

## **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 county 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 county provide 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 66.1001 REQUIREMENTS**

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; 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 §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.

### **7.3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AGREEMENT**

This informal agreement was developed in order to provide the framework for a coordinated planning process and to define a procedure for conflict resolution throughout the planning process. It was the intention of this agreement to outline the coordination actions necessary to ensure consistency in planning related matters and to facilitate communication between all units of government.

### **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.

## **7.4 PRE-EXISTING LOCAL PLANS**

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

## **7.5 PLANS OF OVERLAPPING JURISDICTIONS**

### **Washburn County Outdoor Recreation Plan (1980) Recommendations for the Town of Stinnett**

The plan includes a list of general recommendations that apply to all Washburn County communities. Recommendations are included in the plan specifically for Stinnett Park. No conflicts with the Town of Stinnett Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

### **Washburn County Forest Recreation Plan (1999-2003) Recommendations for the Town of Stinnett**

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 Stinnett. No conflicts with the Town of Stinnett Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

### **Washburn County Land and Water Resource Management Plan (July 1999) Recommendations for the Town of Stinnett**

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

### **Long Range Program, Washburn County Soil & Water Conservation District (1980) Recommendations for the Town of Stinnett**

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

### **Washburn County Solid Waste Management Plan (July 1983) Recommendations for the Town of Stinnett**

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 closed. No conflicts with the Town of Stinnett Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

### **Washburn County Farmland Preservation Plan (May 1982) Recommendations for the Town of Stinnett**

Portions of the Town of Stinnett have been identified by the plan as “Agricultural Preservation Areas”; “Transitional Areas”; “Exclusion Areas”; and “Woodland, Wetland, and Environmentally Significant 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 Stinnett. No conflicts with the Town of Stinnett Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

### **Washburn County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan (1996-2005) Recommendations for the Town of Stinnett.**

Recommendations for public forestlands would apply to county-owned and managed lands within the Town of Stinnett. Integrated resource management units within the town include: Chippanazie, Hemlock, and the Lost Lake management unit. The plan identifies management opportunities for each of these areas, which are all under public ownership. No conflicts with the Town of Stinnett Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

### **Washburn County Roadway Improvement Plan**

County roadway improvements within the Town of Stinnett are identified in the Transportation Element and may be found in Table 3.2. Roadways under Washburn County jurisdiction within Stinnett include CTH M. No conflicts with the Town of Stinnett Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

### **Wisconsin State Highway Improvement Plan**

State roadway improvements within the Town of Stinnett are identified in the Transportation Element and may be found in Table 3.2. STH 63 and 77 are two highways under state jurisdiction within Stinnett Township. No conflicts with the Town of Stinnett Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

## **7.6 PLANS OF ADJACENT JURISDICTIONS**

The Town of Stinnett shares borders with the Washburn County Towns of Frog Creek (2005), Gull Lake (2004), Bass Lake (2005), and Springbrook (2005). The Towns of Hayward and Lenroot in Sawyer County also border Stinnett to the east. All towns in Washburn County above participated in the Washburn County comprehensive planning process and were party to the Intergovernmental Coordination Agreement [Section 10.3(a)]. No conflicts between the Town of Stinnett Comprehensive Plan and plans of adjacent jurisdictions have been identified.

## 7.7 GOVERNMENTAL UNITS AND RELATIONSHIPS TO THE TOWN OF STINNETT

The Town of Stinnett shares borders with six municipalities, a county, and a school district. In addition, the town must also coordinate with state and federal agencies.

### **Relationship to Adjoining Towns**

Towns have fixed borders and do not have annexation authority, thus, boundary disputes do not occur. The Town of Stinnett maintains a general working relationship with adjoining towns. The town does cooperate with adjacent towns on various issues. Of greatest concern to the Town of Stinnett is the monitoring of adjoining land uses to ensure compatibility between communities and avoid potential conflict. Additionally, the Town of Stinnett is open to working with adjoining communities to improve critical services such as fire, police, and emergency medical service.

### **Law Enforcement**

The Town of Stinnett 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 Stinnett. The department’s administrative functions and jail facility are located in the City of Shell Lake and provide 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.

### **Fire and Rescue**

By intergovernmental agreement, the Town of Stinnett is served by the Town of Hayward Volunteer Fire Department, located at 15460W Hwy 77 East in Hayward. The department operates two pumpers, two tankers, one trailer/pump, a rescue truck, a brush buggy, and a personal truck. Twenty-five volunteers, two of who are licensed first responders, staff the department. Any facility expansions or changes are the responsibility of the Town of Hayward Fire Department.

Ambulance services are provided through a combination of both full-time and volunteer staff of the Hayward Area Memorial Hospital located at 11040 N State Rd 77, Hayward. In emergency situations, rescue services may also come from the Stone Lake EMT squad.

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 911, which is staffed 24-hours by the Washburn County Sheriff’s Department.

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

The Town of Stinnett does not participate in any shared services agreements within surrounding towns, although the town will investigate possibilities for future cooperation.

### **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 Stinnett. Washburn County also owns and maintains the county highways.

In general, the relationship between the Town of Stinnett 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. This means, that following the revision, county zoning ordinances should be consistent with town level land use requirements 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 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 Stinnett is within the boundary of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC), which is based in Spooner, Wisconsin. The Town of Stinnett 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 Stinnett 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.



**Relationship to Federal Agencies**

The Upper St. Croix and Namekagon National Scenic Riverway system runs through the southern portion of the town. Currently, there are approximately 836 federally owned acres in the Town of Stinnett. The U.S. National Park Service administers this system and its resources are managed for perpetuity by the agency.

**General Management Plan – Upper St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers**

The General Management Plan for the Upper St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers describes the general direction that the National Park Service intends to follow in managing the upper riverway for the next 15-20 years. The plan provides management with a framework that will allow riverway managers to effectively address future issues. A portion of the scenic riverway is in the Town of Stinnett and this area is of importance to the community. The town should continue to monitor activities relating to the development and purchase of property adjacent to the scenic riverway and meet regularly with National Park Service staff to review land management decision along the riverway. No conflicts with the Town of Stinnett Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

**Relationship to School District**

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

**7.8 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTION STATEMENTS**

**Goal: Maintain and encourage cooperation with surrounding municipalities and agencies.**

*Objective 1: Maintain and enhance cooperative agreements with adjacent communities for the health, welfare, and the safety of our township residents.*

- A. Review cooperative agreements annually and review the need for additional agreements prior to the annual town meeting.

*Objective 2: Develop better working relationships with county, state (particularly the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources), and federal agencies on issues affecting the town, requesting that the town have adequate input on decisions made.*

- A. Make sure the Town of Stinnett is on all relevant mailing lists to ensure the town is updated regularly on cooperative or jurisdictional matters.
- B. Communicate and prioritize meetings that affect our township and ensure that the town board assigns a representative to attend these meetings and report back to the town board.