

## **MICHAEL J. KOLES**

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### **EDUCATION**

M.S. Urban & Regional Planning  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dept. of Urban & Regional Planning, May, 1998

B.A. Political Science, Minor: Environmental Studies  
Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, Dept. of Social Science, May, 1996

Certified Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Instructor  
Business Retention and Expansion Certificate, University of Minnesota  
Certified NxLevel Entrepreneurial Business Instructor

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **Executive Director, Wisconsin Towns Association (2014 - present)**

- Lead a team of attorneys, lobbyists, and educators to provide legal information, legislative advocacy, and education to empower nearly 10,000 town officials to unlock the potential of democracy
- Conduct legislative advocacy on behalf of town government with a focus on transportation, emergency services, housing, economic development, and land use
- Provide transportation finance, construction, and maintenance guidance for 61,295 miles of town roads (60% of local roads in Wisconsin)
- Collaborated with transportation partners and state elected-appointed officials to help create the:
  - Wisconsin Local Road Improvement Program-Supplemental  
\$100 million in grant funding per Wisconsin biennial budget for reconstruction of seriously deteriorating county, city, village, and town roads
  - Wisconsin Agricultural Road Improvement Program  
\$150 million in grant funding to increase agricultural supply chain efficiency by enhancing rural roads to a standard that can carry contemporary agricultural equipment without the hurdle of weight limitations

- Wisconsin Culvert Inventory and Assessment Program  
\$12.5 million to inventory, inspect, and load rate an estimated 25,000 culverts between 6 and 20 feet in span
- Surface Transportation Program – Local  
This program leverages the ability of states under BIL to grant up to 15% of the funds allocated to the federal STP-Rural and STP-Urban programs in population areas under 50,000 to be used on infrastructure projects on roads functionally classified as local or minor collector. \$36 million has been awarded to 57 projects to date. There have been 1,069 applications totaling \$856 million in requested funding.
- Partnering with WisDOT and Wisconsin county highway officials to reform the Wisconsin Local Road Improvement Program to produce an asset based management system for town roads
- Partnered with the Wisconsin Wetlands Association and state elected-appointed officials to fund a \$2 million floodplain risk assessment pilot to determine effective hard and soft methodologies to mitigate infrastructure, safety, and environmental risks caused by changing precipitation patterns

**President, National Association of Towns and Townships (2020 - 2022)**

- Provided leadership for a coalition of states representing over 10,000 local governments
- Collaborated with member states and federal legislators to:
  - Create a discretionary funding mechanism within the Surface Transportation Program to set aside funding for roads functionally classified as local and minor collector
  - Renew and make permanent the Volunteer Responders Incentive Protection Act (VRIPA)
  - Decrease bureaucratic challenges associated with the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP)

**Professor of Community Development; UW-Extension (Waupaca County) (2003 - 2014)**

- Develop and implement various leadership and personnel development training programs for the public and private sector
- Led development of multiple strategic and capital improvement plans that increased government efficiency and business profitability
- Partnered to procure multiple grants to start and co-lead both the Hometown Program and Waupaca County Tourism Consortium, which sparked numerous economic and community development efforts

- Provided educational and process leadership to empower 33 municipalities and the county to develop their first ever comprehensive plans, which prompted receipt of the Best Plan of the Year Award from the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association
- Pioneered and co-coordinated logistics for three, six-day land use study tours on the U.S. east coast that assisted in creation of the state's purchase of development rights program and prompted the development of the Waupaca County Working Farm and Forest Land Program resulting in 4,000+ acres preserved for ag development in perpetuity
- Led development of the Waupaca Chain O'Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Education Plan, a first of its kind in Wisconsin that proved the model for similar programs throughout Wisconsin

**Associate Professor of Community Development; UW-Extension (Winnebago County) (1998 - 2003)**

- Facilitated multiple strategic planning efforts, including one resulting in development and construction of the Fox Valley Child Advocacy Center and another in restoration of the largest prairie pothole lake east of the Mississippi
- Formed and collaborated with a team of public and private sector stakeholders to develop Winnebago County's first ever construction site erosion control & stormwater management ordinance consistent with federal law

**Research Assistant; Energy Center of Wisconsin/UW-Madison (1996 – 1998)**

- Researched and assisted in development of a systems-based computer model to guide Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) policy making

**COMMUNITY AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

- Director, Premier Community Bank (2018 – present)
- Treasurer, Glacial Woods Gobblers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (founding member) (2004 – present)
- Stevens Point Youth Softball Coach (2023)
- Plover Youth Softball Coach (2018-2022)
- Director, Living Oaks Nursing Home Board (2013 – 2019) (term limited)
- Iola-Scandinavia School Board (2013 - 2019) (Clerk 2013-2017, VP 2018, President 2019)
- Waupaca Youth Baseball Coach (2012 - 2014)
- Iola-Scandinavia Youth Baseball Coach (2007 – 2016)
- UW-Extension Department of Community Development Lead Mentor (2003 – 2014)
- UW-Extension Department of Community Development Standards, Rank, and Promotion Committee (2004 – 2010, 2013 - 2014) (Chair, 2006 and 2007)
- Treasurer, Epsilon Sigma Phi (2004 - 2008)
- UW-Extension Land Use Team Co-Chair (2003 – 2008)
- UW-Extension Stormwater Team Co-Chair (2003 – 2004)
- Village of North Fond du Lac Trustee (2002-2003)
- Village of North Fond du Lac Plan Commissioner (2000-2003)