

**INTER-  
GOVERNMENTAL  
COOPERATION  
ELEMENT**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Many cities, townships, villages, and counties begin cooperative arrangements to lower costs and promote efficiency. 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. Two cities may have an unwritten agreement about sharing road repair equipment, or a cluster of cities and townships may have a written agreement concerning snow removal or economic development. The opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation are endless.

This section takes a closer look at intergovernmental cooperation including advantages and disadvantages. It examines what the Town of Wyoming is doing today and what they may consider in the future.

Intergovernmental cooperation is an effective way for local governments to respond to changing and diverse needs by working together with their neighbors, while maintaining their own identity. If an agreement can be reached among two or more units of government, services can often be provided with substantial cost savings. Cooperation can also eliminate unnecessary duplication of services or purchasing of equipment.



**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.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION POLICIES**

The following are the intergovernmental cooperation policies for the Town of Wyoming.

➤ **Maintain established intergovernmental relationships.**

The Town of Wyoming does share some services and purchases some services with other jurisdictions and this should be continued as long as it is beneficial to the Town.

➤ **Explore new opportunities to cooperate with other local units of government.**

As costs continue to rise for providing many facilities and services, the exploration of additional ways to cooperate may prove to be beneficial in order to contain costs. In Wyoming, a possible avenue of increased intergovernmental cooperation could be in sharing the cost, equipment, and responsibilities of roadwork with Iowa County and surrounding Towns like Arena and Clyde.

➤ **Examine agreements carefully and weigh the potential benefits and impacts.**

Be sure to take time to weigh the costs and benefits of each opportunity. Don't jump into agreements too quickly.

➤ **Establish written intergovernmental cooperation agreements.**

Often time, intergovernmental cooperation agreements are established based on verbal agreements. Changes in leadership can cause problems with agreements if the specifics have not been identified in writing. It may prove to be beneficial to have all intergovernmental agreements in writing to avoid any disputes or misunderstandings.

The Town of Wyoming has formal fire protection and ambulance service agreements with the Village of Spring Green, the Town of Spring Green, the Town of Troy, and the City of Dodgeville. A written agreement also exists between the Town and Iowa County for Smart Growth Planning.

**EXISTING AREAS OF COOPERATION**

- **Fire Protection and Ambulance Services** - Fire and ambulance protection services for the northern two-thirds of Wyoming are provided through the Spring Green Fire Protection District which includes the Village and Town of Spring Green, parts of the Town of Troy, and the northern two-thirds of the Town of Wyoming. For the southern third of Wyoming, fire and ambulance services are contracted with the City of Dodgeville. For copies of these formal agreements, please contact the Town of Wyoming Clerk.
- **Planning and Zoning Services** – The County Office of Planning and Development works with Wyoming for zoning and conditional use administration, building permits, and sanitation permits. Wyoming is also working with the Iowa County Planning and Development Office and other municipalities in Iowa County on a comprehensive plan.
- **Other Government Services** – Wyoming shares with Iowa County the government services of tax collections, elections, and assessment records. The county provides police protection and some purchased road services.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS**

A good working relationship between jurisdictions is important. Intergovernmental communication and cooperation with neighboring cities, towns, villages, and county, regional, and state entities can provide economic, environmental, and political advantages for a jurisdiction. Best of all, a positive intergovernmental relationship fosters and supports a sense of community and good fellowship between parties. Table G.1 shows Wyoming's rating of its intergovernmental relationships with various governmental units.

**Table G.1: Town Of Wyoming Intergovernmental Relationship Ratings**

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	NA
<b>Adjacent jurisdictions (general)</b>					
<b>Adjacent jurisdictions (specific)</b> – Towns of Arena, Dodgeville, and Clyde and Villages and Town of Spring Green	X				
<b>Wisconsin DNR</b>	X				
<b>Wisconsin DOT</b>	X				
<b>Wisconsin DOC</b>	X				
<b>UW Extension</b>	X				
<b>Iowa County (general)</b>	X				
<b>Iowa County (specific)</b> – Planning and Development	X				
<b>Iowa County (specific)</b> – Sheriff Department	X				
<b>Iowa County (specific)</b> - Highway	X				
<b>Local School District (River Valley, Dodgeville)</b> – Wyoming works with them to facilitate timely snow plowing and sanding on bus routes within the Town. The Town also exchanges newsletters with the school district.		X			
<b>Other</b> Spring Green Fire District Dodgeville Fire and Ambulance	X				

**POSSIBLE FUTURE COOPERATION EFFORTS**

The Town of Wyoming already cooperates with other jurisdictions for services and facilities. Cooperation opportunities for the future could include the possibility of sharing the cost, ownership, and responsibility of roadwork equipment with the Iowa County Highway Department and surrounding towns.

**COMMUNICATION WITH NEIGHBORS**

The Town of Wyoming communicates regularly with its neighboring jurisdictions by correspondence, phone contact, personal visits, exchanging newsletters, sitting on common boards of governmental units, and attending quarterly meetings of the Iowa County Unit of the Wisconsin Towns Association.

Communication with Town residents is an important part of the governmental system, particularly for the comprehensive planning process. For information on how the Plan Commission and Town government are communicating planning information to citizens of the Town, see Appendix G-1.

#### **FORMAL AGREEMENTS WITH NEIGHBORING JURISDICTIONS**

Formal agreements for the Town of Wyoming include

- Iowa County – Smart Growth Planning Process Agreement and Contract signed in 2002
- Village and Town of Spring Green, Town of Troy – a Joint Fire District Agreement that was signed in 1946
- City of Dodgeville – Fire and Ambulance services agreement, signed in 1971

#### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFLICTS**

No conflicts are identified.

#### **OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL INFORMATION**

Town of Wyoming Board members serve as officers of the Spring Green Golf Club Sanitary District No 2 and the Valley Sanitary District because there are not enough residents in these two districts to fill the positions.

#### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS**

##### **Wisconsin Department Of Housing And Intergovernmental Relations–Municipal Boundary Review (DHIR-MBR)**

Municipal Boundary Review regulates the transition of unincorporated areas to city or village status through municipal annexation, incorporation, consolidation, or by joint city-village-town activities involving cooperative boundary plans and agreements. Such agreements may change territorial boundaries and may provide for the sharing of municipal services. Staff members are available upon request to meet with local officials and citizens to discuss annexation, incorporation, consolidation and cooperative boundary plans.

##### **MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY REVIEW**

**Office of Land Information Services  
Municipal Boundary Review  
17 S Fairchild, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Madison, WI 53702**

**Phone: 608-266-0683**

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