

SUBCHAPTER 9: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

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The purpose of this Subchapter is to comply with §66.1001(2)(g), Wis. Stats., which requires this Plan to contain a compilation of objectives and programs for joint planning and decision making with other jurisdictions, including school districts and adjacent governmental units, for locating and building public facilities and sharing public services. It should analyze the relationship of the Town to school districts, adjacent municipalities, the state and the region. It should consider, to the extent possible, the maps and plans of any military base or installation. It should incorporate any plans or agreements to which the Town is a party. It should identify existing or potential conflicts between the Town and other municipalities, and describe processes to resolve such conflicts.

21.901 INVENTORY OF EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS

Some governmental relationships are “vertical” relationships, such as those between the federal, state and local units (i.e. federal, state, county, city, village, town). In a “vertical” relationship, one entity has authority over another (i.e. state laws trump county ordinances). Other governmental relationships are “horizontal” relationships, such as town-to-town, town-to-school district, town-to-county, and town-to-municipality. In “horizontal” relationships, one entity has no authority over another.

- (1) **FEDERAL:** The Town has no special relationship with the federal government. There are no federal installations located in the Town, except for the federal highways (I-90/94 and USH 12).
- (2) **STATE:** The Town does have a special relationship with the State of Wisconsin in several respects:
 - (a) **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** The DNR has a wide range of statewide responsibilities for environmental quality, state parks, and recreation. From an organization standpoint, the DNR is divided into five regions. The Town is located in the West Central Region. The DNR operates and/or administers the following:
 1. Rocky Arbor State Park
 2. Approximately 163 acres in the southwest corner of the Town as part of the Hulbert Creek Fishery.
 - (b) **WI Department of Transportation (DOT):** The DOT is divided into eight districts for administrative and programmatic purposes. The Town is located in District 1, with headquarters in Madison. The DOT is responsible for STH 16, as well as the federal highways.
 - (c) **Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF):** WARF owns approximately 300 acres along the Wisconsin River. The official mission of this private, non-profit organization is to support scientific research at the UW-Madison. WARF accomplishes this by patenting inventions arising from university research, licensing the technologies to companies for commercialization, and returning the licensing income to the UW-Madison to support further scientific endeavor.
 - (d) **Department of Commerce (DOC):** The DOC is another state agency with regulatory responsibility. The Safety and Buildings Division administers and enforces state laws and rules relating to building construction and safety and health. Plan review and site inspection is part of the division’s role in protecting the health and welfare of people in constructed environments. The DOC administers the State Building Code on all structures in the Town except for 1 and 2 family dwellings.

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- (e) **Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP):** The DATCP has regulatory duties concerning the Farmland Preservation Program and certain agricultural practices.
 - (f) **Department of Revenue (DOR):** The DOR is responsible for assessing real estate under its purview. Because of its role, there is little interaction between DOR and the Town.
 - (g) **Department of Administration (DOA):** The DOA fulfills a number of functions. It reviews annexation requests, incorporations, and cooperative boundary Plans. Additionally, the Land Information Office (LIO) within DOA is charged with identifying ways to enhance and facilitate Planning of local governments and improve coordination and cooperation of state agencies in their land use activities. LIO also provides technical assistance and advice to state agencies and local governments with land information responsibilities, among other things. LIO will review this Comprehensive Plan to ensure consistency with the state's "Smart Growth" legislation. Along with regulating local activities, all of these agencies provide information, education and training and maintain funding programs to assist local governments in development efforts and maintaining a basic level of health and safety.
 - (h) **Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM):** WEM is an agency charged with a wide range of responsibilities for disaster mitigation, planning, response, and education. It administers a number of grants to local communities and is responsible for preparing and administering several statewide policy plans. Most recently, it completed a statewide hazard mitigation plan for natural and technological hazards in conformance with the Disaster Mitigation Plan of 2000. Regional directors are located in each of the six regional offices throughout the state. They work directly with municipal and county programs in planning, training exercising, response and recovery activities, as well as the coordination of administrative activities between the Agency and local governments. When disasters and emergencies strike, they are the Agency's initial responders and serve as field liaisons with the state. The Town is located in the Southwest Region, whose headquarters is located in Madison.
- (3) **JUNEAU COUNTY:** There are no special or unusual county facilities located in the Town except for:
- (a) Juneau County is the owner of approximately 235 acres, consisting of county highways and lands acquired by tax deed.
 - (b) Juneau County owns, controls, and maintains County Trunk Highways J, N and HH in the Town.
 - (c) Juneau County exercises jurisdiction in the Town regarding a variety of ordinances, including the regulation of sanitary systems, zoning for shore land-wetland and flood plain areas, among others.
- (4) **SAUK COUNTY:** The Town shares a southern boundary with Sauk County. However, the Town has no meaningful contacts or relationships with Sauk County.
- (5) **SCHOOL DISTRICTS:** The Town is serviced by the Mauston school district, the Wisconsin Dells school district, and the Reedsburg School District. There are no school district facilities located in the Town, nor does the Town have any special contractual relationship with either school district.
- (6) **LYNDON STATION:** The Town shares a boundary with the Village of Lyndon Station and, in general, has enjoyed a good working relationship with the Village.
- (7) **CITY OF WISCONSIN DELLS:** The Town shares a short boundary line with the City of Wisconsin Dells. The City annexed a small portion of the Town in 2003 and 2006. The City of Wisconsin Dells appears to have a substantial interest in geographic growth. To date, Rocky Arbor State Park, and Upham Woods have acted as a barrier to City

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expansion. Most land owners are only interested in annexation if the City can provide sewer and water utility service. The location of Rocky Arbor State Park has, to date, made it financially difficult for the extension of sewer and water into the Town.

In 2002, the City adopted an ordinance under Sec. 62.23(7a) Wis. Stats. declaring its intention to pursue extraterritorial zoning. Several meetings were conducted, but no extraterritorial zoning was ever completed.

The Town currently receives fire protection and ambulance service from the Dells-Delton Ambulance Service, pursuant to separate contracts.

- (8) **CITY OF REEDSBURG:** The Town receives ambulance and fire service from the City of Reedsburg, pursuant to contract, for the westerly six sections of the Town
- (9) **TOWN OF KILDARE:** The Town enjoys a typical relationship with the neighboring town of Kildare. At one point, the Towns jointly created the "Assessor's Plat of Lyndon-Kildare" in 1997, for the purpose of clearing up ownership and boundary line issues in an area of small tracks of land which crossed the boundary line between the two Townships.
- (10) **TOWN OF SEVEN MILE CREEK:** The Town shares its western boundary with the Town of Seven Mile Creek. These two Towns have a typical town-to-town relationship.
- (11) **INDIAN LANDS:** The Ho-Chunk Nation owns approximately 77 acres in the Town. There are no special contracts or agreements between the Town and the Nation. The U.S. Government holds 83.55 acres in trust for the Winnebago Indian Tribe.
- (12) **REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (RPC):** There are eight regional planning commissions within Wisconsin created pursuant to §66.0309, Wis. Stats. The governor, with consent of local governing bodies, creates them. RPCs are formed to provide a wide range of services to local units of government within its geographic boundary, including (but not limited to) planning services on regional issues, consulting services regarding state and federal programs, advisory services on regional Planning problems, coordination services for programs and activities, and planning and development services to local governments.
- (13) **OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS:** Sec. 66.0301 Wis. Stats. permits the Town to enter into agreements with other municipalities for the receipt or furnishing of services, or for the joint exercise of any power or duty required or authorized by law. At this time, the Town has not entered into any such contracts, except for fire protection and ambulance service as noted above.
- (14) **MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENTS:** Under §66.0305, Wis. Stats., adjoining local units of government can share taxes and fees with a municipal revenue sharing agreement. This type of agreement can also include provisions for revenue sharing. The Town is not party to any revenue sharing agreement.
- (15) **COOPERATIVE BOUNDARY AGREEMENTS:** Cooperative boundary agreements (§66.0307, Wis. Stats.) can be used to resolve boundary conflicts between villages, cities, and towns and may include revenue sharing or any other arrangement. With adoption of a cooperative boundary agreement, the rules of annexation do not apply. The Town is not party to any cooperative boundary agreement.

21.902 NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

In addition to governmental organizations, there are other types of organizations that can affect the daily lives of City residents. These may include a chamber of commerce, nonprofit organizations, and similar organizations that are actively working to promote the quality of life in the area. It is imperative that governmental and nongovernmental organizations work together

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for the good of all residents. The following section briefly describes some of these organizations and how they are organized and their purpose.

- (1) **FORWARD WISCONSIN:** Forward Wisconsin, Inc., is a public-private statewide marketing and business recruitment organization. It was created in 1984 as a not-for-profit corporation. Its job is marketing outside Wisconsin to attract new businesses, jobs, and increased economic activity to the state. It is governed by a board of directors, which reflects the public-private partnership. The Governor is chairman of the board. Private sector representation includes Wisconsin's utilities, banks, educational institutions, investment firms, law firms, and manufacturers. Public sector representation includes four state legislators and the Secretary of the Department of Commerce. Funding for Forward Wisconsin comes from private sector contributors and from the state through a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. Forward Wisconsin is headquartered in Madison and has offices in Eau Claire, Milwaukee, and Chicago.
- (2) **INTERNATIONAL TRADE, BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS (ITBECs):** Since 1992, five regional ITBECs have been created in Wisconsin to expand economic development in the state by promoting tourism from foreign lands and the exporting of Wisconsin products to other countries. ITBECs are a public-private partnership between business leaders, county elected officials, and tribal representatives. What began as 11 counties in the northwest part of the state now includes 54 counties.
- (3) **RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS (RC&Ds):** RC&Ds are private, non-profit organizations created pursuant to state enabling legislation to improve the social, economic, and environmental opportunities of the area. Nationally, there are more than 200 districts and there are five in Wisconsin. The Town is located in the Golden Sands RC&D, headquartered in Stevens Point. Working through its RC&D council, local citizens provide leadership and work together to set program priorities. Each RC&D district establishes an area Plan (also known as a resource conservation and utilization Plan), which provides direction for the council in making community improvements and conducting activities. A variety of government agencies, organizations, and companies provide assistance in accomplishing program goals. RC&D councils have broad authority to seek help from a variety of sources including federal or state agencies, local government, community organizations, and private industry. Help may be technical or financial assistance in the form of donations, loans, grants, or cost-sharing programs. The Golden Sands RC&D strives to improve the local economy by wise development and use of local resources. This may be done in many ways, including: developing wood products industries, promoting tourism, encouraging alternative energy source development, and assisting in marketing local products. A coordinator, an administrative coordinator, and a project assistant support the Golden Sands RC&D Council. The coordinator is a WDNR employee, the administrative coordinator is a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employee, and the project assistant is a council employee. They help the Council carry out its missions, goals, and objectives. This work includes Planning, proposal writing, facilitating, motivating, and negotiating. The coordinator is responsible for arranging for assistance from the WDNR and acts as liaison to other agencies.

21.903 EXTRATERRITORIAL ZONING

At this time, there is no extraterritorial zoning within the Town by either the Village of Lyndon Station or the City of Wisconsin Dells. In 2002, the City adopted an ordinance declaring its intention to pursue extraterritorial zoning. Several meetings were conducted, but no extraterritorial zoning was ever completed.

21.904 PUBLIC INPUT

According to the participation survey, there are no intergovernmental issues or problems. Of course, the Town has some concerns regarding the expansion of the City of Wisconsin Dells and the Town's potential loss of tax base through annexation. The Town recognizes that such expansion is inevitable, but it is concerned about the lack of control it has over such matters.

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The Town is also concerned about the cost of providing fire protection services and ambulance services. The Town wishes to maintain and improve its relationship with surrounding service providers so that the Town can continue to enter service contracts which are cost-effective for the Town.

21.905 GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

- (1) GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION:** The Town shall encourage coordination and cooperation by and between units of government.
- (2) WISCONSIN DELLS:** The Town shall open and maintain a line of communication with the City of Wisconsin Dells regarding all issues of mutual interest. The Town will work with the City of Wisconsin Dells to monitor “boundary” issues and to plan for the future.
- (3) SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENTS:** The Town will periodically review and update shared service agreements, and explore additional agreements with other service providers, in an effort to provide the best, cost-effective services to Town residents.

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