



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2014

Placemaking Haymarket Plaza Project Wins Planning Award

West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) was recently recognized by the Wisconsin chapter of the American Planning Association for its Placemaking Haymarket Plaza project. A 2014 Planning Award was received by WCWRPC based on the project's originality, quality, and extraordinary level of public engagement.

The Placemaking Haymarket Plaza project built a public consensus on the vision, function, and uses of Haymarket Plaza - a 1.5 acre site intended as a future City park where the Eau Claire and Chippewa Rivers meet. The planning process included over 260 hours of combined participant time during two workshops in November 2013, with additional public input through a web-based, follow-up survey. The project was funded entirely through donations.

The panel of professional planners reviewing the award nomination noted that the project approach is very transferable to other communities and hoped that others "will see the success and take on their own efforts." WCWRPC has received training in placemaking techniques from the internationally distinguished

West Central
Wisconsin Regional
Planning
Commission

**Serving the
Counties of:**
Barron
Chippewa
Clark
Dunn
Eau Claire
Polk
St. Croix

Project for Public Spaces and is assisting communities throughout west central Wisconsin to create stronger, more vibrant places and downtowns.

WCWRPC Staff:

Energy Conservation Planning & Implementation Grants Available

The Wisconsin State Energy Office released two grant opportunities on July 11th. The grant applications are due August 1st. If you have any interest in applying for a grant and/or having us facilitate the Grant #1 process, we would be more than happy to discuss how we could assist you. The two grants are:

Energy Independent Planning Grants
Communities applying under this area of interest will agree to compile a baseline of energy consumption (of buildings, vehicles, and infrastructure) which will serve to identify opportunities to save energy in local government operations and to create an action plan based on that information. Grants under this area of interest will be limited to a maximum of \$5,000 with no minimum grant size. Communities will be encouraged but not required to use EPA Portfolio Manager to record and report data.

Implementation Grants for Energy Independent Communities
Communities will apply to use funds (between \$5,000 and \$10,000) to implement a cost-effective project that will result in energy savings and serve to fulfill the detailed plan set forth in the communities' energy independence plan.

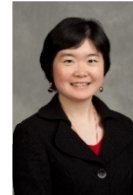
You can read about it in more detail [here](#). Contact Eric Anderson or Tobi LeMahieu for more information at eanderson@wccwrpc.org or tlemahieu@wccwrpc.org.



Lynn Nelson,
Executive Director



Eric Anderson,
Senior Planner



Jing Duan,
GIS Coordinator/
Associate Planner



Tobi LeMahieu,
Associate Planner



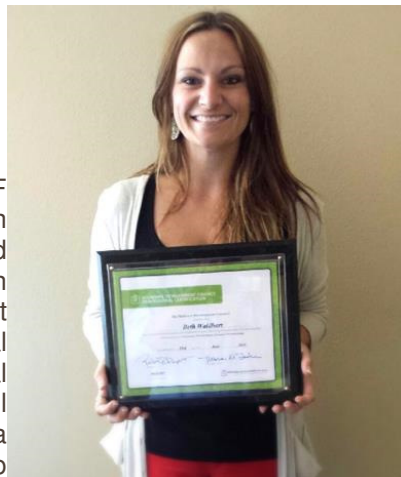
Jennifer Ludwig,
Loan Processor



Lisa Ruth,
Office Manager

Beth Waldhart Receives Certification from the National Development Council

On June 25, 2013, RBF Fund Manager Beth Waldhart received certification as an Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP) from the National Development Council (NDC). Certification is a designation given to



individuals who successfully complete an intensive economic development finance training series that is conducted by NDC. The courses provide individuals working in the field of economic development with training in credit analysis, real estate financing, loan packaging, deal structuring and negotiating, and the creation and implementation of development programs. Each of the courses are five days in length and end with a written review that must be passed before a certification candidate is allowed to continue in the EDFP program. When a candidate has completed the entire series, a comprehensive examination is given.



Ann Schell,
Senior Planner



Chris Straight,
Senior Planner



Levi Wagner,
Lending Specialist



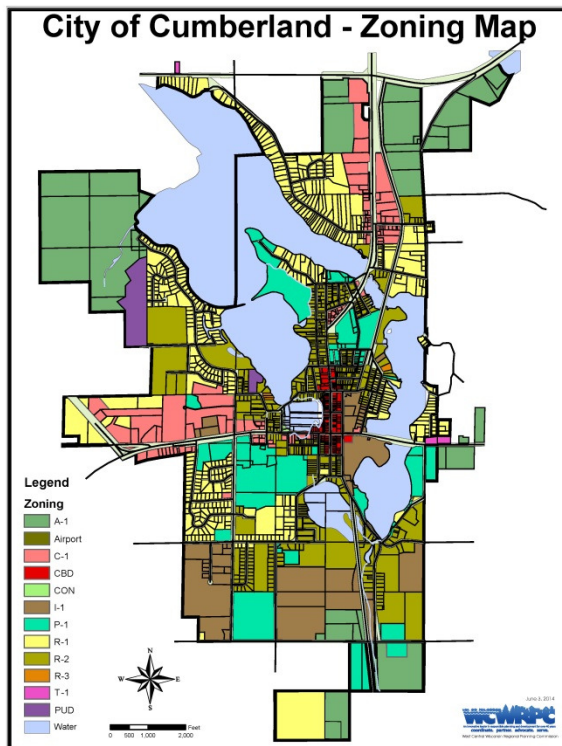
Beth Waldhart,
Fund Manager

Update Your Comprehensive Plans

Many villages, cities, and towns in the region have adopted a comprehensive plan over the past 10 years. Many of the plans state that they should be updated after a specific number of years. In addition, the State comprehensive planning law requires that comprehensive plans be updated within 10 years of adoption. If a comprehensive plan is more than 10 years old, community decisions based on that plan (especially for zoning and land division ordinances) could be challenged in court. In addition, over a 10-year period communities change, and there is need to address these changes in a comprehensive plan. If your community has a comprehensive plan that is 10 years old or older, or is within two years of being 10 years old, your community should be looking into updating your comprehensive plan. If you have any questions about updating your comprehensive plan or would like us to help you update your plan, please feel free to contact Chris Straight at chris@wcvrpc.org for additional information.

Now is the Time to Update Maps

Recently, WCWRPC has assisted the City of Cumberland in updating their zoning and address maps, which will be used by multiple city departments and the general public. Similarly, WCWRPC has produced numerous base maps and customized maps to fulfill a variety of needs of the local communities. As a regional GIS data clearinghouse, we have been working closely with our counties and municipalities in updating, developing, and managing categorized GIS databases. Moreover, we use the cutting-age GIS technology and other mapping and graphic tools to compile maps in among others, zoning, transportation, land use, natural resources, and demographics. If you and your community have any plans or questions in updating maps, please feel free to contact our GIS Coordinator, Jing Duan for details.



A Hearty Welcome to a New Staff Member

WCWRPC and the Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) are happy to announce the addition of a new staff member, Jason Duba. Jason has taken the position of Assistant Transportation Planner with most of his time dedicated to transportation planning in the urbanized area, and some work in the rural areas of the region.



Before coming to work for the MPO and the WCWRPC, Jason earned his Masters of Urban Planning and Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He worked as a research assistant at the Urban Transportation Center and interned at the Chicago Metropolitan Area for Planning, the Illinois Department of Transportation, and Metropolis Strategies. Previous to embarking on his planner career, Jason taught middle school and high school math. He and his wife Emily are looking forward to becoming part of the community.

We are very excited to have Jason on staff and expect him to be a very valuable addition. Be sure to welcome Jason to west central Wisconsin.



REGIONAL BUSINESS FUND, INC.

Activity Report (2014) January - June

Loans Funded: 27
Total Amount: \$1,196,100
Jobs Created/Retained: 213

Pending Loans: 9
Total Amount: \$635,700
Jobs Expected: 59

Pending Loan Applications: 8
Total Amount: \$511,500
Jobs Expected: 304