

7.0 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

7.1 CHAPTER SUMMARY

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. Many cities, towns, villages, and counties begin cooperative arrangements to lower costs and promote efficiency.

Intergovernmental cooperation may range from formal joint power agreements to unwritten understandings. For instance, two (or more) communities may have unwritten agreements about sharing fire or EMT services or road repair equipment. A city or village and its adjoining 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.



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 intergovernmental cooperation objective and policy recommendation supports the above goal. It will guide your intergovernmental decisions in the Town of Watterstown over the next 20 years.

1. **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.**

7.4 EXISTING AND POTENTIAL AREAS OF COOPERATION

7.4.1 EXISTING AREAS OF COOPERATION

Table 7.1 lists the services which the Town currently shares with its neighboring jurisdictions.

Table 7.1 Currently Shared Services

NEIGHBORING JURISDICTION	CURRENTLY SHARED SERVICES		METHODS OF EXCHANGE
VILLAGE OF BLUE RIVER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Trading Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal (written agreement) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informal (verbal agreement)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharing Municipal Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Consolidating Services	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joint Use of a Facility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joint Purchase and Ownership of Equipment	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative Purchasing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Renting Equipment	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)	<input type="checkbox"/> No Services are Shared	
NEIGHBORING JURISDICTION	CURRENTLY SHARED SERVICES		METHODS OF EXCHANGE
TOWN OF BOSCOBEL	<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Trading Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal (written agreement) <input type="checkbox"/> Informal (verbal agreement)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharing Municipal Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Consolidating Services	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Use of a Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Purchase and Ownership of Equipment	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative Purchasing	<input type="checkbox"/> Renting Equipment	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Services are Shared	
NEIGHBORING JURISDICTION	CURRENTLY SHARED SERVICES		METHODS OF EXCHANGE
TOWN OF MUSCODA	<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Trading Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal (written agreement) <input type="checkbox"/> Informal (verbal agreement)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharing Municipal Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Consolidating Services	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Use of a Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Purchase and Ownership of Equipment	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative Purchasing	<input type="checkbox"/> Renting Equipment	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (maintaining .2 mi of road)	<input type="checkbox"/> No Services are Shared	

Table 7.1 (cont.) Currently Shared Services

NEIGHBORING JURISDICTION	CURRENTLY SHARED SERVICES		METHODS OF EXCHANGE
TOWN OF HICKORY GROVE	<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Trading Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal (written agreement) <input type="checkbox"/> Informal (verbal agreement)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharing Municipal Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Consolidating Services	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Use of a Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Purchase and Ownership of Equipment	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative Purchasing	<input type="checkbox"/> Renting Equipment	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (shared road maintenance)	<input type="checkbox"/> No Services are Shared	

Table 7.2 lists intergovernmental services the Town of Watterstown potentially could share with its neighboring jurisdictions.

Table 7.2 Potential Shared Services

NEIGHBORING JURISDICTION	POTENTIAL SHARED SERVICES		METHODS OF EXCHANGE
VILLAGE OF BLUE RIVER	<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Trading Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal (written agreement) <input type="checkbox"/> Informal (verbal agreement)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharing Municipal Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consolidating Services	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Use of a Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Purchase and Ownership of Equipment	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cooperative Purchasing	<input type="checkbox"/> Renting Equipment	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)	<input type="checkbox"/> No Services are Shared	
NEIGHBORING JURISDICTION	POTENTIAL SHARED SERVICES		METHODS OF EXCHANGE
TOWN OF BOSCOBEL	<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Trading Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal (written agreement) <input type="checkbox"/> Informal (verbal agreement)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharing Municipal Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Consolidating Services	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Use of a Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Purchase and Ownership of Equipment	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative Purchasing	<input type="checkbox"/> Renting Equipment	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Services are Shared	
NEIGHBORING JURISDICTION	POTENTIAL SHARED SERVICES		METHODS OF EXCHANGE
TOWN OF MUSCODA	<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Trading Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal (written agreement) <input type="checkbox"/> Informal (verbal agreement)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharing Municipal Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consolidating Services	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Use of a Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Purchase and Ownership of Equipment	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative Purchasing	<input type="checkbox"/> Renting Equipment	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)	<input type="checkbox"/> No Services are Shared	

Table 7.2 (cont.) Potential Shared Services

NEIGHBORING JURISDICTION	POTENTIAL SHARED SERVICES		METHODS OF EXCHANGE
TOWN OF HICKORY GROVE	<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Trading Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal (written agreement) <input type="checkbox"/> Informal (verbal agreement)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharing Municipal Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Consolidating Services	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Use of a Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Purchase and Ownership of Equipment	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative Purchasing	<input type="checkbox"/> Renting Equipment	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (not stated but potential exists)	<input type="checkbox"/> No Services are Shared	

7.5 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS

7.5.1 EXISTING AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS AND SOLUTIONS

The Town of Watterstown Planning Commission identified neither current nor potential conflicts with any of their jurisdictional neighbors.

Watterstown also has a current agreement with the school district serving the Town which relates to maintaining and plowing snow in bus turnarounds and bus stops. For the quality of Watterstown’s inter-jurisdictional relationships, see Table 7.3.

Table 7.3 Quality of Jurisdictional Relationships

ADJACENT JURISDICTIONS (LIST EACH SEPARATELY)	SATISFACTORY OR UNSATISFACTORY?	COMMENTS
VILLAGE OF BLUE RIVER	Satisfactory	
TOWN OF BOSCOBEL	Satisfactory	
TOWN OF MUSCODA	Satisfactory	
TOWN OF HICKORY GROVE	Satisfactory	
RIVERDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT	Satisfactory	
BOSCOBEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT	Satisfactory	
GRANT COUNTY	Satisfactory	Would like a more timely response.
UWEX	Satisfactory	
SWWRPC	Satisfactory	A lot of paperwork that does not apply.
WI-DNR	Satisfactory	
WI-DOT	Satisfactory	
WI-DOA	Satisfactory	Too much paperwork.

7.6 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS

A number of available state agencies and programs assist communities with intergovernmental projects. Below are brief descriptions of various agencies and programs. Contact information is provided.

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

WISCONSIN TOWNS ASSOCIATION

**W7686 County Road MMM
Shawano, WI 54166-6086**

**Phone: 715-526-3157
Fax: 715-524-3917**

<http://www.wisctowns.com/>

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.

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

<http://www.lwm-info.org/>

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – WI DEPARTMENT 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 – WIDOA

**101 E. Wilson St.
Madison, WI 53702**

<http://www.doa.state.wi.us/dhir/>

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

<http://www.wicounties.org/>

SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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:

SWWRPC

**719 Pioneer Tower
One University Plaza
Platteville, WI 53818**

Phone: 608-342-1214

Fax: 608-342-1220

<http://www.swwrpc.org/>

- They may conduct all types of research studies; collect and analyze data; prepare maps, charts and tables, and conduct necessary studies.
- They may make and adopt plans for the physical, social, and economic development of the region.
- They may publish and advertise their purposes, objectives, and findings, and may distribute reports thereon.
- 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.