

7 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Goal 1: The Town will maintain good relationships with governmental units in and around the region.

Objectives, Policies & Actions

1-1: Establish and maintain excellent communication with other government officials (staff, elected and appointed officials) both formally (on committees, etc.) and informally (telephone calls, emails, etc.); and continue to build and establish new relationships.

Action 1-1a: Provide a copy of this Comprehensive Plan and any proposed Plan updates or amendments to governmental units in and around the region.

Action 1-1b: Inform other governmental units and agencies about the Town's website and promote it as a source of current information about the Town.

Action 1-1c: Create links on the Town's website to other relevant units of government such as La Crosse County, the Village of Holmen and City of Onalaska.

Action 1-1d: Consider holding an open house or informal social event annually that invites and involves other governmental officials.

Action 1-1e: Introduce new elected or appointed Town officials to adjacent community leaders and appropriate staff, and encourage neighboring communities to do the same.

Goal 2: Participate in regional planning efforts and coordinate all planning activities with neighboring communities, La Crosse County, and relevant agencies.

Objectives, Policies & Actions

2-1: Participate in regional planning efforts and coordinate planning efforts (e.g., comprehensive, land use, transportation, and natural resource protection), regulations, and specific land use decisions with neighboring communities, La Crosse County, and other relevant districts and agencies, such as the Holmen Area Fire Board, school districts, or U.S. FWS.

Action 2-1a: Participate in regional or joint planning committees and commissions.

Action 2-1b: Continue to involve the school districts in long range planning efforts and in reviewing current development proposals.

- Action 2-1c:** Participate in technical resource committee meetings facilitated by La Crosse County to include planning and zoning administrators and staff from area cities, villages and towns.
- Action 2-1d:** Continue to participate in the La Crosse County Household Hazardous Waste Program.
- Action 2-1e:** Support regional economic development efforts that are consistent with the Town's vision and goals.
- Action 2-1f:** Continue to coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions on planning efforts (e.g., comprehensive, land use, transportation, and natural resource protection), regulations, and specific land use decisions.
- Action 2-1g:** Support regional efforts to provide affordable housing for the existing and the growing population.
- Action 2-1h:** Support regional efforts to expand transportation choices through such measures as expanding transit service and connecting multi-use trails to neighboring communities and the regional trail networks.
- Action 2-1i:** Encourage and participate in efforts to establish the Great River Road as an outstanding scenic gateway to and corridor through the Town with high quality public and private building, streetscape, landscape, and road designs; signage guidelines; and scenic views to the Mississippi River Valley. Encourage the State, County, LAPC and/or others to initiate this effort.
- Action 2-1j:** Refer development applications that will impact other governmental entities to the appropriate government, agency or staff in a timely manner, and ask for and consider their comments during the Town's decision making process. In particular, the Town should consider referring development applications to the City of Onalaska, Village of Holmen, or Holmen School District if these entities will be impacted by a development in either the short or long term.
- Action 2-1k:** Identify and possibly formalize a process for resolving conflicts in non-aggressive/non-confrontational manners to the greatest extent possible with any/all units of government.
- Action 2-1l:** Maintain, improve or expand existing successful intergovernmental cooperation efforts such as the Fire Department.
- Action 2-1m:** Work together with the Village of Holmen, City of Onalaska, surrounding towns and La Crosse County to develop compatible land use and zoning regulations.
- Action 2-1n:** Work collectively to protect bluffs, water quality and prime farmland.

Action 2-1o: If after creating a PDR program, the Town should inform neighboring communities and the County about the program's purposes, operations, and expected impacts. Specifically, PDR program leaders should make the presentation at a public meeting such as before the plan commissions so the elected and appointed officials, staff, and public have an opportunity to learn about it.

2-2: Establish intergovernmental agreements with the Village of Holmen, City of Onalaska and La Crosse County.

Action 2-2a: Create an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Holmen to include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. An agreement that will guide and achieve a coordinated and harmonious development pattern and conservation practices of the Town and the Village that will meet existing and future needs of the two communities; and best provide for the public health, safety, convenience, prosperity, and the general welfare of both communities and their residents.
- b. Future boundaries that are compatible with the characteristics of the comprehensive plans of both communities, taking into consideration present and potential transportation, sewer, water and storm drainage facilities, and other infrastructure, fiscal capacity, and the preservation of farmland and environmentally and culturally important lands. The boundaries should take into consideration orderly urban growth and efficient delivery of municipal services.
 - The Village's western boundary should be County Trunk XX.
 - The Village's eastern boundary should be identified and addressed as part of the agreement.
 - The agreement should also address the impact and location of possible purchase of development rights program and its associated impacts.
- c. Establish a joint review committee or process, or referral process for development applications on properties in or near the agreed upon future boundaries.
- d. The protection and preservation of the Village's wellhead protection area, the Town's groundwater quality and quantity, and farmland, bluffs, and environmentally important areas.
- e. The provision or sale of public utilities without annexation.

- f. Identification of opportunities to avoid duplication in the provision of municipal services and/or to more cost effectively provide infrastructure and services to residents and businesses in the Village and Town. The Town and the Village currently share and exchange equipment. The Town and the Village should explore additional ways to cooperate in the sharing and exchanging of equipment, including the potential joint purchase/ownership of equipment on terms and conditions acceptable to both communities.
- g. Formal methods of resolving disputes such as arbitration.
- h. The period for which the agreement will remain in effect and intervals in which either or both communities can call for the agreement to be amended or re-negotiated.
- i. Create criteria/standards on which to base annexation decisions. The criteria/standards should address:
 - Economic impacts.
 - Social impacts.
 - Environmental impacts.

Action 2-2b: Create an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Onalaska to address issues such as, but not limited to, the following:

- a. An agreement that will guide and achieve a coordinated and harmonious development and conservation of the Town and the City that will meet existing and future needs of the two communities and best provide for the public health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity, and the general welfare of both communities and their residents.
- b. Future boundaries that are compatible with the characteristics of the comprehensive plans of both communities, taking into consideration present and potential transportation, sewer, water and storm drainage facilities, and other infrastructure, fiscal capacity, and the preservation of agriculture, environmentally and culturally important lands.
 - The boundaries should take into consideration orderly urban growth and efficient delivery of municipal services. For example, the Town islands within the City, and other areas difficult or expensive in which to provide public utilities or services to should also be addressed.
 - The City's northeastern boundary should be Sand Lake Coulee, and the northwestern boundary may include Brice Prairie.

- The agreement should also address the impact and location of possible purchase of development rights program and its associated impacts.
- c. A detailed land use plan for Brice Prairie, including addressing the provision of public utilities and services as well as the protection of private wellhead concerns or Town groundwater quality and quantity.
- d. Establish a joint review committee or process, or referral process for development applications on properties in or near the agreed upon future boundaries.
- e. The protection and preservation of farmland, bluffs, and environmentally important areas.
- f. The provision or sale of public utilities without annexation.
- g. Identification of opportunities to avoid duplication in the provision of municipal services and/or to more cost effectively provide infrastructure and services to residents and businesses in the City and Town. The Town and City should explore ways to cooperate in the sharing and exchanging of equipment, including the potential joint purchase/ownership of equipment on terms and conditions acceptable to both communities.
- h. Formal methods of resolving disputes such as arbitration.
- i. The period for which the agreement will remain in effect and intervals in which either or both communities can call for the agreement to be amended or re-negotiated.
- j. The mechanism(s) and/or forum(s) for representatives of the City and the Town to discuss and plan for the orderly development or conservation of lands within the agreement's boundaries.
- k. Create criteria/standards on which to base annexation decisions. The criteria/standards should address:
 - Economic impacts.
 - Social impacts.
 - Environmental impacts.
- l. Revenue sharing and financial participation in the provision of public parks, trails, recreation and other public facilities in both communities.
- m. If necessary or desirable, coordinate zoning and other applicable development regulations.

Action 2-2c: Create an intergovernmental agreement with La Crosse County to address issues such as, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Identification of opportunities to cost effectively provide existing, new, or expanded public services in a cost effective manner to Town residents and businesses.
- b. Update zoning classifications and standards that will specifically implement this Plan.
- c. The protection and preservation of farmland, bluffs and environmentally sensitive areas.

Goal 3: **Coordinate with neighboring communities, La Crosse County, other relevant agencies and districts, and non-profit organizations to provide high quality services in the most cost effective manner possible.**

Objectives, Policies & Actions

3-1: Continue to work cooperatively with neighboring communities to lower the costs of providing services.

Action 3-1a: Share information, equipment, resources, facilities, technology, services and possibly revenue streams that have cross-jurisdictional applications.

Action 3-1b: Identify opportunities to jointly provide expanded or new services such as additional recreational programs, transit programs, and bicycle or park facilities with neighboring communities.

Action 3-1c: Jointly plan and pursue public utilities and services improvements with neighboring communities and willing partners.

Action 3-1d: Identify opportunities to avoid duplication in the provision of public services with other governments, including the school districts. The Town should explore ways to cooperate in the sharing and exchanging of equipment, including the potential joint purchase/ownership of equipment with interested neighboring communities.

Action 3-1e: Identify areas of the Town that are expensive to provide public services to and explore opportunities to reduce costs. For example, the Town might contract with the City of Onalaska to serve the Town islands within the City limits, or agree to provide the similar service to an area of the City that is more efficient for the Town to serve.

Action 3-1f: Seek to resolve all conflicts in non-aggressive manners to limit costly litigation.