

## Wisconsin Rural Partners, Inc.

Wisconsin Rural Partners, Inc. (WRP) is a statewide, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to build networks, promote leadership and create a voice for rural Wisconsin. Each of the activities undertaken by WRP supports one of these three mission areas. Since 1992, WRP's work has directly benefited Wisconsin's rural communities and assisted rural community leaders.

WRP has become recognized by private enterprise, civic, and government organizations as a "go-to" organization for building connections with those who are both knowledgeable and passionate about the issues impacting rural communities and eager to create positive change.

Our organization develops strategic alliances with other groups who support rural Wisconsin. These working partnerships are non-political, and do not involve supporting legislation or any candidate for office. Strategic Alliances are simply the best and most efficient way to get work done.

Fortunately, WRP has been successful in drawing the attention of community leaders to a variety of important issues. Also, WRP's success has resulted in new opportunities to expand on the work it has initiated. WRP has worked diligently, and with fiscal prudence, to continue its important work for the benefit of a stronger rural Wisconsin.

Through an agreement between then Governor Tommy Thompson and the US Secretary of Agriculture, WRP functions as Wisconsin's federally recognized State Rural Development Council. SRDCs receive no government funding but are recognized in the farm bill as having the task of 1) Facilitating collaboration among federal, state local and tribal governments, 2) Monitoring and reporting on programs and policies that address the needs of rural areas of the state, 3) Facilitating the development of strategies to reduce or eliminate duplicative administrative or regulatory requirements.

Since 1992, Wisconsin Rural Partners has planned and implemented a wide variety of educational conferences, forums and summits on community development topics. WRP has part-time, unpaid executive director at its office near Hollandale, in rural Iowa County. A volunteer board conducts much of WRP's work.

Wisconsin Rural Partners Board of Directors, 2016/2017:

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Wisconsin Rural Partners, Inc, 7087 State Road 39, Hollandale, WI 53544 [rickyr@mhtc.net](mailto:rickyr@mhtc.net) [www.wirural.org](http://www.wirural.org)