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**A Regional Center of Excellence honoree (National Association of Regional Councils, 2009)**

***E-Newsletter***

***December 2011***



**Year End Review and a Look Forward**

As the holidays quickly approach, the Commission is wrapping up another busy year. With the changing economy, we have noticed our projects have become increasingly varied during this past year. As a result, these projects have afforded us the opportunity to work with public and private entities that have not been our traditional partners. 2012 will mark the Commission's 39th year in existence and new collaborations will most likely continue. As financial challenges continue into 2012, the ability to coordinate efforts will be instrumental in accomplishing the many tasks ahead of us. The Commission has been and will continue to be a valuable planning resource for local units of government, counties, and state and federal departments, and we look forward to working with each in the near future.

**On half of the staff and Commissioners, I wish you all a safe and wonderful holiday season and a prosperous 2012.**

Happy Holidays,

Executive Director

An Economic Development District & Metropolitan Planning Organization serving Northeast Wisconsin for nearly 40 years.

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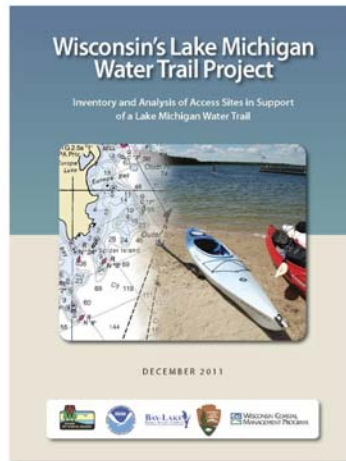
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441 S. Jackson St. Green Bay, WI 54301

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

## Lake Michigan Water Trail Final Report and Maps

The Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, [WDNR](#), [WCMP](#), and the [National Park Service](#) have completed development of the 450-mile Lake Michigan Water Trail inventory that covers the diverse Lake Michigan shoreline in Wisconsin from the Michigan border in Marinette to the Illinois border south of Kenosha. The [final report](#) and maps are available on the [Bay-Lake RPC](#) and [WDNR](#) websites.



The development of a Lake Michigan Water Trail is primarily oriented around increasing and improving public access to the shoreline and waters of Lake Michigan. This collaborative process surveyed over 360 sites in 11 Wisconsin counties for potential nonmotorized water access that could be branded as the Lake Michigan Water Trail.

During the planning process, a series of stakeholder and public meetings were held to review the sites. Both amenity and distance criteria were used to identify zones for improved access. From this analysis, 20 "Enhancement Zones" were identified for site improvements or a public access point. With nearly 2 million residents, over one-third of Wisconsin's population, living within a 30-minute drive to the Lake Michigan shoreline, this trail will have positive impacts for public recreation, public health, environmental stewardship, and economic development.

Phase 2 of the Wisconsin Lake Michigan Water Trail project, the Implementation/Marketing Phase, will get underway in spring 2012. Efforts will focus on developing a branding strategy that local communities and private affiliates can embrace as a Lake Michigan Water Trail Network, developing a website and guides, and gaining National Recreation Trail recognition.

You may contact [Angela Pierce](#) at the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission if you have any questions about the Lake Michigan Water Trail Plan.

## 2012 Wisconsin Land Information Association Annual Conference

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Jan. 24, 2012**  
Lake Michigan Stakeholders Panel Discussion on Future GLRI Funding Opportunities

**Jan. 30, 2012**  
Wisconsin Great Lakes Area of Concern Land Acquisition Grants

**Feb. 12, 2012**  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Five-Star Restoration Matching Grant Program

### STAFF CONTACTS

**Richard Heath**  
Executive Director

**Jeff Agee-Aquayo**  
Transportation Planner III

**Richard Malone**  
Office Accounts Coordinator

**Angela Pierce**  
Natural Resources Planner III

**Brandon Robinson**  
Community Assistance Planner III

**Joshua Schedler**  
GIS Coordinator



The annual Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) conference is rapidly approaching. Founded in 1987, WLIA is a grassroots organization representing a collaboration of GIS and land information professionals working to develop, maintain, and apply a network of statewide land

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information systems. They are united by an interest in land records modernization, GIS, and related technologies, and by the need for government policies and programs that support their efficient and effective application.

WLIA will be holding its 2012 Annual Conference on February 15-17, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point.

The conference is currently in its development stage and presentations are being sought. If you or someone in your community or organization is working on an outstanding or unique GIS project, and would like to give back to the land information community, please consider being a presenter.

For more information and further updates please visit the [WLIA website](#).

Please contact [Joshua Schedler](#) at the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission if you have any questions about the Commission's membership in WLIA, or any GIS and mapping questions.

## Sheboygan MPO: Upcoming Activities in 2012

The [Sheboygan MPO program](#) has several activities planned for 2012, including the following:

- Preparation of the *2013 Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Planning Work Program*;
- Preparation of the next generation of the SATP due in April 2015, including development, quantification and evaluation of three future land use scenarios in the plan horizon year of 2045;
- Update of the *Sheboygan MPO Public Participation Plan*;
- Working with the MPO advisory committees to develop an adjusted urbanized area boundary and a revised metropolitan planning area boundary;
- Working with the MPO advisory committees to update the functional classification of streets and highways in the Sheboygan Urbanized Area;

- Assistance to Shoreline Metro with implementation of the Sheboygan TDP;
- Completion of special studies for Shoreline Metro, as requested by the Director of the Sheboygan Parking and Transit Utility;
- Preparation and adoption of the 2013 - 2016 TIP (including a new air quality conformity analysis); and
- Possible processing of amendments to the current TIP (if necessary) during the first nine months of 2012.

Please contact [Jeff Agee-Aguayo](#) at the Commission office if you have questions regarding Sheboygan MPO activities.



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Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission | 441 South Jackson Street | Green Bay | WI | 54301