

## 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. Most arrangements involve only two governmental units, but agreements can also be made among multiple government units. Many cities, towns, villages, and counties engage in cooperative arrangements in order 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 verbal agreements about sharing fire or EMT services or road repair equipment, or 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**

One goal from the fourteen Smart Growth Planning Goals from Wisconsin’s comprehensive planning law, relates to intergovernmental cooperation. It is:

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 the intergovernmental decisions of the Village of Patch Grove over the next 20 years.

1. **Continue to explore opportunities to cooperate with other units of government to share public services, staff, or equipment where and when appropriate.**

**7.4 EXISTING AND POTENTIAL AREAS OF COOPERATION**

**7.4.1 EXISTING AREAS OF COOPERATION**

The Village of Patch Grove does not share any services with the Town of Patch Grove, nor does the Village anticipate sharing services in the future (“potential shared services”).

**7.5 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS**

**7.5.1 EXISTING AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS AND SOLUTIONS**

The Village of Patch Grove did not identify any existing or potential conflicts with its neighboring jurisdiction, the Town of Patch Grove. However, the Planning Commission did note that the Village has an agreement with its local school district to maintain the school’s water and sewer line. For the quality of Patch Grove’s inter-jurisdictional relationships, see Table 7.1.

Table 7.1 Quality of Jurisdictional Relationships

ADJACENT JURISDICTIONS (LIST EACH SEPARATELY)	SATISFACTORY OR UNSATISFACTORY?	COMMENTS
TOWN OF PATCH GROVE	Satisfactory	
RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT	Satisfactory	
GRANT COUNTY	Satisfactory	
UWEX	Satisfactory	
SWWRPC	Satisfactory	
WI-DNR	Satisfactory	
WI-DOT	Satisfactory	
WI-DOA	Satisfactory	

**7.6 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS**

A number of State agencies and programs assist communities with intergovernmental projects. Below are brief descriptions of many of these 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 its 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**

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

**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.

**WISCONSIN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION**

WCA is an association of county governments assembled for the purpose of serving and representing counties. The direction of the organization 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.

**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:

- 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.

**LEAGUE OF WISCONSIN MUNICIPALITIES**

**202 State Street, Suite 300  
Madison, WI 53703-2215**

**Phone: 608-267-2380**

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

**WISCONSIN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION**

**22 E. Mifflin St., Suite 900  
Madison, WI 53703**

**Phone: 608-663-7188**

**Fax: 608-663-7189**

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

**SWWRPC**

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

**Phone: 608-342-1214**

**Fax: 608-342-1220**

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