

## CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCESS (CRP)

**Purpose:** To provide the framework for resolving planning related conflicts which may arise between Washburn County and local units of government. The CRP is intended to provide a low-cost, flexible approach to resolving land use disputes between governmental entities. This process should not supersede local processes established for conflict resolution and is not intended to be used by parties dissatisfied with the appropriate application of local rules and regulations within their jurisdiction.

**Participation:** The conflict resolution process should involve an *authorized representative* (selected by local governing authority on 2/3 majority) of the involved jurisdictions. The designated representative shall have the authority to act on behalf of the jurisdiction and will be responsible for maintaining communications with the jurisdiction throughout the conflict resolution process. The process should accommodate public participation and comment pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.81(2).

### SECTION I

**Initiation of the CRP** The process may be initiated by a local jurisdiction, Washburn County, or any other parties named in the *Intergovernmental Cooperation Planning Agreement*. Requests to initiate CRP should be submitted to Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) and to affected jurisdictions and shall clearly and concisely identify the land use issue, the jurisdictions involved, and the affected jurisdiction's authorized representatives. Upon receipt of CRP notification, and unless otherwise requested by the jurisdictions involved, NWRPC shall act as an outside facilitator per the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement and proceed with the issues assessment process.

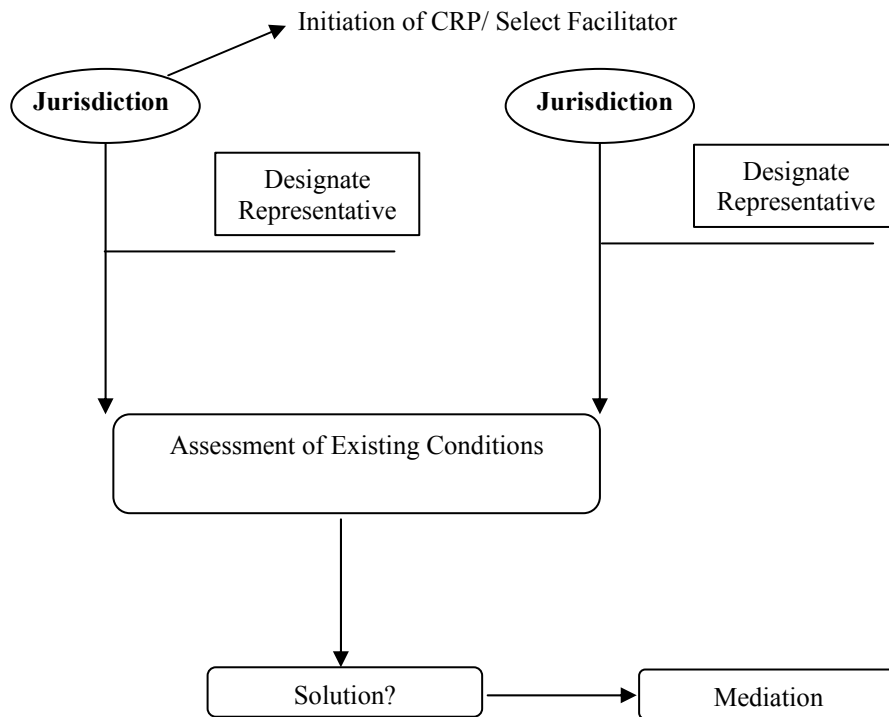
### SECTION II

**Assessment of existing conditions** An assessment of existing conditions shall be conducted by the *outside facilitator* named under Section I. The assessment should consist of examination of pertinent documents, maps, ordinances, or other materials and/or public meetings to gather input from affected jurisdictions (representatives). Meetings should allow equal time for jurisdictions to comment on the issue and to propose suitable alternatives.

In situations where NWRPC is used as an outside facilitator, and following assessment of existing conditions, NWRPC may, upon its own initiative, propose a resolution to the conflict. The recommendations proposed by NWRPC shall be distributed to the affected parties, who may, at their discretion, choose to enter into mediation in lieu of the NWRPC recommendation.

### SECTION III

**Mediation** All land use disputes should be mediated by a neutral party who understands land use planning and growth issues related to Washburn County. A mutually acceptable mediator is to be selected from those groups or individuals listed in the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement.



### **Intergovernmental Cooperation 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 is 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. A formal agreement addressing intergovernmental cooperation and the conflict resolution process should be developed and implemented following the completion of the Washburn County comprehensive planning process.

Parties to this agreement will:

- 1) Agree to openly cooperate and share information pertinent to the planning process.
- 2) Agree to coordinate planning activities with adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions, including school districts.
- 3) Agree to work to ensure orderly transitions or buffers in areas of joint concern between different communities.
- 4) Recognize that policy, land use, or development decisions by one party affect other jurisdictions. The parties further recognize the need to involve the property owners and residents of the area in the land use planning and priority-setting process.
- 5) Agree to examine the potential for inter-local agreements addressing extra-jurisdictional services when increased efficiency and effectiveness will be achieved.

- 6) Agree to review comprehensive plans and plan amendments of adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions and plans of state and regional agencies for consistency with local planning.
- 7) Agree to utilize the informal conflict resolution process to resolve planning-related conflicts between adjacent and overlapping units of government where appropriate.
- 8) Agree to resolve inconsistencies, which may arise between adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions, through use of formal or informal negotiations or through use of the conflict resolution process.
- 9) Agree to work cooperatively with adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions to develop and implement a formalized intergovernmental cooperation agreement as a component of the Intergovernmental Cooperation element of the comprehensive planning process. This agreement should coordinate the Washburn County Comprehensive Plan with the comprehensive plans of local governments and regional and state agencies. The formal agreement should outline the process for continued coordination and cooperation and define the mechanisms for conflict resolution.
- 10) Acknowledge that this Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement is not intended to and does not create legally binding obligations on any of the parties to act in accordance with its provisions. Rather, it constitutes a good faith statement of the intent of the parties to cooperate in a manner designed to meet the mutual objectives of all the parties involved in an efficient, equitable, and responsible manner.