

ELEMENT 7: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Intergovernmental cooperation involves working with neighboring communities, school districts and agencies to understand how their future planning and development activities may impact the Town of Frog Creek. At a minimum, this should involve sharing information about the Town of Frog Creek’s plan with neighboring communities and agencies and neighboring communities and agencies sharing their plans and initiatives with the Town of Frog Creek. However, Frog Creek believes intergovernmental cooperation should not end with the sharing of plans. Instead, this process should be the beginning for joint planning and decision-making, conflict resolution, and other strategies to promote local and regional cooperation. As part of the planning survey that was distributed to all landowners in the Town of Frog Creek, **81.3 percent** of respondents thought there is a need for neighboring local governments to meet and work together as a team.

7.2 RELATIONSHIPS TO THE TOWN OF FROG CREEK

The Town of Frog Creek shares a municipal border with four town governmental units represented within three counties. In addition, the town must also coordinate with state, local, and regional organizations.

Adjacent Governmental Units

The Town of Frog Creek shares municipal borders with the Towns of Minong, Gull Lake, Stinnett, Lenroot (Sawyer County), and Wascott (Douglas County).

Frog Creek’s relationship with all neighboring towns can be characterized as one of mutual respect and compatibility from a land use and political standpoint. The borders between the Town of Frog Creek and adjacent governmental units are fixed due to a town’s inability to annex from adjoining jurisdictions, resulting in limited boundary disputes. The Town of Frog Creek and its adjoining jurisdictions share a common rural or “northwoods” character. In the future, as mutually beneficial opportunities for shared service contracts arise, the Town of Frog Creek is open to considering such shared services options.

Several towns adjacent to Frog Creek have completed the development of a comprehensive plan, including the Towns of Gull Lake, Minong, Stinnett and Wascott.

County and Regional Governmental Units

Washburn County has some jurisdiction within the town, particularly, as it pertains to the county forest and zoning (both shoreland and non-shoreland), as Frog Creek has adopted the Washburn County Zoning Ordinance. In areas where Washburn County has jurisdiction, the county seeks input from the town before making decisions affecting the town. Likewise, the town has attempted to maintain that link of communication with Washburn County by providing recommendations. The county’s jurisdiction has at times created conflict with the town. Future cooperation will be especially important as it relates to:

- Coordination with the Washburn County Comprehensive Plan
- Enforcement of zoning and shoreland regulations
- Revision of the Washburn County Zoning Ordinance and official map

The town expects that the county will fully consider recommendations provided by Frog Creek's comprehensive plan. Likewise, the town expects the county to understand that the *Future Land Use Map* provides a general pattern for development.

Douglas and Sawyer Counties

Douglas County borders the Town of Frog Creek and Washburn County to the north, while Sawyer County forms the eastern border to Frog Creek. This close proximity has required the Town of Frog Creek to communicate with all of the counties and its bordering towns from time to time. This communication helps minimize or mitigate potential problems that may arise on road maintenance or the sharing of other services and facilities in the future. Continued interaction between Frog Creek and Washburn, Douglas and Sawyer County is encouraged.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission

Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) was formed under Section 60.0309 of Wisconsin State Statutes to provide a range of services to local units of government within the RPC boundaries. RPCs provide planning assistance, assist local interests in responding to state and federal programs, serve as a coordinating agency for programs, and provide other technical and advisory assistance to local government. The Town of Frog Creek is within the boundary of the NWRPC.

Under Wisconsin's 1999 Comprehensive Planning legislation, each regional planning commission must develop a full nine element comprehensive plan. Under this law, the NWRPC will be responsible for developing a regional plan for the ten-county northwest region. In development of this plan, it is important that the Town of Frog Creek be solicited for input relating to the overall future land use efforts already completed for the town.

State Agencies

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) are the primary state agencies the Town of Frog Creek must coordinate with to achieve the goals and objectives of this plan.

WDNR takes a lead role in wildlife protection and the sustainable management of woodlands, wetlands, and other natural wildlife habitat areas. WisDOT is responsible for planning and development of state highways and other multi-modal transportation systems. Open communication and participation in land use, natural resources and transportation decisions, which may impact the town, is an important priority for intergovernmental cooperation in the future.

School Districts

The Town of Frog Creek is served by the Northwood and Hayward School Districts, with facilities located in the Town of Minong and City of Hayward. Frog Creek's relationship with

these school districts can be characterized as cooperative. Regular and open communication is critical to ensure cooperative relationships will continue to be strengthened. The Town of Frog Creek should continue to work with these school districts on all siting and building of public facilities and services and for the sharing of such facilities and services.

7.3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS

On an element-by-element basis, Washburn County, local school districts, and state agencies were contacted regarding their available services. For example, during development of the *Utilities and Community Facilities* element the school district serving the town was contacted to gather information on current enrollment, existing facilities, and to determine if future expansion of district facilities is planned.

In addition, the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning process between Frog Creek, adjoining towns, and Washburn County allowed for greater interaction and understanding of local issues impacting one or more units of government.

7.4 CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCESS (CRP)

Potential conflicts related to land use decision-making have been greatly diminished due to the concerted development of local jurisdictional plans through the planning process. Although, it is important to recognize that unplanned future variables may result in conflict, planning for potential future conflict between jurisdictions requires a process to resolve such disputes. The conflict resolution process developed for Frog Creek outlines the appropriate steps to be taken by the local governing body to resolve these disputes in a logical, systematic, and equitable manner. See Appendix C for detailed description of the conflict resolution process.

7.5 AGREEMENTS WITH NEIGHBORING OR OVERLAPPING JURISDICTIONS

The Town of Frog Creek has established both formal and informal agreements with adjacent and overlapping units of government:

Law Enforcement

The Town of Frog Creek does not have a police station or its own police department. The Washburn County Sheriff's Department serves as the primary law enforcement agency to the Town of Frog Creek. The department's administrative functions and jail facility are located in the City of Shell Lake and provides emergency assistance to an 816 square mile area. The department operates on a split shift schedule. From May 1 to October 31, patrol officers work nine-hour shifts and from November 1 to April 30, patrol officers work eight-hour shifts. At any given time, one to three patrol officers are on duty each with his/her own cruiser. All emergency calls should use 9-1-1, which is staffed 24-hours by the Washburn County Sheriff's Department.

Fire and Rescue

By intergovernmental agreement, the Town of Frog Creek, along with the towns of Minong and Brooklyn, and the village of Minong, is served by the Minong Fire Department. The Minong Fire Department operates two pumpers, two tankers, a brush buggy, an equipment van, 2 6X6 brush rigs, one snowmobile, one 4-wheeler and a rescue sled. The department is located at 123 5th Avenue in Minong. 26 volunteers, 17 of whom are EMT and work with the ambulance section, staff the department. Any facility expansions or changes are the responsibility of the Minong Volunteer Fire Department. Any facility expansions or changes are the responsibility of the Minong Volunteer Fire Department.

The same intergovernmental agreement contracts with Minong Area Ambulance, located at 123 5th Avenue in the Village of Minong. The agreement provides ambulance services, rescue services, and a first responder team. Minong Area Ambulance operates two ambulances. Washburn County has a network of first responders who are paged or called to medical emergencies by the Washburn County Sheriff's Department. All emergency calls should use 9-1-1, which is staffed 24-hours by the Washburn County Sheriff's Department.

The towns of Gordon and Wascott provide backup service to the municipalities listed.

Solid Waste/Recycling

The Town of Frog Creek jointly owns the 40-acre Minong Area Disposal Transfer Station with the Town of Minong and the Village of Minong. According to a deed, the Village of Minong and the Town of Minong each own 42.5% of the land. The Town of Frog Creek owns 15.0 percent of the land. All municipalities work together to use this disposal site and residents of the municipalities pay an annual fee to use the facility.

7.6 EXISTING AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

Identifying existing and potential conflicts between the Town of Frog Creek and other governmental units is important in warding off possible adverse situations in the future. The Town of Frog Creek notes the following:

Existing Conflicts

None

Potential Conflicts

Town Line Road maintenance between towns of Frog Creek and Minong;

7.7 PRE-EXISTING LOCAL PLANS

The Town of Frog Creek has not produced resource management or land use plans, although town resources are included under the umbrella of various county, state, and federal plans.

Washburn County Outdoor Recreation Plan (1980)

The plan includes a list of general recommendations that apply to all Washburn County communities. Recommendations are included for the facilities at the Pleasant Valley Rifle Range in the Town of Frog Creek. No conflicts with the Town of Frog Creek Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

Washburn County Forest Recreation Plan (1999-2003)

Specific plan recommendations are included for the facilities at the Pleasant Valley Rifle Range, the Cedar Creek Recreation Area, the Black Brook Limited Access Area, and the Little Frog Creek Limited Access Area. These recommendations are general guidelines of County Owned Land Ordinance (22-98), and apply to lands that are county-owned and maintained in the Town of Frog Creek. No conflicts with the Town of Frog Creek Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

Washburn County Land and Water Resource Management Plan (July 1999)

No Recommendations specific to the Town of Frog Creek, general guidelines apply to all of Washburn County. No conflicts with the Town of Frog Creek Comprehensive Plan have been identified

Long Range Program, Washburn County Soil & Water Conservation District (1980)

No Recommendations specific to the Town of Frog Creek, although general guidelines and actions would apply to the Town. No conflicts with the Town of Frog Creek Comprehensive Plan have been identified

Washburn County Solid Waste Management Plan (July 1983) The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 enacted standards for treatment, storage and disposal of solid waste. Since this legislation, all local landfills (Town) have since closed. No conflicts with the Town of Frog Creek Comprehensive Plan have been identified

Washburn County Farmland Preservation Plan (May 1982)

Portions of the Town of Frog Creek have been identified by the plan as “Agricultural Preservation Areas”. These areas would be subject to the recommendations and actions as outlined in the plan. The general plan recommendations would also apply to lands in the Town of Frog Creek. No conflicts with the Town of Frog Creek Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

Washburn County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan (1996-2005)

Recommendations for public forestlands would apply to county owned and managed lands within the Town of Frog Creek. The plan contains no specified integrated management units in Frog Creek. No conflicts with the Town of Frog Creek Comprehensive Plan exist.

Washburn County Highway Department 5-Year Tentative Road Project Schedule

The Washburn County Highway department has a preliminary road construction schedule in place for scheduled county road improvements for the next five years. One improvement in the Town of Frog Creek on CTH G is tentatively planned in 2009. See Table 3.2 for more information.

Wisconsin State Highway Improvement Plan

The *Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2020* focuses on the 11,800 miles of State Trunk Highway routes in Wisconsin. The plan does not identify any projects in the Town of Frog Creek in the next 20 years.

Plans of Adjacent Jurisdictions *Year of plan adoption in parenthesis ()

Douglas County Land Use Plan

Town of Minong (2005)

Town of Gull Lake (2005)

Town of Wascott (2005)

Town of Stinnett (2005)

Washburn County – In Progress

7.8 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

A set of recommended goals, objectives, and actions have been developed to assist the Town of Frog Creek in its overall effort to establish cooperative relationships with local governments.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTION STATEMENTS

Goal: The town will continue to encourage cooperation with neighboring communities.

1. Continue contracting cooperatively for fire and ambulance services.
 - a. Maintain relations with surrounding jurisdictions for discussions regarding continued cooperative contracting.
2. Continue contracting cooperatively for waste disposal/recycling.
 - a. Continue to meet with the Minong Area Disposal Transfer Station committee to determine the best means of continued cooperation for solid waste management and recycling.
3. Continue contracting cooperatively for police protection.
 - a. Encourage cooperation with surrounding jurisdictions to acquire police protection for the town at the best possible price.
4. Endeavor to fairly resolve conflicts as they may occur in the future.