

## e-Newsletter from SWWRPC



### October is National Community Planning Month

Each year the American Planning Association, its members, chapters, divisions, and professional institute sponsor National Community Planning Month to raise the visibility of the important role of planners and planning in communities across the U.S. This year October has been designated as National Community Planning Month.

Planning is essential to good government. Without good planning a municipality may move from one decision to the next with no continuity. When spending money, especially public money, a plan is needed to ensure that the money is spent wisely and efficiently. Planning helps avoid wasteful spending and bad projects. Planners also help create great places for the public. Parks, open spaces, environmental reserves, walkable areas and other areas where the public can recreate are important in making communities livable.

And good roads, transit and transportation systems and routes are essential to the economic and social health of the places where we work and live.

SWWRPC and our staff and Commissioners invite you to join with us in celebrating National Community Planning Month.



### SWWRPC to adopt Regional Comprehensive Plan

After completing 125 municipal plans and 5 county plans, SWWRPC has finished the Regional Plan, a capstone to the comprehensive planning effort. The SWWRPC is expected to adopt it on October 25th. The plan is an amalgam of the five counties of Southwestern Wisconsin; Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland Counties. This advisory plan addresses an array of natural, environmental, and human-based activities that impact our daily lives. For more information visit [swwrpc.org/plan](http://swwrpc.org/plan).

### HUD Sustainable Communities Conference

As part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Partnership for Sustainable Communities, SWWRPC staff attended the first Sustainable Communities Grantee Convening in

#### In This Issue

[National Community Planning Month](#)

[Regional Comprehensive Plan](#)

[HUD Sustainable Communities Conference](#)

[EDA Peer Review](#)

[Local Comprehensive Plans](#)

#### SWWRPC's Mission

SWWRPC provides intergovernmental planning and coordination of community development planning, economic development, and transportation. In response to local and regional goals, the Commission and its Staff work to enhance fiscal and physical resources and to balance local and regional development, preservation, conservation, and social priorities.

SWWRPC's member counties are Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland.

To learn more about us visit our website at [www.swwrpc.org](http://www.swwrpc.org)

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Washington DC last week. SWWRPC staff used this time as an opportunity to share experiences and ideas with grant recipients from other agencies across the U.S. as well as to form relationships with key HUD staff.

During the conference, U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, and U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Shaun Donovan, both provided encouraging words of support and commitment to the national partnership/initiative in which Southwestern Wisconsin is participating. Together with HUD, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have developed interagency partnerships to increase the effectiveness and impact of their respective programs with the goal of helping communities become economically strong and environmentally sustainable.

These types of exchanges are helping us here in the region to continually build more support for our Healthy Communities Initiative (our local version of the broader initiative). And the momentum continues to increase as we lead up to the start of many of our activities. Please note that on November 18th the Healthy Communities Consortium will meet. More information will follow as the date approaches.



Ray LaHood - U.S. Secretary of Transportation  
Shaun Donovan - U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

## SWWRPC Completes EDA Peer Review

As an Economic Development District for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) we are required to undergo a Peer review process every three years. This review was done on October 18th by EDA staff from Ohio and our peer from Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation and Development, which is the Economic development District in Northwest Illinois.

The process included review of our staff qualifications, financial management, policies and procedures and our [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#) process, and governing Board structure and involvement. It was a very thorough process covering all major aspects of our economic development program.

Our partners at EDA will be making a written report and comments on the review that will be shared with our commissioners when it is received from the regional office.

## More Local Communities Finishing Comprehensive Plans

On October 20th, 2011, the [Town of Mount Ida](#) joined 138 other jurisdictions in the SWWRPC region by becoming the 27th town in Grant County to complete and adopt a Comprehensive Plan.

Mount Ida began work on their plan in the summer of 2010. Mary Penn, Senior Planner, worked with the Town's Plan Commission for 16 months to create the nine chapters necessary for a Plan. Meeting monthly, the Town of Mount Ida Plan Commission met to read, discuss, and weigh Town data, projections, and policies in an effort to create a Plan that would best reflect the reality of the Town, as well as aid Town decision makers in the future.

Two other Grant County towns, [Boscobel](#) and [Castle Rock](#) are also in the final stages of their planning process, and will adopt their plans before the end of 2011.

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[Grant County](#)

[Green County](#)

[Iowa County](#)

[Lafayette County](#)

[Richland County](#)