

## **ELEMENT 7 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION**

### **7.1 INTRODUCTION**

In order to ensure continuity and prevent potentially conflicting development patterns, community planning must incorporate a thorough inventory and analysis of the plans of adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions.

Within the Washburn County Comprehensive Planning process, maps, goals, objectives, and plan recommendations were developed in conjunction with one another. Development of individual local plan components was conducted in concert, as to achieve a logical and consistent framework among the local units of government and Washburn County.

Inventory and examination of the existing jurisdictional relationships within the community provides the cornerstone for intergovernmental cooperation. Understanding the nature and complexity of these relational issues is key to understanding how these relationships can be enhanced to provide maximum coordination and cooperation. Presently, many jurisdictions within the county have informal agreements with other units of government. It will be the aim of the intergovernmental component to achieve a superior level of multi-jurisdictional cooperation through formalization of relationships, opening the lines of communication between jurisdictions, and to promote intergovernmental agreements.

### **7.2 GOVERNMENTAL UNITS AND RELATIONSHIPS TO THE TOWN OF SPRINGBROOK**

The Town of Springbrook shares borders with four municipalities and is within one school district. In addition, the town must also coordinate federal, regional, and state agencies.

#### **Adjacent & Overlapping Jurisdictions**

- Town of Bass Lake
- Town of Brooklyn
- Town of Crystal
- Town of Gull Lake
- Town of Stinnett
- Town of Trego
- Washburn County
- Spooner Area School District
- Northwest Regional Planning Commission
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation

#### **Relationship to Adjoining Towns**

Towns have fixed borders and do not have annexation authority, thus, boundary disputes do not occur. The Town of Springbrook's maintains a general working relationship with adjoining towns. Of great concern to the Town of Springbrook, is the continued cooperation among adjacent towns regarding road maintenance issues. Additionally, the Town of Springbrook is

open to working with adjoining communities to improve critical services such as roads, fire, police, and emergency services.

### **Relationship to Washburn County**

Washburn County has some jurisdiction within the town. In particular, the county has jurisdiction over land divisions, on-site sanitary sewer systems, and zoning (including shoreland, wetland, and floodplain areas) in the Town of Springbrook. Washburn County also owns and maintains the county roads. A large amount of acreage is also in the hands of Washburn County.

In general, the relationship between the Town of Springbrook and Washburn County can be characterized as one in which cooperation and understanding could be enhanced. The primary conflict lies between proposed zoning and land use recommendations made by Washburn County. A large part of the rationale for developing the comprehensive plan is the desire of the town to look forward and to identify where the community chooses to go. The development of the future land use map is intended to provide town officials, the Washburn County Zoning Committee, and the Washburn County Board of Supervisors with a better understanding of development trends and preferred future land use patterns.

In areas where the county has jurisdiction in the town, the county attempts to get input from the town before making decisions affecting town land use. Likewise, the town has attempted to maintain open lines of communication with Washburn County. These lines of communication have not always proved to work effectively or efficiently, resulting in conflict.

Washburn County has committed to incorporating town land use recommendations into a formal zoning revision process, following plan adoption. Following the revision, the county zoning ordinances should be consistent with town level land use recommendations and desires. A formal process of communications has been developed to ensure both parties are informed, involved, and engaged in the zoning/land use process.

### **Relationship to School Districts**

The Town of Springbrook is within the Spooner Area School District. The Town maintains a cooperative relationship with the district, but does not directly participate in administration, facility siting, or improvement issues. Town residents also pay property taxes, which partially fund the district.

The Spooner School District is in the process of developing a Strategic Plan. The strategies outlined in this document will provide guidance and direction for the district for the next 20 years. Facilities improvement and/or development will be dictated by the plan's assessments and recommendations.

### **Relationship to Northwest Regional Planning Commission**

Regional planning commissions are 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 Springbrook is within the boundary of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC), which is based in Spooner, Wisconsin. The Town of Springbrook has a working relationship with NWRPC.

### **Relationship to State of Wisconsin**



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) are the principal state entities with whom the town must communicate. WDNR is responsible for natural resource protection, environmental law enforcement, and compliance monitoring. WisDOT is responsible for planning and development of transportation infrastructure, and facilities. In order to achieve the goals of this comprehensive plan, the Town of Springbrook must continue to communicate and cooperate with these agencies. It is important that the town be informed of changes in policy, management or planning conducted by these agencies. Currently, the only identified relationship the Town of Springbrook has with state agencies is the relationship for receiving general transportation aids through the WisDOT. The General Transportation Aids Estimate for the Town of Springbrook in 2005 was \$61,411.25. The WisDOT also owns 44 acres along STH 63 in T.40N. – R.11W. Section 12.



### **Relationship to Federal Government**

The USA National Park Service (NPS) has some jurisdiction within the town. In particular, the NPS has jurisdiction over lands adjacent to the Namekagon River.

### **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 Washburn County 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.

## **7.3 EXISTING AND PROPOSED LOCAL, COUNTY AND REGIONAL PLANS**

### **Adjacent Units of Government**

The Town of Springbrook shares borders with the Washburn County Towns of Bass Lake, Brooklyn, Crystal, Gull Lake, Stinnett, and Trego. All adjoining units of government mentioned above, except Trego, participated in a comprehensive planning process, and each unit of government has a comprehensive plan with individual goals, objectives, actions, and a future land use map.

The Intergovernmental Cooperation goal of the Town of Springbrook is **“To establish appropriate and cooperative relationships with various adjacent governmental units and jurisdictions”**. In order to achieve this broad goal, the town must keep the lines of communication open with adjacent jurisdictions. The town must continue to participate in the

planning efforts and any future plan revision efforts with neighboring communities. Likewise, the Town of Springbrook must continue to inform adjacent communities of changes to its comprehensive plan and ongoing efforts to implement the plans actions.

The Town of Springbrook Planning Commission will be the entity responsible for promoting town communications and coordinating planning affairs with adjacent units of government.

### **Washburn County Comprehensive Plan**

The Washburn County Comprehensive Plan was developed to address countywide growth and development issues, transportation, economic development, housing, and the provision of public utilities services and facilities. The key link between the Town of Springbrook Comprehensive Plan and the county plan is land use and zoning changes. Washburn County will conduct a comprehensive revision of the county zoning ordinances following local plan adoption. This revision will incorporate community level land use concerns into the overall growth management strategy for Washburn County. The Town of Springbrook Planning Commission and Town Board will be responsible for communications and correspondence with the Washburn County Zoning Committee regarding both local and county comprehensive planning issues.

### **Regional Plan**

Under Wisconsin's 1999 Comprehensive Planning legislation, each Regional Planning Commission must also develop a comprehensive plan. Under this law, the Northwest Regional Planning Commission 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 Springbrook is solicited for input relating to the overall future land use efforts already completed for the town.

## **7.4 STATE AND COUNTY AGENCY PLANS**

### **Washburn County Outdoor Recreation Plan (1980)**

The plan includes a list of general recommendations that apply to all Washburn County communities. No recommendations are included specifically for the Town of Springbrook.

### **Washburn County Forest Recreation Plan (2004-2009)**

The plan includes recommendations that are general guidelines of County Owned Land Ordinance (22-98), and apply to lands that are county-owned and maintained in the Town of Springbrook. No conflicts with the Town of Springbrook Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

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

No recommendations specific to the Town of Springbrook exist, although general guidelines apply to all of Washburn County. No conflicts with the Town of Springbrook Comprehensive Plan have been identified

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

No recommendations specific to the Town of Springbrook exist, although general guidelines and actions would apply to the town. No conflicts with the Town of Springbrook 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 Springbrook Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

**Washburn County Farmland Preservation Plan (May 1982)**

Portions of the Town of Springbrook have been identified by the plan as “Agricultural Preservation Areas” and “Exclusion 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 Springbrook. No conflicts with the Town of Springbrook Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

**Washburn County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2006-2016)**

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

**Washburn County Roadway Improvement Plan**

County roadway improvements within the Town of Springbrook are identified in the Transportation Element. Roadways under Washburn County jurisdiction within Springbrook include CTH E and CTH M. No conflicts with the Town of Springbrook Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

**Wisconsin State Highway Improvement Plan**

State roadway improvements within the Town of Springbrook are identified in the Transportation Element. STH 63 is the only highway under state jurisdiction within Springbrook Township. No conflicts with the Town of Springbrook Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

**Plans of Adjacent Jurisdictions**

The Town of Springbrook shares borders with the Washburn County Towns of Bass Lake, Brooklyn, Crystal, Gull Lake, Stinnett, and Trego. All adjoining towns save for Crystal and Trego, have completed or are currently completing a comprehensive planning process. No conflicts between the Town of Springbrook Comprehensive Plan and adjoining town plans have been identified.

## **7.5 EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS, SHARED SERVICES, AND AGREEMENTS**

### **Protective Services (Police, Fire, EMS)**

- **Fire**- By intergovernmental agreement, the Town of Springbrook is served by the Spooner Fire Department. The Spooner Fire Department operates two pumpers, three tanker trucks, a rescue van, an off-road pickup truck, and two portable pumps for rural areas. The department is located at 505 Summit Avenue in Spooner, and is staffed by 35 total firefighters.
- **Police**- The Town of Springbrook 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 Springbrook.
- **Ambulance**- North Ambulance, located at N4755 Hwy 63 in the Town of Beaver Brook, provides 24-hour ambulance service with 3 ambulances, 8 full-time EMT, and 12 volunteer EMT. 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.

### **Transportation Services (Road Maintenance, plowing, etc.)**

Springbrook contracts with Washburn County to maintain town roads. Washburn County Highway Department does road maintenance based on time and materials.

### **Relationships between the Town of Springbrook and Washburn County**

The Town of Springbrook has contracted and worked with the Washburn County Forestry Department in the past. The county will be doing some road maintenance projects for the town in the future.

## 7.6 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

A set of recommended goals, objectives, and action-plans has been recommended for the town to engage and work with adjoining and overlapping jurisdictions. Implementation of the action steps is a start to providing discussion and cooperation of a broad range of issues impacting the town and surrounding jurisdictions.

### Intergovernmental Cooperation

<b>Goal:</b> Maintain, improve, and develop productive relationships with surrounding towns and governments.	
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1. Investigate future possibilities of compensation from National Park Service for tax base lost in Scenic Riverway System.	Initiate discussions with appropriate agencies to determine if compensation is a possibility.
	Speak with other communities to see if such compensation issues have been successful in the past.
2. Maintain good relations with the county highway department, which presently provides road and snow services.	
3. Have more input into park service management methods in the Scenic Riverway System.	Communicate with agency and delineate concerns with regards to present-day management practices in the system.
4. Request better accounting from emergency services provided to town residents.	Set up meeting with emergency services agency to begin conversations on costs and accounting practices presently being used.
	Present suggestions where applicable to these practices.