



Ken Harwood

Advocating for Wisconsin
Albany / Madison WI

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EXPERIENCE

2023 to Present – Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission

La Crosse, WI

Transportation Planner / Marketing / Economic Development

Working with a Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC.COM), I develop planning and other documents for a nine county region in Western Wisconsin. I also communicate regularly with our Board /Commission, the State DOT, and other interested parties on our current projects and efforts. I sit on a number of boards and government entities in the region to assist in their planning efforts, interactions with State and Federal government, and funding opportunities. I work directly with the communities and counties in the region to not only develop their numerous comprehensive plans but use these plans to work with developers, construction firms, and other entities to actually build better roads, businesses, and communities.

2006 to Present – WisconsinDevelopment.com

Madison, WI

Editor / Founder / Publisher

Publish and Edit [Wisconsin Development News](http://WisconsinDevelopmentNews.com) (Development newsletter / web circulation approximately 10,000)

In 2012 I added [WDNGreen](http://WDNGreen.com) a website and newsletter promoting environmental issues in the state

In 2014 additional newsletters / websites – MadisonNotes.com WisconsinApprentice.com DriftlessNotes.com

[Editorial, Op-Ed's and Feature](#) for Capital Business Journal, Business Watch Magazine, and several others

Public Speaking on Regional / Wisconsin Development and Economic Issues

I advocate for business, education, community, the environment, and Wisconsin

2011 – 2014 Lafayette Development Corporation

Executive Director

Executive Director of the Lafayette Development Corporation (Lafayette is a county in southwest Wisconsin) responsible for all economic development issues, reporting and advocacy for the county

2006 – 2010 City of Verona (two terms)

Verona, WI

Verona City Council Representative

Working on behalf of the community to promote sound planning and conservative fiscal policy

Also served on Madison Area Transportation Planning Board (A federally designated MPO)

2005 – 2007 Park Towne Development Corporation

Madison, WI

Sales / Marketing / Government Relations

Actively marketed a 650 acre mixed use development in the Madison area

2002 – 2003 State of Wisconsin (Office of the Governor)

Madison, WI

Wisconsin Local Government Liaison / Policy Adviser to Governor

- Seek input from local leaders, advised Governor
- Staffed the Task Force on State and Local Government
- Spoke to public and press representing the Governor's position on local issues
- Wrote Speeches and Talking Points on Local Government Issues

1998 – 2002 City of Neenah Wisconsin

Neenah, WI

Neenah Mayor (full time)

- Chief Executive for City responsible for 12 departments, a 30 million dollar budget and administration
- Supervised the development and construction of all major public projects in the City including a new library, a major overpass and economic development of more than 200 million dollars
- Developed and submitted all operations budgets and five-year capital plans for the City

1991 – 1998 Neenah School District

Neenah, WI

Neenah School Board Member (part time)

- Elected official responsible for oversight of administration, curriculum, budget, and contracts
- Oversaw the development and construction of several projects in the district including renovation of 10 elementary schools and a 10 million dollar renovation of the high school
- Served on committees to hire new superintendent and other administrative staff

1997 – 1998 National Association of Tax Professionals (NATP)

Appleton, WI

Director of Communication and Professional Services

- Responsible for staff of 20+, budget and creating new direction for association
- Managed NATP's Washington lobbyist and lobbied IRS on behalf of the organization
- Managed publication of newsletters, journals, magazine and web site for members and public
- My department presented 200+ educational programs nationally and internationally each year

1986–1997 Micro Computer Instructional Series / Services

Neenah, WI

Self-Employed Consultant, Corporate Trainer, Lecturer

- Worked with management to develop long-range corporate strategies for information services
- Counseled more than 300 companies, trained 5,000+ employees
- Administered projects in all areas office automation
- Worked with Fox Valley Technical College to develop and teach a personal computer training program
- The Micro Computer Instructional Series was recognized regionally by major companies and employers
- Spoke frequently at national conferences and events on emerging technologies

1982–1986 Kimberly-Clark Corporation

Neenah, WI

Systems Analyst and Personal Computer Consultant

- Created the personal computing centers in Neenah, Wisconsin and Atlanta, Georgia
- Trained 3,000 employees including current and past two CEOs
- Developed and managed policy and strategy for all office automation
- Worked on projects in all sectors of the company and consulted in every North American KC facility

QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

A highly creative, goal-oriented professional with solid leadership, technical and management experience. Demonstrated experience in written and verbal communication, project management, public relations, personnel issues, and budgeting. Highly organized with the ability to manage multiple projects and meet deadlines. A strong work ethic combined with a commitment to excellence in all projects undertaken. A team player, working effectively with department heads, press, public, and elected officials in accomplishing short and long term objectives. Exemplary communication and presentation skills. Extremely computer literate (including database application, media presentation and website development).

EDUCATION

Arkansas State University

State University, AR

B.S.E. Communication and Education

4 Year Debate and Forensics Scholarship (Nationally Ranked)

University Awards - Best Debater, Best Extemporaneous Speaker, and Best Persuasive Speaker

BSE Degree in Education. Communication, and Theatre Arts

Waupaca High School

Waupaca, WI

OTHER EXPERIENCE AND INTERESTS

Public school teacher for two years

Wisconsin Technical College Adult Technical / Management Instruction 15 Years

First Executive Director Fox Cities Children's Museum

Extensive Local, State and National Campaign Experience

Strategic Planning for Both Business and Public Sector

Speech Writing

Corporate Communication Design and Implementation

Database Development and Marketing

Served on the Wisconsin Association of School Boards Policy Advisory Committee

Volunteer work with schools, civic organizations, cognitively challenged and community groups

I have delivered hundreds of speeches, classes, lectures, and special programs in the lecture hall, meeting room, classroom, boardroom and conference center nationwide

Taught in Management Program For Fox Valley Technical College

Over the years, I have been a member of various boards, commissions and committees at all levels of government, civic, church and social organizations

I also enjoy theater, juggling, sailing, biking, motorcycle touring and am quite possibly the world's worst golfer