

CHAPTER 9 – IMPLEMENTATION



Regional Comprehensive Plan Implementation

As required by Wisconsin Statutes Sec 66.1001(2) (i), this element or chapter of the plan will address implementation of the MRRPC Regional Comprehensive plan. This chapter includes the regional goals and recommendations to guide future development of the Region. These are based on analysis of the information reported in the earlier chapters of this Plan as well as the nine open house meetings and the public hearing on the Plan. The Regional Goals and Recommendations are developed as ways to help shape the region's growth as opposed to having the growth shape the region and begin "Rising as a Region" to make it an even better place for us and future generations to enjoy. This Regional Comprehensive Plan will only be beneficial if it is used as resource by the general public and is used by local government officials in making land use and development decisions.

Plan Element Integration and Consistency Requirement

Wisconsin Statutes call for the implementation chapter to have a description of how each of the plan elements in the Comprehensive Plan will be integrated and made consistent with the other elements of the comprehensive plan. This integration and consistency requirement for this Plan was achieved through developing this Plan holistically under one continuous planning process starting in 2010 and culminating with the Plan's adoption in 2014. The regional planning process involved: designing, mailing and tabulating a regional survey; reviewing drafts of each chapter and comparing each for consistency with the other chapters; then developing the goals, and recommendations collectively for each of the chapters for accuracy and consistency. In addition all the MRRPC Commissioners from the nine counties provided oversight of the planning process from beginning to end. The MRRPC Commissioners were regularly updated on the contents and progress of the Plan which also provided opportunity for Plan inconsistencies to be addressed. In addition, public notices were posted in county courthouses and published in local newspapers about how to receive copies of the plan or view it on line. E-mails to planning and economic development organizations in the region were also disseminated providing further opportunity for plan consistency review. Nine public outreach meetings were held and a public hearing was held on the plan as well. Through these steps the chapters of the Regional Comprehensive Plan have been integrated and are consistent with one another.

Plan Update and Amendments

Wisconsin Statutes call for Comprehensive Plans to be updated at least once every ten years. An update is a major rewrite of the entire plan and maps. An amendment can be made at any time as long as appropriate public notices and meetings have occurred to allow for the amendment. The MRRPC will evaluate the Plan's need for amendments on an as needed basis and update it at least every ten years pursuant to State Statutes.

Comprehensive Plan Implementation Schedule

Wisconsin Statutes also call for a Comprehensive Plan to develop a compilation of programs and specific actions in a stated sequence, including proposed changes to any applicable zoning ordinances, official maps or subdivision ordinances to implement the goals policies and objectives listed in a local governmental unit's comprehensive plan and provide a mechanism to measure the local governmental unit's progress toward achieving all aspects of their Comprehensive Plan. It is important to note that while the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission while defined as a local government by State Statute 66.1001(1) does not engage in any land use regulatory activities, and this Regional Comprehensive Plan is advisory and is prepared as a guide on planning and development issues for the general public and local government officials. The MRRPC has no statutory authority to enforce any of the goals or recommendations in this Regional Plan. The following is the MRRPC Comprehensive Plan Implementation schedule preceded by the MRRPC's Guiding Development Statement.

Regional Comprehensive Plan Guiding Development Statement and Goal Implementation Schedule

GUIDING DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT

Wisconsin Statutes call for preparing a guiding development statement when developing a comprehensive plan. The following is the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission’s guiding development statement.

The Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission:

- Encourages growth and development to occur in communities that can economically provide a full range of public services such as road, water, sewer, recreation, police and fire protection etc.in an environmentally safe manner
- Encourages protection of the region’s abundant natural resources and farmlands for us and future generations to enjoy
- Encourages business, job and income growth to help create a higher quality of life for all
- Encourage development of renewable energy resources and energy conservation practices
- Encourages cooperation between businesses, governments, education, and health care institutions to create a healthy society, and high quality workforce
- Encourages a high quality living environment with housing that is decent, safe, sanitary and in good repair
- Encourages high quality recreation opportunities and community facilities for us and future generations to enjoy
- Encourages a high quality and globally competitive multi modal transportation system and public infrastructure services that serves all
- Encourages a culture of caring and respect for all
- Encourages a culture where happiness can be pursued and joy felt by all

Wisconsin statutes also call for preparing an implementation schedule of specific actions in a stated sequence be prepared as mechanism to measure the progress toward achieving all aspects of the plan. This Implementation Schedule below is the compilation of the goals, objectives, responsible party, and timeline for each chapter of the comprehensive plan. This schedule is meant to serve as an easily accessible reference guide for plan users. It is recommended that a full review of applicable plan chapters be conducted when developing future programs, projects or policies. Collectively the goals and recommendations listed below are designed to implement or compliment the above guiding development statement.

CHAPTER 2 - REGIONAL HOUSING GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ROLE	TIMEFRAME
2.10 Encourage a range of housing choices that meets the needs of persons of all income levels and of all age groups and persons of special needs (Wisconsin Smart Growth Goal)		
a. Encourage the availability of land for the development or redevelopment of low-income and moderate-income housing.	CG, LG, DEV	Ongoing
b. Promote policies and programs to maintain or rehabilitate the local governmental unit’s existing housing stock.	CG, LG, DEV	Ongoing
c. Encourage Planned Unit Developments and Traditional Neighborhood Developments that allow for a mix of housing types: (single, two and multi-family) lot sizes, values density bonuses, adaptive reuse, and live and work units to increase the supply of affordable housing.	CG, LG, DEV	Ongoing
d. Encourage adequate housing for seniors and disabled residents to live close to family and friends.	CG, LG, DEV	Ongoing
e. Encourage the increase of modest single family and multifamily housing to address job-housing imbalances in high employment communities that can provide a full range of public services in an economical manner.	CG, LG, DEV	Ongoing
f. Collaborate with municipalities, and state and federal agencies to provide emergency and short-term housing to individuals and families facing a housing crisis.	CG, LG	Ongoing
g. Encourage the rehabilitation of existing housing and construction of new housing focusing on energy efficiency.	CG, LG	Ongoing

<p>h. Encourage developers and builders to plan ahead for the needs of an aging population and include features in new housing, such as assistance bars in bathrooms and wider doorways that can accommodate wheelchairs that will allow residents to age in place.</p>	<p>DEV, EDO, HA, HC, FG, SG, CG, LG, NPO</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>2.11 Locate Housing in Places with Capacity to Accommodate Growth to Foster Efficient Development Patterns that Reduce Public Expenditures on Infrastructure and Reduce Service Delivery Costs.</p>		
<p>a. Encourage housing development in existing communities that can provide a full range of public services economically to help protect prime farmland, working forests, and sensitive natural areas from residential development.</p>	<p>CG, LG, DEV</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>b. Encourage new housing developments to be constructed efficiently and sited near employment centers to lessen commuting times, energy consumption and public service costs.</p>	<p>CG, LG, DEV</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>c. Increase the supply of modest single family and multi-family housing to address job-housing imbalances in communities that can provide a full range of public services.</p>	<p>CG, LG</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>d. Encourage community comprehensive plans to include specific areas where recommended development of single family, two family, multifamily housing is permissible with a variety of lot sizes for single family development so long as it is consistent with overall development density standard for the neighborhood.</p>	<p>CG, LG</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>2.12 Develop Financing Policies and Programs that Meet the Region's Housing Needs.</p>		
<p>a. Encourage the use of Tax Increment Financing to provide affordable housing in a municipality. TIF Law - Section 66.1105(6)(g) of Wisconsin Statutes allows municipalities to extend life of a TIF district for one year after paying off the district's project costs. In that year at least 75% of any tax revenue received from the value of the increment must be used to benefit affordable housing in the municipality and the remainder must be used to improve the housing stock.</p>	<p>CG, LG</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>b. Communities with comparatively higher employment levels and capacity to provide a full range of public services are encouraged to seek and support new multi-family housing development using federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits and other funding to provide workforce housing for low and moderate income households - households earning 50 to 80 percent of the Region's median annual household income.</p>	<p>CG, LG</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>c. Encourage Congress and Federal agencies to increase funding levels for additional housing vouchers to help meet the demand for housing assistance in the Region. There are 549 HUD housing Choice Vouchers, 44 Veteran Administration Housing Vouchers and 4,831 subsidized project housing units in the Region compared to a potential need of 14,000 to 19,000 extremely low income households with incomes less than 30% of their County's median income. There are over 28,000 low income households in the Region earning less than 50% of their county's median household income that averages out to \$23,977 in household earnings among the nine counties. All counties have waiting lists for housing vouchers and their existing vouchers are not fully funded.</p>	<p>MRRPC, CG, LG, SG, FG</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>d. Encourage the Governor and State Legislature to study and develop policies to reduce the heavy reliance on property taxes to fund schools and local governments, to reduce housing costs, and address concerns that lower cost housing is not as beneficial as higher cost housing in generating revenue.</p>	<p>MRRPC, CG, LG, SG</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>e. Encourage the development of innovative public-private partnerships that strategically distributes the Region's allocation of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - Small Cities-Community Development Block Grant Funds across the Region to increase the quantity and quality of low and moderate income housing.</p>	<p>MRRPC, CG, LG, SG, FG</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>f. Establish a program that would inform the county's citizens about the sources of funding available for housing grants and loans.</p>	<p>MRRPC, CG, LG</p>	<p>Medium Range</p>
<p>2.13 Provide Fair Housing Opportunities Throughout the Region.</p>		
<p>a. Continue policies and programs that promote fairness, non-discrimination and accessibility for all housing consumers, including enforcement and compliance with fair housing laws.</p>	<p>CG, LG</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>b. Encourage units of government to adopt, update or strengthen their open housing ordinances that include investigative, enforcement powers with adequate funding for administration.</p>	<p>CG, LG</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

CHAPTER 3 - REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ROLE	TIME FRAME
3.10 Provide an integrated, efficient and economical transportation system that meets the needs of all citizens (Wisconsin Smart Growth Goal)		
a. Encourage, support and maintain a multi-modal transportation network that creates safe, efficient, convenient, and economical transportation options for all businesses and residents.	MRRPC, WDOT, CG, LG	Ongoing
b. Support safe, affordable, and dependable transportation services (county mini-buses, volunteer driver programs etc.) for the Region’s aging elderly and disabled populations.	MRRPC, WDOT, CG, LG	Ongoing
c. Secure and maintain safe and efficient freight rail service throughout the Region.	MRRPC, WDOT, CG, LG	Ongoing
d. Continue assistance with Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (SMRT) Bus Service that provides a coordinated regional public commuter bus service to La Crosse, Vernon and Crawford Counties.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WDOT	Ongoing
e. Explore expansion of the SMRT Bus type of service to other areas in the Region.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Medium Range
f. Assist counties with their five year updates of their Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plans required by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to remain eligible to receive funding for programs/vehicles.	CG, WDOT, MRRPC, LG	Ongoing
g. Support regional efforts to add an additional AMTRAK train service to Tomah and La Crosse AMTRAK stops and pursue the provision of passenger rail service to other parts of the Region.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WDOT	Ongoing
h. Promote regional carpooling/ridesharing initiatives through the use of the WisDOT sponsored website RIDESHAREETC.	MRRPC, CG, WDOT	Ongoing
i. Support efforts to improve the on-time performance of AMTRAK passenger trains led by federal, state, and local governments, freight carriers, and passenger groups.	MRRPC, FG, SG, CG, LG, WDOT	Ongoing
3.11 Promote transportation infrastructure facilities throughout the Region that will accommodate future economic growth and enhance recreation and tourism opportunities.		
a. Work with WDOT and explore developing park and ride lots and/or carpooling programs for residents. The WDOT is preparing a Park and Ride Lot Study for its southwest region including Monroe, La Crosse, Vernon, and Crawford counties in the MRRPC Region. The study identifies locations for park and ride facilities as well as gauging demand.	MRRPC, WDOT	Immediate
b. Support counties biannual update of their local road system on State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation’s Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) program.	CG, LG, WDOT	Ongoing
c. Support and encourage initiatives/projects/programs to promote use of and improve regional airports/air services.	LG, WDOT	Ongoing
d. Assist with developing multi-use trails throughout the Region that would connect the scenic/recreation corridors and existing trail links.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WDNR	Long Range
e. Assist communities with grant applications that will provide funding for the improvement of transportation facilities in the Region.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Ongoing
f. Support and encourage initiatives/projects/programs that will improve the Prairie du Chien Harbor and the La Crosse Harbor on the Mississippi River.	CG, LG, WDOT	Ongoing
g. Encourage and support the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to complete the connection of the Great River Trail to the City of Winona MN through the National Scenic ByWays Grant it was awarded.	WDNR, MRRPC	Ongoing
h. Encourage and support local government and county government efforts to develop the Kickapoo Valley Trail from Wauzeka to Wilton following the old Stump Dodger Railroad line.	LG, CG, MRRPC	Ongoing
i. Continue to evaluate impacts of frac sand mining on the transportation facilities (railroads and highways) in the Region and assist local units of government in managing transportation issues associated with mining. This may include local units of government adopting road ordinances, establishing haul routes, etc.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WDNR, WDOT	Immediate

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j. Encourage rail safety efforts, especially for freight lines that carry hazardous materials, and encourage fire departments and other emergency responders in the Region to be prepared in the event of a hazardous material spill while observing proper federal, state, and local chain of command.	MRRPC, FG, SG, CG, LG, WNDR, WDOT	Ongoing
k. Support rule making efforts by the U.S. Department of Transportation to address new tanker car standards, better classification for liquid petroleum products, route risk assessment planning for railroads, and reduced speed limits for oil trains.	MRRPC, FG, SG, CG, LG, WNDR, WDOT	Ongoing
3.12 Continue to improve transportation coordination between transportation providers (public, private, non-profit) to enhance mobility and transportation services for residents in the Region.		
a. Facilitate regional transportation coordination committee meetings. The regional transportation coordinating committee was formed in 2008 to identify and improve public transportation options for the Region's residents. The meetings provide a forum for transportation providers, advocates, and agencies to meet and discuss transportation issues, services, and explore coordination activities.	MRRPC, CG	Ongoing
b. MRRPC staff will continue serve on and attend County Transportation Coordinating Committee meetings to assist with transportation coordination of programs and projects (within counties or multi-jurisdictional projects).	MRRPC, CG	Ongoing
c. Support and assist with efforts to establish coordinated regional transportation route scheduling utilizing the transportation services of all transportation providers.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Long Range
d. Support the jurisdictional transfer of highways in accordance with an updated study of functional class.	CG, LG, WDOT	Ongoing

CHAPTER 4 - REGIONAL UTILITIES, ENERGY AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ROLE	TIMEFRAME
4.10 Provide public utilities, energy and community facilities in a cooperative, sustainable, healthy, efficient and safe manner to protect the natural environment, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, support economic development, and improve the quality of life in the Region's communities		
a. Encourage and support efforts to improve waste management and waste disposal operations involving sustainable practices such as reduction, recycling, reuse, and safe transportation and deposit of hazardous materials.	CG, LG, WDNR	Ongoing
b. Encourage and promote clean sweep programs throughout the region to dispose of unsafe and hazardous materials.	CG, LG, WDNR	Ongoing
c. Encourage and support regional solutions to regional solid waste reduction, disposal, hazardous material disposal, and recycling. The region's three landfills in La Crosse County, Monroe County, and Vernon County are expected to be at capacity in 24, 14 and 10 years respectively.	CG, LG, WDNR	Ongoing
d. Encourage and support composting programs for yard and food wastes in communities throughout the region.	CG, LG, WDNR	Ongoing
e. Encourage and support efforts to provide improved public utilities, sources of energy and community facilities for the Region's households, business community, education institutions, health care institutions, police and emergency responders to help them function more efficiently.	EUP, HC, SD, LG, CG	Ongoing
f. Encourage expansion of natural gas lines to unserved communities.	CG, LG, SG, PSC	Ongoing
g. Encourage and support cooperative efforts among governments, educational institutions, and or health care institutions involving cost sharing or resource pooling on public utility, renewable energy, and community facilities that provide services more economically.	EUP, HC, SD, LG, CG	Ongoing
h. Support development of a modern communication network, including high-speed internet service, while preserving the Region's natural beauty and ensuring public safety.	TCP, CG, LG, SG,	Ongoing

CHAPTER 4 - REGIONAL UTILITIES, ENERGY AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ROLE	TIMEFRAME
i. Support quality access to educational and recreational facilities.	LG, CG, SG, WDNR,SD	Ongoing
j. Support efforts that make the Region more energy independent to reduce energy costs. Research shows that regions or states that produce their own energy whether fossil fuel or renewable energy have lower energy costs.	EUP, LG, CG	Ongoing
k. Support efforts that develop a diversity of renewable energy sources for energy security and affordability. Solar, wind, hydro, solid biomass and biogas all have greater potential, and reliance on any one puts the region more at risk economically.	EUP, SG, LG, CG	Ongoing
l. Support the Region’s solid biomass, biogas, and hydro power projects and the infrastructure needed to serve them. While solar and wind are the most popular sources of renewable energy and should continue to be encouraged, the Mississippi River Region has a competitive advantage in producing biomass, bio gas and hydro power over other regions. These sources of energy should be more fully developed to generate more secure homemade energy and hometown jobs.	EUP, LG, CG	Ongoing
m. Support sustainable practices in forestry, cropland management, and animal husbandry to provide the right balance of biomass to maintain healthy forests, farm animals, and productive croplands. Utilizing biomass to generate heat or electricity involves harvesting and managing biomass resources so as not to cause harm to the biomass resource so future generations will also enjoy the benefits.	EUP, SG, LG, CG	Ongoing
n. Increase the region’s output of electricity from renewables by 50% or 124,000,000 KWHs by 2024 by encouraging increased use of solar, wind, biomass, biogas, and hydro power projects. This would be a 50% increase over the 248,000,000 KWH being produced today. This could be accomplished by any one or a combination of the following: two (2) hydro-power dams with 13,000 KW operating at 60% of capacity each on the Mississippi River. Sixteen (16) wind turbines with 2,500 KW operating at 35% of capacity, like the turbines near Cashton WI. One (1) biomass facility like the 40,000 KW DTE Stoneman Station operating at 75% of capacity near Cassville WI. Two-hundred and seventy-three (273) two acre solar farms with 305 KW operating at 17% of capacity, like the one operating in Westby WI. Twenty-four (24) manure digesters like the 775 KW facility operating at 75% of capacity in the town of Webster in Vernon County.	EUP, SG, LG, CG	Long Range
o. Support efforts to build a stronger wood pellet industry in the Region and by 2024 reduce the Region’s household dependence on propane, fuel oil and electricity for heat by 25% by switching to wood pellets or other clean burning forms of biomass. Approximately 51,000 occupied households in the region (41% of all households) use these higher priced fuels. It would take 12,750 of these households to switch to wood pellets to achieve this goal that is economically in their favor because of the competitive price of wood pellets. The obstacles that needs to be overcome is that wood pellets are a relatively unknown commodity and installing pellet stoves and furnaces is not a common practice or is bulk delivery of pellets to homes and businesses. Both the production and infrastructure sectors of the solid biomass - wood pellet industry need to be further developed. The states of Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Upper Austria in Europe provide proven examples on how this can be done.	EUP, SG, LG, CG	Long Range
p. Support efforts that assist the nine-state Midwest Region in producing 15% of all thermal energy from renewable energy sources with 10% derived from sustainably produced biomass by 2024. This recommendation is derived from the Biomass Thermal Energy Council’s Midwest Vision. BTEC is an association of biomass fuel producers, appliance manufacturers and distributors, supply chain companies and non-profit organizations that view biomass thermal energy as a renewable, responsible, clean and energy-efficient pathway to meeting America’s energy needs. Many universities, and federal and state agencies are associates of this organization as well. BTEC has a Northeast United States Vision as well involving seven states to produce 25% of all thermal energy from renewables with 75% coming from biomass by 2025.	EUP, SG, LG, CG	Long Range

CHAPTER 5 - AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ROLE	TIMEFRAME
5.10 Preserve productive farmland and forests as a viable foundation for a strong natural resource based (agriculture, forestry, wildlife, etc.) economy.		
a. Encourage and support farm to fork activities where food is both produced and consumed in the Region.	MRRPC, SG, CG, LG, NPO, EDO, SD	Ongoing
b. Encourage and support the use of the Region’s solid biomass resources for heat to save on energy costs and reduce the Region’s dependence on higher cost fossil fuels such as propane, heating oil, and electricity.	MRRPC, NPO, EDO, WDNR, WEDC, LG, CG	Ongoing

CHAPTER 5 - AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ROLE	TIMEFRAME
c. Encourage the preservation of agricultural land directing growth away from prime farmland.	CG, LG	Ongoing
d. Work to minimize land use conflicts between farm and non-farm uses and protect agricultural operations from encroachment of incompatible uses.	CG, LG	Ongoing
5.11 Preserve, protect, manage, and enhance the Region's natural resources.		
a. Promote the use of Forest Best Management Practices in maintaining the Region's forests and woodlots. The hardwood forests support the local economy by providing valuable forest products. Forest BMP's will enhance woodlots and forested lands and ensure they remain a valuable natural resource.	MRRPC, WDNR, CG, LG, EDO	Ongoing
b. Because of the Emerald Ash Borer Infestation and the high value of Ash trees in the region it is recommended that regional strategies be developed to reduce harvesting and other transaction costs to maximize the utilization of the region's Ash trees.	MRRPC, WDNR, CG, LG EDO, DATCP	Ongoing
c. Work with unzoned towns to encourage the adoption of land use controls that would allow preservation of open lands, especially in areas where residential and commercial development would be unwelcome and troublesome.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Medium Range
d. Encourage and support the creation of protected areas for outdoor recreation and public access to the Region's natural places.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WDNR	Long Range
e. Support maintaining and increasing public lands to enhance recreation and tourism opportunities in the Region.	CG, LG, WDNR	Ongoing
f. Encourage and support protecting environmental sensitive areas, wildlife habitat, and rural vistas for current and future residents.	CG, LG, WDNR	Ongoing
g. Encourage local governments to undertake and utilize the following land use tools to deal with mining operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifically address and make recommendations about mining in the local government's comprehensive plan. • Adopt or amend a zoning ordinance to address mining (including noise, blasting, hours of operation, air quality, water quality etc.) that are consistent with the analysis and recommendations with the local unit of government's comprehensive plan. • Adopt a Non-Metallic Mining Licensing Ordinance (addressing noise, blasting, hours of operation, air quality and water quality etc.) • Adopt a Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance to address land reclamation and post mine reclamation development including a performance bond to ensure implementation. • Develop a local road ordinance/agreement to address frac sand transportation impacts on roads as well as noise, water and air quality. 	LG, CG, MRRPC, SG, WDOA	Medium Range
h. Encourage state legislation to amend the state annexation laws to reduce the inequities of the law that often result in the annexing city or village taking all. Instead the MRRPC recommends developing annexation agreements that calls for an annexation to be based on an agreement that addresses the environment, natural resources, health, quality of life, tax base and the area's economy over the long term. In the short-term it is recommended that cities, villages, towns and counties work cooperatively on approving annexations based on these criteria.	LG, CG, MRRPC, SG, WDOA	Medium Range
i. Encourage and support land use decision making at the local government level, particularly when it involves mining related operations.	LG, CG, SG	Ongoing
j. Encourage reducing excessive noise; limiting excessive or obtrusive artificial light; and prevent introduction into the environment of chemicals, particulate matter, or biological materials which cause discomfort, disease, damage or death to humans, other living organisms, the natural environment, or built environment.	CG, LG, WDNR	Ongoing
k. Encourage rail safety efforts, especially for freight lines that carry hazardous materials, and encourage fire departments and other emergency responders in the Region to be prepared in the event of a hazardous material spill including knowing and following through on proper federal, state, and local chain of command assignments.	MRRPC, FG, SG, CG, LG, WDNR, WDOT	Ongoing

CHAPTER 5 - AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ROLE	TIMEFRAME
5.12 Maintain, preserve and enhance the cultural, historical and archeological resources in the Region.		
a. Support historical societies/committees in identifying and preserving historic and cultural sites throughout the Region. Encourage policies, programs and/or ordinances (historic preservation districts, historic structure ordinances, etc.) that will preserve/restore historic and cultural sites/structures in the Region.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Ongoing
b. Recognize the unique landscape, history, and cultures of the Driftless Area, and promote them to attract interest in the Region.	MRRPC, CG, LG, NPO, EDO, WDNR	Ongoing
c. Assist local efforts in preserving historic and archeological significant properties.	MRRPC, CG, LG, EDO, NPO	Medium Range
5.13 Protect and preserve surface and groundwater resources to support a flourishing ecosystem for: fish and aquatic life, wildlife and plants, outdoor recreation opportunities and public health.		
a. Assist in reducing threats to the Region’s groundwater associated with “karst” geology. “Karst” is the term to describe areas where the bedrock, usually limestone or dolomite, has been (or has the potential to be) easily dissolved by surface water or groundwater. Karst landscapes may have deep bedrock fractures, caves, disappearing streams, springs, or sinkholes. Karst features can act as direct conduits for pollutants to enter groundwater, wells, springs, and streams.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WDNR	Ongoing
b. Encourage and assist counties and local governments in developing and updating private onsite sanitary sewer ordinances, well head protection ordinances and animal waste ordinances to protect surface and groundwater resources of the Region.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WDNR	Ongoing
c. Encourage and help develop policies to protect the groundwater resources of the Region from land uses that could deplete or degrade the region’s ground water supply. Growing threats include the cumulative impact of the increasing demand of permits for high capacity wells for: frac sand mining operations, crop irrigation, large dairy farms and commercial bottled water operations.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WDNR	Ongoing
d. Assist local units of government with development and implementation of well-head protection ordinances.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WDNR	Ongoing
e. Encourage and support communities’ efforts to institute land use controls that can help concentrate development in areas where runoff and pollution are more effectively managed or mitigated.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WDNR	Medium Range
f. Encourage and assist actions that involve developing plans for cleaning up the region’s 60 plus rivers and streams that are designated as being impaired from pollutants such as phosphorus, mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls, perfluorinated surfactants, suspended solids and other pollutants listed in Table 5.12.	MRRPC, CG, LG, NPO, WDNR, EPA	Medium Range
g. Encourage and assist actions that mobilize communities, citizen groups, non-profit organizations and/or civic organizations that are interested in helping test, monitor or provide resources to help clean up the region’s 60 plus rivers and streams that are designated as being impaired from pollutants listed in Table 5.12.	MRRPC, CG, LG, NPO, WDNR, EPA	Medium Range
h. Assist communities in flood-prone areas in their efforts to mitigate the effects of disastrous flooding through improvements to water treatment infrastructure.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, EDO, NPO WEDC, WDNR	Ongoing
i. Assist local units of government in updates and/or implementation of their Floodplain, Shoreland, and Wetland ordinances.	MRRPC, LG, WDNR	Ongoing
j. Assist Counties in preparing or updating Land and Water Resource Management Plans (LWRMP). LWRMP Plans summarize counties soil and water resources and identifies conservation programs and actions to protect and enhance the resources.	MRRPC, CG	Ongoing

CHAPTER 6 - REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ROLE	TIMEFRAME
6.10 Promote the Use of Environmentally Contaminated Sites (Wisconsin Smart Growth Goal)		
a. Help communities identify brownfields that are in economically strategic locations.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WNDR, WEDC	Ongoing
b. Assist communities in securing funds for environmental remediation of brownfields and other contaminated sites.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WNDR, WEDC	Ongoing
6.11 Build community Identity by revitalizing main streets and enforcing design standards (Wisconsin Smart Growth Goal)		
a. Assist interested communities in applying for the state's Main Street and Connect Communities programs.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WEDC	Ongoing
b. Encourage downtown businesses to revitalize their façades, making use of revolving loan fund financing for façade improvements where available.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WEDC, EDO, NPO	Ongoing
c. Encourage and support the establishment of farmers markets, festivals, and other public celebrations of local commerce.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, EDO, NPO, WEDC	Medium Range
6.12 Promote the expansion or stabilization of the Region's economic base and job creation (Wisconsin Smart Growth Goal)		
a. Continue to support industry cluster organizations in manufacturing and food processing.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, WEDC, EDO, NPO, HED, WFD, SD	Ongoing
b. Identify other industries that exist in a cluster in the Region, and which could be organized and further developed.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, WEDC, EDO, NPO, HED, WFD	Ongoing
c. Identify industries for which the Region has a location quotient above 1.2, which also tend to pay family-supporting wages, which could be encouraged to grow in the Region through a mixture of incentives and greater awareness.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WEDC, EDO, NPO, WFD, HED	Ongoing
d. Encourage the promotion of tourism opportunities in the Region and work cooperatively with the Wisconsin State Department of Tourism to get the word out.	MRRPC, CG, LG, NPO, EDO, WEDC	Ongoing
6.13 Attract, retain, and nurture the start-up of businesses that strengthen, diversify, and increase opportunities for entrepreneurship and economic growth		
a. Continue to market and administer revolving loan funds to provide gap financing for business start-ups and expansions.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WEDC, WDOA	Ongoing
b. Continue to work with business incubators in the Region to assist small businesses with inexpensive overhead costs, shared resources, mentoring, and other services that are important to the success of inexperienced entrepreneurs.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, WEDC, EDO, NPO, WEDC, WDOA	Ongoing
c. Identify the needs and demands of new-economy businesses and their workers, in order to resolve any mismatches between what industry needs in terms of skills and experience, and what workers need in terms of enlightened working conditions.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, WEDC, EDO, NPO, HED, WFD	Ongoing
6.14 Increase entrepreneurship, business and workforce growth through collaborative networks of innovation.		
a. Continue to support industry cluster organizations in manufacturing and food processing, especially in their relationships with area technical colleges and secondary schools.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, WEDC, EDO, NPO, HED, WFD, SD	Ongoing
b. Identify other industries that exist in a cluster in the Region, which could grow employment in the Region by pooling efforts and cost-sharing.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, WEDC, EDO, NPO, WFD, HED	Ongoing
c. Continue to support Inventor and Entrepreneur Clubs in the Region.	MRRPC, EDO, NPO, WFD, HED	Ongoing

CHAPTER 6 - REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ROLE	TIMEFRAME
6.15 Further develop the Region’s transportation, telecommunication, renewable energy, and public facility infrastructure.		
a. Continue to participate in the Wisconsin Public Service Commission’s broadband access program, LinkWISCONSIN, and participate in any other federal, state, regional, or local efforts to increase access to high-speed internet access throughout the Region.	MRRPC, CG, LG, SD, EDO, NPO	Long Range
b. Expand on the recommendations of the Kickapoo Valley Solid Biofuel and Wood Product Feasibility Study that point to areas in the wood products industry that are ripe for growth, and encourage efforts to produce biofuels for heating in the Region.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, WEDC, EDO, NPO, WFD, HED	Ongoing
c. Work with communities to identify needed infrastructure projects and seek sources of state and federal funding to match local investments.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, WEDC, EDO, NPO, WDOA, WDOT, MPO	Ongoing
d. Encourage development to provide appropriate areas for future transit and transportation facilities.	CG, LG, WDOT, MRRPC, MPO	Ongoing
6.16 Encourage the preservation of the Region’s forested, agricultural and other open lands to maintain the agriculture and tourism based segments of the economy.		
a. Recognize that agriculture is an important element of the Regional economy, and that organic agriculture is a segment that is showing great economic promise for the future; small, independent farms need to be preserved for new farmers to enter the organic market.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, SG, EDO, NPO, WEDC	Ongoing
b. Encourage rural communities to maintain their agricultural character through festivals, celebrations, and other like attractions to help further build the Region’s strong agricultural and tourism economy.	MRRPC, CG, LG, EDO, SG, NPO, WEDC, WDOA, WDT	Ongoing
6.17 Protect natural resources, improve recreation opportunities and mitigate losses from disasters to enhance the Region’s attractiveness and quality of life.		
a. Encourage the preparation of hazard mitigation and interoperability plans to reduce losses from natural and technological disasters.	MRRPC, CG, LG, SG	Ongoing
b. Provide economic development recovery services to communities impacted by natural or human-caused disasters.	MRRPC, SG, CG, LG, FG, WEDC, EDO, NPO	Ongoing
c. Encourage environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable development practices that are mindful of the needs of future generations.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, SG, WEDC, EDO, NPO	Ongoing
6.18 Encourage the distribution and consumption of products created, produced, and manufactured in the Region and their export.		
a. Identify manufacturing sectors with location quotients above 1.2 that could increase their production capacity and sell more products outside the Region.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WEDC, EDO, HED, WFD	Ongoing
b. Assist exporting businesses in the Region with capacity upgrades through state and federal programs as well as revolving loan fund financing.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, SG, WEDC, EDO, HED, WFD	Ongoing
c. Encourage local state and federal governments to make purchases from local businesses when practicable.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, SG, HED, WFD	Ongoing
6.19 Encourage increased local consumption of products made in the Region and further develop the Region’s export economy.		
a. Encourage and establish “buy local” efforts that persuade residents to shop at retailers in their communities.	MRRPC, CG, LG, EDO, WEDC	Medium Range

CHAPTER 6 - REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ROLE	TIMEFRAME
b. Identify products that are likely candidates for import-substitution, so that the Region imports less of what it consumes.	MRRPC, CG, LG, HED, WFD	Medium Range
c. Investigate opportunities for Regional businesses to supply each other more and to turn to suppliers outside the Region less, and developing a collaborative system of transportation for raw materials and deliveries of finished products.	MRRPC, CG, LG, NPO, EDO, HED, WFD	Ongoing
6.20 Encourage cooperative and collaborative economic and workforce development efforts among economic development organizations, other nonprofit groups, private-sector businesses, educational institutions, and the public sector.		
a. Continue to assist in joining municipal- and county-administered CDBG-funded revolving loan funds into a single fund that could make business loans throughout the Region, make more money available to businesses, and eventually be more flexible in lending.	MRRPC, CG, LG, EDO, NPO, WDOA, WEDC	Medium Range
b. Continue to work with business incubators in the Region to assist small businesses with inexpensive overhead costs, shared resources, mentoring, and other services that are important to the success of inexperienced entrepreneurs.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, WEDC, EDO, NPO, SD, HED, WFD	Ongoing
c. Continue to work in collaboration with economic development organizations, local governments, colleges and universities, the Small Business Development Center, industry cluster organizations, and private-sector businesses to improve the economic climate in the Region.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, WEDC, EDO, NPO, WDOA, HED, WFD	Ongoing
6.21 Form economic development partnerships and encourage industry cluster networks as a catalyst for innovation, global competitiveness and regional economic growth.		
a. Provide administrative and planning support for industry cluster groups.	MRRPC, EDO, CG, LG, NPO, WEDC, WFD, HED, WDOA	Ongoing
b. Assist industry cluster groups in strategic planning, member recruitment, and identifying collaborative projects and opportunities for cost-sharing.	MRRPC, EDO, NPO, CG, LG, WEDC, WDOA	Ongoing

CHAPTER 7 - REGIONAL LAND USE GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ROLE	TIMEFRAME
7.10 Encourage and support redevelopment of land with existing infrastructure and public services, and maintenance and rehabilitation of existing residential, commercial and industrial structures. (Wisconsin Smart Growth Goal)		
a. Assist local units of government in identifying redevelopment opportunities and locating funding sources (grants, loan programs, etc.) to aid in implementation of redevelopment projects. Brownfield grants are an example of funding sources that would facilitate redevelopment projects.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Ongoing
b. Work with unzoned towns to encourage the adoption of land use controls, which would allow them to target certain areas for growth, while restricting growth in areas they wish to keep open and undeveloped.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Medium Range
c. Explore tax credits and other incentives for creative reuse of existing buildings.	MRRPC, CG, LG, SG, FG	Ongoing
d. Encourage communities to allow mixed uses in their zoning codes, for example, to allow residential use on the floors above retail uses at the ground level.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Medium Range
7.11 Encourage and support neighborhood designs that support a range of transportation choices. (Wisconsin Smart Growth Goal)		
a. Identify and promote standards for residential developments that incorporated the needs of bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit dependent residents.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Ongoing
b. Encourage communities to consider allowing greater density in their zoning and subdivision ordinances.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Long Range

CHAPTER 7 - REGIONAL LAND USE GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ROLE	TIMEFRAME
c. Encourage communities to include off-road bicycle trails, bicycle lanes, or sharrows as part of road reconstruction plans.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WDOT, WEDC	Medium Range
d. Encourage communities to build bump-outs at crosswalks to enable safer crossing of some busy streets on foot.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WDOT	Medium Range
e. Continue to assist local governments seeking funding and implementation assistance for infrastructure projects that include walking, bicycling, and handicap-accessible facilities.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WDOT	Ongoing
7.12 Encourage and support protection of natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces and groundwater resources (Wisconsin Smart Growth Goal)		
a. Assist local units of government in updates and/or implementation Floodplain, Shoreland and Wetland ordinances. The State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources delegates enforcement of Floodplain, Shoreland and Wetland ordinances to local units of government.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WDNR	Ongoing
b. Assist Counties in preparing or updating Land and Water Resource Management Plans (LWRMP). LWRMP Plans summarize counties soil and water resources and identifies conservation programs and actions to protect and enhance the resources. The plans are guides for the counties Land Conservation Departments in efforts to assist county landowners and policy makers in protecting and improving land and water resources in the counties.	MRRPC, CG	Ongoing
c. Continue to inform landowners and elected officials on the importance of forested lands in the region. Forested lands provide habitat for birds, animals, plants and flowers, all of which are vital to recreation and tourism opportunities.	MRRPC	Ongoing
d. Identify conservancy organizations and make information available to landowners in the region regarding land preservation options available through land conservancy organizations.	MRRPC, NPO	Short Range
e. Assist local units of government in evaluating the impacts of frac sand mining on their communities and developing standards and/or ordinances to manage frac sand mining uses.	MRRPC, CG, LG, WDOT, WDNR	Immediate
7.13 Encourage and support protection of economically productive areas, including farmland and forests (Wisconsin Smart Growth Goal)		
a. Provide assistance to counties with Farmland Preservation Plan updates as required by the State of Wisconsin's Working Lands Initiative. Plans will designate areas preserved for productive agriculture and provide tax credits for landowners involved in agricultural production.	MRRPC, CG	Ongoing
b. Provide information on Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs to local units of government. Such programs assist with farmland and woodland preservation and direct higher density development to suitable areas.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Short Range
c. Promote siting requirements for non-farm uses that steer development to the least productive soils and to the edges of agricultural fields or large wooded areas.	CG, LG, DEV	Ongoing
d. Encourage and support local government control and land use decision making at the local government level.	CG, LG	Ongoing
7.14 Encourage and support land uses, densities, and regulations that promote efficient development patterns and low costs (Wisconsin Smart Growth Goal)		
a. Assist local units of government with developing and/or updating zoning ordinances that will manage land uses and densities.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Ongoing
b. Promote comprehensive zoning to local units of government as an effective land use tool in managing uses, densities, and development patterns.	MRRPC	Ongoing

CHAPTER 7 - REGIONAL LAND USE GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ROLE	TIMEFRAME
<p>c. Promote cluster development/conservation subdivisions in the region. A cluster/conservation subdivision can be described as a development with common open space and compact clustered lots. A purpose of cluster/conservation subdivisions is to preserve agricultural land/open space/natural resources while allowing for residential development. Cluster/conservation subdivisions, when proposed/developed in the region will minimize future maintenance and service costs for local units of government.</p>	CG, LG	Ongoing
<p>d. Explore possibilities for establishing “receiving zones” for development rights that are transferred from “sending zones.” Receiving zones can be assigned in areas where more and denser development is welcome, such as downtown, while the sending zones would be areas the community wants to keep undeveloped or less dense, such as agricultural or forested lands.</p>	MRRPC, CG, LG	Long Range
<p>e. Encourage communities to update zoning and subdivision regulations to allow for smaller lot sizes, which lead to smaller blocks, and thus contribute to a better environment for walking and bicycling, and encourage more density that can better support public transportation.</p>	MRRPC, CG, LG	Long Range
<p>7.15 Encourage and support the provision of infrastructure, services and developable land adequate to meet market demand for residential, commercial and industrial uses (Wisconsin Smart Growth Goal)</p>		
<p>a. Assist local units of government with grant applications for Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA), Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Rural Development Grants, etc, that will support infrastructure development in the Region.</p>	MRRPC, CG, LG	Ongoing
<p>b. Promote the state’s Locate in Wisconsin online database, and encourage property sellers to list their available commercial and industrial sites there.</p>	MRRPC, CG, LG, WEDC, EDO, NPO	Short Range
<p>c. Assist communities in identifying brownfields that would be attractive for development once remediated, and in securing assistance in brownfield remediation.</p>	MRRPC, CG, LG, WEDC	Ongoing
<p>d. Continue to seek opportunities to strengthen the economic position of existing business parks and incubators, as well as opportunities to establish new ones, as demand might dictate.</p>	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG, WEDC, EDO, NPO	Ongoing
<p>7.16 Balance individual property rights with community interests and goals (Wisconsin Smart Growth Goal)</p>		
<p>a. Provide the opportunity for public input and discussion throughout the planning process and future plan updates.</p>	MRRPC, CG, LG	Ongoing
<p>b. Promote policies and land use implementation tools that are equitable and balance individual property rights with community interests.</p>	MRRPC, CG, LG	Ongoing
<p>c. Provide factual information to local units of government and residents on Wisconsin Planning and Zoning laws. This information will assist in explaining the public input/hearing requirements and help alleviate concerns and misconceptions about planning and zoning laws in Wisconsin.</p>	MRRPC	Ongoing
<p>7.17 Plan and develop land uses that create or preserve unique urban and rural communities (Wisconsin Smart Growth Goal)</p>		
<p>a. It is recommended that the local units of government in the Region consider implementing “Coulee Visions” planning principles when considering approval of new developments. Coulee Visions was developed in La Crosse County as a guide that illustrates land use and transportation planning alternatives for local units of government when preparing comprehensive plans. Coulee Visions focuses on revitalizing core areas, encourages redevelopment and discourages “sprawl” type development, reduces vehicular travel demand, preserves existing infrastructure, and enhances bicycle and pedestrian systems.</p>	CG, LG	Ongoing
<p>b. Promote site and building design guidelines that reinforce the Region’s rural character for new developments.</p>	CG, LG	Ongoing

CHAPTER 7 - REGIONAL LAND USE GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ROLE	TIMEFRAME
c. Examine zoning ordinances for necessary updates regarding mixed use in urban areas and minimum lot sizes in rural areas.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Medium Range
d. Encourage individual communities to establish and maintain park or other public recreational areas.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Long Range

CHAPTER 8 - REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	ROLE	TIMEFRAME
8.10 Encouragement of cooperation and coordination among nearby units of government (Wisconsin Smart Growth Goal)		
a. Explore collaboration between governmental units to provide services based on service area versus traditional political boundaries.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Long Range
b. Facilitate the development of a standardized classification system within the Region for land use mapping.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Long Range
c. Support efforts involving comprehensive planning and zoning so all local governments can utilize these land management tools.	MRRPC, CG, LG	Ongoing
d. Promote cooperation among local units of government in the location, service area, and installation of public water, sewer, and stormwater systems within the Region.	LG, CG	Ongoing
e. Continue to provide leadership and impartial guidance to communities dealing with planning issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries.	MRRPC, CG	Ongoing
f. Serve in groups that improve communication and collaboration opportunities between agencies of local, state, and federal governments.	MRRPC, CG, LG, FG	Ongoing
8.11 Foster communication and cooperate relationships between local units of governments, state and federal agencies to provide efficient, coordinated, programs and services to the Region's residents.		
a. Serve as a resource to aid local units of government in understanding state and federal programs and establishing appropriate contacts facilitating the most efficient use of services/programs.	MRRPC, FG, SG, WDNR, WDOT	Ongoing
b. Continue to provide census data and analysis on a regional, county, town, city and village level to local governments making informed decisions.	MRRPC	Ongoing
c. Explore partnerships with organizations/agencies that promote/support like goals for the Region. An example is the partnership agreement the MRRPC has with the Mississippi River Parkway Commission.	MRRPC, EDO, NPO, etc.	Ongoing
d. Support maintaining a high level of service and quality of life for the Region's residents and enable residents to understand and easily navigate through government services available.	WEDC, WDNR, WDOT, CG, LG, MRRPC	Ongoing

Role: DATCP = Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection, DEV = Developers, EDO = Economic Development Organization, HED = Higher Education Institutions, EUP = Electric Utility Provider, FI = Financial Institutions, FG = Federal Government, HA = Housing Authorities, HC = Health Care Organizations, SG = State Government, CG = County Government, LG = Local Government, MPO = Metropolitan Planning Organization NPO = Non Profit Organizations, SD = School District, TCP = Telecommunication Providers, WFD = Workforce Development Organizations, WDOA = Wisconsin Department of Administration, WDNR = Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, WDOT = Wisconsin Department of Transportation, WDT = Wisconsin Department of Tourism WEDC = Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

Timeframe: Ongoing, Immediate, Short Range, Medium Range, Long Range