, this inventory is a “snapshot in time” based on best available data, yet such infrastructure is always changing—programs are phased out and other created, additional plans are adopted, and new policies are implemented.

Other excellent sources for additional programs and plans include:

- Comprehensive planning element guides available at the WisDOA website: <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/category.asp?linkcatid=744&linkid=128&locid=9>
- *Guide to Community Planning in Wisconsin* by Brian W. Ohm which is available at: <http://www.lic.wisc.edu/shapingdane/resources/planning/library/book/contents.htm>
- Your county or local clerk, planning/zoning office, or UW-Extension office



## II. HOUSING PROGRAMS

The Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law requires that all areas completing comprehensive plans compile a list of programs available to help provide an adequate supply of housing that meets existing and forecasted housing demand in the local unit of government. This section contains a listing of the key housing programs in our region. However, this inventory is not exhaustive and numerous specialty housing services and financial assistance programs (e.g., senior, homeless, and emergency housing program) also exist which are not mentioned here.

For a more complete discussion of homeownership and rental housing programs available in Wisconsin, please refer to the Wisconsin Department of Commerce-Division of Housing and Community Development “Household Housing Guide” and “Rental Housing Guide”. These guides are updated frequently and provide an excellent summary of the many public sources of housing assistance.

### A. Locally Administered Housing Programs

Table II-A provides an inventory of the housing programs and tools in use and administered locally within west central Wisconsin. In most cases, these are public housing programs which receive their funding from state or federal sources. Most programs which use federal funding have associated income requirements; some municipalities in the region may not qualify for these federal programs due to housing income levels.

#### *Public (Federally Assisted) Housing Authorities (PHAs)*

Residents looking for housing assistance and communities considering housing initiatives should make their local housing authority one of their first stops. A public housing authority is not a federal department or agency. PHAs are governmental or public bodies created and authorized by state law to develop and operate housing and housing programs for low-income families. PHAs enter into an annual contributions contract with HUD to administer their programs and must ensure compliance with federal laws, regulations, procedures, and notices to ensure consistency in program operation. PHAs may also receive additional program funding from other grant sources.

PHA activities can be quite diverse. Many PHAs in the region administer Section 8 and low-rent housing programs as explained below. PHAs may also provide services such as homeownership counseling, rehabilitation assistance, emergency housing, homeless services, senior housing, and coordination with other health and social services agencies. In west central Wisconsin, PHAs are offered at county and local levels as shown in Table II-A, with St. Croix County the only county in the region without a public housing authority. The St. Croix Chippewa Nation also administers a PHA which provides services to their Tribal members in parts of the region.

#### *Section 8 Program*

This federal program provides rent assistance to eligible low-income households based on family size, income, and fair market rents. Typically, a tenant’s share of the total rent payment does not exceed 30 percent of his/her annual income. The Section 8 program is administered locally by

many public housing authorities (see Table II-A) and through the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA).

### *Subsidized (Low-Rent) Housing Units*

Another approach to low-income housing assistance is to provide low-rent or subsidized housing units. These units are run by housing authorities, nonprofit organizations, or other private individuals. Low-income, family, elderly, and disabled units are available for many communities in the region. Table II-A identifies those public housing authorities which offer Section 8 and/or low-rent housing units according to the federal HUD PHA directory, though additional subsidized units may exist<sup>1</sup>.

### *Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Rehab RLFs*

The CDBG program provides grants to local governments and housing authorities for housing rehabilitation revolving loan funds that primarily benefit low and moderate-income households. Funding can be used to assist homeowners and landlords in making essential improvements to properties and can also assist rental households in purchasing homes. Table II-A identifies those counties and communities with such revolving loan funds according to the Wisconsin Department of Commerce CDBG-Housing Revolving Loan Fund directory<sup>2</sup>.

### *Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs)*

A CDHO is an official designation of selected private, nonprofit housing development corporations that meet certain HUD requirements. CDHOs are potentially eligible for special project funds, operating funds, and technical assistance support associated with the state's HOME Investment Partnership Program. The following CDHOs provide housing support to income-eligible populations in our region:

*for Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Polk, & St. Croix counties contact:*  
**West Central Wisconsin Community Action Agency (WestCAP)**

525 Second Street  
P.O. Box 308  
Glenwood City, WI  
(715) 265-4271

*for Clark County contact:*  
**Indianhead Community Action Agency**

P.O. Box 40  
Ladysmith, WI 54848  
(715) 532-5594

*for Eau Claire County contact:*

**Bolton Refuge House, Inc.**

P.O. Box 482  
Eau Claire, WI  
(715) 834-0628

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Housing & Urban Development. PHA Contact Information webpage.

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/pha/contacts/states/wi.cfm>. 6/23/08

<sup>2</sup> Wisconsin Department of Commerce. CDBG-Housing Revolving Loan Fund Contact by County.

<http://www.commerce.wi.gov/CD/cd-boh-rlf-county.html>. 6/24/08.

**Western Dairyland Community Action Agency**  
23122 Whitehall Road  
P.O. Box 125  
Independence, WI 54747  
(715) 985-2391

The City of Eau Claire is a HUD CDBG entitlement community, receiving a formula-based annual grant for housing services. As such, the City of Eau Claire has more flexibility in determining their housing programs and priorities, and may designate a CHDO.

### *Community Options Program (COP)*

Community Options helps people who need long-term care to stay in their own homes and communities. Its purpose is to provide cost-effective alternatives to expansive health care in institutions and nursing homes. Elderly people and people with serious long-term disabilities receive funds and assistance to find services they are not able to get through other programs. The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services administers this program through the health and social services departments of each county.

### *Wisconsin Community Action Program (WISCAP)*

WISCAP and its member agencies are dedicated to advancing safe and affordable housing by developing resources, training and opportunities. The organization serves as an advocate for policy and program development and provides technical assistance expertise on housing issues.

Our region is served by three community action agencies-Indianhead, WestCAP, and Western Dairyland. As noted previously, all three have been designated Community Housing Development Organizations and are very active in providing related services. All three also administer low-income weatherization programs.

### *Impact Seven, Inc*

Impact Seven, Inc. is a private nonprofit community development corporation dedicated to increasing the economic opportunity of Wisconsin people. Impact Seven develops and finances affordable housing in coordination with communities or other non-profits. More information on Impact Seven can be found in the review of economic development programs later in this document.

### *Other Non-Profit and Specialized Housing Organizations*

Our region's residents have access to numerous other non-profit organizations and governmental entities which can provide a variety of specialized housing assistance. For instance, Habitat for Humanity has local affiliates in Eau Claire, Rice Lake, and River Falls. Movin' Out, Inc. and Tomorrow's Home Foundation, both based in Madison, provide support to households with a member who has a permanent disability. There are many other charities and organizations which provide other such specialized housing services. Local housing authority and CHDO staff can assist residents and local officials in identifying those housing programs which may be more appropriate for particular circumstances.

**Table II-A. County and Local Housing Programs**

	Public Housing Authorities	Section 8 Program	95 Subsidized Housing Units (PHAs)	CDBG Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Funds
<b>BARRON COUNTY</b>	●	●		●
<b>CITIES</b>				
Barron	●	○	●	○
Chetek	●	○	●	●
Cumberland	●	○	●	○
Rice Lake	●	●	●	●
<b>VILLAGES</b>				
Almena	○	○		○
Cameron	○	○		●
Dallas	○	○		●
Haugen	○	○		○
New Auburn	<i>see Chippewa County</i>			
Prairie Farm	○	○		
Turtle Lake	○	○		●
<b>TOWNS</b>				
Almena	○	○		○
Arland	○	○		○
Barron	○	○		○
Bear Lake	○	○		○
Cedar Lake	○	○		○
Chetek	○	○		○
Clinton	○	○		○
Crystal Lake	○	○		○
Cumberland	○	○		○
Dallas	○	○		○
Dovre	○	○		○
Doyle	○	○		○
Lakeland	○	○		○
Maple Grove	○	○		○
Maple Plain	○	○		○
Oak Grove	○	○		○
Prairie Farm	○	○		○
Prairie Lake	○	○		○
Rice Lake	○	○		○
Sioux Creek	○	○		○
Stanfold	○	○		○
Stanley	○	○		○
Sumner	○	○		○
Turtle Lake	○	○		○
Vance Creek	○	○		○

○ Municipality does not have its own program; served by a county or other agency (e.g., WHEDA).

	Public Housing Authorities	Section 8 Program	Subsidized Housing Units (PHAs)	CDBG Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Funds
<b>CHIPPEWA COUNTY</b>	●	●		●
<b>CITIES</b>				
Bloomer	○	○		●
Chippewa Falls	○	○		●
Cornell	○	○		●
Eau Claire	<i>see Eau Claire County</i>			
Stanley	●	○	●	●
<b>VILLAGES</b>				
Boyd	○	○		●
Cadott	○	○		●
Lake Hallie	○	○		○
New Auburn	●	○		●
<b>TOWNS</b>				
Anson	○	○		○
Arthur	○	○		○
Auburn	○	○		○
Birch Creek	○	○		○
Bloomer	○	○		○
Cleveland	○	○		○
Colburn	○	○		○
Cooks Valley	○	○		○
Delmar	○	○		○
Eagle Point	○	○		○
Edson	○	○		○
Estella	○	○		○
Goetz	○	○		○
Hallie	○	○		○
Howard	○	○		○
Lafayette	○	○		○
Lake Holcombe	○	○		○
Ruby	○	○		○
Sampson	○	○		○
Sigel	○	○		○
Tilden	○	○		○
Wheaton	○	○		○
Woodmohr	○	○		○

○ Municipality does not have its own program; served by a county or other agency (e.g., WHEDA).

	Public Housing Authorities	Section 8 Program	Subsidized Housing Units (PHAs)	CDBG Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Funds
<b>CLARK COUNTY</b>	●	○		●
<b>CITIES</b>				
Abbotsford	●	○	●	
Colby	○	○		●
Greenwood	●	○	●	●
Loyal	●	○		●
Neillsville	○	○		●
Owen	○	○		●
Stanley	<i>see Chippewa County</i>			
Thorp	●	○	●	●
<b>VILLAGES</b>				
Curtiss	○	○		●
Dorchester	○	○		●
Granton	○	○		●
Unity	○	○		
Withee	○	○		●
<b>TOWNS</b>				
Beaver	○	○		○
Butler	○	○		○
Colby	○	○		●
Dewhurst	○	○		○
Eaton	○	○		○
Foster	○	○		○
Fremont	○	○		●
Grant	○	○		●
Green Grove	○	○		○
Hendren	○	○		○
Hewett	○	○		○
Hixon	○	○		○
Hoard	○	○		○
Levis	○	○		○
Longwood	○	○		○
Loyal	○	○		○
Lynn	○	○		●
Mayville	○	○		○
Mead	○	○		○
Mentor	○	○		○
Pine Valley	○	○		○
Reseburg	○	○		○
Seif	○	○		○
Sherman	○	○		○
Sherwood	○	○		○
Thorp	○	○		○

Unity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
Warner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
Washburn	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Weston	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
Withee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Worden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>
York	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>

Municipality does not have its own program; served by a county or other agency (e.g., WHEDA).

	Public Housing Authorities	Section 8 Program	Subsidized Housing Units (PHAs)	CDBG Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Funds
<b>DUNN COUNTY</b>	●	●		●
<b>CITIES</b>				
Menomonie	●	○	●	●
<b>VILLAGES</b>				
Boyceville	○	○		●
Colfax	○	○		●
Downing	○	○		○
Elk Mound	○	○		○
Knapp	○	○		●
Ridgeland	○	○		○
Wheeler	○	○		●
<b>TOWNS</b>				
Colfax	○	○		○
Dunn	○	○		○
Eau Galle	○	○		○
Elk Mound	○	○		○
Grant	○	○		○
Hay River	○	○		○
Lucas	○	○		○
Menomonie	○	○		○
New Haven	○	○		○
Otter Creek	○	○		○
Peru	○	○		○
Red Cedar	○	○		○
Rock Creek	○	○		○
Sand Creek	○	○		○
Sheridan	○	○		○
Sherman	○	○		○
Spring Brook	○	○		○
Stanton	○	○		○
Tainter	○	○		○
Tiffany	○	○		○
Weston	○	○		○
Wilson	○	○		○

○ Municipality does not have its own program; served by a county or other agency (e.g., WHEDA).

	Public Housing Authorities	Section 8 Program	Subsidized Housing Units (PHAs)	CDBG Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Funds
<b>EAU CLAIRE COUNTY</b>	●	●	●	●
<b>CITIES</b>				
Altoona	●	○	●	○
Augusta	○	○		●
Eau Claire	●	●	●	○
<b>VILLAGES</b>				
Fairchild	○	○		●
Fall Creek	○	○		○
<b>TOWNS</b>				
Bridge Creek	○	○		○
Brunswick	○	○		○
Clear Creek	○	○		○
Drammen	○	○		○
Fairchild	○	○		○
Lincoln	○	○		○
Ludington	○	○		○
Otter Creek	○	○		○
Pleasant Valley	○	○		○
Seymour	○	○		○
Union	○	○		○
Washington	○	○		○
Wilson	○	○		○

○ Municipality does not have its own program; served by a county or other agency (e.g., WHEDA)

	Public Housing Authorities	Section 8 Program	Subsidized Housing Units (PHAs)	CDBG Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Funds
<b>POLK COUNTY</b>	●	○		●
<b>CITIES</b>				
Amery	●	●	●	●
St. Croix Falls		○		○
<b>VILLAGES</b>				
Balsam Lake	○	○		○
Centuria	○	○		○
Clayton	○	○		●
Clear Lake	●	○		○
Dresser	○	○		●
Frederic	●	○	●	●
Luck	●	○	●	●
Milltown	○	○		●
Osceola	●	○	●	○
Turtle Lake	<i>see Barron County</i>			
<b>TOWNS</b>				
Alden	○	○		○
Apple River	○	○		○
Balsam Lake	○	○		○
Beaver	○	○		○
Black Brook	○	○		○
Bone Lake	○	○		○
Clam Falls	○	○		○
Clayton	○	○		○
Clear Lake	○	○		○
Eureka	○	○		○
Farmington	○	○		○
Garfield	○	○		○
Georgetown	○	○		○
Johnstown	○	○		○
Laketown	○	○		○
Lincoln	○	○		○
Lorain	○	○		○
Luck	○	○		○
McKinley	○	○		○
Milltown	○	○		●
Osceola	○	○		○
St. Croix Falls	○	○		○
Sterling	○	○		○
West Sweden	○	○		○

○ Municipality does not have its own program; served by a county or other agency (e.g., WHEDA).

	Public Housing Authorities	Section 8 Program	Subsidized Housing Units (PHAs)	CDBG Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Funds
<b>ST. CROIX COUNTY</b>		○		
<b>CITIES</b>				
Glenwood City		○		●
Hudson	●	○	●	
New Richmond	●	●	●	●
River Falls	●	●	●	
<b>VILLAGES</b>				
Baldwin		○		
Deer Park		○		●
Hammond		○		
North Hudson		○		
Roberts		○		
Somerset		○		●
Spring Valley	<i>primarily in Pierce County</i>			
Star Prairie		○		●
Wilson		○		
Woodville		○		●
<b>TOWNS</b>				
Baldwin		○		
Cady		○		
Cylon		○		
Eau Galle		○		
Emerald		○		
Erin Prairie		○		
Forest		○		
Glenwood		○		
Hammond		○		
Hudson		○		
Kinnickinnic		○		
Pleasant Valley		○		
Richmond		○		
Rush River		○		
St. Joseph		○		
Somerset		○		
Springfield		○		
Stanton		○		
Star Prairie		○		
Troy		○		
Warren		○		

○ Municipality does not have its own program; served by a county or other agency (e.g., WHEDA)

## **B. Other Federal and State Housing Programs**

The following is a list of some of the key state and federal housing programs available to our region's communities, non-profits, housing authorities, property owners, and residents. Numerous additional programs exist, especially for targeted populations. For instance, the state's 2005-2009 Consolidated Housing Plan includes \$2 million in emergency shelter grants, \$400,000 in the housing assistance for people with AIDS, and \$1.5 million in homeless assistance. And, the Department of Veteran Affairs offers loan assistance at below market interest rates with minimal downpayment. Communities interested in establishing a specialized housing program should work with the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, the Wisconsin Department of Commerce--Division of Housing and Community Development, and their local housing authority and CHDO to develop a strategy which best meets their needs.

### *Historic Home Owner's Tax Credits*

A 25 percent Wisconsin investment tax credit is available for people who rehabilitate historic or non-income-producing personal residences, and who apply for and receive project approval before beginning physical work on their projects. This program is administered by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

#### **State Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program**

Division of Historic Preservation  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706  
(608) 264-6491

### *Property Tax Deferred Loan Program (PTDL)*

This state program provides loans to low- and moderate-income elderly homeowners to help pay local property taxes so that the elderly can afford to stay in their homes. To be eligible, individuals must be at least 65 years old with a spouse that is at least 60 years old, unless one is disabled.

### *Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP)*

The State Energy Services Bureau oversees Wisconsin's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. This includes the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and other related programs. Households with incomes at or below the federal poverty level may be eligible for assistance. Many households with income from farms, offices, factories and other work places receive LIHEAP assistance.

According to the WHEAP website, the following agencies should be contacted in order to apply for the WHEAP assistance:

Barron County	Barron Co. Dept. of Health and Human Services
Chippewa County	Chippewa Co. Dept. of Human Services
Clark County	Clark Co. Dept. of Social Services
Dunn County	Dunn Co. Dept. of Human Services
Eau Claire County	Eau Claire Co. Dept. of Human Services Western Dairyland E.O.C.
Polk County	Polk Co. Dept. of Human Services
St. Croix County	St. Croix Co. Economic Support

### *Wisconsin Weatherization Assistance Programs*

The Department of Administration-Division of Energy provides weatherization assistance for units occupied by low-income persons. This service is provided through the three community action programs operating in the region. It is also notable that many residential properties which are being sold for conversion to rental units also have to meet state-minimum energy conservation standards at the time of ownership transfer.

### *Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority*

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority serves Wisconsin residents and communities by working with others to provide creative financing resources and information to stimulate and preserve affordable housing, small business and agribusiness.

#### **WHEDA - Madison Office**

P.O. Box 1728

Madison, WI 53701-1728

(608) 266-7884

[www.wheda.us](http://www.wheda.us)

### *Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME)*

HOME is a federal housing program to support the provision of low-cost housing. A variety of affordable housing activities may be supported by federal HOME awards including down payment assistance to homebuyers, rental rehabilitation, weatherization-related repairs, accessibility improvements and rental housing development.

The HOME Rental Housing Development (RHD) program is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce--Division of Housing and Community Development. These programs provide funds to eligible housing development organizations (homeownership and rental) and local governments (homeownership only) for the acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction of owner-occupied and rental housing for low-income households in non-entitlement areas. In addition, the HOME Owner-Occupied Housing Loan program is administered by WHEDA.

### *USDA Rural Development--Rural Housing Service*

The mission of the Rural Housing Service is to enhance the quality of life of rural people through the creation of safe, affordable, housing where people can live, work and prosper as part of a community. The Rural Housing Service offers housing preservation grants, loans and grants for

farm labor housing, loans and grants for home improvement and repairs, loans for financing housing site development, loans for home purchase or construction, loans on apartment buildings, and self-help technical assistance grants.

West central Wisconsin is served by three local USDA Rural Development Offices:

*for Polk & Barron counties contact:*

**Spooner Area Office**

800 N. Front Street, Room 102

Spooner, WI 54801

Email: [RD.Spooner@wi.usda.gov](mailto:RD.Spooner@wi.usda.gov)

(715)635-8228

*for St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, & Eau Claire counties contact:*

**Menomonie Area Office**

390 Red Cedar Street, Suite G

Menomonie, WI 54751

Email: [RD.Menomonie@wi.usda.gov](mailto:RD.Menomonie@wi.usda.gov)

(715)232-2614

*for Clark County contact:*

**Stevens Point Area Office**

1462 Strongs Avenue

Stevens Point, WI 54481

Email: [RD.StevensPoint@wi.usda.gov](mailto:RD.StevensPoint@wi.usda.gov)

(715)346-1313

### III. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS, PLANS, & PROJECTS

According to the State Comprehensive Planning Law, the transportation element of each comprehensive plan shall compare the local governmental unit's objectives, policies, goals and programs to state and regional transportation plans. The inventory provided in this section provides the current state and regional information so that the communities of west central Wisconsin can make such comparisons, coordinate activities, and utilize these services.

#### A. State and Regional Transportation Programs

The following is a summary of the most significant state and regional transportation programs at work in our region. And while implemented by state and regional entities, the majority of these programs utilize federal funding.

All federal transportation programs and funding are determined by legislative act, most recently the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), signed in August of 2005, and set to expire in 2009. With guaranteed funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation totaling \$244.1 billion, SAFETEA-LU represents the largest surface transportation investment in our Nation's history. The two landmark bills that brought surface transportation into the 21<sup>st</sup> century—the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21)—shaped the highway program to meet the Nation's changing transportation needs. SAFETEA-LU builds on this firm foundation, supplying the funds and refining the programmatic framework for investments needed to maintain and grow our vital transportation infrastructure. Through continued and new programs SAFETEA-LU emphasizes safety, congestion relief, innovative financing of highway infrastructure projects, improved freight transportation, addressing regional needs, improved technology for longer infrastructure life, environmental stewardship, and streamlining of the environmental process for transportation projects.

Those programs funded under SAFETEA-LU which are pertinent to our region, are administered by WisDOT, and are identified in the following subsection.

#### *Wisconsin Department of Transportation*

Transportation programming efforts in Wisconsin are largely coordinated or funded through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), including the distribution of federal transportation assistance dollars. Many of these key assistance programs for county and local governments are listed below.

- **General Transportation Aids** return about 30% of all state-collected transportation revenues to local governments for road construction, maintenance, and other related costs
- **Local Roads and Local Bridge Improvement Programs** assist local governments in improving seriously deteriorating roads and bridges.

- **Surface Transportation Program** uses allocated federal funds for the improvement of federal-aid-eligible rural and urban roads and streets.
- **Connecting Highway Aids** are available to municipalities for roadways connecting to the State Trunk Highway system, in particular if increased traffic is experienced.
- **Traffic Signing and Marking Enhancement Grants Program** provides funds to local governments for signage improvements to improve visibility for elderly drivers and pedestrians.
- **Rural and Small Urban Area Public Transportation Assistance** and the **Transit Assistance Program** allocate federal funds to support capital, operating, and training expenses for public transportation services.
- **Supplemental Transportation Rural Assistance Program** provides federal funds for the planning, start-up, and expansion of non-urban transit service projects.
- **Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance** funds provide counties with financial assistance to provide transportation services to the elderly and persons with disabilities. Capital funds through the **Section 5310 Program** are also available for non-profits and local governments. A related WisDOT-administered program is **New Freedom**, which provides Federal Transit Administration funds to private and public entities for programs which assist individuals with disabilities to overcome transportation-related barriers so they may get to work.
- **Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program (WETAP)** provides start-up and development grant funding for projects which connect low-income workers with jobs through enhanced local transportation services. WETAP includes federal **Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC)** Program funding and related requirements.
- **Local Transportation Enhancement Program** funds projects that increase multi-modal transportation alternatives (e.g., bicycling, pedestrian), landscaping/streetscaping, and the preservation of historic transportation structures.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program** funds projects that construct or plan for bicycle or bicycle/pedestrian facilities. This program shares the same application process as the Local Transportation Enhancement Program.
- **Safe Routes to School Program** is a federal program administered by WisDOT aimed at helping communities to make it safer for children to walk and bike to and from school and to encourage them to do so. In addition to planning grants, implementation of education, enforcement, engineering, and evaluation programs and projects are also eligible under the program.
- **Airport Improvement Program** combines a variety of resources to fund improvements for the state's public-use airports which are primarily municipally owned. WisDOT is currently encouraging land use planning around airports and a *Wisconsin Airport Land Use Guidebook* is available to assist in these efforts.

Additional program and regulatory support is also available through the Federal Aviation Administration.

- **Freight Rail Programs** for the preservation of existing rail service through rail acquisition and rehabilitation, and for the improvement of rail infrastructure.

Each year, WisDOT updates a four-year **Statewide Transportation Improvement Program** of all highway and transit projects that propose to use federal funds. WisDOT also has a variety of specialty assistance programs, such as Flood Damage Aids, Rustic Roads, County Forest Road Aids, and the Adopt-A-Highway Program. Data for local roads is managed by WisDOT through the Internet-accessible **Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR)**.

Our region falls entirely within WisDOT's northwest region which has offices in Eau Claire and Superior:

**Wisconsin Department of Transportation-NW Region**  
718 W. Clairemont Avenue  
Eau Claire, WI 54701-5108  
Phone: (715) 836-2891

**Wisconsin Department of Transportation-Superior office**  
1701 N. 4th Street  
Superior, WI 54880  
Phone: (715) 392-7925

### *Chippewa Falls-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization*

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was designated, on November 2, 1982, by the Wisconsin Secretary of Transportation on behalf of the Governor and is organized pursuant to Sections 62.11(5), 60.28(41), 59.97(1), and 16.54(6) of the Wisconsin Statutes. The MPO also acts as the local policy advisory committee pursuant to Section NR 121.05(1)(g)4.b. of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. WCWRPC provides administrative support for the MPO.

The purpose of the MPO is to carry out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive urban transportation planning process that results in plans and programs consistent with the comprehensively planned development of the Eau Claire Urbanized Area, and thereby satisfies the conditions necessary for the receipt of federal transportation funding for capital, operating, and planning assistance. The MPO develops and adopts an annual work program, and a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) listing the transportation projects programmed within the urbanized area for the next five years. The adoption of a long-range transportation/land use plan is also required, with updates every five years, maintaining a 20-year planning horizon. The ***Long Range Transportation Plan for the Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Area 2005-2030*** was adopted in March of 2006, and is currently undergoing a revalidation process. This is a multi-modal plan, addressing streets and highways, public transit, specialized transportation, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, rail, and air transportation.

An elected official from each participating local government and county in the urban area serves on the MPO's Policy Committee. The follow communities constitute the MPO's urban planning area:

Chippewa County

Towns of Anson, Eagle Point, Hallie, Lafayette, Tilden, & Wheaton  
Village of Lake Hallie  
City of Chippewa Falls

Eau Claire County

Towns of Brunswick, Pleasant Valley, Seymour, Union, & Washington  
Cities of Altoona & Eau Claire

### *Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources does provide funding to local governments for trails, paths, routes, and other infrastructure for alternative modes of transportation, such as biking, walking/hiking, boating, and ATVs. Though these programs often have a recreational focus, such facilities can many times be an important component of a community's transportation strategy.

### *Wisconsin Department of Commerce*

The Wisconsin Department of Commerce administers many of the federal HUD Community Development Block Grant programs at the state level. This funding includes the CDBG-Public Facilities program for infrastructure and building projects which may include streets and specialized transportation projects.

## **B. State and Regional Transportation Plans**

### *Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2020*

Also known as Corridors 2020, this plan prioritizes highway construction and improvement needs and investments. It was adopted by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation in February 2000. Wisconsin's State Trunk Highway system, consisting of approximately 11,800 miles of roads, is aging and deteriorating at the same time traffic congestion is increasing. In response to this critical issue, WisDOT, in partnership with its stakeholders, has developed the State Highway Plan 2020, a 21-year strategic plan which considers the highway system's current condition, analyzes future uses, assesses financial constraints, and outlines strategies to address Wisconsin's preservation, traffic movement, and safety needs. The plan is updated every six years to reflect changing transportation technologies, travel demand, and economic conditions in Wisconsin.

### *Wisconsin State Transportation Plan 2030 (Connections 2030)*

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is currently developing a statewide long-range transportation plan through the year 2030, called Connections 2030. The plan will address all forms of transportation—highways, local roads, air, water, rail, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit – and ways to make the individual modes work better as an integrated transportation system. The overall goal of the planning process is to identify a series of policies to aid transportation decision-makers when evaluating programs and projects.

Connections 2030 will differ from WisDOT's previous planning efforts. Beginning with the release of Translinks 21 in the mid 1990s, the Department has prepared a series of needs-based plans for various transportation modes. Connections 2030 will be a policy-based plan. The

policies will be tied to “tiers” of potential financing levels. One set of policy recommendations will focus on priorities that can be accomplished under current funding levels. Another will identify policy priorities that can be achieved if funding levels increase. Finally, WisDOT may also identify critical priorities that must be maintained if funding were to decrease over the planning horizon of the plan. While the final plan will include statewide policy recommendations, some variance may exist specific to individual corridors.

In addition to policies related to each transportation mode, Connections 2030 will also include recommendations on cross-cutting issues such as economic development, land use, transportation finance, and the environment. WisDOT's goal is to provide a plan that can aid policy-makers in future transportation decisions. Connection 2030 will be the statewide blueprint for transportation in the future.

Connections 2030 will identify a series of multimodal corridors for each part of the state. Each corridor will identify routes and/or services of several modes such as highways, local roads, rail, air, transit, etc.

The multimodal corridors build on the idea of the Corridors 2020 network, first established in 1988, which identified a system of two-lane and multi-lane highways. The network is made up of two subsystems:

- Backbone system: 1,550-mile network of multi-lane highways connecting all major population and economic regions of the state.
- Connector system: 2,100-mile network of high-quality two-lane highways directly linking significant economic and tourism centers to the Backbone system.

It is anticipated that Connections 2030 will be available for public review in late 2008.

### *Access Management*

WisDOT employs three types of access control authorized by state statutes. A short summary of the state statutes follows, but it should be noted that the actual content of the statutes is significantly more detailed, and many special conditions and provisions are not included in this text. The type of access control that is imposed on various highway road segments influences how that segment is managed.

- Wis. Stats. 84.09 (purchase access control) – WisDOT acquires land by gift, devise, purchase or condemnation to establish, extend, or improve transportation facilities.
- Wis. Stats. 84.25 (administrative access control) – WisDOT designates some rural portions of the state trunk highway system as controlled-access highways where studies show that the potential exists for traffic volumes to exceed 2,000 vehicles per 24-hour day.
- Wis. Stats. 84.295 (freeway and expressway access control) – WisDOT designates highways with greater than 4,000 vehicles per day as freeways or expressways when it is determined that the volume and character of traffic warrants the construction or acquisition of right-of-way to accommodate a four-lane highway.

### *Midwest Regional Rail System*

Nine midwestern states, Amtrak and the Federal Railroad Administration are working on proposals for intercity high-speed passenger rail. The Midwest Regional Rail Initiative is intended to develop and improve the 3000-mile Midwest Regional Rail System. This plan was published in February 2000.

### *Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2020*

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation identifies the maintenance and improvement programs for public-use airports in the State Airport System. Airports are not itemized for activities and funding so it cannot be determined which airports are in need of improvements.

### *Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan - 2020*

This is the state's major plan for developing and integrating bicycles into the transportation system. It was adopted by WisDOT in 1998 and looked at creating a system of bikeways using suitable routes along county and state highways.

### *State Recreational Trails Network Plan*

This plan was adopted in 2001 by WisDOT as an amendment to the *Wisconsin State Trail Strategic Plan* to identify a network of trail corridors throughout the state consisting of more than 4,000 miles of trails known as the *Trail Interstate System*.

### *Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan*

This plan was completed in 2001 by WisDOT and lays out state policies for the provision of pedestrian facilities which address coordination with existing transportation facilities and pedestrian-friendly development.

## C. County and Local Transportation Programs and Plans

County and local transportation issues, needs, planning efforts, and programming can be quite diverse. This section provides a generalized overview of county and local transportation programming in west central Wisconsin. In addition, please refer to the transportation section of each county's *Conditions and Trends Report*<sup>3</sup> for additional discussion on the following County and local transportation programs and services:

- bicycle and pedestrian routes and planning
- airport improvement projects
- public transit

### *County Transportation Programs and Planning*

Each of west central Wisconsin's seven counties has a county highway department. These highway departments have the primary responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of their county trunk highways and, through contractual agreement, the state highways. This upkeep includes the mowing and clearing of right-of-way, the maintenance of bridges and culverts, and the plowing of highways in the winter. Some highway departments may become involved in additional projects, such as the planning of bicycle routes within road right-of-way.

Multi-modal county transportation programming may involve other county departments as well. For instance, bicycle, ATV, and other such recreational routes are incorporated within a number of county outdoor recreation plans. And in 2008, St. Croix County adopted the *St. Croix County Bicycle Plan* which identified on-road bicycle routes and off-road trails for both recreation and non-recreational use.

The transportation element of county comprehensive plans is another important source of transportation policy guidance. All counties in the region have either prepared or are preparing such a plan. These planning efforts allow each county to address transportation issues specific to their community. For instance, as part of the Clark County Comprehensive Plan (not yet adopted), special reports were prepared on All Season Road Construction Costs, Amish/Mennonite Transportation, and Model Public Road Access Ordinance.

All seven counties in our region have access controls regulations and related permitting for county highways. According to §86.07(2), Wisconsin Statutes:

*"No person shall make any excavation or fill or install any culvert or make any other alteration in any highway or in any manner disturb any highway or bridge without a permit therefore from the highway authority maintaining the highway."*

The provisions of these access controls regulations may vary, but it is common to have a minimal lineal distance between accesses, a limit on the number of accesses per parcel, and various design standards for the associated driveway and culverts. In many cases, such standards

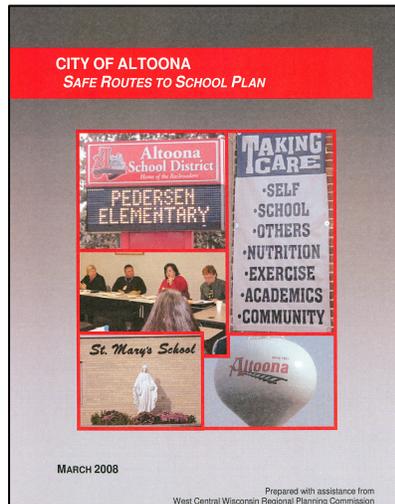
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<sup>3</sup> A *Conditions and Trends Report (CTR)* was compiled by West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission for each of the seven counties in west central Wisconsin. This addendum/inventory supplements the county CTRs.

may be included as part of zoning and subdivision regulations, though the ability of a county to regulate access to town roads is quite limited without town agreement.

### *Local Transportation Programs and Planning*

For rural, smaller local governments, transportation programming may be limited to the repair, maintenance, and upkeep of streets and roads, typically undertaken by a public works department, road crew, or road patrolman. As such, most communities have developed some type of multi-year road construction and repair budget schedule, which may or may not include capital equipment. Some municipalities have gone a step further and have adopted formal capital improvements plans.



However, in part due to comprehensive planning, Safe Routes to School efforts, and new residential development, many communities have been giving increased attention to multi-modal transportation alternatives (e.g., bicycling, pedestrian, rail). And like the counties, transportation policy guidance is often provided through local comprehensive plans or as part of an outdoor recreational plan, rather than a stand-alone transportation planning effort.

The following west central Wisconsin communities are participating in grant-funded Safe Routes to School planning or infrastructure projects which first became available in 2007:

#### Planning Projects

- City of Altoona
- City of Chetek
- City of Eau Claire
- Village of Elk Mound
- City of Rice Lake
- City of River Falls

#### Infrastructure Projects

- City of Altoona (sidewalks, curb, education)
- City of Chetek (sidewalks and bike racks)
- City of Eau Claire-'07 (ramps, bike parking, safety, sidewalk)
- City of Eau Claire-'08 (trail connections, curb, bike racks)
- City of Menomonie (multi-use trail, sidewalk)
- Village of Osceola (multi-use train with signage)
- Town of Red Cedar (multi-use trail with signage)
- City of Rice Lake (curb, sidewalk, intersections, educ.)

### *Access Controls*

Local governments have the authority to control access on roadways within their jurisdictions, though this is not practiced in many smaller communities and rural towns. In many cases, access specifications may be included as part of zoning or subdivision regulations.

A county board may designate a portion of the county trunk highway system as controlled-access highways, with the consent of the town, village or city governing body in which the portion lies. On controlled-access highways, no street, highway, or private entrance may be connected without the previous consent of the county board. Abutting landowners have no right or easement of access.

No region-wide inventory of local access controls exists. However, as part of its comprehensive planning effort, Clark County developed a *Model Public Road Access Ordinance*. This model ordinance does an excellent job of explaining the purpose of such access controls. In short, this purpose is to provide “a uniform set of driveway construction and placement standards [to] uphold public health and safety by:

- Ensuring adequate emergency vehicle access to developed properties;
- Maintaining safe travel on public roads by minimizing the number of access points;
- Providing safe entrance onto public roadways by avoiding dangerous driveway locations;
- Preventing damage to public roads and other driveways by controlling drainage.<sup>4</sup>”

### *Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordination Plans*

These coordination plans are typically county planning efforts, but are often approached in a multi-county or regional context. As a pre-requisite for New Freedom, JARC, or Section 5310 funding (*see WisDOT Program list*), SAFETEA-LU requires projects to be “derived from a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services 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.”

Within west central Wisconsin, these planning efforts are being facilitated by WCWRPC with county aging departments being the primary local contacts. Two such planning efforts were undertaken in 2008 in our region—one involving Polk and Burnett counties and one involving Barron, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Dunn, St. Croix, and Pierce counties. Clark County is not currently participating in this program. These plans were submitted to WisDOT in September of 2008.

## **D. Key Regional Transportation Projects and Studies**

The following summarizes the transportation projects and studies of regional significance to west central Wisconsin which are under analysis or development.

### *St. Croix River Crossing*

This project entails the construction of a new MINN 36/WIS 64 bridge across the St. Croix River between the Stillwater, MN (Washington Co.) and Houlton, WI (St. Croix Co.) areas. This is one of only two river crossings between Interstate 94 to the south and U.S. Highway 8 to the north. Increasing tourism, commercial, and commuter traffic from the growing Twin Cities have necessitated a significant upgrade in transportation facilities for the area. Traffic congestion and delays at the existing bridge can become severe during summer months. While the bridge has a daily traffic capacity of 11,200 vehicles according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation, it had a 2006 annual average daily traffic count of 17,300 according to WisDOT traffic volume maps.

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<sup>4</sup> Foth & Van Dyke. *Model Public Road Access Ordinance: Clark County and Local Towns, Wisconsin*. June 2003. [http://www.co.clark.wi.us/SOPHOTOS/comp\\_planning/Model\\_Public\\_Road\\_Access\\_Ordinance.pdf](http://www.co.clark.wi.us/SOPHOTOS/comp_planning/Model_Public_Road_Access_Ordinance.pdf), p.1.

There are also safety concerns with the aging existing lift bridge. Built in 1931, the Stillwater Lift Bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places and has been closed on occasion due to flooding and ice/debris damming. Crash rates in the existing bridge's vicinity are also substantially above state averages.

Local discussions regarding the need for a new bridge date back to at least the 1950s; and the more recent planning process for a new crossing has a long history of disputes over location, design, use of the historic bridge, and potential impacts to the riverway. Serious discussions on the replacement of the existing bridge began in the 1980s. Both states jointly completed a Final Environmental Impact Statement for a replacement bridge south of the existing one in 1995. However, environmental groups successfully challenged the project by arguing that the EIS did not fully consider the National Scenic Riverway status of the St. Croix River; and, thus, the project temporarily stalled.



In 2000, the secretaries of the U.S. Departments of Interior and Transportation stepped in to help break the impasse. After six more years of discussion, community input, and planning, the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement was completed in 2006, though a legal complaint regarding the comment period is currently being considered. While such disputes have undoubtedly delayed the project, it has resulted in a collaboratively designed project considering many diverse perspectives.

Currently, the development schedule for the new St. Croix River Crossing is not known. As part of the 2006 FEIS, a 2012 completion date was contemplated. In addition to the construction of a new four-lane bridge, the existing lift bridge will be converted to recreational use and linked to a network of trails on both sides of the St. Croix River. On the Wisconsin side of the River, WIS 64 improvements will be made as far northeast as 150<sup>th</sup> Street, limiting access to the realigned four-lane highway. A new intersection for WIS 35/County “E” will also be developed.

Both St. Croix County and the Town of St. Joseph will receive growth management mitigation funding as part of the project for planning, education, ordinance development, acquisition of property or easements, and other related mitigation activities within the corridor. On a more regional scale, there is some expectation that increased mobility and travel speeds offered by the project would increase growth and traffic along the entire corridor (*see US 63/WIS 64 EA below*). Not only would the area become more palatable to potential commuters to the Twin Cities, but it would offer a quicker route for Twin City residents to travel to northern Wisconsin vacation destinations.

### *US 63/WIS 64 Environmental Assessment*

This environmental assessment covers the corridor of WIS 64 between WIS 65 in the City of New Richmond then 12.2 miles east to just past the intersection with County Highway “D” in the unincorporated hamlet of Forest. It also includes a 4-mile long section of US 63 from its intersection with WIS 64 north to the Polk County line. Growth in St. Croix County, the anticipated St. Croix River Crossing project, and the increasing use of this highway for tourism are driving forces in this assessment. For the short-term, the EA recommends corridor preservation, intersection improvements, and the addition of passing lanes. Future improvements would be to expand WIS 64 to a four-lane facility with at-grade, direct-access intersections. Then, farther into the future, the US 63 intersection would become grade-separated with no direct access to the west.

### *US 63 (I-94 to WIS 64) Environmental Assessment*

WisDOT is currently studying US 63 alternatives that meet future transportation needs and preserve a corridor so that improvements can be implemented at a future date. The future US 63 improvement alternatives should preserve highway mobility on US 63 through and around the Village of Baldwin and north of Baldwin while also addressing local transportation needs.

The project’s environmental assessment was completed in 2004. The study recommends realigning US 63 to the east of the Village of Baldwin with a four-lane, limited access divided highway north of Baldwin.

### *WIS 65 (I-94 to Paperjack St.) Environmental Assessment*

WIS 65 connects the cities of River Falls and New Richmond, and is another state highway in the high growth area of western St. Croix County which is under study for potential expansion. This study recommends corridor preservation in the study area which includes an alignment to the east of the Village of Roberts. For the section north of Roberts to the south side of New Richmond, the EA recommends an on-alignment, four-lane enhanced expressway.

### *US 8 (WIS 35 to US 53) Environmental Impact Statement*

The US 8 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzes potential improvements along 40 miles of US 8 from WIS 35 North in Polk County to US 53 in Barron County. This segment of US 8 is classified as a Corridors 2020 connector route in Wisconsin's State Highway Plan, making traffic movement and safety high priorities.

The majority of US 8 is a two-lane rural road, but it is a four-lane undivided road through the Village of Turtle Lake and City of Barron. WisDOT has recently added passing lanes and some rural four-lane improvements at various locations to increase safety, such as west of Almena and east of St. Croix Falls.

WisDOT worked with a Highway 8 Coalition of local and county residents and officials to address the needs and potential solutions for the corridor. The Final EIS document was approved by WisDOT on October 5, 2007, and is available for review. The Final EIS recommends on-alignment improvements in the Apple River/Clover Lake and Joel Flowage areas; southern realignments in the Deer Lake, Range, and Poskin areas; and a south bypass at the City of Barron. A preferred alternative for the Village of Turtle Lake area has not yet been decided upon.

### *West Central Regional Freeway System Executive Summary*

This WisDOT study was created at State Legislative request for a capacity analysis on:

- I-94 in St. Croix, Dunn, and Eau Claire counties
- STH 65 in St. Croix, Polk, and Pierce counties
- STH 35 between River Falls and Hudson in St. Croix County

The study states that much of the studied freeway system within an “intense zone” in western Polk, St. Croix, and Pierce counties will be experiencing capacity and operational limitations within a decade. Significant improvements are recommended in the study, such as:

- expanding I-94 to six lanes between Hudson and Baldwin
- I-94 pavement replacement between Baldwin and Eau Claire
- completing the WIS 35 freeway conversion between River Falls and I-94
- the preferred alternatives in the US 63 and WIS 65 EAs.

### *WIS 29 Freeway Conversion Study*

The WIS 29 corridor is an important transportation route, linking the Twin Cities to Wausau and Green Bay. The majority of the 203-mile corridor is a four-lane, divided highway with a 65 mph speed limit. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation Northwest Region Office is studying the potential of designating a 23-mile section of WIS 29 as a freeway from Bruce Mound Avenue to the east Clark County line, thus limiting access and grade separating intersections. The actual construction would not likely occur until 10-20 years after the freeway designation is made, following public and local government input.

### *West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition*

As their mission states, “The West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition provides leadership and coordination to develop passenger rail service through West Central Wisconsin as part of a regional strategy to ensure a balanced transportation system for long-term sustainable economic growth.” The coalition is a voluntary group of citizens and community leaders promoting the development of high-speed passenger rail service which directly links Minneapolis and Chicago with a route through our region.

## IV. UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLANS

The key utilities and community facilities found in each west central Wisconsin county and community can be found in the respective county's *Conditions and Trends Report (CTRs)*. The CTRs identify municipal water and sewer facilities, sanitary districts, utility providers, schools, libraries, emergency services providers, medical facilities, assisted living facilities, day care, parks, cemeteries, and dams. This section of the inventory will supplement the CTRs by reviewing four types of planning efforts in the region which often require multi-jurisdictional coordination: sewer service area plans, wellhead protection programs, stormwater management plans, and outdoor recreation plans.

### A. Sewer Service Area Plans

*Wis. Stats. §144.235 & NR 121*

Sewer service area planning is a water quality protection process designed to anticipate the future needs for wastewater treatment systems in developing areas. This planning helps protect communities from adverse water quality impacts through development of cost-effective and environmentally sound 20-year sewerage system growth plans.

The passage of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendment (P.L. 92-500) in 1972 marked the beginning of a new approach to the planning, design, and construction of municipal wastewater collection and treatment facilities. This law established areawide water quality management planning under Section 208, and also the Facility Planning Grant Program under Section 201. Sewer service area plans are a formal element of state areawide water quality management plans (basin plans) as defined under state administrative rules (NR 121), and thus, require WisDNR review and approval.

Sewer service area plans identify a sewer service area boundary in which growth could potentially be provided municipal sewer within a twenty-year planning horizon based on population and growth trends, engineering constraints, community growth goals, and intergovernmental input. These plans not only provide input into WisDNR plans and decision-making, but are used locally for guiding development decisions, utility, and treatment facility planning, and grantsmanship. Special review and approvals may also be needed for sewer connections, sewer extensions, and holding tanks within the sewer service area, especially if a project potentially encroaches upon an environmentally sensitive area.

West central Wisconsin is a non-designated sewer service planning area where planning is only required for selected urban regions within the standard metropolitan statistical areas and for areas with populations exceeding 10,000. While grant funding is periodically available for sewer service area plan updates, no WisDNR funding support for ongoing program implementation and maintenance are available for non-designated areas.

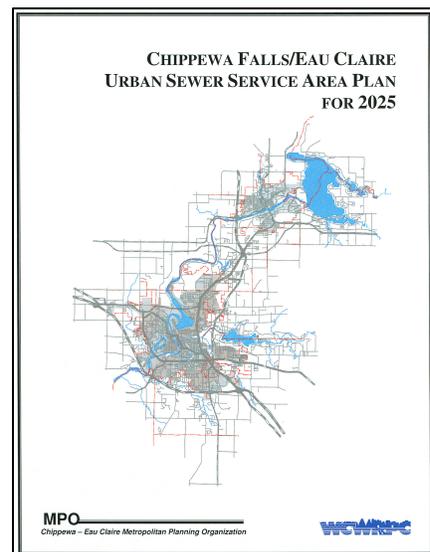


Table IV-A identifies the sewer service area plans, planning agencies, and corresponding areas served in west central Wisconsin.

**Table IV-A.  
Sewer Service Area Planning in West Central Wisconsin**

<b>Chippewa Falls/Eau Claire Urban Sewer Service Area Plan for 2025 (approved 2007)</b>	
MPO/Planning Area: Towns of Anson, Brunswick, Eagle Point, Hallie, Lafayette, Pleasant Valley, Seymour, Tilden, Union, Washington, and Wheaton; Village of Lake Hallie, Cities of Altoona, Chippewa Falls, and Eau Claire, plus Eau Claire and Chippewa counties	Planning Agency: West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
<b>Hudson Area Urban Sewer Service Area Plan for 2020 (approved 1998)</b>	
Area: Towns of Hudson, St. Joseph, Troy, and Warren; Village of North Hudson, City of Hudson	Planning Agency: St. Croix County Planning Department
<b>Menomonie Area Sewer Service Area Plan (approved 1995; amended 1998)</b>	
Area: Towns of Menomonie, Red Cedar, Tainter, and City of Menomonie	Planning Agency: Dunn County Land Conservation
<b>River Falls Area Sewer Service Area Plan</b>	
Area: Towns of Clifton (Pierce), Kinnickinnic, River Falls (Pierce) and Troy, City of River Falls	Planning Agency: City of River Falls Municipal Utilities

*source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and WCWRPC*

## **B. Wellhead Protection Programs**

The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act was amended in 1986 to require each state to develop and implement a state wellhead protection program. The resulting Wisconsin Wellhead Protection Program Plan administered by WisDNR requires a wellhead protection plan be developed for any municipal well proposed after May 1, 1992; and the plan must be approved by WisDNR prior to the well being placed into service. Some communities have voluntarily also developed plans for wells installed prior to May 1, 1992.

The following west central Wisconsin communities have WisDNR-approved wellhead protection plans for at least one municipal well as of July 8, 2008; some communities may have wellhead protection ordinances but have not submitted them to WisDNR. Those communities with an asterisk (\*) have not developed plans for all of their wells as reported to WisDNR.

- Barron Co: Almena, Barron, Cameron, Cumberland, Rice Lake, Turtle Lake
- Chippewa Co: Bloomer, Boyd, Cadott, Chippewa Falls, Lake Hallie, Stanley
- Clark Co: Colby, Curtiss, Dorchester, Granton\*, Greenwood\*, Loyal, Owen\*, Thorp, Withee
- Dunn Co: Boyceville, Colfax, Downsville Sanitary District
- Eau Claire Co: Augusta, Fairchild\*
- Polk Co: Amery\*, Clear Lake, Dresser, Frederic, Luck, Milltown, Osceola. St. Croix Falls
- St. Croix Co: Baldwin, Hammond, Hudson, Roberts, Somerset, Star Prairie, Woodville

## C. Stormwater Management Plans and Utilities

A stormwater management plan describes community-wide surface water management needs. This local tool is useful in determining actions to improve surface water quality and stormwater detention storage needs. Stormwater detention facilities are typically ponds that collect storm water and help prevent damage caused by large rainfalls and small-scale flooding. Comprehensive stormwater management planning is not widely practiced in our region. Instead, stormwater planning is typically approached similarly to, or in concert with, road or street projects, capital budgeting, or as part of development proposals on a project-by-project basis.

County and local jurisdictions often incorporate stormwater management requirements as part of subdivision regulations and building codes, in part to ensure consistency with state construction site erosion controls. State law (NR 216) also requires landowners to develop an erosion control plan and obtain necessary WisDNR erosion control and stormwater discharge permits for all construction sites where one or more acres of land will be disturbed. The exceptions to this are for public buildings and WisDOT projects which have special regulations under the Department of Commerce.

Currently, municipalities in Census-defined urbanized areas and municipalities with more than 10,000 population are required by state and federal law<sup>5</sup> to develop a stormwater programs with measurable goals, required permitting, and educational efforts for municipal-owned stormwater conveyances which discharge to public waters.

There is one urbanized area in the west central Wisconsin, consisting of the fifteen communities in the Eau Claire/Chippewa Falls area identified in the previous subsection. Outside of this urbanized area, only the cities of Hudson and Menomonie exceed the 10,000 population threshold in our region.

Cities, villages, and towns with village powers may create a stormwater utility that is responsible for maintaining and managing the surface water management system. Stormwater utilities have the ability to charge fees to generate revenue to support these activities, and fee structures are often based on the amount of impervious surface area of a parcel or equivalent residential unit size. According to the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Public Works Association, the following communities have stormwater utilities or user charges in west central Wisconsin as of August 2008:

- City of Barron (adopted 2005)
- City of Chetek (2005)
- City of Eau Claire (1997)
- City of Menomonie (2008)
- City of New Richmond (2004)
- City of River Falls (1998)

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<sup>5</sup> Rules applicable to stormwater management can be found in the Federal Clean Water Act and Chapter NR 216, Wis. Admin. Code and are regulated through the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and permitted under the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES). More information can be found at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/runoff/stormwater.htm>.

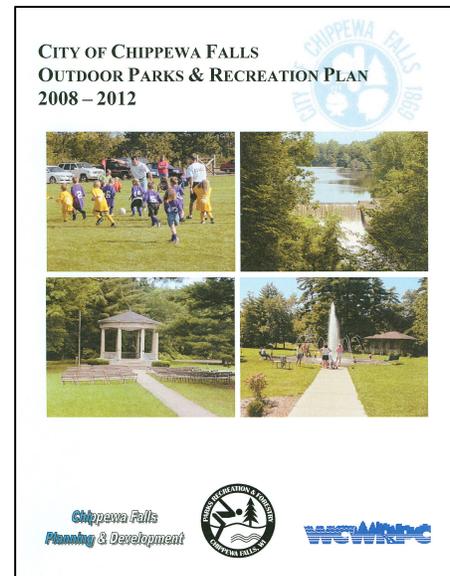
Though such utilities are not yet commonplace in west central Wisconsin, the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA) estimated that 38 percent of stormwater management agencies in 1996 were funded through stormwater utilities.

## D. Outdoor Recreation Plans (ORPs)

Outdoor recreation plans inventory a community's parks and outdoor recreation facilities; identify related needs; and establish goals for the acquisition, development, and improvement of such facilities.

By adopting an outdoor recreation plan which is reviewed and accepted by WisDNR, a community becomes eligible to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LAWCON), the Stewardship Local Assistance Programs, and other related funding programs. Both the LAWCON and Stewardship financial aids programs are administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and can be used to assist in the construction of new outdoor recreation facilities as well as for the associated construction and improvement of existing recreational facilities. These plans must be updated every five years in order to maintain eligibility.

Table IV-B lists the Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, and St. Croix county communities which have ORPs on file with WisDNR as of September 15, 2008. The WisDNR Northern District, which includes Barron and Polk counties, does not have such a list of ORPs for the district available at this time. For Barron and Polk counties, the information in Table IV-B was taken from local ORPs provided to WCWRPC and a review of local comprehensive plans made available to WCWRPC and the Department of Administration. Some municipalities in the region may have completed ORPs, but have failed to submit them to WisDNR for eligibility approval. In the case of Barron and Polk counties, additional plans may have been submitted to WisDNR of which WCWRPC is not aware.



**Table IV-B**  
**Outdoor Recreation Planning Status in West Central Wisconsin**

<b>Community</b>	<b>ORP Expiration Date</b>	<b>Currently Eligible?</b>
<b>Barron County</b>		
Barron County	abt. 1999	N
<i>The following villages and cities participated in the 1994 Barron County ORP and may not have produced an updated ORP in the interim: Almena, Barron, Cameron, Chetek, Cumberland, Dallas, Haugen, Prairie Farm, and Turtle Lake</i>		
C. of Rice Lake	abt. 2010	Y
<b>Chippewa County</b>		
Chippewa County	December 31, 2009	Y
C. of Bloomer	December 31, 2003	N
V. of Boyd	December 31, 2009	Y
V. of Cadott	December 31, 2004	N
C. of Chippewa Falls	December 31, 2007 (currently updating)	Y
C. of Cornell	December 31, 2003	N
T. of Hallie	December 31, 2003	N
V. of Lake Hallie	December 31, 2009	Y
T. of Lafayette	December 31, 2009	Y
V. of New Auburn	December 31, 2003	N
C. of Stanley	currently amending	verify
<b>Clark County</b>		
Clark County	December 31, 2003	N
C. of Abbotsford	December 31, 2003	N
C. of Colby	December 31, 2003	N
V. of Curtiss		N
V. of Dorchester	December 31, 2003	N
V. of Granton	December 31, 2003	N
V. of Greenwood	December 31, 2003	N
T. of Hendren	December 31, 2003	N
V. of Loyal	December 31, 2003	N
T. of Mentor	December 31, 2003	N
C. of Neillsville	December 31, 2003	N
V. of Owen	December 31, 2003	N
V. of Unity	December 31, 2003	N
V. of Withee	December 31, 2003	N
<b>Dunn County</b>		
Dunn County	December 31, 2008	Y
V. of Boyceville	December 31, 2008	Y
V. of Colfax	December 31, 2000	N
V. of Downing		N
V. of Elk Mound	December 31, 2000	N
V. of Knapp	December 31, 2003	N
C. of Menomonie	December 31, 2005	N
T. of Menomonie	December 31, 2008	Y
V. of Ridgeland	December 31, 2000	N
V. of Wheeler		N

**Table IV-B.**  
**Outdoor Recreation Planning Status in West Central Wisconsin (cont.)**

Community	ORP Expiration Date	Currently Eligible?
<b>Eau Claire County</b>		
Eau Claire County	December 31, 2011	Y
C. of Altoona	December 31, 2005	Y
C. of Augusta	December 31, 2005	Y
C. of Eau Claire	December 31, 2007	Y
V. of Fairchild	December 31, 2005	Y
V. of Fall Creek	December 31, 2005	Y
T. of Seymour	December 31, 2005	Y
T. of Washington	December 31, 2005	N
T. of Wilson	December 31, 2005	N
<b>Polk County</b>		
Polk County	abt. September 2009	Y
C. of Amery	abt. 2004	verify
V. of Balsam Lake	abt. 1995	verify
V. of Centuria	abt. 1983	verify
V. of Clayton	abt. 1990	verify
V. of Clear Lake	abt. 1986	verify
V. of Dresser	abt. 1998	verify
V. of Frederic	abt. 2002	verify
V. of Luck	abt. 1994	verify
V. of Milltown	abt. 1986	verify
V. of Osceola	abt. 1997	verify
V. of St Croix Falls	abt. 2003	verify
Unity School District	abt. 1983	verify
<b>St. Croix County</b>		
St. Croix County	December 31, 2011	Y
V. of Baldwin	December 31, 2003	N
V. of Deer Park		N
V. of Glenwood City		N
V. of Hammond		N
C. of Hudson	December 31, 2010	Y
T. of Hudson		N
C. of New Richmond		N
V. of North Hudson		N
V. of Roberts		N
T. of St. Joseph	December 31, 2004	N
V. of Somerset	December 31, 2003	N
V. of Star Prairie	December 31, 2011	Y
T. of Troy	December 31, 2003	N
T. of Warren	December 31, 2008	Y
V. of Wilson		N
V. of Woodville		N

source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Eligibility List as of 9/15/08 (Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, & St. Croix counties) and WCWRPC and WisDOA (Barron and Polk counties)

## V. AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES PLANS AND PROGRAMS

Wisconsin Statutes §66.1001(2)(e) of the Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law requires plans to include a compilation of programs for the conservation and promotion of the effective management of natural resources, productive agricultural areas, and historical and cultural resources. Many related types of natural resources programs having potential environmental and cultural benefits, such as outdoor recreation, sewer service areas, and wellhead protection, are discussed within the Utilities and Community Facilities section since these programs are related to municipally owned and managed infrastructure.

Numerous federal, state, regional, local, and private plans and programs exist which contribute to preservation, conservation, or management of agricultural, natural, and cultural resources in west central Wisconsin. Some of the more notable programs are briefly described here, but no such list can be exhaustive.

### A. Federal Agricultural and Natural Resources Programs

#### *U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)*

The USDA has a strong presence in west central Wisconsin. The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is tasked with implementing federal farm conservation programs to improve the economic stability of the agricultural industry, maintain a steady price range of agricultural commodities, and help farmers adjust to changes in demand. These goals are achieved through a range of farm commodity, credit, conservation, loan, and disaster programs, including Federal Crop Insurance.

Also part of the USDA is the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), which was formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service. The NRCS provides data, maps, technical expertise, and training in soils, conservation techniques, ecological sciences, and other such activities.

The USDA has service centers located in each county in the region, which include the FSA and NRCS offices. Local USDA staff typically work very closely with local UW-Extension Agriculture Agents and county conservation staff to assist farmers and municipalities in their respective counties.

#### **Barron County USDA Service Center**

330 E. LaSalle Avenue  
Barron, WI 54812  
715-537-5645

#### **Chippewa County USDA Service Center**

1160 Weatherridge Road  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715-723-8556

#### **Clark County USDA Service Center**

4 Boon Blvd.

Neillsville, WI 54456  
715-743-3164

**Dunn County USDA Service Center**  
390 Red Cedar Street  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
715-232-2614

**Eau Claire USDA Service Center**  
227 1<sup>st</sup> Street W.  
Altoona, WI 54720  
715-839-5081

**Polk County USDA Service Center**  
941 Mallard Lane  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
715-485-3138

**St. Croix County USDA Service Center**  
1960 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Baldwin, WI 54002  
715-684-2874

### *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains the St. Croix Wetland Management District, which is one of only two such districts in the state. The St. Croix District was established in 1974 and consists of 41 waterfowl production areas totaling 7,700 acres as well as 15 easements protecting wildlife habitat on private land in Barron, Burnett, Dunn, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix, and Washburn counties.

**USFWS St. Croix Wetland Management District**  
1764 95<sup>th</sup> Street  
New Richmond, WI 54017  
715-246-7784  
[www.fws.gov/midwest/StCroix/](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/StCroix/)

### *U.S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service*

The National Park Service has an active presence in western Polk and St. Croix counties through its management of the St. Croix River National Scenic Riverway, in conjunction with state and local entities.

**Saint Croix River National Scenic Riverway**  
401 North Hamilton Street  
Saint Croix Falls, WI 54024  
715-483-2274  
[www.nps.gov/sacn/](http://www.nps.gov/sacn/)

In cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) and the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, the National Park Service also manages the Ice Age National Scenic Trail which passes through Chippewa, Barron, and Polk counties. This trail is open year round with most segments allowing only walking, hiking/backpacking, and snowshoeing, though the full extent of the trail is not yet completed. The trail also connects nine sites in Wisconsin

designated as the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve administered by the WisDNR. These sites include the Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area in northern Chippewa County and Interstate State Park near St. Croix Falls in Polk County.

**Ice Age National Scenic Trail - National Park Service**

700 Rayovac Drive  
Suite 100  
Madison, WI 53711  
608-441-5610  
[www.nps.gov/iatr](http://www.nps.gov/iatr)

***U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)***

Within west central Wisconsin, the USACE has an important role in the planning and management of water resources, such as permits for work in wetlands and navigable waters, flood mitigation projects, restoration programs to improve fish and wildlife habitat, emergency response operations, special studies, and recreation at Corps facilities. Eau Galle Lake (a/k/a Lake George) in southeastern St. Croix County is the only USACE facility in our region. The Eau Galle Dam and reservoir have been crucial to mitigating flooding in the Village of Spring Valley which has historically been a devastating problem for the community. Our region falls within the USACE St. Paul District.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District**

Sibley Square at Mears Park  
190 5<sup>th</sup> Street East, Suite 401  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
651-290-5807  
[www.mvp.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil)

## **B. State and Regional Agricultural and Natural Resources Programs and Plans**

This section identifies the most prominent state and regional programs and plans applicable to our region. Additional state programs can be found at the State of Wisconsin website at [wisconsin.gov](http://wisconsin.gov).

***Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection***

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) supports Wisconsin's agriculture industry and promotes it at home and abroad. As their website states, "whether it's moving animals, financial counseling, finding new markets, or protecting the environment, we play a role."

DATCP provides assistance to counties in the development of their land and water resource management plans. The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board, which is administratively supported by DATCP, reviews these plans and recommends action on final approval by DATCP. County land and water resource management plans must be updated within the last five years in order to be eligible for the soil and water resource management grant funding through DATCP.

DATCP also has a large variety of regulatory roles and oversees local regulations pertaining to manure storage facilities, livestock regulations that exceed certain state standards, and the siting of large livestock operations. DATCP also has permitting systems or standards for food processing, animal movement, and whey disposal.

Other notable DATCP programs of interest to local governments include Clean Sweep and hazardous waste collection, nutrient management planning, agrichemical safety, farmland preservation program (see below), siting livestock operations, and the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative (see below). Each county conditions and trends report discusses county recycling and clean sweep programs within the utilities and community facilities sections.

Visit the DATCP website for more programmatic and contact information on specific programs:  
<http://datcp.state.wi.us/core/agriculture/agriculture.jsp>

### *Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program*

*Wis. Stats. §91*

The Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program was established in 1977 to assist local government efforts to preserve agricultural resources. Eligible farmland owners receive a minimum state income tax credit of 10 percent on property taxes up to \$6,000.

Two basic levels of participation exist. Property which is zoned as an exclusive agricultural use with a minimum 35 acres lot size is eligible for 100 percent of the tax credit. Landowners-farmers can also participate by signing a long-term farmland preservation agreement or transition area agreement and implementing a soil conservation plan developed with the assistance of their county land and water conservation department. These agreements constitute restrictive covenants where the landowner and state agree to jointly hold the right to develop the land as defined in the instrument for the agreement term. A farmland preservation agreement can exist for any period of time from 10 to 25 years. A transition area agreement can exist from 5 to 20 years and must be mapped in the county agricultural preservation plan as an area that will be needed for urban growth in the future. Properties not in an EAZ but with a long-term agreement are eligible for 80 percent of the tax credit.

For more information on the state program, please contact the following DATCP contacts:

Exclusive Agriculture Zoning:	608-224-4637
Agriculture Preservation Plans:	608-224-4632
Farmland Preservation Agreements:	608-224-4633

More information on county and local farmland preservation programs is discussed later in this section.

## *Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative*

In 2005, DATCP established the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative with the following mission<sup>6</sup>:

- “The Working Lands Initiative is about finding common ground on new strategies for preserving Wisconsin working lands (agriculture, forestry, tourism and recreation use). Wisconsin can be green and growing.
- The Working Lands Initiative is about boosting Wisconsin's economic development, especially in rural communities, in order to strategically protect the land for the bio-economy (biomass of forestry and agriculture materials) and protect all our natural resources for future generations. Wisconsin must be planning for prosperity.
- The Working Lands Initiative goals include creating a policy tool kit for state and local government to protect these critical lands. These policy tools will include a natural resource portfolio that recognizes the "other" values of working lands such as water recharge areas, critical habitat for wildlife, and carbon sequestration.
- The Working Lands Initiative will seek innovative partnerships between public and private entities to maximize efforts in preserving our natural resources through Community Collaboration Networks and a shared vision.”

In August 2006, the Working Lands Initiative Steering Committee issued a report on the challenges facing Wisconsin's working lands and an action plan “*to achieve land protection goals, while encouraging sound economic development and maintaining environmental sustainability, including a number of specific policy proposals for modernizing and revitalizing the existing state farmland preservation program, while at the same time, creating a new program for protecting land in the future from incompatible development*”<sup>7</sup>. The Working Lands Initiative is now beginning to implement its final report through specific funding, project, and regulatory proposals, including a working lands policy package which will be provided to the State Legislature. These policies could result in changes to the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program.

Project Website: [www.datcp.state.wi.us/workinglands](http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/workinglands)

Project E-Mail: [DATCPWorkingLands@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPWorkingLands@Wisconsin.gov)

## *Farmland Use Value Assessment*

*1995 Wisconsin Act 27,*

*Wis. Stats. §70.32(2r) & 73.03(49)*

With the passage of the State 1995-1997 Budget Act, the standard for assessing agricultural land in Wisconsin changed from market value to use value. With taxation of land based on the income that could be generated from the land's rental for agricultural use, rather than development potential, the program helps Wisconsin farmers to maintain current farming practices, rather than succumbing to development due to economic pressures. Only land devoted primarily to agricultural use qualifies. For reference, undeveloped land (e.g., bog, marsh, lowland brush, wetlands) is assessed at 50% of its full value.

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<sup>6</sup> Wisconsin DATCP – Working Lands Initiative website. <http://datcp.state.wi.us/workinglands/mission.jsp>

<sup>7</sup> Wisconsin DATCP - Working Lands Initiative. *Working Lands Connection*. June 2008 newsletter. p.2

## *University of Wisconsin-Extension*

UW-Extension offices provides a variety of educational and support programming in the areas of agribusiness, land use and soil management. To assist farmers and local governments, a UW-Extension Agricultural Agent is located in each county in the region with county support. In the case of Clark County, it has two agriculture agents, one specializing in dairy and livestock and one specializing in crops and soils. Some counties also support a UW-Extension Horticulture Agent, such as Eau Claire County.

### **Barron County - UW Extension**

330 E. LaSalle Avenue, Room 2206  
Barron, WI 54812-1540  
715-537-6250

### **Chippewa County - UW Extension**

711 N Bridge St.  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715-726-7954

### **Clark County - UW Extension**

517 Court Street, Room 104  
Neillsville, WI 54456  
715-743-5121

### **Dunn County - UW Extension**

Dunn County Government Center  
800 Wilson Ave. Suite 330  
Menomonie, WI 54751-2265  
715-232-1636

### **Eau Claire County - UW Extension**

227 1st Street West  
Altoona, WI 54720-1601  
715-839-4712

### **Polk County - UW Extension**

Agricultural Center 100 Polk County Plaza, Suite 210  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810-0160  
715-485-8600

### **St. Croix County - UW Extension**

Agricultural Service and Education Center 1960 8th Avenue, Suite 140  
Baldwin, WI 54002  
715-684-3301 Ext 5

## *Agriculture Development Zone (ADZ) Program*

Barron and Clark counties are part of “North Central Six” ADZ administered by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to attract, promote, retain, and encourage the expansion of agribusiness. More information on this program can be found in the economic development section of this document.

## *Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR)*

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources develops, maintains, implements, and enforces a wide variety of programs, plans, and permitting for west central Wisconsin. WisDNR is perhaps most visible to the region's residents through its management of state parks, trails, and other recreational or natural areas, as well as permitting for hunting, fishing, trapping, and burning.

Seven state parks are located in our region: Chippewa Moraine, Brunet Island, and Lake Wissota in Chippewa County; Hoffman Hills in Dunn County; and Interstate and Straight Lake in Polk County. Many additional state wildlife and fishery areas also exist in our region: Barron County (15), Chippewa County (1), Dunn County (11), Eau Claire County (1), Polk County (12), and St. Croix County (3). WisDNR maintains plans for their parks and wildlife areas which may impact county or local outdoor recreation or comprehensive plans. For a complete list of the state parks, wildlife areas, natural areas, and trails in our region, please refer to each county's *Conditions and Trends Report*.

WisDNR also provides educational programs and training to residents and teachers/instructors in hunting, ecology, outdoor skills, safety, and regulatory compliance. Training and assistance are also available to governments and businesses in regulatory compliance, grant programs, etc. And WisDNR scientists and managers are working to address potential conflicts and threats to wildlife and recreational opportunities, such as Chronic Wasting Disease, Oak Wilt, Gypsy Moths, and invasive species.

But local governments often have more contact with WisDNR officials on planning, permitting, grants, and regulatory issues, such as facility planning for municipal wastewater facilities, financial assistance for outdoor recreation or environmental remediation, or permitting as it relates to utilities, mining, burning, wetlands, and water discharges.

This section provides additional detail on a select number of additional WisDNR programs and plans which frequently interact with county and local governments, such as the Division of Forestry, Division of Water, and the Remediation and Redevelopment Program. Discussion on WisDNR's role in outdoor recreation planning, sewer service area planning, and stormwater management can be found in the utilities and community facilities section of this report. Please refer to each county's *Conditions and Trends Report* for more discussion of state recreational, park, and wildlife lands, dams and dam safety, and municipal water and sewer utilities.

More information and contact information for WisDNR programs and plans can be found at their website: [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us)

The WisDNR Bureau of Community Financial Assistance maintains an online compilation of available grants and environmental loan programs at: [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/cfindex.html](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/cfindex.html)

## *WisDNR Forestry and County Foresters*

The amount of forested acreage in the region has been generally increasing; and large areas of Clark, Eau Claire, and Polk counties are forested, portions of which have the highest level of forest fire protection due to fuel types conducive to a large fire. Most of our region falls within a Cooperative Fire Protection area, wherein the WisDNR provides aid and counsel, upon request, when emergencies develop, to the town authorities who are legally responsible for forest fire prevention, detection, and suppression activities in territory outside the boundaries of established extensive fire control areas. Town Chairmen, by virtue of their office, are fire wardens. Costs of forest fire prevention and suppression incurred by a town chairman, acting in his capacity as town fire warden, are paid by the town. However, portions of Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Eau Claire, and Polk counties fall within an Intensive Fire Protection area which is more heavily forested and has a higher degree of fire risk. Intensive Protection Areas have more WisDNR fire suppression resources and ranger stations, often supplemented with fire towers and aerial detection.

The Division of Forestry also provides assistance to landowners and communities in the management of forest lands, including during the development of woodlot or forest management plans as required under the Managed Forest Law (see below). To assist in local forestry management, each county has a designated WisDNR forester:

### **Barron County WisDNR Forester**

Christopher J. Rucinski  
127 S. Fourth St.  
Barron, WI 54812-1638  
Phone: 715-537-5046

### **Chippewa County WisDNR Foresters**

Jim Skorczewski  
*(all County except Towns of Birch Creek, Cleveland, Colburn, Estella, Lake Holcombe, Ruby)*  
711 N. Bridge  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
Phone: 715-726-7885

Tony Marinello  
*(Towns of Birch Creek, Cleveland, Colburn, Estella, Lake Holcombe, Ruby)*  
DNR Ranger Station, 117 S Riverside Dr.  
Cornell, WI 54732  
Phone: 715-239-6355

### **Clark County WisDNR Forester**

Chris Schmitz  
400 Hewett St #106  
Neillsville, WI 54456-1924  
Phone: 715-743-5134

### **Dunn County WisDNR Foresters**

Jay Jordan  
921 Brickyard Rd.  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
Phone: 715-232-1516

Rob Strand  
921 Brickyard Rd.  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
Phone: 715-232-6980

**Eau Claire County WisDNR Forester**

Chris Widstrand  
PO Box 4001  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
Phone: 715-839-3782

**Polk County WisDNR Foresters**

Janette Cain  
941 Mallard Ln. #104  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
Phone: 715-485-3518

Paul Heimstead  
941 Mallard Ln. #104  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
Phone: 715-485-3518

**St. Croix County WisDNR Forester**

Dahn Borh  
890 Spruce Street  
Baldwin, WI 54002  
Phone: 715-684-2914 x116

## *Forest Land Tax Programs*

*Wis. Stats. §70 & 77*

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources manages two forestry tax laws that provide tax incentives to encourage proper management of private forest lands for forest crop production, while recognizing a variety of other objectives. The Forest Crop Law (FCL) program allows landowners to pay taxes on timber only after harvesting or when the contract is terminated, though enrollment in this program was closed in 1986. The Managed Forest Law (MFL) program replaces the FCL and the now-defunct Woodland Tax Law Program. The Woodland Tax Law program expired in 2000, and there are no active contracts under this program in Wisconsin.

The Managed Forest Law (Wisconsin Statutes §77.80) was enacted in 1985 and offers flexibility for private owners of 10 or more acres of contiguous woodlands who enroll in the program. Under the MFL program, landowners have the option to choose either a 25- or 50-year order period; and the annual tax varies depending on whether the land is open or closed to public access (certain restrictions apply). Enrollees are obligated to submit and follow a forest management plan, submit a harvest report, and permit inspections, in exchange for technical support, tax benefits, and good woodlot management. Participants in the MFL program are automatically eligible for American Tree Farm System group certification which provides certain marketplace benefits.

Table V-A shows the 2008 acreage in the Forest Crop Law and Managed Forest Law programs for west central Wisconsin.

**Table V-A.  
Forest Land Tax Program Participation by County (2008)**

<b>County</b>	<b>Forest Crop Law Acreage</b>	<b>Managed Forest Law Acreage</b>
Barron	1,703	33,796
Chippewa	1,498	21,984
Clark	3,766	53,151
Dunn	3,524	47,989
Eau Claire	1,034	29,571
Polk	1,431	34,021
St. Croix	984	13,640
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,940</b>	<b>234,152</b>

source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 7/1/2008

2003 Wisconsin Act 230 amended the definition of agricultural forest, and a new definition and assessment for agricultural forest is now in place. Forest land contiguous to agricultural land may be assessed at 50% of its full value; please refer to Wisconsin Statutes §70.32 for the full definition.

### *WisDNR Division of Water and Watershed Management*

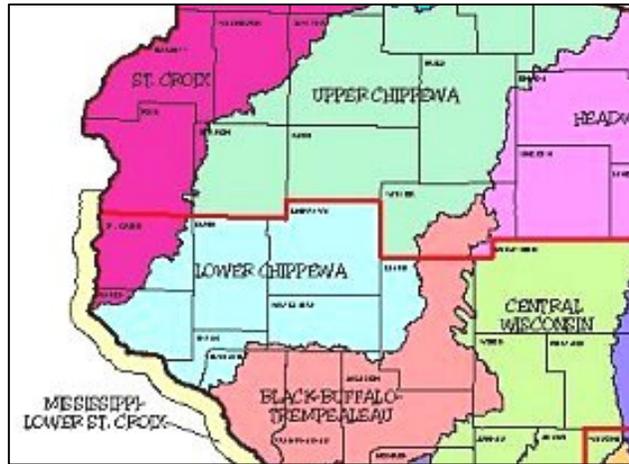
The Division of Water promotes the balanced use of Wisconsin's waters to protect, maintain and enhance them in full partnership with the public. Communities with municipal water supplies also interact with the Division of Water through water quality testing and reporting and wellhead protection. Municipal water supplies, sewer service area planning, and wellhead protection are discussed in the utilities and community facilities sections of this document and county *Conditions and Trends Reports*.

WisDNR has the authority to issue permits affecting navigable waters of the state. DNR received more than 1,480 and 1,605 permit applications in 1993 and 1994, respectively, for waterway projects in the state which potentially affect adjacent land uses. These include bulkhead line ordinance establishment, bridge or culvert placement, dam construction, stream realignment, retaining wall construction, water diversion and pond construction.

The Bureau of Watershed Management administers programs on dam safety, floodplain mapping and management, impaired waters, shoreland management, runoff management, the priority watershed program, and a variety of water-related permits. These topics are also discussed in other sections of this document or the individual county reports.

The Bureau also conducts basin planning or “water quality management planning” for the state, of which local sewer service area plans are part. Beginning in 1999, the water quality management program worked with state lands and fisheries programs to develop integrated basic plans statewide. As shown in Map V-A, our region falls within five watershed basins for which a “State of the Basin” report has been developed. Each report includes information and recommendations on each watershed basins. Report names, if available, and WisDNR contact information for each basin are provided below.

**Map V.A – State of the Basin Report Areas**



source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

***The State of the Lower Chippewa Basin, 2001***  
**Lower Chippewa Watershed Basin Supervisor: John Paddock**  
 P.O. Box 4001  
 Eau Claire, WI 54702  
 715-839-3727

**Upper Chippewa Watershed Basin Supervisor: Tom Aartila**  
 P.O. Box 220  
 Park Falls, WI  
 715-762-4684, ext. 116

***The State of the St. Croix Basin, 2002***  
**St. Croix Watershed Basin Supervisor: Kathy Bartilson**  
 810 W. Maple St.  
 Spooner, WI 54801  
 715-635-4053

***The State of the Black-Buffalo-Trempealeau Basin, 2002***  
**Western Rivers Watershed Basin Supervisor: Dan Helsel**  
 Black-Buffalo-Trempealeau  
 910 Highway 54 E.  
 Black River Falls, WI 54615  
 715-284-1431

***The State of the Central Wisconsin River Basin, 2002***  
**Central Wisconsin Watershed Basin Supervisor: Scott Watson**  
 Wisconsin Rapids Service Center  
 473 Griffith Ave.  
 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494  
 715-421-7813

In concert with the National Park Service and Minnesota DNR, a *Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Final Cooperative Management Plan* has also been developed and released in Final EIS form. More information on the Lower St. Croix River as it relates to the Mississippi River water shed can be obtained from:

**Mississippi River Watershed Basin Supervisor: Gretchen Benjamin**  
3550 Mormon Coulee Road  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
608-785-9014

### *WisDNR Remediation and Redevelopment Program*

The Remediation and Redevelopment Program oversees the investigation and cleanup of environmental contamination and the redevelopment of contaminated properties, consolidating state and federal cleanups into one program (e.g., hazardous waste cleanup, underground storage tank investigation and cleanup, spill response, state-funded cleanups and brownfields). The program provides technical and financial support to landowners and communities in the clean-up or re-use of such properties.

The economic development section of the *Conditions and Trends Report* for each county in our region identifies the environmentally contaminated sites as reported to WisDNR. Some of these sites may be abandoned, idle, or underused commercial or industrial properties due to real or perceived contamination, and may be eligible for WisDNR support under the Wisconsin Brownfields Initiative which provides grant funding and limits liabilities for local governments. More information on the Remediation and Redevelopment Program can be found at the program's website: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/>. Regional specialists also provide assistance:

#### **Northern Region (includes Polk and Barron counties)**

Spill Response Coordinator:	John Sager	715-365-8959
Environmental Program Associates:	Anna Kazda	715-365-8990
Brownfield Specialists:	John Sager	715-365-8959

#### **West Central Region (includes Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, and St. Croix counties)**

Spill Response Coordinator:	Tom Kendzierski	715-839-1604
Environmental Program Associates:	Beth Norquist	715-839-2784
Brownfield Specialists:	Loren Brumberg	715-839-3770

### *Wisconsin Fund Program*

Administered locally by the county, this program provides grants to replace or rehabilitate failing private sewer systems, if certain income eligibility requirements are met. The overall grant program is managed by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce-Safety and Buildings Division at the state level. For more information, contact the county zoning or health department or visit the Wisconsin Fund webpage at: <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-WisconsinFundBrochure.html>

## **C. County and Local Agricultural and Natural Resources Programs and Plans**

The following are a few of the related plans and programs administered by county and local governments. Many of the programs and plans discussed in the utilities and community facilities section and the land use section also have strong ties to agricultural and natural resources issues (e.g., stormwater management, sewer service area planning), but are not generally repeated here for brevity.

### *County Agricultural Preservation Plans*

*Wis. Stats. §59.97 & 91.55*

As discussed previously in the section on the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program, property tax credit is available for agricultural properties which are zoned as exclusive agriculture or if the landowner signs a long-term agreement and follows a soil conservation plan.

In order for landowners to participate in the program, their county must adopt an agricultural or farmland preservation plan and an exclusive agricultural zoning (EAZ) ordinance which is certified by the State of Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board. All seven counties in west central Wisconsin have certified farmland preservation plans.

In all counties of our region except Eau Claire County, landowners are eligible for agricultural preservation or transition area agreements regardless if exclusive agricultural zoning has been adopted by their municipality. The current rules are slightly different for landowner-farmers in Eau Claire County since it is an urban county with a population density of 100 or more person per square mile. Under Wisconsin Statutes §91.11, Eau Claire County landowners are only eligible for farmland preservation agreements if the land is in exclusive agricultural zoning, the land is in a town which has adopted exclusive agricultural zoning, or if the landowner has been continuing to re-apply for an agreement originally made between July 1, 1988, to June 30, 1991. This explains the low number of agreements and participating acres in Eau Claire County.

The farmland preservation planning and participation rates for the 2008 tax year are included in Table V-B below. Only the Town of Colby in Clark County administers EAZ at the town level; all other towns with EAZ rely on county-administered zoning. Some incorporated areas also have EAZs for their urban fringe areas or as part of their extraterritorial zoning areas.

**Table V-B.  
Farmland Preservation Program Participation in West Central Wisconsin (Tax Year 2008)**

County	Year of Last County Plan	Towns with EAZ	Cities and Villages with EAZ (ETZ = Extraterritorial Zone Only)	# of Agreements	Total Acres in Program
Barron	1979	Almena, Barron, Crystal Lake, Cumberland, Dallas, Maple Grove, Maple Plain, Oak Grove, Prairie Lake, Rice Lake, Stanford, Stanley, Sumner, Turtle Lake	Barron (ETZ) Rice Lake (ETZ)	120	18,160
Chippewa	1984	none	none	147	15,819
Clark	1986	Cady (town zoning)	none	77	9,523
Dunn	1981	Grant, Lucas, Wilson	none	141	19,321
Eau Claire	1983	Brunswick, Clear Creek, Drammen, Lincoln, Otter Creek, Pleasant Valley, Seymour, Washington	Fall Creek	5	337
Polk	1979	McKinley	none	46	8,182
St. Croix	1980	Baldwin, Cylon, Erin Prairie, Pleasant Valley, Rush River, St. Joseph, Somerset, Stanton, Star Prairie, Troy	River Falls (ETZ)	148	19,075
Totals	-	37 towns	4 cities and villages	684	90,417

source: Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection

### *Zoning and Land Division Ordinances*

Zoning and land division ordinances may include a variety of standards which apply to agricultural and natural resources, such as agricultural zoning districts, wetland or resource conservancy districts, mineral reservation, shoreland or floodplain overlay district, conservation subdivision design, and other performance standards. Such ordinances are discussed in the land use section of this report.

### *Sanitary Ordinances*

*Wis. Stats. §59.065*

As required by state statute, all seven counties in west central Wisconsin have adopted sanitary ordinance governing private sewage systems which apply to the entire county. The counties issue state and county sanitary permits for the siting, design, installation, and/or repair, reconnection, or rejuvenation of private sewage systems and non-plumbing sanitation systems. Sanitary permits are valid for two years and are typically required prior to the issuance of a land use or building permit. State permits must be submitted by a licensed plumber, accompanied by soil test results; and a site inspection by county staff is typically required. Landowners must also sign a maintenance agreement to ensure proper upkeep and periodic inspections of their system. Sanitary ordinances may be part of a zoning ordinance or large code of ordinances in some communities.

### *Solid Waste Management*

*Wis. Stats. §59.70(2), 59.07(135)(a), and 144.437(1)*

Counties may establish a solid waste management boards which are authorized to develop plans for a solid waste management system and operate a solid waste system. Such plans must be consistent with applicable state rules and must be reviewed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

### *Recycling Ordinance*

*Wis. Stats. §144.449(3), 59.07(133) & (135),  
159.17, and NR 502.05*

Counties, towns, villages, and cities may enact ordinances to manage the storage of waste materials, recycling, and disposal of tires. These may be part of a larger solid waste management ordinance. St. Croix County adopted a Tire Management Ordinance in 1985 which is effective in all towns.

### *Manure Storage and Management Ordinances*

*Wis. Stats. §92.16 & NR 151*

All seven counties in west central Wisconsin have adopted a manure storage or animal waste management ordinance under Wisconsin Statutes §92.16 and DATCP rules. All of these ordinances have been reviewed by DATCP for consistency with state standards. Such ordinances may be part of a larger zoning ordinance or code of ordinances. Generally, these ordinances require all new or altered manure storage facilities be liquid tight and meet NRCS standards. WisDNR also enforces performance standards and prohibitions related to manure management under NR 151 and ATCP 50, which have been integrated into many county ordinances:

#### Agricultural performance standards

- Control cropland erosion to meet tolerable rates.
- Build, modify or abandon manure storage facilities to accepted standards.
- Divert clean runoff away from livestock and manure storage areas located near streams, rivers, lakes or areas susceptible groundwater contamination.
- Apply manure and other fertilizers according to an approved nutrient management plan.

#### Manure management prohibitions

- No overflow of manure storage facilities.
- No unconfined manure piles near waterbodies.
- No direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure into state waters.
- No trampled streambanks or shorelines from livestock.

### *Livestock Facility Siting Ordinances*

*Wis. Stats. §93.90 & ATCP 51*

The role of local governments in the regulation of the site of new and expanded livestock operations changed significantly in 2006 with the adoption of Wisconsin Statutes §93.90 and Administrative Rule ATCP 51. Effective May 1, 2006, local ordinances which require permits for livestock facilities must follow state rules. The siting standards only apply to new and expanding livestock facilities in areas that require local permits, and then only (in most communities) if they will have 500 animal units (AU) or more and expand by at least 20%.

For communities with zoning, the new Statute limits the exclusion of livestock facilities from agricultural zoning districts unless another ag district exists where operations of all sizes are allowed and the exclusion is for public health and safety based on scientific findings of fact. However, such facilities can be treated as a conditional use. For unzoned communities, less site-specific land use control is available; and licensing can only consider performance standards or impacts. Appeals of local permit decisions are taken to the State Livestock Facility Siting Review Board. The changes in state rules for livestock facility siting do not impact a local government's ability to enforce shoreland-wetland zoning, erosion controls, stormwater management requirement, manure storage ordinances, and road regulations.

For more information, contact DATCP or visit its website:

**Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection**

Livestock Facility Siting Program

P.O. Box 8911

Madison, WI 53708

608-224-4613

[http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/land-water/livestock\\_siting/siting.jsp](http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/land-water/livestock_siting/siting.jsp)

### *Mining Regulations*

*Wis. Stats. §295.13, 295.20, & NR 135*

Non-metallic mining is widespread and includes quarries and extraction operations for sand, gravel, stone, peat, and a variety of other materials. Wisconsin Statutes §295.13 requires all counties to enact a nonmetallic mining reclamation ordinance that complies with state rules (NR 135). This approach establishes statewide uniform reclamation standards with permitting administered locally. County non-metallic mining ordinances apply to the entire area of the county, except for cities, villages, and towns that enact their own such ordinance which complies with state rules. Local zoning ordinances also apply.

Wisconsin Statutes §295.20 allows landowners to register “marketable nonmetallic mineral deposits” certified by an engineering or geologic study. The act of registering limits the local government’s ability to permit a use of the land that would permanently interfere with the present or future extraction of the registered mineral deposit.

Metallic mining (e.g., copper, gold, silver, iron, lead) is regulated by Wisconsin DNR under state statutes and administrative codes. As stated within the *Guide to Community Planning in Wisconsin*, if a metallic mining operation complies with all applicable laws, meets all protection standards, complies with local zoning regulations, and minimizes impacts to wetlands, WisDNR must issue a mining permit.<sup>8</sup>

### *Land and Water Conservation Departments*

Each west central Wisconsin county has a land/soil and water conservation department. Though exact responsibilities and department names do vary by county, these departments are generally responsible for a variety of educational and enforcement activities to protect the farmlands, waters, and natural resources of their respective counties. Duties often include, potentially in concert with other departments or agencies: stormwater, run-off, and erosion management, soil

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<sup>8</sup> Ohm, Brian. *Guide to Community Planning in Wisconsin*. Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System. 1999. Available on-line at: [www.lic.wisc.edu/shapingdane/resources/planning/library/book/other/title.htm](http://www.lic.wisc.edu/shapingdane/resources/planning/library/book/other/title.htm)

and nutrient management, animal waste controls, water quality programs, county farmland preservation programs, non-metallic mining regulations, recycling programs, waterway/wetland permitting, and environmental education. These departments also provide assistance to the lake districts and lake associations in their counties. Some of these departments also manage dams, dikes, and surface water improvements on behalf of the county.

**Barron County Soil and Water Conservation Department**

330 E. LaSalle Avenue  
Barron, WI 54812  
715-537-6315

[www.co.barron.wi.us/conserv.htm](http://www.co.barron.wi.us/conserv.htm)

**Chippewa County Land Conservation Department**

Chippewa County Courthouse  
Room 011  
711 N Bridge St.  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715-726-7920

[www.co.chippewa.wi.us/departments/landconservation](http://www.co.chippewa.wi.us/departments/landconservation)

**Chippewa County Land Conservation Department**

517 Court Street, Room 102  
Neillsville, WI 54456  
715-743-5102

[www.co.clark.wi.us/ClarkCounty/departments/landconservation/](http://www.co.clark.wi.us/ClarkCounty/departments/landconservation/)

**Dunn County Land Conservation Division**

Agriculture Service Center  
390 Red Cedar Street, Suite C  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
(715)232-1496

[dunncountywi.gov/office2.com](http://dunncountywi.gov/office2.com)

**Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division**

227 1st St. West  
Altoona, WI 54720  
Phone: (715)839-4788

[www.co.eau-claire.wi.us/Planning&Development/land\\_conservation.asp](http://www.co.eau-claire.wi.us/Planning&Development/land_conservation.asp)

**Polk County Land and Water Resource Department**

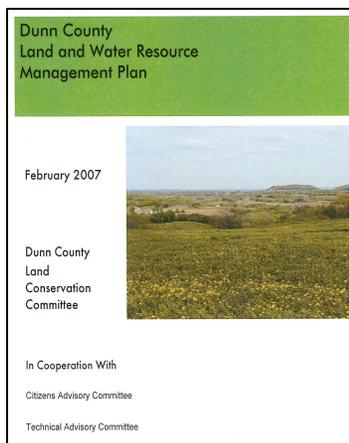
100 Polk Plaza # 120  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
(715) 485-8699

[www.co.polk.wi.us/landwater/](http://www.co.polk.wi.us/landwater/)

**St. Croix County Land and Water Conservation Department**

Agriculture Service & Education Building  
1960 8th Avenue, Suite 141  
Baldwin WI 54002  
Telephone: 715.684.2874

[www.co.saint-croix.wi.us/Departments/LandWater](http://www.co.saint-croix.wi.us/Departments/LandWater)



## *County Land and Water Resource Management Plans*

Each west central Wisconsin county, through their respective conservation department, develops and maintains a county land and water resource management plan for the purpose of conserving water and soil resources. These plans are required in order to maintain eligibility for annual funding through the State Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Program administered by DATCP. The plans must be updated every five years and must be reviewed by the State Land and Water Conservation Board and approved by DATCP. Chippewa, Polk, and St. Croix counties are scheduled to update their plans in 2009.

## *Shoreland Management Ordinances*

*Wis. Stats. §92.17*

Counties, cities, villages, and towns may enact shoreland management ordinances for the purpose of maintaining and improving surface water quality. Such ordinances cannot be enforced unless the county has a land conservation committee with an approved land and water resource management plan and the county receives state funding for land and water conservation activities. Most shorelands in west central Wisconsin are regulated through county or local shoreland-wetland zoning ordinances (see land use policy section), instead of having a separate shoreland management ordinance.

## *Drainage Districts*

*Wis. Stats. §88*

Wisconsin Statutes allow for the creation of drainage districts for the draining of land for agricultural use. A board is established for the district with the power to plan, purchase, repair, and construct drains. Only one drainage district exists in west Central Wisconsin—the Little Missouri Drainage District which covers five sections in the Town of Eau Galle in Dunn County.

## *County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plans*

Wisconsin Statutes §28.11 requires counties to adopt 10-year comprehensive land use plans for county forest lands. Not only do these plans identify goals and strategies for conservation and protection of county forests, but they also include timber production, wildlife management, access, and recreation goals. Table V-C shows the acres of certified county forest lands in west central Wisconsin; all counties in our region except Dunn and St. Croix have adopted forest comprehensive land use plans.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification meets the standards established by the American Forest and Paper Association's Sustainable Forest Initiative. Forest Stewardship Council certification means that the forest is managed according to strict environmental, social, and economic standards established by the Council

**Table V-C.**  
**West Central Wisconsin County Forest Certification Acreage**

<b>County</b>	<b>SFI Certified Acreage</b>	<b>FSC Certified Acreage</b>	<b>SFI &amp; FSC Certified Acreage</b>
Barron	0	0	15,945
Chippewa	0	33,107	0
Clark	0	132,851	0
Dunn	0	0	0
Eau Claire	0	0	52,350
Polk	17,144	0	0
St. Croix	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,144</b>	<b>165,958</b>	<b>68,295</b>

*source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources-Division of Forestry*

### *Erosion Controls*

*Wis. Stats. §59.974, 61.354, 62.234, & 144.266*

Counties are authorized to enact ordinances to control construction site erosion control at sites in unincorporated areas, if the sites are not for building construction or storm water management. Cities and villages are authorized to enact similar ordinances affecting their incorporated areas. Within west central Wisconsin, such regulations are typically included as part of subdivision ordinances. For more information, please refer to the stormwater management discussion in the utilities and community facilities section and the subdivision regulations discussion in the land use section.

## **D. State, County, and Local Cultural Resources Programs**

### *Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS)*

The Society provides assistance to local governments as a depository of historical documents, in inventorying historic resources, and by integrating cultural resource preservation into community comprehensive planning efforts. WHS also provides support and certain review responsibilities under the National Historical Preservation Act for projects which may impact sites of historical or archaeological significance.

The Wisconsin Historical Society maintains the Architectural and Historical Inventory (AHI) database of structures, sites, and features of historical or cultural interest as reported to the Society. Each county's *Conditions and Trends Report* includes a table with the number of AHI records per municipality. WHS has also teamed up with UW-Extension and the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation to implement the Wisconsin Barn Preservation Program.

Certain tax credits may be available for owners of historic homes and buildings which are on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is under the administration of the National Park Service, though general information, architectural review, and the tax credit programs are available through WHS. Certain construction standards apply to buildings on the National Register. For more information on the Society's role in comprehensive planning visit: [http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/smartgrowth/whs\\_initiative.asp](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/smartgrowth/whs_initiative.asp).

*Historic/Architectural Preservation Ordinances* Wis. Stats. §59.97(4m), 60.64, & 62.23(7)(em)

All cities and village with properties listed in the State Register of Historic Places or National Register of Historic Places must enact historic preservation ordinances. Counties and towns are also authorized to enact ordinances to regulate places, structures, objects, and districts with special character, historic interest, aesthetic interest, or other significant value to the community. Each county conditions and trends report includes a list of the sites on the National Register of Historic Places within the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources section.

Some local communities are establishing such an ordinance in order to qualify downtown businesses for façade renovation loans through the Regional Business Fund. During a survey performed by WCWRPC as part of this document’s development, the following communities have indicated they have adopted or are in the process of establishing a historical or architectural preservation ordinance:

<u>Ordinance Adopted</u>		
City of Cumberland	City of Rice Lake	Village of Boyd
Village of Cadott	City of Neillsville	City of Menomonie
Village of Boyceville	City of Augusta	City of Eau Claire
City of St. Croix Falls	Village of Osceola	City of New Richmond
Village of Star Prairie		
<u>Ordinance Being Developed</u>		
Village of Turtle Lake	Village of Withee	Village of Elk Mound
Village of Deer Park	Village of Somerset	

*Architectural Conservancy Districts* Wis. Stats. §66.1007

Cities, villages, and towns may create architectural conservancy districts within their boundaries and adopt operating plans for the development, redevelopment, maintenance, operation and promotion of the districts. Architectural conservancy districts are operated under the direction of a district board and operate similarly to a business improvement district. No architectural conservancy districts were identified in west central Wisconsin during the development of this report.

*Certified Local Governments* National Historic Preservation Act

A Certified Local Government (CLG) is any city, village, county, or town that has been certified by Wisconsin's State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Department of the Interior as meeting some basic criteria, including enforcing a local historic preservation ordinance and maintaining an inventory of historic properties. CLGs may apply for certain grant funds, may comment on nominations to the National Register, and are authorized to use the state historic building code. In west central Wisconsin, the cities of Eau Claire, Neillsville, New Richmond, and River Falls are the only Certified Local Governments.

*County and Local Historical Societies and Museums*

Historical societies, interest groups, historical museums, and genealogical organizations are scattered across west central Wisconsin. Some are associated with libraries or existing organizations, such as the UW-Eau Claire Area Research Center. Others focus on an individual

topic, ethnic group, or historic structure, such as the Chippewa Falls Museum of Industry and Technology.

The following list of local historical societies and history museums in our region was compiled from the Wisconsin Historical Society and Wisconsin Department of Tourism directories, but is by no means complete. And while the list below only includes societies within our seven-county region, many historical societies will serve a broader area than a single municipality; and their geographic area of interest may cross county boundaries, such as the Mondovi Area Historical Society in northern Buffalo County.

### **Barron County Historical Societies and Museums**

Barron County Historical Society  
Pioneer Village Museum, Cameron

### **Chippewa County Historical Societies and Museums**

Bloomer Historical Society  
Cadott Area Historical Society and Historical Museum  
Cook-Rutledge Mansion, Chippewa Falls  
Chippewa County Historical Society and Area History Center  
Chippewa Falls Museum of Industry and Technology  
Fort Bon Secours, Cornell  
Hawkin's Hollow, Chippewa Falls  
Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company  
Stanley Area Historical Society and Museum

### **Clark County Historical Societies and Museums**

1897 Jail Museum, Neillsville  
Clark County Historical Society  
Dorchester Area Historical Society  
The Highgrounds Veterans Memorial Park  
Loyal Area Historical Society, Inc  
Reed School – Wisconsin Historical Society  
Thorp Area Historical Society  
WCCN's Wisconsin Pavilion, Neillsville  
Willard Area historical Society, Inc.

### **Dunn County Historical Societies and Museums**

Dunn County Historical Society  
Empire in the Pine Lumber Museum, Downsville  
Mabel Tainter Memorial Theatre, Menomonie  
Russell J. Rassbach Heritage Museum, Menomonie  
Wilson Place Mansion, Menomonie

### **Eau Claire County Historical Societies and Museums**

Chippewa Valley Museum and Railroad, Eau Claire  
Dells Mill Museum  
Eau Claire Historic Preservation Foundation  
Fall Creek Historical Society Museum  
Paul Bunyan Logging Camp-Eau Claire

Schlegelmilch House, Eau Claire  
UW-Eau Claire Area Research Center

### **Polk County Historical Societies and Museums**

Amery Historical Society  
Clear Lake Historical Museum  
Emily Olson House, Osceola  
Frederic Area Historical Society  
Frederic Soo Line Depot Museum  
Osceola Historical Society  
Osceola and St. Croix Valley Railway and Soo Line Depot, Osceola  
Polk County Historical Society  
Polk County Historical Society, Luck Area Chapter  
Polk County Historical Society, St. Croix Falls Chapter  
Polk County Historical Society, Sterling-Eureka-Laketown Chapter  
Polk County Museum, Balsam Lake  
St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Center. St. Croix Falls

### **St. Croix County Historical Societies and Museums**

German Settlement Heritage Society  
Glenwood Area Historical Society  
New Richmond Heritage Center  
New Richmond Preservation Society  
Octagon House, Hudson  
Pierce County Historical Association, River Falls Chapter  
Pierce County Historical Association, Spring Valley Area Chapter  
St. Croix County Historical Society

## **E. Lake Districts and Associations**

Public Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Districts (lake districts) are incorporated entities with formal structures and powers defined under Wisconsin Statutes §33, Subchapter IV. These powers include the right to make contracts, acquire/sell property, contract debt, taxation, maintain a water safety patrol, and do any other acts necessary to carry out a program of lake protection and rehabilitation. Lake districts have the authority to levy taxes or charge user fees for the management of the lake, as well as to pursue financial assistance such as the Lake Planning and Lake Protection Grants administered by WisDNR.

Lake associations are less formal, without formal powers to act as a unit of government, and can vary greatly in terms of activity level. If a lake association meets certain standards set out in Wisconsin Statutes §281.68 and incorporates under Wisconsin Statutes §181, it may be recognized as a “qualified lake association” by WisDNR. Qualified lake associations are eligible for State Lake Management Planning Grants for the lake planning, protection, and recreational boating facilities. Table V-D lists the lake districts and associations in west central Wisconsin as maintained by the UW-Extension Lakes Program.

**Table V-D  
Lake Districts and Associations in West Central Wisconsin**

<b>County</b>	<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Nearest P.O. or City</b>
<b>Barron County</b>		
Lake Districts	Beaver Dam Lake Mgmt District	Cumberland
	Dummy Lakes Mgmt District	Cumberland
	Kirby Lake Mgmt District	Cumberland
	Rice Lake P & R District	Rice Lake
	Sand Lake Mgmt District	Cumberland
	Staples Lake P & R District	Turtle Lake
Lake Associations	Bear Lake Association of Barron Co., Inc	Haugen
	Chetek Lakes Protect. Assoc.	Chetek
	Desair Lake Restoration, Inc.	Rice Lake
	Echo Lake Assoc.	Turtle Lake
	Granite Lake Assoc., Inc.	Cumberland
	Horseshoe Lake Improvement Assoc.	Turtle Lake
	Moon Lake Assoc.	Rice Lake
	Red Cedar Lakes	Mikana
	Sand Lake Community Assoc.	Cumberland
	Silver Lake Assoc.	Cumberland
<b>Chippewa County</b>		
Lake Districts	Long Lake Inland Lake Mgmt District	New Auburn
	Lower Long Lake P & R District	New Auburn
Lake Associations	Axhandle Lake Association	New Auburn
	Bloomer Community Lake Association	Bloomer
	Lake Hallie Lake Association	Lake Hallie
	Lake Holcombe Improvement Assoc, Inc.	Lake Holcombe
	Lake Wissota Improvement & Prot. Assoc.	Chippewa Falls
	Pine Lake Assoc.	New Auburn
	Round Lake Protection Assoc., Inc.	New Auburn

**Table V-D**  
**Lake Districts and Associations in West Central Wisconsin (cont.)**

<b>County</b>	<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Nearest P.O. or City</b>
<b>Clark County</b>		
Lake Districts	Mead Lake District	Greenwood
	Owen Lake District	Owen
Lake Associations	Rock Dam Lake Association	Willard
<b>Dunn County</b>		
Lake Districts	none	
Lake Associations	Elk Creek Lake Rehabilitation District	Eau Claire
	Tainter/Menomoin Lake Improv. Assoc.	Menomonie
<b>Eau Claire County</b>		
Lake Districts	Fall Creek Inland Lake District	Fall Creek
	Lake Altoona R & P District	Altoona
Lake Associations	Lake Eau Claire Association	Augusta
<b>Polk County</b>		
Lake Districts	Amery Lakes P & R District	Amery
	Antler Lake Assoc.	Luck/Milltown
	Apple River P & R District	Amery
	Balsam Lake P & R District	Balsam Lake
	Big Blake Lake P & R District	Balsam Lake
	Big Butternut Lake Management District	Luck
	Big Round Lake P & R District	Luck
	Bone Lake Management District	Luck
	Church Pine/Round/Big Lake P & R District	Osceola
	Half Moon Lake P & R District	Balsam Lake
	Largon Lake P & R District	McKinley/Clam Falls
	Long Lake Assoc., Inc.	Centuria
	Pipe & North Pipe Lake P & R District	McKinley/Turtle Lake
	White Ash Lake P & R District	Balsam Lake

**Table V-D**  
**Lake Districts and Associations in West Central Wisconsin (cont.)**

<b>County</b>	<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Nearest P.O. or City</b>
<b>Polk County (cont.)</b>		
Lake Associations	Lake Wapogasset/Bear Trap Imp. Assoc, Inc.	Amery
	Little Butternut Lake Assoc.	Luck
	Lotus Lake Assoc., Inc.	Dresser
	Loveless Lake Assoc.	Centuria
	Village of Clear Lake	Clear Lake
	Ward Lake Assoc.	Frederic
	Wild Goose Lake Assoc.	Balsam Lake
<b>St. Croix County</b>		
Lake Districts	Bass Lake Rehab. District	Somerset/Burkhardt
	Cedar Lake P & R District	Star Prairie
	Squaw Lake Management & Rehab District	Somerset
	Upper Willow Rehab District	New Richmond
Lake Associations	Lake Mallalieu Assoc.	Hudson

*source: University of Wisconsin-Extension Lakes Program*

Lake districts and associations are important stakeholders in local land-use and planning decisions and local communities are encouraged to involve these organizations in their local planning efforts. The level of involvement in such issues varies by organization and issue, but most have a strong working relationship with their county land and water conservation department.

## F. Non-Profit and Collaborative Conservation Organizations

The number of non-profit and collaborative conservation organizations which could potentially be partners with local communities in our region is so numerous that they cannot all be included here. Many are quite specialized in scope, such as the Century Farm Program, or focus on a specific geographic area, such as the St. Croix Conservation Collaborative. The following are a few examples of the different types of conservation organizations active in west central Wisconsin. Related organizations can also be found within the sustainability and energy section of this document (e.g., local food networks).

### *Outdoor Recreation Organizations*

Outdoor sporting organizations, such as local rod and gun clubs, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, and Pheasants Forever, play important roles in the conservation of wildlife habitat. Ducks Unlimited has been crucial to the conservation of wetlands. Parks and trails also often have private supporting organizations or foundations, such as the Cumberland Area Ski Trails, Chippewa Valley Cycling Club, or the Friends of Interstate Park. Such organizations can provide valuable input into the comprehensive planning efforts.

### *Snowmobile and ATV Clubs*

Snowmobile and ATV clubs often work with state and local governments in the planning of trail routes, with some clubs responsible for maintaining routes or trail signage. The number of clubs in west central Wisconsin by county is shown in Table V-E below.

**TABLE V-E**  
**Number of Snowmobile and ATV Clubs in West Central Wisconsin**

County	# of Snowmobile Clubs	# of ATV Clubs
Barron	4	4
Chippewa	14	2
Clark	8	2
Dunn	13	1
Eau Claire	7	1
Polk	12	0
St. Croix	12	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>11</b>

*source: Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs, Wisconsin ATV Association, Inc.*

For club listings and more information, please visit the websites of the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs ([www.awsc.org](http://www.awsc.org)) and the Wisconsin ATV Association, Inc. ([www.atva.org](http://www.atva.org)).

### *Educational Institutions*

Schools, colleges, and universities often become very involved in conservation efforts, by providing volunteers, technical support, and other resources which communities may not

otherwise have available. Each county's *Conditions and Trends Report* lists the educational institutions in their respective areas.

### *Youth Programs*

The youth of our region play an important part in preserving our area's agricultural, cultural, and natural heritage. Such programs may be administered through local school districts, a community program, or the umbrella of larger non-profit entity, such as: Future Farmers of America, 4-H Clubs, YMCA, and scouting organizations.

### *Land Trust Organizations*

A land trust organization works with landowners, other conservation organizations, and government agencies to protect natural areas, wildlife habitat, working forests, agricultural lands, cultural sites, or other unique areas. Typically, a land trust organization will be granted or sold the development rights to a property in the form of a conservation easement in order to prevent development. In some cases, the development right may be held by a local government entity, while the land trust organization holds a third-party enforcement right. Regardless of the approach, landowners often continue to use the property in a land trust as they had in the past, while gaining certain tax benefits. Some land trust organizations focus on specific types of ecosystems or properties (e.g., The Prairie Enthusiasts).

The following are the current land trusts organizations active in west central Wisconsin. Current areas of operation within our region are listed. Only Clark County does not currently have an active land trust organization working within its borders.

**Chippewa County Land Conservancy**

current area of operation: Chippewa County  
P.O. Box 884  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715-723-1999

**Deer Lake Conservancy**

current area of operation: Polk County  
P.O. Box 1139  
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024  
715-483-3338

**Kinnickinnic River Land Trust**

current area of operation: St. Croix County  
P.O. Box 87  
River Falls, WI 54022  
715-425-5738

**The Prairie Enthusiasts**

current area of operation: Barron, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk, & St. Croix counties  
P.O. Box 1148  
Madison, WI 53701  
715-381-1291

**Standing Cedars Community Land Conservancy**

current area of operation: parts of Polk & St. Croix counties along St. Croix River

P.O. Box 249  
Osceola, WI 54020  
715-294-4096

**Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust**

current area of operation: Polk & St. Croix counties

P.O. Box 88  
Star Prairie, WI 54026  
715-248-3829

**West Wisconsin Land Trust**

current area of operation: Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk, & St. Croix counties

500 Main Street, Suite 307  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
715-235-8850

*Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D Councils)*

RC&D Councils are non-profit entities established under the Federal Resource Conservation and Development Program established in 1962. Each council establishes its own programs, membership, and governing policies, with a full-time coordinator provided by USDA-NRCS. The councils bring people and resources together to plan for and conserve the natural resources, provide sustainability, and improve the quality of life of their respective areas. West central Wisconsin falls under the River Country RC&D service area.

**River Country RC&D Council**

1304 N. Hillcrest Parkway  
Altoona, WI 54720  
715-834-9672

[www.rivercountryrcd.org](http://www.rivercountryrcd.org)

*Wisconsin Farmers Union*

As stated in its mission, the Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFU) is a member-driven organization committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities, and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors, and civic engagement. WFU encourages rural economic and cooperative development by supporting agricultural co-ops and other rural businesses.

**Wisconsin Farmers Union**

117 West Spring Street  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715-723-5561

[www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

*American Farmland Trust*

The American Farmland Trust (AFT) encourages policies which focus on farmland protection and the local food system. Their website is an excellent source of general farmland preservation information and current legislative activities at the federal and state levels. They have also assisted Wisconsin communities with establishing purchase of development rights programs for the protection of farmlands. AFT is currently with the State Working Lands Initiative to conduct

educational workshops around the state on the protection of working lands. The AFT webpage for Wisconsin can be found at: <http://www.farmland.org/programs/states>.

### *1,000 Friends of Wisconsin*

While the goals of 1,000 Friends of Wisconsin include farmland preservation and natural resource stewardship concepts, its mission is actually much larger to support comprehensive planning and plan implementation. 1,000 Friends has both advocacy and educational roles regarding conservation. Visit their website for more information: [www.1kfriends.org](http://www.1kfriends.org).

### *Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation*

The Wisconsin Trust's mission is develop and support statewide initiatives promoting historic preservation and may be a valuable resource to local communities for policy information or community workshops. More information can be found at their website: <http://www.wthp.org>.

## VI. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

There are a variety of local, county, regional, and statewide economic development tools and programs used by municipalities in our region to assist with business and economic development. Some of these programs are privately administered and are noted here since they serve a vital function to the community and are often, in part, supported with public funding.

Details for the economic development programs and initiatives for individual communities will be described in their respective plan documents. However, it is important to note some of the key programs available to and in use by local communities as they consider which economic development tools may be most appropriate to achieve their respective visions and goals. This information will also be useful for identifying opportunities to strengthen existing multi-jurisdictional economic development efforts.

### A. County and Local Economic Development Programs

Table VI-A provides an inventory of the local and county economic development programs and tools in use within west central Wisconsin.

#### *Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Corporations, and Clubs*

Most economic development corporations are private, non-profit entities, though they may receive significant public support. Services from these entities can vary, but each plays a coordinating role for economic development issues within their service areas and communities, such as helping with retention and recruitment, and marketing their area to business and industry. Additional services often include revolving loan funds, labor market and wage studies, site selection services for industrial and technology parks, and providing a conduit for state and federal funding.

The entire region is covered by one of seven economic development corporations:

**Barron County Office of Economic Development**  
**Barron County Economic Development Corporation**  
P.O. Box 71  
Barron, WI 54812  
800-529-4148

**Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation**  
770 Scheidler Road Suite 3  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715-723-7150

**Clark County Economic Development Corporation**  
212 South Main Street  
P.O. Box 236  
Greenwood, WI 54437  
715-276-3205

**Dunn County Economic Development Corporation**  
401 Technology Drive East, Suite 400  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
715-232-4009

**Eau Claire Area Economic Development Corporation**  
101 North Farwell  
P.O. Box 1108  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
715-834-0070

**Polk County Economic Development Corporation**  
P.O. 181  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810-0181  
715-405-7655

**St. Croix County Economic Development Corporation**  
1101 Carmichael Road  
Hudson, WI 54016  
715-381-4383

Generally, the service area of each corporation above follows its respective county boundaries, with some variance for incorporated areas which fall within two counties (e.g., City of Stanley). There are also many economic development corporations for specific communities or small areas of west central Wisconsin. Numerous communities, such as Bloomer, Greenwood, and Amery, have formed industrial development corporations.

Many communities in the region have chambers of commerce, sometimes in addition to a local economic development corporation. A chamber of commerce is a network of local business owners with the general goals of strengthening the local economy, promoting their service area, and providing a strong voice for the business community. Tourism bureaus have similar overall goals, but supports hospitality businesses (e.g., hotels, restaurants, conventions, museums, recreation) and attracting visitors to an area. In many instances, the roles of chambers, tourism bureaus, and economic development corporations may overlap or even be combined. And in some communities without a chamber or economic development corporation, a business or civic club may step in and provide some of these roles.

The service areas for some chambers may encompass a general area, rather than be limited to a specific municipality (e.g., Rice Lake Area Chamber, New Richmond Area Chamber). Within Wisconsin and our region, tourism bureau functions are most often handled by the local chamber. There are a few exceptions, such as the Chippewa Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Polk County Information Center. Some communities or chambers, such as Chippewa Falls, may also have visitors' centers.

Table VI-A identifies which communities in west central Wisconsin have existing private, non-profit economic development entities. These entities are identified by four different categories:

<i>C</i>	=	<i>Civic or Business Clubs</i>
<i>CH</i>	=	<i>Chamber of Commerce</i>
<i>ED</i>	=	<i>Economic Development Corporation</i>
<i>ID</i>	=	<i>Industrial Development Corporation</i>

The list was primarily compiled from Wisconsin Department of Commerce and Wisconsin Chamber Foundation directories, and may not be inclusive of all such entities in the region.

### *Community Development Authorities (CDAs) and Development Programs*

Community Development Authorities are established by a municipality, but have not seen widespread use in west central Wisconsin. Wisconsin Statutes §66.1335 allows cities, villages, and towns to create a housing and community development authority “for the purpose of carrying out blight elimination, slum clearance, urban renewal programs and projects and housing projects.” The community may also “authorize the authority to act as the agent of the city in planning and carrying out community development programs and activities approved by the mayor and common council under the federal housing and community development act of 1974 and as agent to perform all acts, except the development of the general plan of the city”. CDAs are empowered to make plans, acquire lands, incur debt, issue bonds, and enter into contracts as they carry out their responsibilities.

As an alternative to a Community Development Authority, some municipalities, such as the City of Eau Claire and the Village of Cameron, have established economic development divisions or departments as part of their governmental structure. Barron County has taken a unique approach and has somewhat integrated their economic development office with the County’s economic development corporation. For many communities in our region, an administrator, clerk, committee, plan commission, or elected officials fill this role, though a formal department or program may not exist.

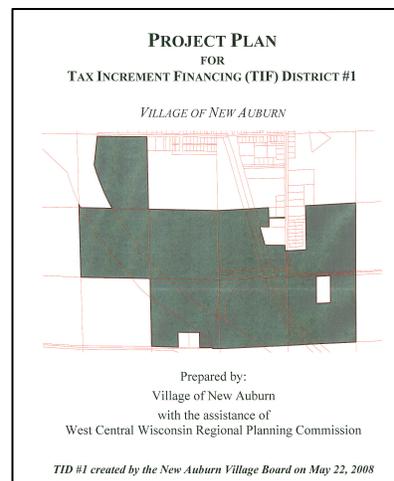
### *Business Revolving Loan Funds*

All communities in the region are covered by a business revolving loan fund. All but three participate in the Regional Business Fund, Inc., administered by WCWRPC which has three components—Downtown Façade Loan, Micro Loan Fund, and Technology Enterprise Fund. The City of Eau Claire, City of St. Croix Falls, and Village of Prairie Farm administer their own business revolving loan funds.

### *Tax Increment Financing* Wis. Stats. §66.436 & 66.46

Tax increment financing districts are typically used to finance infrastructure costs of commercial and industrial park development, but blight removal, certain developer incentives, and multi-use TIF districts which include residential properties are also allowable under state law.

Cities, villages, and towns are authorized to create tax increment financing districts and prepare development or redevelopment plans for them. Regional planning commissions or private consultants often assist cities and villages in the creation of these districts. The Wisconsin Department of Revenue must certify the required project plans of all districts



and establish base values. TIF is a popular tool in west central Wisconsin, with over 100 such districts existing in the region as of 2007.

### *Industrial, Business, or Technology Parks*

Table VI-B identifies the industrial, business, and technology parks in west central Wisconsin, along with an approximate available acreage for the data year given. The table also identifies whether a four-lane highway or rail service is provided to (or adjacent to) the community in which each park is located. Those parks within communities that are in close proximity to a State Airport System airport are also identified.

These parks are areas identified and set aside by a community, often through zoning or as a TIF district, for a specific range of businesses and complimentary uses. Many communities will provide infrastructure, marketing efforts, and other incentives for a park in order to attract new development. It is also possible that a community identifies through plans, zoning, and marketing materials a special district where other types of economic development will be encourage and promoted, such as a themed commercial district.

### *Redevelopment Authorities (RDAs)*

Like the CDAs, Redevelopment Authorities are also established by a municipality and have similar far-reaching powers, though their efforts focus on redevelopment projects. Wisconsin Statutes (§66.1333) allows cities, villages, and towns to create a redevelopment authority “for the purpose of carrying out blight elimination, slum clearance, and urban renewal programs and projects”, and are thusly often associated with brownfield rehabilitation project. No comprehensive list of RDAs in Wisconsin exists. The City of Eau Claire Redevelopment Authority is the only confirmed RDA in west central Wisconsin.

### *Brownfield Rehabilitation Projects*

The State Comprehensive Planning Law (§66.1001) states that the economic development element “shall also evaluate and promote the use of environmentally contaminated sites for commercial or industrial uses.” The Land Recycling Law of 1994 encourages redeveloping “brownfields” by limiting liability of purchasers, municipalities, lenders, trustees, and administrators of probate estates from certain parts of the Hazardous Substance Discharge Law (spills law). The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides various funding options to help implement this law. There is no concurrent federal limit on liability. No west central Wisconsin community has been an EPA brownfield grant recipient. However, many municipalities and private landowners have used a wide variety of other state and federal programs to assist with the remediation of contaminated sites. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources-Remediation and Redevelopment Program is very active in assisting communities, businesses, and individuals with such clean-up efforts.

### *Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)*

Cities, villages and towns may create business improvement districts within their boundaries and adopt operating plans for the development, redevelopment, maintenance, operation and promotion of the districts through a special tax assessment. BID assessments are restricted to commercial and industrial properties subject to real estate tax. Tax-exempt properties (i.e.,

religious, public utility, or government properties) or those used exclusively as residences cannot be included in the assessment district. BIDs are sometimes used to support Main Street or other Downtown programs. Five communities within west central Wisconsin have a BID—Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire (3), Menomonie, Rice Lake, and River Falls.

### *Main Street or Downtown Programs*

Wisconsin Main Street is a comprehensive revitalization program designed to promote the historic and economic redevelopment of traditional business districts in Wisconsin. Main Street programs are based on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's four-point approach—organization, design, economic structuring, and promotion. Four communities in west central Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Osceola, Rice Lake, and River Falls) participate in the Main Street program, while some other communities in the region have similar efforts focusing on the downtown or are just starting such efforts.

### *Industrial Bonds*

Under a federal program, local governments are allowed to issue industrial revenue bonds for a variety of economic development-related improvements and initiatives. Municipalities support the development through the sale of these bonds which are exempt from federal taxation. Municipalities lend their name but not their credit to the bond issue up to a maximum of \$10,000,000. The funds needed for debt retirement are provided by the company or organization that will use the facilities.

**Table VI-A. Local and County Economic Development Programs**

	Chamber, Development Corporation, or E.D. Club	Community Dvlpmt Authy or E..D. Office/Committee	Business Revolving Loan Fund	Tax Increment Financing (# districts as of 2007)	Industrial/Business Park (# of parks as of 2008)	Business Improvement District	Main Street or Other Downtown Program	Community Development Zones (State Program)	Enterprise Development Zones (State Program)
<b>BARRON COUNTY</b>	<b>ED</b>	●	○						
<b>CITIES</b>									
Barron	●		○	2	1				
Chetek	<b>ED,CH</b>	●	○	1	2				1
Cumberland	<b>ED</b>		○	2	1		●		
Rice Lake	<b>ED,CH</b>		○	2	1	1	●		
<b>VILLAGES</b>									
Almena	<b>C</b>		○	2	1				
Cameron	<b>ED</b>		○	1			●		
Dallas	<b>C</b>		○	1					
Haugen	○		○						
New Auburn	<i>see Chippewa County</i>								
Prairie Farm	○		●	1					
Turtle Lake	<b>CH</b>		○		1		●		
<b>TOWNS</b>									
Almena	○		○						
Arland	○		○						
Barron	○		○						
Bear Lake	○		○						
Cedar Lake	○		○						
Chetek	○		○						
Clinton	○		○						
Crystal Lake	○		○						
Cumberland	○		○						
Dallas	○		○						
Dovre	○		○						
Doyle	○		○						
Lakeland	○		○						
Maple Grove	○		○						
Maple Plain	○		○						
Oak Grove	○		○						
Prairie Farm	○		○						
Prairie Lake	○		○						
Rice Lake	○		○						
Sioux Creek	○		○						
Stanford	○		○						
Stanley	○		○						
Sumner	○		○						
Turtle Lake	○		○						
Vance Creek	○		○						

○ Municipality does not have its own program; served by a county or other agency.

	Chamber or Development Corporation	Community Dvlpmt Authty or E..D. Office/Committee	Business Revolving Loan Fund	Tax Increment Financing (# districts as of 2007)	Industrial/Business Park (# of parks as of 2008)	Business Improvement District	Main Street or Other Downtown Program	Community Development Zones (State Program)	Enterprise Development Zones (State Program)
<b>CHIPPEWA COUNTY</b>	<b>ED</b>		○						
<b>CITIES</b>									
Bloomer	<b>ID,CH</b>		○	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>				
Chippewa Falls	<b>ED,CH</b>		○	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	●		<b>1</b>
Cornell	○	●	○	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		starting		
Eau Claire	<i>see Eau Claire County</i>								
Stanley	<b>CH</b>		○	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>				
<b>VILLAGES</b>									
Boyd	○		○	<b>2</b>			●		
Cadott	<b>ED,CH</b>		○	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>				
Lake Hallie	○		○	<b>2</b>					
New Auburn	○		○	<b>1</b> ('08)					
<b>TOWNS</b>									
Anson	○		○						
Arthur	○		○						
Auburn	○		○						
Birch Creek	○		○						
Bloomer	○		○						
Cleveland	○		○						
Colburn	○		○						
Cooks Valley	○		○						
Delmar	○		○						
Eagle Point	○		○						
Edson	○		○						
Estella	○		○						
Goetz	○		○						
Hallie	○		○						
Howard	○		○						
Lafayette	○		○						
Lake Holcombe	○		○						
Ruby	○		○						
Sampson	○		○						
Sigel	○		○						
Tilden	○		○						
Wheaton	○		○						
Woodmohr	○		○						

○ Municipality does not have its own program; served by a county or other agency.

	Chamber or Development Corporation	Community Development Authority or E.D. Office/Committee	Business Revolving Loan Fund	Tax Increment Financing (# districts as of 2007)	Industrial/Business Park (# of parks as of 2008)	Business Improvement District	Main Street or Other Downtown Program	Community Development Zones (State Program)	Enterprise Development Zones (State Program)
<b>CLARK COUNTY</b>	<b>ED</b>		○						
<b>CITIES</b>									
Abbotsford	<b>CH</b>		○	<b>0 (1 tot)</b>	<b>1</b>				
Colby	<b>CH</b>		○	<b>1 (2 tot)</b>	<b>1</b>				
Greenwood	<b>ID, CH</b>		○	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>				
Loyal	<b>CH</b>		○	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>				
Neillsville	<b>CH</b>		○	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>				<b>2</b>
Owen	<b>ED, CH</b>		○	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>		starting		
Stanley	<i>see Chippewa County</i>								
Thorp	<b>ED</b>		○	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>				
<b>VILLAGES</b>									
Curtiss	○		○	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>				
Dorchester	○		○	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>				
Granton	○		○						
Unity	○		○	<b>1 (2 tot)</b>					
Withee	<b>ED, CH</b>		○	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		●		
<b>TOWNS</b>									
Beaver	○		○						
Butler	○		○						
Colby	○		○						
Dewhurst	○		○						
Eaton	○		○						
Foster	○		○						
Fremont	○		○						
Grant	○		○						
Green Grove	○		○						
Hendren	○		○						
Hewett	○		○						
Hixon	○		○						
Hoard	○		○						
Levis	○		○						
Longwood	○		○						
Loyal	○		○						
Lynn	○		○						
Mayville	○		○						
Mead	○		○						
Mentor	○		○						
Pine Valley	○		○						
Reseburg	○		○						
Seif	○		○						
Sherman	○		○						
Sherwood	○		○						
Thorp	○		○						

Unity	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>						
Warner	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>						
Washburn	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>						
Weston	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>						
Withee	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>						
Worden	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>						
York	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>						

Municipality does not have its own program; served by a county or other agency.

	Chamber or Development Corporation	Community Dvlpmt Authty or E..D. Office/Committee	Business Revolving Loan Fund	Tax Increment Financing (# districts as of 2007)	Industrial/Business Park (# of parks as of 2008)	Business Improvement District	Main Street or Other Downtown Program	Community Development Zones (State Program)	Enterprise Development Zones (State Program)
<b>DUNN COUNTY</b>	<b>ED</b>		○						
<b>CITIES</b>									
Menomonie	<b>CH</b>		○	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	●		<b>1</b>
<b>VILLAGES</b>									
Boyceville	<b>ED</b>		○	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		●		
Colfax	<b>ED</b>		○	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>				
Downing	○		○						
Elk Mound	○		○				starting		
Knapp	○		○	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>				
Ridgeland	○		○	<b>1</b>					
Wheeler	○		○						
<b>TOWNS</b>									
Colfax	○		○						
Dunn	○		○						
Eau Galle	○		○						
Elk Mound	○		○						
Grant	○		○						
Hay River	○		○						
Lucas	○		○						
Menomonie	○		○						
New Haven	○		○						
Otter Creek	○		○						
Peru	○		○						
Red Cedar	○		○						
Rock Creek	○		○						
Sand Creek	○		○						
Sheridan	○		○						
Sherman	○		○						
Spring Brook	○		○						
Stanton	○		○						
Tainter	○		○						
Tiffany	○		○						
Weston	○		○						
Wilson	○		○						

○ Municipality does not have its own program; served by a county or other agency.

	Chamber or Development Corporation	Community Dvlpmt Authty or E..D. Office/Committee	Business Revolving Loan Fund	Tax Increment Financing (# districts as of 2007)	Industrial/Business Park (# of parks as of 2008)	Business Improvement District	Main Street or Other Downtown Program	Community Development Zones (State Program)	Enterprise Development Zones (State Program)
<b>EAU CLAIRE COUNTY</b>	<b>ED</b>		○						
<b>CITIES</b>									
Altoona	○		○	2	1				
Augusta	<b>ID</b>		○	2	1		●		
Eau Claire	<b>ED, CH, C</b>	●	●	5	3	3	●	●	5
<b>VILLAGES</b>									
Fairchild	○		○						
Fall Creek	○		○	1	1		starting		
<b>TOWNS</b>									
Bridge Creek	○		○						
Brunswick	○		○						
Clear Creek	○		○						
Drammen	○		○						
Fairchild	○		○						
Lincoln	○		○						
Ludington	○		○						
Otter Creek	○		○						
Pleasant Valley	○		○						
Seymour	○		○						
Union	○		○						
Washington	○		○						
Wilson	○		○						

○ Municipality does not have its own program; served by a county or other agency.

	Chamber or Development Corporation	Community Dvlpmt Authty or E..D. Office/Committee	Business Revolving Loan Fund	Tax Increment Financing (# districts as of 2007)	Industrial/Business Park (# of parks as of 2008)	Business Improvement District	Main Street or Other Downtown Program	Community Development Zones (State Program)	Enterprise Development Zones (State Program)
<b>POLK COUNTY</b>	<b>ED</b>		○						
<b>CITIES</b>									
Amery	<b>ID,C</b>		○	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>				
St. Croix Falls	<b>CH</b>	●	●	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>				
<b>VILLAGES</b>									
Balsam Lake	○		○	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>				
Centuria	○		○	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		starting		
Clayton	○		○	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		●		
Clear Lake	<b>ID,C</b>		○	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>				
Dresser	○		○						
Frederic	<b>ID</b>		○	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>				
Luck	<b>C</b>		○	<b>2</b>					
Milltown	<b>C</b>		○	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		starting		
Osceola	<b>ID,CH</b>		○	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		●		
Turtle Lake	<i>see Barron County</i>								
<b>TOWNS</b>									
Alden	○		○						
Apple River	○		○						
Balsam Lake	○		○						
Beaver	○		○						
Black Brook	○		○						
Bone Lake	○		○						
Clam Falls	○		○						
Clayton	○		○						
Clear Lake	○		○						
Eureka	○		○						
Farmington	○		○						
Garfield	○		○						
Georgetown	○		○						
Johnstown	○		○						
Laketown	○		○						
Lincoln	○		○						
Lorain	○		○						
Luck	○		○						
McKinley	○		○						
Milltown	○		○						
Osceola	○		○						
St. Croix Falls	○		○						
Sterling	○		○						
West Sweden	○		○						

○ Municipality does not have its own program; served by a county or other agency.

	Chamber or Development Corporation	Community Dvlpmt Authty or E..D. Office/Committee	Business Revolving Loan Fund	Tax Increment Financing (# districts as of 2007)	Industrial/Business Park (# of parks as of 2008)	Business Improvement District	Main Street or Other Downtown Program	Community Development Zones (State Program)	Enterprise Development Zones (State Program)
<b>ST. CROIX COUNTY</b>	<b>ED</b>		○						
<b>CITIES</b>									
Glenwood City	<b>ID</b>		○	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>				
Hudson	<b>ID,CH</b>	●	○	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>				<b>1</b>
New Richmond	<b>CH</b>		○	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>		●		
River Falls	<b>CH</b>		○	<b>2 (3 tot)</b>	<b>2</b>	●	●		
<b>VILLAGES</b>									
Baldwin	<b>ED,CH</b>		○	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>				
Deer Park	○		○				starting		
Hammond	<b>ED</b>		○	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>				
North Hudson	○		○						
Roberts	○	●	○	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>				
Somerset	<b>CH</b>		○	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		starting		
Spring Valley	<i>not included; primarily in Pierce County</i>								
Star Prairie	○		○						
Wilson	○		○				●		
Woodville	○	●	○	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>				
<b>TOWNS</b>									
Baldwin	○		○						
Cady	○		○						
Cylon	○		○						
Eau Galle	○		○						
Emerald	○		○						
Erin Prairie	○		○						
Forest	○		○						
Glenwood	○		○						
Hammond	○		○						
Hudson	○		○						
Kinnickinnic	○		○						
Pleasant Valley	○		○						
Richmond	○		○						
Rush River	○		○						
St. Joseph	○		○						
Somerset	○		○						
Springfield	○		○						
Stanton	○		○						
Star Prairie	○		○						
Troy	○		○						
Warren	○		○						

○ Municipality does not have its own program; served by a county or other agency.

**Table VI-B. Industrial and Business Parks in West Central Wisconsin**

Municipality	Park Name	Approx. Acres Avail.	4-Lane Highway to Community	State Airport System Airport	Rail Service to Community	Fiber Optic (if known)	Data Year
<b>BARRON COUNTY</b>							
V. of Almena	Almena Industrial Park	10			X	No	May '04
C. of Barron	Barron Industrial Park	29		X	X	No	2006
C. of Chetek	Chetek Industrial Park #1	34	X		X	Yes	2007
C. of Chetek	Chetek Industrial Park #2	13	X		X	No	2007
C. of Chetek	Chetek Industrial Park #3	21	X		X		2007
C. of Cumberland	Cumberland Industrial Park	10		X		No	2006
V. of Prairie Farm	Prairie Farm TIF #1	37				Yes	June '04
C. of Rice Lake	South Industrial Park	0	X	X	X	No	Jan '99
C. of Rice Lake	North Industrial/Business Park	157	X	X	X		2006
C. of Rice Lake	CedarSide Technology Park	20 (City)	X	X	X	Yes	2008
V. of Turtle Lake	Turtle Lake Business Park	0				Yes	2006
<b>CHIPPEWA COUNTY</b>							
C. of Bloomer	Bloomer Industrial Park	0	X		X	No	2006
V. of Cadott	Cadott Industrial Park	20	X		X	Yes	2006
C. of Chippewa Falls	Riverside Industrial Park	60	X	X	X	Yes	Jan. 2000
C. of Chippewa Falls	Lake Wissota Business Park	290	X	X	X	Yes	2004
C. of Chippewa Falls	Seymour Cray Jr.	0	X	X	X		2004
C. of Cornell	Cornell Industrial Park	31.5		X		Yes	2006
V. of Lake Hallie	TID #2	62	X	X	X		2006
V. of New Auburn	TID #1 (under development)	92	X		X		2008
C. of Stanley	Stanley Industrial Park	200	X		X	No	2006
<b>CLARK COUNTY</b>							
C. of Abbotsford	Abbotsford Industrial Park	18	X		X	Yes	Sept. '03
C. of Colby	Colby Industrial Park	17			X	No	May '04
V. of Curtiss	Curtiss Industrial Park	41	X			No	May '04
V. of Dorchester	Dorchester Industrial Park #1	8			X	Yes	Oct '05
V. of Dorchester	Dorchester Industrial Park #2	18			X	No	Oct '05
C. of Greenwood	Greenwood Industrial Park #1	0				Yes	Sept. '00
C. of Greenwood	Greenwood Industrial Park #2	36				Yes	Feb. '02
C. of Loyal	Loyal Industrial Park	45				No	Sept. '03
C. of Neillsville	Neillsville Industrial Park	16		X		Yes	Oct '05
C. of Owen	Owen Industrial Park	10	X		X	Yes	Feb '03
C. of Thorp	Thorp Industrial Park	39	X		X	No	May '04
V. of Withee	Withee Industrial Park	175+	X		X	Yes	unk.

**Table VI-B. Industrial and Business Parks in West Central Wisconsin**  
*continued*

Municipality	Park Name	Approx. Acres Avail.	4-Lane Highway to Community	State Airport System Airport	Rail Service to Community	Fiber Optic (if known)	Data Year
<b>DUNN COUNTY</b>							
V. of Boyceville	Boyceville Industrial Park	250		X	X	Yes	2006
V. of Colfax	Colfax Industrial Park	14			X	Yes	2006
V. of Knapp	Knapp Industrial Park	6			X	No	2006
C. of Menomonie	Menomonie Industrial Park	300	X	X	X	Yes	2006
C. of Menomonie	Stout Technology Park	203	X	X	X	Yes	2006
<b>EAU CLAIRE COUNTY</b>							
C. of Altoona	Altoona Business Park	6	X	X	X		2006
C. of Augusta	Augusta Industrial Park	11			X	Yes	2006
V. of Fall Creek	Fall Creek Business Park	20			X		2006
C. of Eau Claire	Gateway Northwest Business Park	364	X	X	X	Yes	2007
C. of Eau Claire	Gateway West Business Park	11	X	X	X	Yes	2007
C. of Eau Claire	Sky Park Industrial Center	70	X	X	X	Yes	2006
C. of Eau Claire	Chippewa Valley Industrial Park	35	X	X	X	Yes	2006
<b>POLK COUNTY</b>							
C. of Amery	Amery Industrial Park	16		X		Yes	2006
C. of Amery	Stower Community Industrial Park	15		X		Yes	2006
V. of Balsam Lake	Balsam Lake Industrial Park	20				Yes	2006
V. of Centuria	Centuria Industrial Park	25.5				Yes	2006
V. of Clayton	Clayton Industrial Park	14				No	2006
V. of Clear Lake	Clear Lake Industrial Park	17				No	2006
V. of Frederic	Frederic Industrial Park	0				No	2006
V. of Milltown	Milltown Industrial Park	8				No	2006
V. of Osceola	Osceola Industrial Park	68		X	X	No	2006
C. of St. Croix Falls	St. Croix Falls Industrial Park	0				No	2006
<b>ST. CROIX COUNTY</b>							
V. of Baldwin	Baldwin Industrial Park	250	X		X	Yes	2008
C. of Glenwood City	Glenwood City	0				Yes	2008
V. of Hammond	Hammond Industrial Park	15+	X		X	No	2008
V. of Hammond	Hammond-St. Croix Business Center	40	X		X		2008
C. of Hudson	Hudson-St. Croix Business Park	47	X		X		2006
T. of Hudson	Commerce Park	12.6	X		X	Yes	2008
C. of New Richmond	New Richmond Industrial Park North	0	X	X	X	Yes	2000
C. of New Richmond	New Richmond Business & Technical Park	110	X	X	X	Yes	2006
C. of River Falls	Whitetail Ridge Corporate Park	45	X			No	2006
C. of River Falls	Whitetail Ridge	0	X		X	Yes	2000
V. of Roberts	Roberts Business & Rail Park	116	X		X	No	2006
V. of Somerset	Somerset Industrial Park	27	X		X	Yes	2006
V. of Woodville	Thompson Industrial Park	60	X		X	Yes	2006

## B. Regional Economic Development Programs

The State Comprehensive Planning Law (§66.1001) states that the economic development element “shall also identify county, regional and state economic development programs that apply to the local governmental unit.”

As discussed in the previous section, there are numerous chambers and economic development corporations which serve a general area or more than one jurisdiction. However, most of those entities do tend to focus on a single jurisdiction.

West central Wisconsin also has a plethora of multi-jurisdictional economic programs which tend to follow county boundaries. Table VI-C below highlights these key programs and their respective service areas within west central Wisconsin, followed by a brief discussion of each.

**Table VI-C. Multi-Jurisdictional Economic Development Programs**

Multi-Jurisdictional Programs	Barron	Chippewa	Clark	Dunn	Eau Claire	Polk	St. Croix
W. Central WI Workforce Development Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
W. Central WI Regional Education Consortium/Synergy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
UW-Stout Technology Transfer Institute	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
North Central 6 Agricultural Development Zone	X		X				
I-94 Technology Zone		X		X	X		X
Momentum Chippewa Valley		X		X	X		
Chippewa Valley Convention and Tourism Bureau		X		X	X		
Impact Seven, Inc.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Indianhead CAP			X				
Western Dairyland CAP					X		
West CAP	X	X		X		X	X
West Central Wisconsin RPC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

### *West Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Area*

The Workforce Development Area organization consists of the West Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, the County Board Consortium, an Education Committee, an Economic Development Consortium, a Community Development Consortium, and a variety of additional committees and programs. Most notably is Workforce Resource, Inc., the fiscal and administrative agent of the organization, under which the job centers operate.

Altogether, the program provides a range of economic development services, such as industry cluster/sector focus groups, labor market survey, wage projections, workforce development services, youth employment activities, job recruitment, and encouraging related partnerships. The organization also serves as the regional coalition for Governor Doyle’s GROW Wisconsin job creation strategy.

## *West Central Wisconsin Regional Education Consortium (Synergy Conference)*

As stated at its webpage, the “West Central Wisconsin Regional Education Consortium, formerly known as the Greater Chippewa and St. Croix Valley PK-16 Consortium, is designed to leverage the strengths of the region's educational institutions and business partnerships to deliver fast, competent, and seamless access to education, training, and research for youth, teachers, and employees of businesses and industries in west central Wisconsin.”

The Consortium consists of the public K-12 educational institutions represented by the region’s two CESA districts, the region’s post-secondary technical colleges and UW-system universities, and the region’s economic development programs represented by the Workforce Development Board, Workforce Resource, Inc., and WCWRPC. Among its initiatives and workshops, each fall the Consortium organizes a two-day Synergy Conference which explores an education or economic development topic within the region.

## *UW-Stout Technology Transfer Institute*

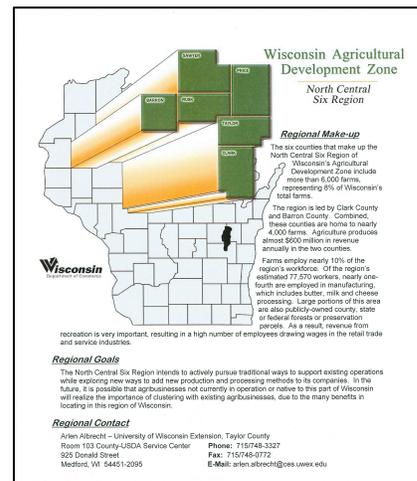
The Technology Transfer Institute (TTI) was established as part of the University’s College of Technology, Engineering, and Management to promote technology transfer between UW-Stout and industry. The TTI is notable given its nine different centers under its organizational umbrella. These TTI centers include the Northwest Wisconsin Manufacturing Outreach Center which provides modernization support, the Packaging Research and Development Center, and the Economic Development Administrative which provides planning assistance and incubator space.

**Stout Technology Transfer Institute**  
278 Jarvis Hall  
University of Wisconsin-Stout  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
715-232-1548  
<http://sti.uwstout.edu>

## *North Central 6 Agricultural Development Zone*

Wisconsin’s Agricultural Development Zone (ADZ) Program has been established to help attract, promote, retain and encourage the expansion of agri-businesses. The program is designed to assist Wisconsin in strengthening its prominent position in the agricultural industry and in agricultural processing production. Four such zones have been created in Wisconsin, of which only one overlaps a portion of our region.

Barron and Clark counties are part of the six-county ADZ in north-central Wisconsin. Businesses located in (or locating in) these two counties may be eligible for tax credits that can apply against Wisconsin income tax liability. These credits are based on the number of new jobs created and the wage level and benefit package offered. Businesses may also be eligible for a 3% capital investment credit for real and personal property and a credit equal to 50% of eligible environmental remediation costs.



### *I-94 Corridor Technology Zone*

Six Wisconsin counties—Eau Claire, Chippewa, Dunn, Polk, St. Croix, and Pierce, make up the I-94 Tech Zone, one of eight such zones in the state. The I-94 Tech Zone was created in 2002, in part due to the high level of coordination between the region’s universities and colleges in technology related research, education, and support programs. Each tech zone in the state was provided \$5 million in Wisconsin income tax credits for high technology business startups and expansions.

### *Impact Seven, Inc.*

Impact Seven, Inc. (I-7) is a private, non-profit community development corporation which now serves the entire region and state. I-7 provides community and economic development services to underserved population, including business lending, venture capital, development of commercial/industrial properties, housing programs, and technical assistance to communities and businesses. I-7 has received particular notoriety for its “Almena Idea”, a public-private partnering approach to community revitalization using a comprehensive range of land-use planning, market rate housing, commercial and industrial development, and beautification strategies.

#### **Impact Seven Headquarters**

147 Lake Almena Drive  
Almena, WI 54805  
(715) 357-3334

### *Community Action Programs (CAPs)*

Community Action Agencies are local private and public non-profit organizations that carry out the Community Action Program (CAP), which was founded by the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act to fight poverty by empowering the poor in the United States.

Three CAP programs provide a wide, diverse range of supportive services within our region. Typical CAP economic and community development activities include business loan funds and business planning assistance, often similar in scope to the services offered by Impact Seven, Inc., but many times also include health and social services. Some CAPs have unique programs as well, such as Western Dairyland’s Women’s Business Center and West CAP’s Farmer’s Market initiative.

#### **West CAP**

525 Second Street PO Box 308  
Glenwood City, WI 54013  
(800) 606-9227

#### **Western Dairyland CAP -- Eau Claire Office**

418 Wisconsin Street  
PO Box 540  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0540  
(715) 836-7511

#### **Indianhead Community Action Agency**

P.O. Box 40  
Ladysmith, WI 54848  
(715) 532-5594

## *West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission*

On a multi-county level, the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission conducts economic development and transportation planning and project development. The Commission is designated as an economic development district by the Economic Development Administration. It is required to undertake economic development planning and project identification for all seven counties of the region. The Commission provides local economic strategies, industrial site analyses, economic development financing, county economic and population profiles, and community and industrial park profiles.

**West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission**  
800 Wisconsin Street, Mail Box 9  
Eau Claire, WI 54703-3606  
(715) 836-2918

## **C. Federal and State Economic Development Programs**

While many of the previously identified economic development programs are funded with federal and state support, the following federal and state economic development programs are also available for use by the municipalities in the region.

### *The Community Development Block Grant - Public Facilities for Economic Development (CDBG-PFED) Program*

The Public Facilities for Economic Development (PFED) program is a federally funded program designed to assist communities with expanding or upgrading their infrastructure to accommodate businesses that have made a firm commitment to create jobs and invest in the community. It is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce (WisCOMM). Eligible activities include those improvements to public facilities such as water systems, sewerage systems, and roads that are owned by a general or special purpose unit of government; that will principally benefit one or more businesses; and that as a result will induce the business(es) to create additional jobs and to invest in the community. The total amount of all CDBG-PFED assistance received by an eligible government may not exceed \$1,000,000 per calendar year. The total amount of CDBG-PFED assistance that can be provided to benefit a single business or related businesses may not exceed \$750,000.

### *The Community Development Block Grant - Economic Development (CDBG-ED) Program*

The CDBG-ED program was designed to assist businesses that will invest private funds and create jobs as they expand or relocate to Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce awards the funds to a general-purpose unit of government (community) which then loans the funds to a business. When the business repays the loan, the community may retain the funds to capitalize a local revolving loan fund. This fund can then be utilized to finance additional economic development projects within the community. Eligible activities include construction and expansion, working capital, and acquisition of existing businesses, land, buildings, and equipment, but not refinancing. The Department of Commerce's typical level of participation in a CDBG-ED project is \$3,000 to \$10,000 per full time job created, although the actual amount of

participation is dependent upon factors such as the viability of the project, the number and nature of the jobs created, the project's economic impact upon the community and the collateral position available.

### *Community Development Block Grant - Blight Elimination and Brownfield Development (CDBG-BEBD) Program*

The Blight Elimination and Brownfield Redevelopment Program (CDBG-BEBR) is designed to assist communities with assessing or remediating the environmental contamination of an abandoned, idle or underused industrial or commercial facility or site in a blighted area. Critical to obtaining a grant is a redevelopment plan that describes how the property will be reused for commercial or industrial development that results in jobs and private investment in the community. An eligible applicant is a general purpose unit of government with a population less than 50,000 that is not enrolled in the Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program. This includes any county, other than Dane, Milwaukee, or Waukesha counties. Eligible projects are environmental site assessments (ESA), commonly known as Phase I, II or III site assessments, or the environmental remediation of sites which are blighted, subject to the following conditions:

- The applicant has a redevelopment plan for the property.
- The project will result in the redevelopment of the brownfield site for a taxable reuse.
- The applicant will repay to the Department any funds that are loaned to a nonprofit or a business.
- The applicant commits to pursue recovery of environmental remediation costs from responsible parties and to reimburse the department a proportional share of the CDBG funds.
- The applicant demonstrates financial need and demonstrates that the project is the best alternative for the project site.
- The community provides at least 25 percent of the public facility project funding.

### *USDA-Rural Development*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program provides financing and technical resources to rural communities in need. Business and industry guaranteed loans are available for businesses in rural areas under 50,000 in population. Rural business and community facilities loans are available for communities, Tribal governments, and non-profit associations in rural areas under 20,000 in population, if income requirements are met. USDA Rural Development provides additional financial assistance for housing and utility projects. West central Wisconsin is served by three USDA offices:

Barron & Polk counties  
Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, & St. Croix counties  
Clark County

Spooner Office 715-635-8228  
Menomonie Office 715-232-2614  
Stevens Point Office 715-346-1313

### *U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration*

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) provides financial assistance for public works projects (e.g, NanoRite Center, industrial parks), planning projects, and technical assistance. Planning and technical assistance support is often limited to the retraining and related support of displaced workers as the result of a large plant closing. West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission is responsible for the preparation of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) which is a pre-requisite for EDA funding.

### *Community Development Zones (CDZs)*

The Wisconsin Community Development Zone Program can help to expand businesses, start a new one, or relocate a current business to Wisconsin. The Community Development Zone Program is a tax benefit initiative designed to encourage private investment and to improve both the quality and quantity of employment opportunities. The program has more than \$38 million in tax benefits available to assist businesses that meet certain requirements and are located or willing to locate in one of Wisconsin's 22 community development zones. The development zone tax credits include: (All tax credits have a carry forward provision for up to 15 years) A non-refundable jobs credit of up to \$8,000 for new full-time jobs being created and filled by members of target group. Eligible target groups include W2 participants, dislocated workers, federal Enterprise Community residents, vocational rehabilitation program referrals and Vietnam-era veterans, ex-felons and youth from low-income families. A non-refundable jobs credit of up to \$6,000 is provided for new full-time jobs being created and filled by Wisconsin residents who are not members of target groups. The actual amount of job credits is dependent upon wages and benefits. Wages must be at least 150% of federal minimum wage. Full-time job means regular, non-seasonal, and scheduled to work 2,080 hours per year. One-third of the allocated job credits must be claimed for jobs that are filled by target group members. Within west central Wisconsin, only the City of Eau Claire is participating in the CDZ Program.

### *Enterprise Development Zones (EDZ)*

The Enterprise Development Zone Program provides tax incentives to new or expanding businesses whose projects will affect distressed areas. Based on the economic impact of a proposed business project, the Department of Commerce will be able to designate an enterprise development zone. A zone is "site specific" and applies to only one business. The maximum amount of credits per zone is \$3.0 million. Zones can exist for up to seven years. The Department can vary zone benefits to encourage projects in areas of high distress. The Department can designate up to 79 zones. In order to participate in the program, a business should work with one of Commerce's Area Development Managers and complete a prospect data sheet to submit to the Department. Projects must affect distressed areas suffering from high unemployment, low incomes, declining population, declining property values, and plant closings and that have high numbers of people on public assistance. The Department will determine if a project is eligible for an enterprise development zone based on information about the economic impact of the project, the prospective site, and the distress of the area. Businesses earn credits only by creating new full time jobs or by conducting environmental remediation on a "Brownfield" site.

As of June 2008, eleven EDZ designations have been made in west central Wisconsin totaling over \$13.4 million within the following communities: Chetek, Chippewa Falls, Neillsville(2), Menomonie, Eau Claire(5), and Hudson.

### *Wisconsin Development Fund - Technology Development Fund (WDF)*

The Technology Development Fund (TDF) program was established in 1984 to help Wisconsin businesses research and develop technological innovations that have the potential to provide significant economic benefit to the state. Any Wisconsin business or consortium can apply for TDF funds. A consortium is an association between a Wisconsin business and a Wisconsin higher educational institution. Eligible activities include research and development that will lead to new or significantly improved products or processes, has a high probability of commercial success within a relatively short time period (2-3 years) and will provide significant economic benefit to Wisconsin. Only costs directly associated with the proposed research project are eligible. This includes salaries of applicant personnel, professional services provided by independent third parties, equipment critical to the research project and supplies and materials.

Although up to 75% of the eligible project cost can be financed, the actual level of TDF participation in any given project is based upon an analysis of the project's scientific and technical merit, commercial potential, economic impact, business viability and fund availability.

### *Wisconsin Development Fund - Major Economic Development (MED) Program*

The MED program is designed to assist businesses that will invest private funds and create jobs as they expand in or relocate to Wisconsin. To be eligible for consideration under the MED program, the project must involve significant capital investment relative to the State of Wisconsin as a whole, OR, involve the retention or creation of a significant number of jobs in the political subdivision where the project is located. Eligible activities include construction and expansion, working capital, acquisition of existing businesses, land, buildings, and equipment, but not refinancing. WisCOMM's level of participation in MED projects ranges between \$3,000 and \$10,000 per full time job created. The actual amount of participation is dependent upon factors such as the viability of the project, the number and nature of the jobs created, the project's economic impact upon the community, the collateral position available and the amount of private funds leveraged. Applicants are typically required to provide at least 50% of the total eligible project costs from sources other than the State of Wisconsin.

### *Transportation Facilities Economic Assistance and Development (TEA-Grant) Program*

The Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA) program provides 50% state grants to governing bodies, private businesses, and consortiums for road, rail, harbor and airport projects that help attract employers to Wisconsin, or encourage business and industry to remain and expand in the state. The goal of the TEA program is to attract and retain business firms in Wisconsin and thus create or retain jobs. The businesses cannot be speculative and local communities must assure that the number of jobs anticipated from the proposed project will materialize within three years from the date of the project agreement and remain after another four years. Grants of up to \$1 million are available for transportation improvements that are essential for an economic

development project. It must begin within three years, have the local government's endorsement, and benefit the public. The program is designed to implement an improvement more quickly than normal state programming processes allow. The 50% local match can come from any combination of local, federal, or private funds or in-kind services.

### *“Grow Wisconsin” Initiative*

Released by Governor Doyle in September 2003, the “Grow Wisconsin” initiative focuses on four areas:

- 1) Fostering a competitive business climate; to create fertile conditions for growth.
- 2) Investing in people; to help families climb the economic ladder.
- 3) Investing in Wisconsin businesses; to encourage job creation.
- 4) Making government responsive; to reform regulations and unleash the economic power of our companies without sacrificing our shared values.

As part of this program, “GROW” also serves as an acronym for Growing Regional Opportunities in Wisconsin. Seven GROW regions in the state were established and regional metric benchmarks of core economic, demographic, and labor market indicators were identified for each region to measure economic development progress.

## **D. Other Economic Development Partners**

### *Electric Providers*

Electric power providers, such as Excel Energy and local energy cooperatives, provide a range of economic development support. Most are active participants on boards, committees, and other planning and programmatic initiatives within their communities. Other support activities include planning assistance for communities and businesses, business loan or credit programs, energy audits, and training programs.

### *Realtors Association of Northern Wisconsin*

The Realtors Association of Northern Wisconsin is the local association of real estate brokers. This organization plays an important supportive role to economic development by providing access to the real estate market and relocation services for business and people.

#### **Realtors Association of Northern Wisconsin**

1903 Keith Street  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
(715) 835-0923

### *Technical Colleges*

West central Wisconsin is primarily served by two technical colleges under the Wisconsin Technology College System. The north and west portions of the region fall within the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) service area, while Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) provides services to the south and east.

Both colleges provide educational programs in support of business and industry in the region, as well as customized training and technical assistance programs. WITC also runs an affiliate center of the Northwest Wisconsin Manufacturing Outreach Center which helps manufacturers access and use modern tools and strategies. CVTC recently opened its NanoRite Innovation Center at its Gateway Campus.

**Chippewa Valley Technical College**

620 W Clairemont Ave.  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
(715) 833-6200  
<http://www.cvtc.edu/>

**Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College**

1900 College Drive  
Rice Lake, WI 54868  
(715) 234-7082  
<http://www.witc.edu/>

### *University of Wisconsin System*

The main campuses of two University of Wisconsin four-year colleges are located in west central Wisconsin—UW-Eau Claire and UW-Stout. UW-River Falls also has a strong presence in the region, but its main campus is located just south of the St. Croix-Pierce County boundary. UW-Barron County located in Rice Lake is the only two-year UW school located in our region. All of these universities provide undergraduate and continuing education courses which support technology, business, and industry.

In addition to these universities, businesses, residents, and local governments in the region can also access the University of Wisconsin-Extension program for economic development support. UW-Extension has established a Division of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development which offers small business development center educational support, networking opportunities, technology expertise, and business financial assistance.

### *Other Trade Groups and Support Organizations*

A large variety of trade groups and support organizations exist in Wisconsin to assist businesses and to promote economic development. These associations can be quite broad in scope, or can focus on a particular industry sector, such as the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Wisconsin Agricultural Tourism Association, and Wisconsin Grocer's Association. Some associations, such as the Northern Wisconsin International Trade Association, support a particular region. While some others, such as the Wisconsin Indian Business Alliance and Women Entrepreneurs of Wisconsin, support specific demographics.

## VII. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS AND AGREEMENTS

Cooperative planning efforts involving multiple governmental units are typically conducted in the context of a specific topic covered by one of the other elements. For instance, sewer service area planning, county recycling programs, economic development associations, extraterritorial zoning, and watershed planning are all examples which have are covered in other sections of this addendum or in the individual county *Conditions and Trends Reports*. Instead, this section focuses on more general intergovernmental programs which potentially encompass a range of issues.

### A. State and Regional Intergovernmental Planning Programs

#### *Wisconsin Dept. of Administration-Division of Intergovernmental Relations*

As per its webpage, “[t]he Division of Intergovernmental Relations provides a broad array of services to the public and state, local and tribal governments. It supports counties, municipalities, citizens and businesses by providing support services in land use planning, land information and records modernization, municipal boundary review, plat review, demography and coastal management programs.”<sup>9</sup>

The Division administers the state’s comprehensive planning grant program and includes a library of completed comprehensive plans throughout Wisconsin at its website. The Division also includes the State’s Municipal Boundary Review agency which regulates the transition of unincorporated lands to city or village status through municipal annexation, incorporation, consolidation, or cooperative boundary agreement. state review of subdivision plats also occurs within the Division.

To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of services through greater intergovernmental cooperation, the Wisconsin Partnership initiative is also administered through the Division. State government can offer its public sector partners access to procurement contracts, technologies, grants and other resources that can either reduce costs or expand the range of available options. For more information, please visit the Wisconsin Partnership webpage at <http://wisconsinpartnership.wi.gov>.

**Wisconsin Department of Administration**  
**Division of Intergovernmental Relations**  
101 E. Wilson Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Madison, WI 53702  
[www.doa.state.wi.us](http://www.doa.state.wi.us)

Comprehensive Planning Program	608-267-3369
Municipal Boundary Review	608-266-0683

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<sup>9</sup> Department of Administration-Division of Intergovernmental Relations Webpage.  
<http://www.doa.state.wi.us/index.asp?locid=9>

## *Wisconsin Municipal Associations*

A number of active associations represent and support the municipalities of Wisconsin, while offering a forum for the exchange of information. These associations are excellent resources for data, operational information, model ordinance language, state policy changes, and other such resources.

### **Wisconsin Counties Association**

22 East Mifflin Street, Suite 900  
Madison, WI 53703  
866-404-2700  
[www.wicounties.org](http://www.wicounties.org)

### **Wisconsin Towns Association**

W7686 County Road "MMM"  
Shawano, WI 54166  
715-526-3157  
[www.wisctowns.com](http://www.wisctowns.com)

### **League of Wisconsin Municipalities**

122 W. Washington Avenue, Suite 300  
Madison, WI 53703-2715  
608-267-2380  
<http://wileague.govoffice2.com>

### **Wisconsin Alliance of Cities**

14 W. Mifflin Street, Suite 206  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-257-5881  
[www.wiscities.org](http://www.wiscities.org)

## *UW-Extension Local Government Center*

The Local Government Center is a cooperative effort of the Wisconsin Towns Association, Wisconsin Counties Association, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, county UW-Extension offices, and the University of Wisconsin System. Through workshops, documents, teleconferences (WisLine), and other such outreach, the Local Government Center provides educational programs for local government officials.

### **UW-Extension Local Government Center**

229 Lowell Center  
610 Langdon Street  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-262-9960  
<http://lgc.uwex.edu>

## *West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission*

West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) is one of eight planning commissions in Wisconsin formed under Wisconsin Statutes §66.0309. In accordance with state statutes, WCWRPC is charged with the responsibility of planning for the physical, social, and economic development of the region which encompasses Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk, and St. Croix counties. To accomplish this mission, the Commission conducts areawide planning and provides technical assistance to local governments. WCWRPC

supportive services cover a wide variety of activities, including land use planning and regulations, economic development, grantsmanship, geographic information systems, transportation, hazard mitigation, and other specialized studies. WCWRPC also acts as the region's Census clearinghouse and administers the Regional Business Fund.

**West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission**

800 Wisconsin Street  
Banbury Place, Bldg. D2-401  
Mail Box 9  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
715-836-2918  
[www.wcwrpc.org](http://www.wcwrpc.org)

*Chippewa Falls-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization*

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are federally required entities that are responsible for developing long-range transportation plans and improvement programs for metropolitan areas over 50,000 in population. The Chippewa Falls-Eau Claire MPO is the only MPO in our region and focuses on transportation and water quality/sewer service area planning with administrative support from WCWRPC. The Chippewa Falls-Eau Claire MPO is discussed in more detail in the transportation section. Please contact WCWRPC for more information on the MPO.

*Metropolitan Council of Minnesota (Met Council)*

The Met Council was established in 1967 with a seven-county jurisdiction in the Minneapolis-St. Paul region comprised of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties. The Met Council has overarching goals similar to those of WCWRPC and the MPO—assisting communities and promoting orderly growth, but it also provides transit and wastewater services. While the Met Council's service area does not include west central Wisconsin, it does border St. Croix and Polk counties. And given the economic and land use growth ties between west central Wisconsin and the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, opportunities for intergovernmental coordination in planning, and possibly services, between the Met Council and our region do exist.

**Metropolitan Council**

390 Robert Street N.  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
651-602-1000

[www.metrocouncil.org](http://www.metrocouncil.org)

## **B. Cooperative Boundary Agreements**

Cooperative Boundary Agreements are defined and authorized under Wisconsin Statutes §66.0307, which was updated and simplified in 2007 to encourage more use of these agreements. Cooperative boundary agreements are negotiated, sometimes mediated, plans jointly developed by neighboring jurisdictions for municipal boundaries and often include content on utilities, services, design standards, tax revenue sharing, and land use regulations. Cooperative boundary agreements require public input during the process and can be built upon the work completed in local comprehensive planning efforts. Due to their flexibility and approach, cooperative boundary agreements can be preferable and less contentious than annexations which may lack

intergovernmental discussion and public input. The State Department of Administration reviews all cooperative boundary agreements and will defend approved agreements against appeal.

As of June 2008, there were 24 completed cooperative boundary agreements in the State of Wisconsin, but none in our region. The City of New Richmond and Town of Star Prairie in St Croix County have been negotiating such an agreement, including for the extension of municipal water service. Discussion has also taken place in the Eau Claire area on a potential agreement, as recommended in the area's sewer service area plan and discussed in some area comprehensive plans, though no substantial progress has been made to date.

## **C. Other Intergovernmental Agreements**

### *General Agreements*

A wide variety of other intergovernmental agreements for joint municipal services exist in west central Wisconsin. For small projects, such as snow-plowing on a jointly owned road, some agreements may not be formally approved, may not have a written contract, or may just be “the way it's always been done.” However, state statutes provide a mechanism for contracts regarding joint municipal services to protect all parties involved.

General agreements, as defined under Wisconsin Statutes §66.0301, are the type of intergovernmental agreement that is most commonly used for such joint services and allows municipalities to cooperate on a wide range of issues, as long as the municipalities involved each has power to act on the issue. The agreements are binding on the parties involved, require public hearings and a binding referendum process, and have a 10-year renewable term limit. State review of general agreements is not required, and no inventory of all general agreements in the region or state exists.

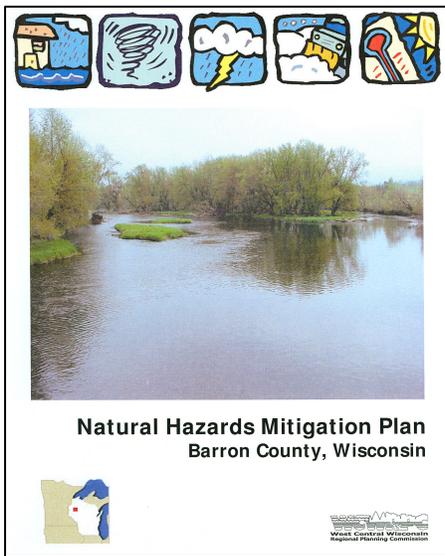
### *Mutual Aid and Agreements in Emergency Management*

In Wisconsin and our region, mutual aid and cooperative agreements for emergency management and response purposes are the most common types of intergovernmental agreements. Local municipalities typically work cooperatively with their County Emergency Management Office on emergency management coordination and planning. Many fire, ambulance, and first responder services are jointly owned or supported by multiple municipalities, while some rural towns may contract with a neighboring incorporated area for such services. The West Central Wisconsin Hazardous Response Team based in the Chippewa Falls/Eau Claire Fire Departments provides Level “A” Hazmat response for the region, while a local fire department may provide Level “B” service for their respective county.

Police services fall under the statewide Wisconsin mutual aid agreement, with additional support and coordination through Wisconsin Emergency Management—Emergency Police Services in times of crisis. Most fire departments also have mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire departments for support, and sometimes for special equipment and trained personnel. Some ambulance and first responder agencies have similar agreements with neighboring providers to ensure adequate coverage. Written mutual aid agreements are encouraged due to the liability and cost issues involved.

Counties and communities in the region sometimes provide public works/maintenance equipment and manpower support to one another in times of need. Written mutual aid agreements for such support are much less common. However, an effort in St. Croix County is currently underway to encourage mutual aid agreements for public works and utilities. And the *Polk County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* suggests that a policy and procedure be developed for communities requesting the use of county equipment (e.g., De-Con unit, heavy trucks) to include standard billing rates, required training, and liabilities/responsibilities.

Emergency communications is another area in which mutual aid is important. With new technologies, enhanced 9-1-1, and increasing demands on bandwidth, cooperative approaches to ensure adequate communication during emergencies is critical to a prompt, effective response. Five west central Wisconsin counties (Barron, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, and St. Croix) are part of the eleven-county West Central Interoperability Alliance. The planning and coordination resulting from this effort will ensure compatibility among emergency communication systems in the region and strengthen existing mutual aid systems. These counties have successfully



achieved radio interoperability among their dispatch centers, and opportunities exist to expand to non-participating communities. Currently, multi-channel systems do allow some supervisors to coordinate with abutting counties. For instance, this can be very useful for Highway Departments during widespread flooding or winter storm events. However, policies for such communication are not necessarily consistent between agencies.

For discussion, issues, and strategies on mutual aid and intergovernmental cooperation for emergency management in your county, please refer to your county hazard mitigation plan or contact your county emergency management office. The Wisconsin Emergency Management Association has example mutual aid agreements available at their website ([www.wema.us](http://www.wema.us)) and is a source for additional information.

## VIII. LAND USE PLANS AND POLICIES

Many different types of plans and policies have potential impacts and recommendations that are related to land use in west central Wisconsin. Typically, such plans and policies may focus on a special topic or element (e.g., transportation, utilities, agriculture, natural resources), and, therefore, are discussed in other sections of this document.

Table VIII-A at the end of this section provides the current status of most of the following land use programs and policies for the municipalities of our region. Table VIII-A is, in large part, based on a survey distributed to all cities, villages, and towns in west central Wisconsin for which the response rate exceeded 66 percent.

### A. Comprehensive and Land Use Planning

A variety of topic-specific plans related to land use planning can be found in other sections of this document, such as outdoor recreation plans, county agricultural preservation plans, sewer service area plans, and transportation planning.

#### *Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law*

*Wis. Stats. §66.1001*

1999 Wis Act 9 established the State of Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law. Although often referred to as the “Smart Growth Law,” the State Comprehensive Planning law does not dictate how or where development occurs. Such decisions are left to the local communities.

Under this new law, comprehensive plans include:

- county development plans prepared or amended under Wisconsin Statutes §59.69;
- city, village, or town (with village powers) master plans under Wisconsin Statutes §62.23; or,
- regional (RPC) master plans under Wisconsin Statutes §66.0309.

The Comprehensive Planning Law identifies nine elements which must be included in a comprehensive plan, in addition to offering more specificity on the planning, public participation, and adoption process. In addition, the Law includes a consistency requirement. Beginning on January 1, 2010, if a local governmental unit engages in zoning, subdivision regulations, official mapping, or shoreland/wetland zoning, as defined within Wisconsin Statutes § 66.1001(3), those actions shall be consistent with that local governmental unit’s comprehensive plan.

The Wisconsin Department of Administration-Division of Intergovernmental Relations administers the state’s comprehensive planning program, including the related grant program, in concert with the State Agency Resource Working Group. The Working Group consists of representatives from multiple state departments established by Wisconsin Statutes §16.9675 to discuss, analyze, and address land use issues and related policies. State departments and other agencies collaborated in the development of various planning element guides to assist county and local governments in the development of their plans.

More information can be found at the Wisconsin Department of Administration Comprehensive Planning Program webpage: <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/>

### *County Comprehensive (Development) Plans*

*Wis. Stats. §59.69(3)*

Counties are authorized to prepare development plans or parts of the plan for the physical development of the unincorporated territory within the county and areas within incorporated jurisdictions whose governing bodies agree by resolution to be included in the county's development plan. The statute requires that counties that have a zoning agency include in the plan the location of any part of an airport or area affected by an airport. The statute enables counties to establish landmarks commissions and to designate and regulate historic landmarks and establish historic districts. County development plans must include city and village master plans.

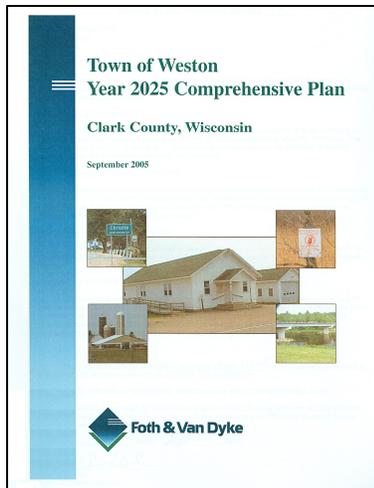
County development plans are now included in the state definition of a "comprehensive plan" and must meet applicable requirements under the State Comprehensive Planning Law. No county in west central Wisconsin has yet adopted a comprehensive plan. Clark County has completed a plan, though it has not been adopted. Dunn County has recently completed its draft plan, and Eau Claire County is nearing completion of its draft. Barron, Chippewa, Polk, and St. Croix counties are all in relatively early stages of their comprehensive planning processes.

### *City and Village Comprehensive (Master) Plans*

*Wis. Stats. §62.23 & §61.35*

Cities and villages are authorized to prepare and adopt master plans for their physical development, including any areas outside their boundaries which, in the plan commission's judgment, relate to their development. However, in a county with a regional planning department, areas outside the city boundaries may not be included in the master plan without the county board's consent. Statute also authorizes cities and villages to establish official maps. Master plans are now included in the state definition of a "comprehensive plan" and must meet applicable requirements under the State Comprehensive Planning Law.





## *Town Comprehensive (Master) Plans*

*Wis. Stats. §60.22(3) & §60.62*

Towns are authorized to form a plan commission and adopt official town maps by ordinance showing areas outside city and village limits suited to carry out specified purposes. Towns may also develop a master plan under "village powers." Towns may also cooperate with county planning agencies in rural planning (s. 60.23(5), Wis. Stats.); however, counties are not required to recognize town plans when preparing county development plans. Town master plans are included in the state definition of a "comprehensive plan" and must meet applicable requirements under the State Comprehensive Planning Law.

## *Regional Comprehensive (Master) Plan*

*Wis. Stats. §66.1001 & 66.0309(9)*

West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) is statutorily charged with the responsibility of planning for the physical, social, and economic development of the region. Its responsibilities pertaining to land use are advisory in nature, providing supportive services to county and local governments upon request.

Wisconsin Statutes 66.0309(9) require regional planning commissions to develop and adopt a regional master plan for the physical development of their region which complies with the State Comprehensive Planning Law. WCWRPC is currently developing its regional comprehensive plan, of which this inventory document is part.

## *Official Mapping*

*Wis. Stats. §62.23(6)*

Cities and villages, and towns exercising village powers, may establish official maps which show streets, highways, historic districts, parks and parkways, playgrounds, railroad rights-of-way, walkways, and public transit facilities within and extending beyond their boundaries into their extraterritorial plat approval jurisdiction. Official mapping is a tool which is often misunderstood or confused with zoning maps or other types of municipal maps. As such, some of the communities in Table VIII-A may not have adopted official maps under Wisconsin Statutes §62.23(6).

## **B. Zoning and Subdivision Platting**

Zoning and subdivision platting regulations are plan implementation tools that local governments can use to guide and direct land use and development.

### *County Zoning Ordinances*

*Wis. Stats. §59.69*

Any county board may, by ordinance, establish and regulate districts within the county, but outside of incorporated villages and cities, to promote public health, safety and general welfare. All counties in west central Wisconsin, except Clark County, have adopted a traditional zoning ordinance, though many towns do not participate in county zoning. Clark County has a Forestry and Recreation Zoning Ordinance. This ordinance regulates land use and requires land use

permits for construction within the Clark County Forest and nearby private parcels in the towns of Butler, Mead, North and South Foster, Seif, Hewett, Mentor, Dewhurst, Levis, Washburn, and Sherwood.

### *City and Village Zoning Ordinances*

*Wis. Stats. §62.23 & 61.35*

A city council or village board may regulate and restrict by ordinance the size of buildings and other structures; the percentage of a lot that may be occupied; the size of yards, courts and other open spaces; the density of population; and the location and use of buildings, structures and land.

### *Town Zoning Ordinances*

*Wis. Stats. §60.61*

Towns which have been granted village powers under Wisconsin Statutes §60.10(2)(c) are authorized to adopt zoning ordinances under Wisconsin Statutes §61.35—the same enabling statute for city and village zoning authorities—with county board approval. Towns may exercise these powers regardless of county zoning.

In counties where there is no general county zoning in force under Wisconsin Statutes §59.97, towns are authorized to adopt zoning ordinances under certain circumstances. The Town of Hudson in St. Croix County adopted its zoning ordinance in this manner prior to the St. Croix County Zoning Ordinance being enacted. Towns may also adopt ordinances to protect ground and surface waters, access for sunlight for solar collectors and wind for wind energy systems, and burial sites.

### *County Shoreland Zoning*

*Wis. Stats. §59.692*

Each county is required to zone by ordinance all shorelands in its unincorporated areas. Ordinances enacted under the enabling statute supersede all provisions of ordinances enacted under Wisconsin Statutes §59.69 that relate to shorelands. Town approval is not required. Shorelands include areas within 1,000 feet of a lake or 300 feet of a navigable stream. Shoreland zoning ordinances may be more restrictive than minimum state standards, but not less. Counties may permit only certain uses in wetlands of five acres or more within the shoreland zone.

### *City and Village Shoreland/Wetland Zoning*

*Wis. Stats. §61.351 & 62.231*

Cities and villages are required to zone by ordinance all unfilled wetlands of five acres or more which are shown on WisDNR's final wetland inventory maps located within shorelands and within the incorporated area. Ordinances adopted under Wisconsin Statutes §62.23 or §61.35 may be more restrictive than wetland protection ordinances, but not less restrictive.

### *Floodplain Ordinances*

*Wis. Stats. §87.30 & NR116*

Counties, cities, and villages are required to adopt reasonable and effective floodplain zoning ordinances within one year after hydraulic and engineering data adequate to formulate the ordinance becomes available. In July 2003, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources released a revised *Model Floodplain Ordinance* which included a number of changes for clarification and consistency with FEMA policies and recent court rulings. All seven counties in the region have adopted a floodplain ordinance which applies to all unincorporated areas in their respective county. However, not all local floodplain ordinances in the region have been updated for consistency with the new model.

### *Extraterritorial Zoning*

*Wis. Stats. §61.35, 62.23, & 62.23(7a)*

A city or village with a plan commission and a zoning ordinance may exercise extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of a first-, second-, or third-class city extends three miles beyond its corporate limits. The jurisdiction of a fourth-class city or village extends one and a half miles beyond the limit. Extraterritorial zoning requires the formation of a joint extraterritorial committee evenly comprised of members of the municipality and the town(s) involved to develop the district plan and regulations. Table VIII-A does not identify those towns represented on an extraterritorial zoning committee.

### *Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway*

*U.S. P.L. 92-560,*

*Wis. Stats. §30.27(2)-(3) & 59.97, N.R. 118.05*

In order to preserve the scenic and recreational value of the Lower St. Croix River, the State of Wisconsin included the river in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Subsequently, counties, cities, villages, and towns that have all or part of their area within the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway are required to adopt zoning ordinances that minimize development impacts on the values of the riverway.

### *Subdivision Regulations*

*Wis. Stats. §236.45 & 236.46*

County planning agencies are authorized to prepare plans in the form of ordinances for the future platting of lands outside of incorporated areas, or for the future location, of streets or highways or parkways, and the extension or widening of existing streets or highways. It is also not uncommon for subdivision regulations to include fees for park land acquisition and initial improvements in lieu of a land dedication as part of plat approval process, as long as the fee bears a rational and proportionate relationship to the need for the improvement.

A county may adopt subdivision plats without the approval of affected towns. All seven counties in west central Wisconsin have adopted subdivision regulations. Local governments may also adopt their own subdivision ordinances if they are more restrictive than their county ordinance.

### *Extraterritorial Plat Review*

*Wis. Stats. §236.02(5) & 236.10*

Extraterritorial plat review is sometimes confused with extraterritorial zoning, though these plan implementation tools are enacted and enforced quite differently. Cities and villages that have adopted a subdivision ordinance or official map can exercise extraterritorial plat approval jurisdiction for three miles beyond the corporate limits of a first, second or third class city and one and a half miles beyond the limits of a fourth class city or village. Extraterritorial plat authority can be enacted without the approval of the county or adjacent unincorporated areas.

## C. Other Land Use-Related Policies and Ordinances

### *Conservation Design Policies*

Conservation design is a subdivision development in a rural setting that is characterized by compact lots and common open space, and where the natural features of the land are maintained to the greatest extent possible. The housing and other development is typically clustered with all residential lots abutting a common open space to the extent possible. Common open space is permanently set aside for public or private use with restrictions on its use and development. It may or may not be held in common ownership by those owning dwellings in that conservation design subdivision. The conservation design process may require specialized planning and engineering assistance in order to lay out the subdivision plat in a manner which best preserves conservation areas. Common open spaces are typically protected in perpetuity by conservation easements (*see next subsection*). Many conservation design ordinances provide a density bonus to subdivision plats which are created with conservation design techniques.

### *Conservation Easements, PDRs, and TDRs*

With these tools, a landowner donates or sells the rights to develop his or her land to a local government, or to an organization such as a land trust. The development rights are protected by a conservation easement which is placed on the land to permanently limit future development of the property, though current activities (e.g., forestry, agriculture) or public use (e.g., recreation) may still be allowed.

While the purchase of development rights (PDRs) is the voluntary sale or donation of development rights, the transfer of development rights (TDRs) is incentive based. In TDRs, the local government establishes sending areas to be conserved and receiving areas where development is encouraged. Density bonuses to allow additional building space or units are often provided with TDRs and other conservation design policies to encourage the permanent protection of agricultural lands, open spaces, and other areas of particular value to the community.

To the knowledge of WCWRPC, no PDR programs in west central Wisconsin currently exist; and only the Town of Troy in St. Croix County has established a TDR program. Conservation easements, on the other hand, are fairly widely used as part of a larger conservation design policy, or more commonly involve individual landowners and a land trust without local government involvement. The seven active land trusts in our region are listed previously in the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources section.

### *Traditional Neighborhood Development Ordinances*

*Wis. Stats. §66.1027*

Wisconsin Statutes define traditional neighborhood development to mean a “compact, mixed use neighborhood where residential, commercial and civic building are within close proximity to each other.” Such ordinances promote development which harkens back to the more efficient design of older neighborhoods and small towns to reduce infrastructure costs, encourage a sense of community, and decrease the development of land overall. These ordinances can vary greatly in content and scope to include a variety of uses (e.g., residential, commercial), modes of transportation, and design standards (e.g., setbacks, signage, design, lot sizes). In some

communities, such an ordinance can be an overlay district as part of a larger zoning ordinance. For reference, UW-Extension has prepared “A Model Ordinance for a Traditional Neighborhood Development.”

### *Manufactured/Mobile Home Park Standards*

*Wis. Stats. §66.0435*

A license from a city, town, or village is required to operate and maintain a mobile home park community consisting of three or more manufactured or mobile homes. Cities, villages, and towns may establish and enforce by ordinance reasonable standards and regulations for such communities, including limiting the number of units and licenses in accordance with state statute. The provisions of town ordinances with respect to the establishment and operation of a home park/community only apply if they are more restrictive than any applicable county zoning ordinance provisions.

### *Development Impact Ordinances and Fees*

*Wis. Stats. §66.0617*

The state law regarding impact fees has changed significantly over the last decade. Cities, villages, and towns can impose development impact fees. To collect such fees, a community must adopt an ordinance and prepare a public facilities assessment report detailing the costs of services to be offset by fees. Local governments must show a direct correlation between the development and the increased costs of services, infrastructure development, and maintenance it requires. State laws include additional requirements and limitations regarding impact fees, such as eligible costs, acceptance of public facilities, and timelines for fee collection and use.

### *Telecommunications/Cell Tower Ordinance*

*U.S Telecommunication Act of 1996*

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 deregulated the telecommunications industry, thereby increasing the number of wireless communications providers and the demand for number of cell tower sites. The 1996 Act also limited a local governments ability to regulate such facilities; a local government cannot unilaterally prohibit cell towers. However, local governments can enact ordinances which prohibit towers in certain specifically identified areas, encourage co-location, and regulate tower height, setbacks, security measures, and landscaping/camouflaging.

### *Various Other Ordinances*

*Wis. Stats. §60.61, 61.34(1), 62.11(5), et. al.*

Wisconsin cities, villages, and towns have the authority to regulate a wide variety of nuisances and uses for the protection of the public health, safety, and general welfare. Towns may need to enact village powers when exercising certain police powers. These regulations are often part of a larger zoning or subdivision ordinance, but may also be stand-alone regulations. Such ordinances can range from noise and outdoor burning to animal control and outdoor lighting, just to name a few. Regulations regarding commercial junk yards and abandoned vehicles are common in many communities for environmental, public safety, and aesthetic reasons (*Wis. Stats. §84.31, 175.25, 342.40*). No inventory of all nuisance ordinances in our region has been compiled. A few examples of other such local ordinances mentioned during the WCWRPC survey are adult entertainment, puppy mills, ATV use, and outdoor wood stoves.

## *Special Notes Regarding the Use of Table VIII-A*

The information in Table VIII-A was drawn from four primary sources:

- a program survey sent by WCWRPC to all cities, villages, and towns in the region with a S.A.S.E. and follow-up E-mail reminder.
- the Wisconsin Department of Administration's *2008 Wisconsin Local Land Use Regulations and Comprehensive Planning Status Report*
- contacts with county planning, zoning, and land conservation staff
- knowledge of WCWRPC staff based on previous planning efforts

The data provided in Table VIII-A was reported by the municipality. If a municipality did not return a WCWRPC survey, their name is "grayed out" or shaded in Table VIII-A. Also "grayed out" are those tools which do not apply to a given municipality (e.g., towns do not have the authority to practice extraterritorial plat review).

Some discrepancies were found between the above data sources. If a municipality returned a "yes" response to either the WCWRPC survey or WisDOA report, then the municipality is shown as having the corresponding plan or regulations in Table VIII-A.

It is also to be expected that some respondents may not have fully understood each of the regulatory tools included on the WCWRPC survey. For instance, official mapping was likely misunderstood by some respondents. And some of the regulatory tools, such as conservation design policies and development impact fees, may have been interpreted in the most general sense by some respondents. If a respondent returned an unknown or uncertain response to any regulatory tool on the WCWRPC survey, the corresponding entry on Table VIII-A was left blank.

It is also possible that some of the towns shown to have certain regulations are actually regulated by the county instead of locally. And in the case of towns with village powers, the adoption of a comprehensive plan or certain regulations requires village powers. However, a town was only shown to have village powers in Table VIII-A if it was indicated as such in the WCWRPC survey or during previous planning efforts of which WCWRPC is familiar; no assumptions were made.

The column regarding non-metallic mining is discussed previously in the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources section. Cities and villages were not asked if they had adopted a non-metallic mining reclamation ordinance in the WCWRPC survey, so they may have such an ordinance adopted locally but it is not represented in Table VIII-A.

### **Key to Table VIII-A**

- = Regulation or Policy adopted by the jurisdiction; may be part of a larger ordinance
- = County regulations which apply to a city, village, or town.
- I = In-progress or under consideration.
- FRZ = Clark County Forest and Recreational Zoning

**Table VIII-A. County and Local Land Use Programs and Policies**

	Comprehensive Plan (I = in progress or not adopted as of Aug. '08)	Official Mapping	Zoning	Shoreland or Shoreland/Wetland Zoning	Floodplain Ordinance	Extraterritorial Zoning	Lower St. Croix Riverway Regulations	Subdivision Regulations	Extraterritorial Plat Review	Towns with Village Powers
<b>BARRON COUNTY</b>	I		●	●	●			●		
<b>CITIES</b>										
Barron	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	
Chetek	●	●	●	●	●			●		
Cumberland	●	●	●	●	●			●		
Rice Lake	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	
<b>VILLAGES</b>										
Almena	●	●	●		●					
Cameron	I	●	●		●			●		
Dallas	I		●		●	●			●	
Haugen	I		●							
New Auburn	<i>see Chippewa County</i>									
Prairie Farm										
Turtle Lake	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	
<b>TOWNS</b>										
Almena	●	●	○	○	○			○		●
Arland				○	○			○		
Barron	●	●	○	○	○			○		●
Bear Lake	●			○	○			○		
Cedar Lake			○	○	○			○		●
Chetek	●	●		○	○			○		
Clinton	I		○	○	○			○		
Crystal Lake	●	●	○	○	○			○		
Cumberland			○	○	○			○		●
Dallas	I			○	○			○		●
Dovre	●	●		○	○			○●		●
Doyle	●	●	○	○	○			○		
Lakeland	I	I		○	○			○ I		●
Maple Grove	I		○	○	○			○		●
Maple Plain	●	●	○	○	○			○		●
Oak Grove	I		○	○	○			○		●
Prairie Farm	I	●		○	○			○		●
Prairie Lake	●	●	○	○	○			○		●
Rice Lake	●	●	○	○	○			○●		●
Sioux Creek	●	●		○	○			○●		●
Stanford	●		○	○	○			○		●
Stanley	●		○	○	○			○		
Sumner	●		○	○	○			○		●
Turtle Lake			○	○	○			○		
Vance Creek		●		○	○			○		●

	Conservation Design Policies	Density Transfer or Transfer of Development Rights	Traditional Neighborhood Development Ords.	Manufactured/Mobile Home Park Standards	Development Impact Ordinances/Fees	Telecommunications or Cell Tower Ordinance	Junk or Related Nuisance Ordinance	Animal Control Ordinance	Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance	Large Livestock Facility/Feedlot Siting Ordinance
<b>BARRON COUNTY</b>	●			●		●		●	●	●
<b>CITIES</b>										
Barron				●		●	●	●	○	
Chetek						●	●	●	○	
Cumberland						●	●	●	○	
Rice Lake	●			●		●	●	●	○	
<b>VILLAGES</b>										
Almena				●			●	●	○	
Cameron	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	○	
Dallas			●	●			●	●	○	
Haugen									○	
New Auburn	<i>see Chippewa County</i>									
Prairie Farm									○	
Turtle Lake			I	●		●	●	●	○	
<b>TOWNS</b>										
Almena	○			○		○	I	○●	○	○
Arland								○	○	
Barron	○			○		○	●	○	○	○
Bear Lake								○	○	
Cedar Lake	○			○		○●		○	○	○
Chetek								○	○	
Clinton	○			○		○		○	○	○
Crystal Lake	○			○●		○		○●	○	○
Cumberland	○			○		○		○	○	○
Dallas								○	○	
Dovre							●	○●	○	
Doyle	○			○		○		○	○	○
Lakeland	I						●	○●	○I	
Maple Grove	○			○		○		○●	○	○
Maple Plain	○			○		○		○●	○	○
Oak Grove	○			○		○		○	○	○
Prairie Farm								○	○	
Prairie Lake	○			○		○	I	○●	○	○
Rice Lake	○I			○●		○	●	○●	○	○
Sioux Creek	●	●				●	●	○●	○	
Stanford	○			○		○I	I	○	○	○
Stanley	○			○		○	●	○●	○	○
Sumner	○			○		○		○	○	○
Turtle Lake	○			○		○		○	○	○
Vance Creek								○	●	

	Comprehensive Plan (I = in progress or not adopted as of Aug '08)	Official Mapping	Zoning	Shoreland or Shoreland/Wetland Zoning	Floodplain Ordinance	Extraterritorial Zoning	Lower St. Croix Riverway Regulations	Subdivision Regulations	Extraterritorial Plat Review	Towns with Village Powers
<b>CHIPPEWA COUNTY</b>	I	●	●	●	●			●		
<b>CITIES</b>										
Bloomer	I		●	●	●			●		
Chippewa Falls		●	●	●	●			●		
Cornell	I	●	●	●	●			●		
Eau Claire	<i>see Eau Claire County</i>									
Stanley	I	●	●	●	●			●		
<b>VILLAGES</b>										
Boyd	I	●	●	●				●		
Cadott	I	●	●	●	●			●		
Lake Hallie	I	I	●	●	●	●		●	I	
New Auburn	I	●	●	●				●		
<b>TOWNS</b>										
Anson	I		○	○	○			○●		●
Arthur				○	○			○		●
Auburn	I	●		○	○			○●		●
Birch Creek		I		○	○			○		●
Bloomer			●	○	○			○		
Cleveland	I			○	○			○●		●
Colburn				○	○			○		
Cooks Valley	I	I		○	○			○●		●
Delmar				○	○			○		
Eagle Point	I	●	○	○	○			○		●
Edson				○	○			○		
Estella	I			○	○			○		●
Goetz				○	○			○		
Hallie	I		○	○	○			○		
Howard	I			○	○			○●		●
Lafayette	I		○	○	○			○		
Lake Holcombe				○	○			○		●
Ruby				○	○			○		
Sampson				○	○			○		●
Sigel	I			○	○			○		
Tilden	I	I		○	○			○●		●
Wheaton	I		○	○	○			○		
Woodmohr	I		○	○	○			○		

	Conservation Design Policies	Density Transfer or Transfer of Development Rights	Traditional Neighborhood Development Ordinance	Manufactured/Mobile Home Park Standards	Development Impact Ordinances/Fees	Telecommunications or Cell Tower Ordinance	Junk or Related Nuisance Ordinance	Animal Control Ordinance	Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance	Large Livestock Facility/Feedlot Siting Ordinance
<b>CHIPPEWA COUNTY</b>	●								●	●
<b>CITIES</b>										
Bloomer									○	
Chippewa Falls									○	
Cornell				●			●	●	○	
Eau Claire	<i>see Eau Claire County</i>									
Stanley			●	●			●	●	○	
<b>VILLAGES</b>										
Boyd			●	●	●	●	●	●	○	
Cadott				●	●		●	●	○	
Lake Hallie				●			●	●	○	
New Auburn				●			●	●	○	
<b>TOWNS</b>										
Anson	○ I			○				●	●	○
Arthur							I	I	○	I
Auburn				●	I	I		I	○ I	I
Birch Creek							I	I	○	
Bloomer									○	
Cleveland						I	●	●	○ I	
Colburn						●			○	
Cooks Valley				●				●	●	
Delmar									○	
Eagle Point	○			I	I		I	●	○ I	○
Edson									○	
Estella									○	
Goetz									○	
Hallie	○			○					○	○
Howard								●	●	
Lafayette	○			○					○	○
Lake Holcombe							●	●	○	
Ruby									○	
Sampson								●	○	
Sigel									○	
Tilden				●			●	●	●	
Wheaton	○			○					○	○
Woodmohr	○			○					○	○

	Comprehensive Plan (I = in progress or not adopted as of Aug '08)	Official Mapping	Zoning	Shoreland or Shoreland/Wetland Zoning	Floodplain Ordinance	Extraterritorial Zoning	Lower St. Croix Riverway Regulations	Subdivision Regulations	Extraterritorial Plat Review	Towns with Village Powers
<b>CLARK COUNTY</b>	I		FRZ	●	●			●		
<b>CITIES</b>										
Abbotsford	●	●	●					●		
Colby	I	●	●	●		●		●	●	
Greenwood	●	●	●					●		
Loyal	I	●	●	●	●			●		
Neillsville	●		●	●		I		●	I	
Owen	●		●	●		●		●		
Stanley	<i>see Chippewa County</i>									
Thorp	●		●							
<b>VILLAGES</b>										
Curtiss	●	●	●					●		
Dorchester	I	●	●					●		
Granton										
Unity	I									
Withee	●	●	●							
<b>TOWNS</b>										
Beaver		●		○	○			○		●
Butler			FRZ	○	○			○		●
Colby	●	●	●	○	○			○●		●
Dewhurst	●		FRZ	○	○			○		
Eaton				○	○			○		
Foster			FRZ	○	○			○		
Fremont			●	○	○			○		
Grant	I			○	○			○		●
Green Grove			●	○	○			○		
Hendren				○	○			○		
Hewett			●FRZ	○	○			○		
Hixon	●		●	○	○			○		
Hoard				○	○			○		
Levis			FRZ	○	○			○		
Longwood	I		●	○	○			○		●
Loyal		●	●	○	○			○●		●
Lynn	I			○	○			○		
Mayville	●			○	○			○		●
Mead	I		FRZ	○	○			○		●
Mentor	●		FRZ	○	○			○		
Pine Valley	I			○	○			○●		●

	Comprehensive Plan (I = in progress or not adopted as of Aug '08)	Official Mapping	Zoning	Shoreland/Wetland Zoning	Floodplain Ordinance	Extraterritorial Zoning	Lower St. Croix Riverway Regulations	Subdivision Regulations	Extraterritorial Plat Review	Towns with Village Powers
Reseburg	I			○	○			○		●
Seif			FRZ●	○	○			○		●
Sherman		I		○	○			○●		●
Sherwood			FRZ	○	○			○		
Thorp	I			○	○			○		●
Unity				○	○			○		
Warner				○	○			○		
Washburn	I		●FRZ	○	○			○		
Weston	●		●	○	○			○		
Withee	I			○	○			○		
Worden				○	○			○		●
York				○	○			○		

	Conservation Design Policies	Density Transfer or Transfer of Development Rights	Traditional Neighborhood Development Ordinance	Manufactured/Mobile Home Park Standards	Development Impact Ordinances/Fees	Telecommunications or Cell Tower Ordinance	Junk or Related Nuisance Ordinance	Animal Control Ordinance	Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance	Large Livestock Facility/Feedlot Siting Ordinance
<b>CLARK COUNTY</b>	●								●	
<b>CITIES</b>										
Abbotsford									○	
Colby				●		●	●	●	○	
Greenwood									○	
Loyal									○	
Neillsville				●			●	●	○	
Owen				●			●	●	○	
Stanley	<i>see Chippewa County</i>									
Thorp									○	
<b>VILLAGES</b>										
Curtiss				●			●	●	○	
Dorchester									○	
Granton									○	
Unity									○	
Withee				●		●	●		○	
<b>TOWNS</b>										
Beaver	I			I	I	I	I	I	○	I
Butler									○	
Colby						●	●	●	●	●
Dewhurst							●		○	
Eaton									○	
Foster									○	
Fremont									○	
Grant				●					○	
Green Grove									○	
Hendren									○	
Hewett				●					○	
Hixon									○	
Hoard									○	
Levis									○	
Longwood							●		○	
Loyal				●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Lynn									○	
Mayville								I	○	
Mead								●	○	
Mentor									○	
Pine Valley				●					○	



	Comprehensive Plan (I = in progress or not adopted as of Aug '08)	Official Mapping	Zoning	Shoreland or Shoreland/Wetland Zoning	Floodplain Ordinance	Extraterritorial Zoning	Lower St. Croix Riverway Regulations	Subdivision Regulations	Extraterritorial Plat Review	Towns with Village Powers
<b>DUNN COUNTY</b>	I		●	●	●			●		
<b>CITIES</b>										
Menomonie	●	I	●	●	●	I		●	●	
<b>VILLAGES</b>										
Boyceville		●	●	●	●	●		●	●	
Colfax	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	
Downing			●	●	●					
Elk Mound	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	
Knapp	I		●	●	●			●		
Ridgeland		●	●	●						
Wheeler			●	●	●			●		
<b>TOWNS</b>										
Colfax	●		○	○	○			○●		
Dunn	●	I	○	○	○			○●		●
Eau Galle	●			○	○			○		●
Elk Mound	I			○	○			○●		●
Grant	●		○	○	○			○		●
Hay River	●		○	○	○			○●		●
Lucas	I		○	○	○			○		
Menomonie	●	●	○	○	○			○●		●
New Haven	●			○	○			○		
Otter Creek			○	○	○			○		●
Peru	I		○	○	○			○		
Red Cedar	●	I	○	○	○			○●		●
Rock Creek	I			○	○			○		●
Sand Creek	I			○	○			○		●
Sheridan	●	●	○	○	○			○●		●
Sherman			○	○	○			○●		
Spring Brook	●			○	○			○●		
Stanton	●			○	○			○		
Tainter	●		○	○	○			○●		●
Tiffany		●	○	○	○			○		●
Weston	●		○	○	○			○		
Wilson	●	●	○	○	○			○		●

	Conservation Design Policies	Density Transfer or Transfer of Development Rights	Traditional Neighborhood Development Ordinance	Manufactured/Mobile Home Park Standards	Development Impact Ordinances/Fees	Telecommunications or Cell Tower Ordinance	Junk or Related Nuisance Ordinance	Animal Control Ordinance	Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance	Large Livestock Facility/Feedlot Siting Ordinance
<b>DUNN COUNTY</b>	I			●		●			●	I
<b>CITIES</b>										
Menomonie			●	●		●	●	●		
<b>VILLAGES</b>										
Boyceville						●	●	●		
Colfax				●			●	●		
Downing										
Elk Mound	●			●		●	●	●		
Knapp										
Ridgeland				●			●	●		
Wheeler										
<b>TOWNS</b>										
Colfax				○		○			○	
Dunn				○●		○●		●	○	
Eau Galle								●	○	
Elk Mound				●	●		●	●	○	●
Grant				○		○		●	○	●
Hay River	I			○●		○		●	○	
Lucas				○		○			○	
Menomonie				○●		○	●	●	○	
New Haven									○	
Otter Creek				○●		○		●	○	
Peru				○		○			○	
Red Cedar				○		○	●	●	○	
Rock Creek									○	
Sand Creek				●				●	○	
Sheridan	●			○		○			○	
Sherman				○		○			○	
Spring Brook									○	
Stanton									○	
Tainter	●			○●		○		●	○	
Tiffany				○●		○		●	○	
Weston				○		○			○	
Wilson				○		○			○	

	Comprehensive Plan (I = in progress or not adopted as of Aug '08)	Official Mapping	Zoning	Shoreland or Shoreland/Wetland Zoning	Floodplain Ordinance	Extraterritorial Zoning	Lower St. Croix Riverway Regulations	Subdivision Regulations	Extraterritorial Plat Review	Towns with Village Powers
<b>EAU CLAIRE COUNTY</b>	I		●	●	●			●		
<b>CITIES</b>										
Altoona	I	●	●	●	●			●	●	
Augusta	I	●	●	●	●			●		
Eau Claire	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	
<b>VILLAGES</b>										
Fairchild					●					
Fall Creek	I	●	●	●	●			●		
<b>TOWNS</b>										
Bridge Creek	I			○	○			○		
Brunswick	I		○	○	○			○●		●
Clear Creek			○	○	○			○		
Drammen	I		○	○	○			○		
Fairchild				○	○			○		●
Lincoln	●	●	○	○	○			○●		●
Ludington	●			○	○			○●		●
Otter Creek	I		○	○	○			○		
Pleasant Valley	I		○	○	○			○●		●
Seymour	I		○	○	○			○		
Union	I		○	○	○			○●		
Washington	I	●	○	○	○			○		●
Wilson				○	○			○		

	Conservation Design Policies	Density Transfer or Transfer of Development Rights	Traditional Neighborhood Development Ordinance	Manufactured/Mobile Home Park Standards	Development Impact Ordinances/Fees	Telecommunications or Cell Tower Ordinance	Junk or Related Nuisance Ordinance	Animal Control Ordinance	Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance	Large Livestock Facility/Feedlot Siting Ordinance
<b>EAU CLAIRE COUNTY</b>				●		●			●	●
<b>CITIES</b>										
Altoona				●	●	●	●	●	○	
Augusta				●			●	●	○	
Eau Claire			●	●		●	●	●	○	
<b>VILLAGES</b>										
Fairchild							●	●	○	
Fall Creek						●	●	●	○	
<b>TOWNS</b>										
Bridge Creek									○	
Brunswick	●			●○		○		●	IO	
Clear Creek				○		○			○	
Drammen				○		○			○	
Fairchild							●	●	●	
Lincoln				○		○I			●	
Ludington				●	●		●	●	●	●
Otter Creek				○		○			○	
Pleasant Valley				●○		○		●	○	
Seymour				○		○			○	
Union				○		○			○	
Washington				○		○	●	●	○	
Wilson							●	●	○	

	Comprehensive Plan (I = in progress or not adopted as of Aug '08)	Official Mapping	Zoning	Shoreland or Shoreland/Wetland Zoning	Floodplain Ordinance	Extraterritorial Zoning	Lower St. Croix Riverway Regulations	Subdivision Regulations	Extraterritorial Plat Review	Towns with Village Powers
<b>POLK COUNTY</b>	I		●	●	●		●	●		
<b>CITIES</b>										
Amery	I		●		●					
St. Croix Falls	●	●	●		●		●			
<b>VILLAGES</b>										
Balsam Lake	I	●	●		●					
Centuria	I	●	●							
Clayton	I	●	●			●				
Clear Lake	I		●							
Dresser	I	●	●			●		●		
Frederic	●	●	●	●	●			●		
Luck	I		●		●					
Milltown	I	I	●							
Osceola	I		●		●		●		●	
Turtle Lake	<i>see Barron County</i>									
<b>TOWNS</b>										
Alden	I	●	○	○	○			○●		●
Apple River	I		○	○	○			○		●
Balsam Lake				○	○			○		●
Beaver	I		○	○	○			○		●
Black Brook	I		○	○	○			○●		●
Bone Lake	I			○	○			○		●
Clam Falls		●	○	○	○			○		
Clayton	I		○	○	○			○		●
Clear Lake	I		○	○	○			○●		●
Eureka	I		○	○	○			○●		●
Farmington	I	●	●	○	○		○	○●		●
Garfield	I	●	●	○	○			○●		●
Georgetown			○	○	○			○		
Johnstown			○	○	○			○		
Laketown	I			○	○			○		
Lincoln	I	I	○	○	○			○●		●
Lorain	I		○	○	○			○		
Luck	I		○	○	○			○		
McKinley			○	○	○			○		
Milltown	●	●	○	○	○			○●		●
Osceola	I		○	○	○		○	○●		
St. Croix Falls		I	●	○	○			○●		●
Sterling				○	○			○		
West Sweden	I	●	○	○	○			I		I

	Conservation Design Policies	Density Transfer or Transfer of Development Rights	Traditional Neighborhood Development Ordinance	Manufactured/Mobile Home Park Standards	Development Impact Ordinances/Fees	Telecommunications or Cell Tower Ordinance	Junk or Related Nuisance Ordinance	Animal Control Ordinance	Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance	Large Livestock Facility/Feedlot Siting Ordinance
<b>POLK COUNTY</b>						●			●	
<b>CITIES</b>										
Amery									○	
St. Croix Falls	●			●	●	●	●	●	○	
<b>VILLAGES</b>										
Balsam Lake	●			●		●	●	●	○	
Centuria				●		●	●	●	○	
Clayton			●	●	I		●	●	○	
Clear Lake									○	
Dresser				●			●	●	○	
Frederic				●		●		●	○	
Luck									○	
Milltown				●			●	●	○	
Osceola			●		●		●	●	○	
Turtle Lake	<i>see Barron County</i>									
<b>TOWNS</b>										
Alden	●				●	○		●	○	
Apple River						○		●	●	
Balsam Lake									○	
Beaver						○			○	
Black Brook				●		○	●	●	○	
Bone Lake									○	
Clam Falls						○	●	●	○	
Clayton						○			○	
Clear Lake				●		○			○	
Eureka					I	○			○	
Farmington				●			●	●	○	
Garfield				●	●		I	I	○	
Georgetown						○			○	
Johnstown						○			○	
Laketown									○	
Lincoln	I					○		I	○	
Lorain						○			○	
Luck						○			○	
McKinley						○			○	
Milltown						○ I	I		○	I
Osceola						○			○	
St. Croix Falls	●			●			●	●	○	
Sterling									○	
West Sweden						○			○	

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<b>ST. CROIX COUNTY</b>	I		●	●	●		●	●		
<b>CITIES</b>										
Glenwood City	●	●	●		●	●		●		
Hudson	I	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
New Richmond	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	
River Falls	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	
<b>VILLAGES</b>										
Baldwin	●	●	●		●			●		
Deer Park	I	●	●	●				●	I	
Hammond	●		●		●			●	●	
North Hudson	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	
Roberts	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	
Somerset	●	●	●		●			●		
Spring Valley	<i>not included; primarily in Pierce County</i>									
Star Prairie	I		●	●	●	●		●	●	
Wilson		●	●	●	●			●	●	
Woodville	I	●	●		●			●	●	
<b>TOWNS</b>										
Baldwin	●		○	○	○			○●		●
Cady	I			○	○			○●		●
Cylon	●		○	○	○			○●		
Eau Galle	I		○	○	○			○●		
Emerald	I		○	○	○			○		●
Erin Prairie	I	I	○	○	○			○I		●
Forest	I			○	○			○●		●
Glenwood		●	○	○	○			○		
Hammond	●		○	○	○			○		
Hudson	●	●	●	○	○		○	○●		●
Kinnickinnic	I	I	○	○	○			○I		
Pleasant Valley	●		○	○	○			○●		●
Richmond	I		○	○	○			○I		●
Rush River	●	●	○	○	○			○●		●
St. Joseph	●		○	○	○		○	○●		●
Somerset	●	●	○	○	○		○	○●		●
Springfield		●	○	○	○			○		
Stanton	●	●	○	○	○			○●		●
Star Prairie	I	I	○	○	○			○●		●
Troy	I		○	○	○		○	○●		
Warren	●		○	○	○			○●		

	Conservation Design Policies	Density Transfer or Transfer of Development Rights	Traditional Neighborhood Development Ordinance	Manufactured/Mobile Home Park Standards	Development Impact Ordinances/Fees	Telecommunications or Cell Tower Ordinance	Junk or Related Nuisance Ordinance	Animal Control Ordinance	Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance	Large Livestock Facility/Feedlot Siting Ordinance
<b>ST. CROIX COUNTY</b>	●			●		●		●	●	●
<b>CITIES</b>										
Glenwood City				●	●		●	●	○	
Hudson			I	●	●	●	●	●	●	
New Richmond	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	○	
River Falls									○	
<b>VILLAGES</b>										
Baldwin									○	
Deer Park			●	●	●		●	●	○	
Hammond									○	
North Hudson				●	●		●	●	○	
Roberts				●	●		●	●	○	
Somerset					●		●	●	●	
Spring Valley	<i>not included; primarily in Pierce County</i>									
Star Prairie	●			●	●		●	●	○	
Wilson									○	
Woodville									○	
<b>TOWNS</b>										
Baldwin	○●			●○		○			○	○
Cady	○					I		●	○	I
Cylon	○			○		○			○	○
Eau Galle	○			●○		○			○	○
Emerald	○			○		○			○	○
Erin Prairie	○I	I		●○I	I	○I	I	I	○	○I
Forest	○			○			●	●	○	
Glenwood	○			●○		○			○	○
Hammond	○			○		○			○	○
Hudson	○●			●			●	●	○	
Kinnickinnic	○I			●○	I	○	I	I	○	○I
Pleasant Valley	○			○		○			○	○
Richmond	○			●○	●	○		●	●	○
Rush River	○●			●○		○			●	○
St. Joseph	○I			●○	●	○	●	●	○	○
Somerset	○I			●○	●	○		●	○	○
Springfield	○			●○	●	○		●	○	○
Stanton	○			●○	●	○		●	○	○●
Star Prairie	○I	I		●○	●	●○	●	●	○	○
Troy	○			○		○			○	○
Warren	○			○		○			○	○

## **IX. SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY PLANS AND PROGRAMS**

### **A. Federal and State Programs and Plans**

#### *Wisconsin Governor Executive Orders*

Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle has given executive orders to promote and encourage more sustainable practices and energy independence. Among these executive orders are Executive Orders #145 and #192. Executive Order #145 is *Relating to Conserve Wisconsin and the Creation of High Performance Green Building Standards and Energy Conservation for State Facilities and Operations*. Executive Order #192 is *Relating to the Creation of the Office of Energy Independence*.

#### *State of Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence*

The Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence (OEI) is a state department that has a mission to advance Wisconsin's vision for energy independence by generating 25 percent of the state's power and 25 percent of the state's transportation fuels from renewable resources by 2025, capturing 10 percent of the emerging bio-industry and renewable energy market by 2030, and the state becoming a national leader in groundbreaking research that will make alternative energies more affordable and create new, good-paying jobs in Wisconsin. OEI administers a grant program to assist counties, cities, villages, towns, and Tribes in efforts to achieve the state's 25x25 energy independence goals.

##### **Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence**

17 W. Main St., Suite 429  
Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 261-6609

#### *State of Wisconsin Focus on Energy*

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus on Energy information, resources, and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not be completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment, and control the state's growing demand for electricity and natural gas.

##### **Focus on Energy**

431 Charmany Drive  
Madison, WI 53719  
(800) 762-7077

#### *UW - Extension Programs*

University of Wisconsin - Extension programs in community, natural resources, and economic development help Wisconsin communities deal with their own unique challenges – resource constraints, business development, growth management, environmental protection, and the quality of life. Several UW - Extension Community, Natural Resource, and Economic

Development offices in the region are focusing on the sustainability and energy programs of renewable energy and local food.

## **B. Regional Programs and Plans**

### ***UW – Extension Earth, Wind, and Fire Project***

UW-Extension and its project partners are developing educational outreach materials and facilitating peer learning activities to better prepare regions across the state for bio-energy opportunities. The Earth, Wind, Fire project team consists of several county-based UWEX agents primarily in Western and Northwestern Wisconsin. The project team is working with local bio-energy stakeholders to raise the dialogue on bio-energy development in the region.

The project's desired outcome consists of:

- Increased understanding of both the opportunities and constraints for bio-energy development will better position regions throughout the state to capitalize on their assets and make good decisions as opportunities emerge.
- Increased awareness and understanding of how to balance bio-energy development with environmental concerns:
- Increased ability and opportunity to peer network, share information, and collaborate;
- Increased understanding of bio-energy regulations and bio-energy development feasibility criteria;
- Increased awareness of how to stimulate bio-energy development through targeted public investment and policies.

### ***UW–River Falls St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development***

The St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development (SCISCD) is founded on the principle that sustainability is a concept that we no longer have the luxury of choosing to pursue. Based on the collective data and trend analysis across ecologic, social, and economic contexts, it is now consciously more of an attempt to avoid unsustainability. The SCISCD has a mission to support and facilitate the University of Wisconsin - River Falls in becoming one of the premier venues for deliberation and demonstration of sustainable community development principles. The vision is for the SCISCD to become an embodiment of UWRF's commitment to place-based, multidisciplinary inquiry, solutions and leadership for practicing what it truly means to "live in community" in an inter-generational and regionally self-sufficient manner. All facets of its design, operations, and educational programming shall strive to be a holistically balanced integration of ecologic integrity, social justice, and economic vitality as it applies to all contexts of educational opportunity for students, alumni, and stakeholders around the world.

**St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development**  
University of Wisconsin-River Falls 410 South Third St., 143 RDI  
River Falls, WI 54022-5001  
(715) 425-3479

## C. County and Local Programs and Plans

### *County Energy Committees*

Three counties in west central Wisconsin have established special committees or working groups to explore energy-related policies and opportunities:

- Barron County Energy Policy Work Group
- Chippewa County Committee on Energy Consumption, Cost, and Conservation
- Polk County Ad Hoc Renewable Energy Committee

The Polk County Committee has been functioning longest and has been charged by the Polk County Board with the mandate of looking at and keeping abreast of technological advances in all areas of renewable energy. The nine committee members—three county supervisors and six community members—meet monthly to listen to guest speakers, tour local installations, and share information on new developments. The committee is currently undergoing a strategic planning process through which it will formalize a mission statement, prioritize goals, and establish a plan for action. Tentative goals at this time are to complete a comprehensive biomass inventory of Polk County and surrounding areas and to convince companies interested in establishing a presence in the County to consider installing energy-saving devices at the county's recycling center. Committee members are also looking into ways in which local building codes and zoning ordinances may be redesigned to encourage more energy-efficient construction techniques. Though the committee structure and scope varies, the Barron and Chippewa County Committees are undertaking similar efforts regarding energy policy and conservation, with particular focus on reducing energy costs.

### *Conservation Subdivision Design and Multi-Modal Transportation*

Conservation Subdivision Design (CSD) is a green development strategy that can help communities preserve open space and natural areas in residential housing developments. By reformulating the approach to conventional subdivision design, CSD strategically concentrates home construction on the development site in order to protect sensitive and valuable open space, habitat, and other environmental resources. Multi-Modal Transportation incorporates transportation options beyond the private automobile. This can include expanded bus service, express bus service, light rail, and bicycle/pedestrian paths/lanes. These options reduce congestion, increase air quality, and often are partnered with development that incorporates transit oriented design elements.

### *The Natural Step and Eco-Municipalities*

The Natural Step works to accelerate global sustainability by guiding companies, communities, and governments on to an ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable path. People in eleven countries are working in an international network of sustainability experts, scientists, universities, and businesses to create solutions, innovative models and tools that will lead the transition to a sustainable future. Part of this process can consist of communities becoming eco-municipalities. An eco-municipality is a local government that has adopted ecological and social justice values in its charter.

Currently, only Dunn County in west central Wisconsin has passed a formal resolution adopting or endorsing the Natural Step sustainability principles and indicating an intention to become an eco-municipality. However, several other municipalities in our region are considering such resolutions. In addition, the following west central Wisconsin municipalities have adopted resolutions supporting the state's 25x25 energy independence goal:

Polk County  
Village of Osceola  
City of Thorp  
City of Amery  
City of New Richmond  
City of River Falls

### *School District Education and Heating Sources*

The Barron Area School District currently heats the high school by burning wood. The wood that is burned is from local sources. The heat that is produced also heats the local community center, a grade school, assisted living center, and a medical center. The school district recently purchased the needed equipment to cool the high school, grade school, and community center by burning wood.

### *Economic Driven*

Several companies throughout west central Wisconsin work in industries that pertain directly to energy conservation, renewable energy, and other sustainability and energy fields. Primarily, this is being seen in the bio-energy and local food sectors. Additionally, many companies are using construction techniques and/or using renewable energy to reduce their ecological footprint.

## **D. Other Program Partners**

There are a variety of other program partners that are working closely with local governments on the pursuit to help address the sustainability and energy issues in the region. These program partners consist of the energy companies that provide energy to the region, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, The Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service, The Northwest Wisconsin Regional Food Network, the numerous farmers' markets throughout the region and the *Farm Fresh Atlas of Western Wisconsin*, land conservation organizations, and local grassroots movements to incorporate sustainable practices in community and individual decisions.