

## 7.0 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION



### 7.1 CHAPTER SUMMARY

Many cities, towns, villages, and counties begin cooperative arrangements to lower costs and promote efficiency. Intergovernmental cooperation is an effective way for local governments to respond to changing and diverse needs by working with neighbors, while maintaining their own identity. Most arrangements involve only two governmental units, but there are also agreements among multiple units.

Intergovernmental cooperation may range from formal joint power agreements to unwritten understandings. For instance, two communities may have an unwritten agreement about sharing fire or EMT services, road repair equipment, or a cluster of cities and towns may have a written agreement concerning snow removal or economic development. If an agreement is reached among two or more units of government, services can often be provided with substantial cost savings. Cooperation can also help eliminate unnecessary duplication of services or equipment purchases.

Intergovernmental cooperation opportunities are endless. This section examines what intergovernmental cooperation Grant County jurisdictions are engaged in today and what they may consider in the future.

#### Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(g)

##### **(g) Intergovernmental cooperation element.**

A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs for joint planning and decision making with other jurisdictions, including school districts and adjacent local governmental units, for siting and building public facilities and sharing public services. The element shall analyze the relationship of the local governmental unit to school districts and adjacent local governmental units, and to the region, the state and other governmental units. The element shall incorporate any plans or agreements to which the local governmental unit is a party under [s. 66.0301](#), [66.0307](#) or [66.0309](#). The element shall identify existing or potential conflicts between the local governmental unit and other governmental units that are specified in this paragraph and describe processes to resolve such conflicts.

### 7.2 GOALS

The following is the Intergovernmental Cooperation Goal, one of the fourteen Smart Growth Planning Goals required by the planning grant contract.

1. Encourage coordination and cooperation among nearby units of government.

**7.3 OBJECTIVES AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following are the Intergovernmental Cooperation objectives and policy recommendations (in order of frequency) that support the above goal and will guide intergovernmental cooperation decisions in the Grant County over the next 20 years.

***PARTICIPATING TOWN POLICIES (FREQUENCY)***

Table 7.1a Intergovernmental Cooperation Policies by Jurisdiction

<b>Work with other units of government and agencies (including state and federal, the regional planning commission, school districts, etc.) to identify and coordinate policies and initiatives.</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Bloomington</li> <li>• Town of Clifton</li> <li>• Town of Ellenboro</li> <li>• Town of Hazel Green</li> <li>• Town of Hickory Grove</li> <li>• Town of Jamestown</li> <li>• Town of Liberty</li> <li>• Town of Lima</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Little Grant</li> <li>• Town of North Lancaster</li> <li>• Town of Smelser</li> <li>• Town of South Lancaster</li> <li>• Town of Watterstown</li> <li>• Town of Woodman</li> <li>• Town of Wyalusing</li> </ul>

Table 7.1b Intergovernmental Cooperation Policies by Jurisdiction

<b>Explore new opportunities to cooperate with other local units of government to utilize shared public services staff, or equipment where appropriate.</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Bloomington</li> <li>• Town of Clifton</li> <li>• Town of Ellenboro</li> <li>• Town of Harrison</li> <li>• Town of Hickory Grove</li> <li>• Town of Jamestown</li> <li>• Town of Liberty</li> <li>• Town of Lima</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Little Grant</li> <li>• Town of Mount Hope</li> <li>• Town of North Lancaster</li> <li>• Town of Potosi</li> <li>• Town of South Lancaster</li> <li>• Town of Wingville</li> <li>• Town of Wyalusing</li> </ul>

Table 7.1c Intergovernmental Cooperation Policies by Jurisdiction

<b>Create written intergovernmental contracts or agreements with other units of governments when appropriate.</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Ellenboro</li> <li>• Town of Harrison</li> <li>• Town of Hickory Grove</li> <li>• Town of Jamestown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Lima</li> <li>• Town of Smelser</li> <li>• Town of South Lancaster</li> </ul>

Table 7.1d Intergovernmental Cooperation Policies by Jurisdiction

<b>Continue to cooperate with other units of government to share public services, staff, or equipment where and when appropriate.</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Cassville</li> </ul>	

Table 7.1e Intergovernmental Cooperation Policies by Jurisdiction

<b>Maintain existing cooperative arrangements, and begin to explore new opportunities to cooperate with other units of government to share public services, staff, or equipment where and when appropriate.</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Waterloo</li> </ul>	

*NOTE: The Towns of Beetown, Boscobel, Castle Rock, Fennimore, Glen Haven, Marion, Millville, Mount Ida, Muscoda, Paris, Patch Grove, and Platteville did not participate in the Grant County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning project. However, their data is included in information collected for the County as a whole. City and village data is not included, as the County does not have jurisdiction in these communities.*

**7.4 EXISTING AND POTENTIAL AREAS OF COOPERATION**

**7.4.1 EXISTING AREAS OF COOPERATION**

For an inventory of existing areas of cooperation between jurisdictions, go to each participating town’s Chapter 7, Intergovernmental Cooperation.

**7.4.2 POTENTIAL AREAS OF COOPERATION**

For an inventory of potential areas of cooperation between jurisdictions, go to each participating town’s Chapter 7, Intergovernmental Cooperation.

**7.5 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS**

**7.5.1 EXISTING AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS AND SOLUTIONS**

Unfortunately, sometimes conflicts are unavoidable but with communication and cooperation, jurisdictions can work through conflicts. For an inventory of existing and/or potential conflicts (and solutions) between jurisdictions, go to each participating town’s Chapter 7, Intergovernmental Cooperation. For an estimation of the quality of relationship town’s share with their neighbors, go to each participating jurisdiction’s Chapter 7, Intergovernmental Cooperation.

**7.6 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS**

AGENCY NAME	AGENCY DESCRIPTION	CONTACT INFORMATION
Wisconsin Towns Association	Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) is a non-profit, non-partisan statewide organization created under s. 60.23(14) of the Wisconsin Statutes to protect the interests of the state's 1,264 towns and to improve town government. In 2002 WTA celebrated it's 55th year of service to town governments and the state's 1.6 million town residents. The association is organized into six districts and is headquartered in Shawano. WTA relies on regular district meetings, an annual statewide convention, publications, participation in cooperative training programs and other means to support the goal of keeping grassroots government strong and efficient in Wisconsin.	Wisconsin Towns Association W7686 County Road MMM Shawano, WI 54166-6086  Phone: 715-526-3157 Fax: 715-524-3917 <a href="http://www.wisctowns.com/">http://www.wisctowns.com/</a>
League of Wisconsin Municipalities	The League of Wisconsin Municipalities is a not-for-profit association of municipalities. First established in 1898, the League acts as an information clearinghouse, lobbying organization and legal resource for Wisconsin municipalities. Its membership consists of 386 villages and all of the 190 cities in the state.	League of Wisconsin Municipalities 202 State Street, Suite 300 Madison, WI 53703-2215  Phone: 608-267-2380 <a href="http://www.lwm-info.org/">http://www.lwm-info.org/</a>
Intergovernmental Relations – WI Dept of Administration	The Wisconsin Land Council was created to gather and analyze land use and planning related information, coordinate high priority state initiatives including the development of a Wisconsin land information system and provide recommendations to the Governor for improvements to the existing statewide planning framework. The Council is dedicated to identifying ways to enhance and facilitate planning efforts of Wisconsin’s local governments and to improve the coordination and cooperation of state agencies in their land use activities.	Intergovernmental Relations – WI DOA 101 E. Wilson St. Madison, WI 53702  <a href="http://www.doa.state.wi.us/dhir/">http://www.doa.state.wi.us/dhir/</a>
Wisconsin Counties Association	WCA is an association of county governments assembled for the purpose of serving and representing counties. The direction of this organization is one that is determined by the membership and the WCA Board of Directors consistent with the parameters set forth by the WCA Constitution. The organization’s strength remains with the dedicated county-elected official.	Wisconsin Counties Association 22 E. Mifflin St., Suite 900 Madison, WI 53703  Phone: 608-663-7188 Fax: 608-663-7189 <a href="http://www.wicounties.org/">http://www.wicounties.org/</a>
AGENCY NAME	AGENCY DESCRIPTION	CONTACT INFORMATION
Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission	<p>The SWWRPC is the area-wide planning and development agency serving the five counties of Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland. It was created in 1970, formed by executive order of the governor. Wisconsin statutes specify that regional planning commissions are to provide intergovernmental planning and coordination for the physical, social, and economic development of the region. Under Wisconsin law, RPC's have the following functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They may conduct all types of research studies; collect and analyze data; prepare maps, charts and tables, and conduct necessary studies.</li> <li>• They may make and adopt plans for the physical, social, and economic development of the region.</li> <li>• They may publish and advertise their purposes, objectives, and findings, and may distribute reports thereon.</li> <li>• They may provide advisory services on planning problems to the local governmental units within the region and to other public and private agencies in matters relative to its functions and objectives.</li> </ul>	SWWRPC 719 Pioneer Tower One University Plaza Platteville, WI 53818  Phone: 608-342-1214 Fax: 608-342-1220 <a href="http://www.swwrpc.org/">http://www.swwrpc.org/</a>