

Northwoods Rail Transit Commission Update

April 2013

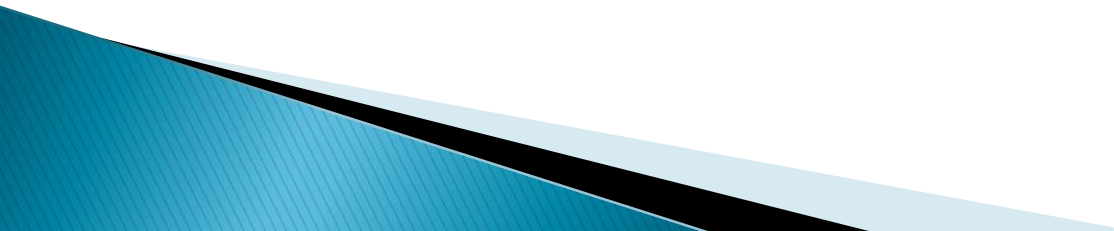
FCEDC Director – Wendy Gehlhoff

NRTC History

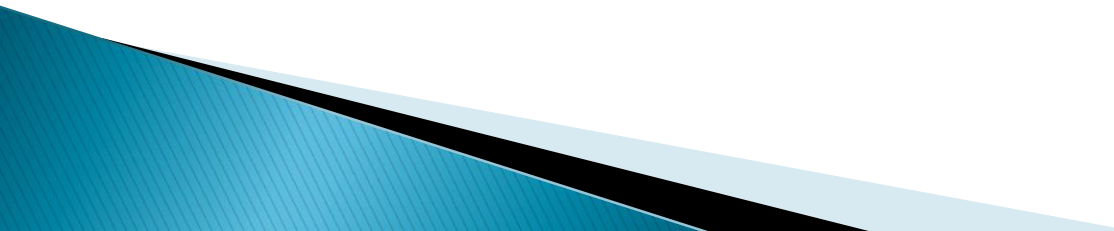
- ▶ **Official WI-DOT Rail Transit Commission status May 2012 (largest in the state)**
 - ▶ **Includes 10 Wisconsin County members**
 - ▶ **Interstate Agreement for Michigan member Counties has been drafted**
 - ▶ **Each County has 2 voting members**
 - ▶ **Business, Association and Tribal member option being explored**
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NRTC Mission Statement


To sustain and enhance safe, reliable and efficient rail service critical to the businesses, communities and economies in northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan



Rail Transit Commissions can:

- ▶ **Be just advisory or rehab rail lines**
 - ▶ **Sign contracts, own rail lines, land or improvements such as bridges**
 - ▶ **Accept WI-DOT grants and provide match monies for rail rehab projects**
 - ▶ **Can't tax, monies come from members**
 - ▶ **Can protest rail abandonment w/ STB**
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NRTC Next Steps

- ▶ **Finalize interstate agreement and invite Michigan Counties to join NRTC**
 - ▶ **Map historic rail sidings and yards**
 - ▶ **ID current/potential shippers not surveyed and do face to face survey**
 - ▶ **Map large Pulp & Paper and Sawmills with incoming rail in larger region**
 - ▶ **ID logistics for most efficient log delivery**
 - ▶ **Continue promoting economic value of restoring/ improving northern rail service**
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Final Items

- ▶ **If your business did not receive or return your rail survey by the deadline, let me know – we'd like your input**
- ▶ **NRTC Meetings are open to the public**
- ▶ **Next meeting: 4/26/13 at 10 a.m. in Rhineland**
- ▶ **To be added to email list for meeting agenda/minutes give me business card or email wgehlhoff@co.florence.wi.us**