

11.0 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

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Introduction

Intergovernmental cooperation involves working with neighboring communities, county government and state agencies to understand how their future planning activities will impact the town of Three Lakes. At a minimum, this involves sharing information about the Three Lakes plan with neighboring communities and agencies and vice versa. Three Lakes 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 regional cooperation.

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law includes 14 goals for local comprehensive planning. The goals listed below specifically relate to planning for intergovernmental cooperation:

- encouragement of land uses, densities and regulations that promote efficient development patterns and relatively low municipal, state governmental and utility costs; and
- providing an integrated, efficient and economical transportation system that affords mobility, convenience and safety and that meets the needs of all citizens, including transit-dependent and disabled citizens.

Intergovernmental Vision

By 2030, intergovernmental cooperation efforts have enabled Three Lakes to establish partnerships with neighboring communities, Oneida County, the Three Lakes School District and state agencies, among others, to provide inter-organized, cost-effective services to residents while maintaining low local tax rates.

The Comprehensive Planning law requires that the Town of Three Lakes orchestrate cooperative planning activities with:

- Oneida, Forest and Vilas counties;
- the towns of Piehl, Stella, Sugar Camp, Hiles, Lincoln and Washington;
- the Three Lakes School District;
- North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; and
- Wisconsin departments of Administration, Natural Resources and Transportation.

VISIONS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND GOALS

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law requires that the Intergovernmental Cooperation element contain 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 and adjacent local governmental units, and to the region, the state and other governmental units. The element shall consider, to the greatest extent feasible, the maps and plans of any military base or installation with at least 200 assigned military personnel or that contains at least 2,000 acres, with which the local governmental unit shares common territory. The element shall

incorporate any plans or agreements to which the local governmental unit is party under s. 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.

From the all of the community forums, surveys and public hearings, the following Intergovernmental Cooperation issue concerned the citizens of Three Lakes. A goal was then developed to address this issue while reflecting the vision statement that guided the development of the comprehensive plan.

ISSUE	GOAL
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION	Work with local, county, and state governments and other institutions to effectively implement the Town of Three Lakes Comprehensive Plan

A full expansion of the above Issue, Goal, Objectives and Policies can be found in *Chapter 12: Implementation*

ADJACENT GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

- Towns of Piehl, Stella, Sugar Camp, Hiles, Lincoln and Washington

Three Lakes' relationship with neighboring towns can be characterized as one of mutual respect. These communities share a common history, social culture and rural character with Three Lakes. Since towns cannot annex land from one another, boundary disputes are non-existent. Public services such as road maintenance and construction are conducted individually by each community. However, as mutually beneficial opportunities for shared services arise, the Town of Three Lakes is open to considering shared services options.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

The town of Three Lakes and the Three Lakes School District recognize the significant role each plays in the other's future. Each is dependent upon the other, to varying degrees, to ensure a healthy long-term future. The school district was discussed in detail in *Chapter 6: Utilities and Community Facilities*. With respect to intergovernmental cooperation, opportunities were identified during the planning effort to strengthen relations between the town of Three Lakes and the school district. Specific goals and objectives to help realize several of these opportunities are included in the Intergovernmental Cooperation section of *Chapter 12: Implementation*.

ONEIDA, FOREST AND VILAS COUNTIES

Oneida County provides many programs, services and facilities to Three Lakes and its residents. Those that most directly affect Three Lakes include:

Three Lakes ²⁰³⁰

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- county highway maintenance and improvement programs;
- library funding support (to help cover the costs of county residents who use the library);
- social services; and
- land-use planning and mapping assistance.

In those areas where Oneida County has jurisdiction (i.e., shoreland zoning), the county consults the Town before making decisions affecting Three Lakes. During the planning process, additional communication with the county was identified as a priority, particularly with respect to county road improvement projects. Future communication will also be especially important as it relates to:

- stormwater management;
- cooperative organization with the Oneida County Comprehensive Plan; and
- public safety.

There are a number of issues that will challenge the town of Three Lakes and its neighbors during the coming decades, many of which require or benefit from an inter-organized multi-jurisdictional response. The Town will cooperate with the county and other local communities to discuss and address matters related to:

- subdivision, zoning and other local land-use tools;
- housing, transportation and services for seniors;
- affordable housing for Oneida County's year-round residents and seasonal workers;
- socioeconomic and environmental issues related to global climate change; and
- the long-term sustainability of the Three Lakes School District.

Although the town of Three Lakes is within Oneida County, it shares its eastern border with Forest County and its northern border with Vilas County. Accordingly, the Town will organize plan implementation and future development activities with the two adjacent counties to ensure compatible future land uses.

STATE AGENCIES

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)
- Wisconsin State Historical Society

The activities of the DNR are discussed further in Chapter 7: Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources. Additional information is also available online at:
www.dnr.state.wi.us.



For additional information about WisDOT activities in the town of Three Lakes, refer to Chapter 5: Transportation. Additional information is also available online at:
www.dot.state.wi.us

The DNR and WisDOT are the primary state agencies with which Three Lakes must cooperatively organize to achieve the goals and objectives of this plan.

The DNR takes a lead role in wildlife protection and the sustainable management of woodlands, stormwater regulations, wetlands, state parks and other natural wildlife habitat areas. Given the priority town residents give to natural resource protection, the DNR is an important partner with the Town of Three Lakes in planning for the future.

WisDOT is a key player in the planning and development of highways and pedestrian/cycling facilities in the town and region. Three Lakes has a good relationship with WisDOT and will continue to work with it, particularly with respect to ongoing and future work within the USH 45 and STH 32 corridors. The Town will continue to communicate with WisDOT about land use and transportation decisions made locally.

Intergovernmental Comprehensive Planning Process

At the onset of the planning process, letters were sent to all adjoining levels of government informing them of the Town of Three Lakes Comprehensive Plan and inviting them to participate. To facilitate a planning environment open to intergovernmental cooperation, all plan documents, including text and maps, were available throughout the plan program on the Three Lakes Town Action Group website for review and comment to ensure the widest range of public participation and input from overlapping and neighboring jurisdictions, as well as any other interested entity or individual. The Town also cooperatively organized with Oneida County and NCWRPC to obtain mapping resources as well as information from existing plan documents.

More than 30 days prior to the public hearing, all intergovernmental partners were informed of the meeting and of where they could review the pre-public hearing Draft of the Town of Three Lakes Comprehensive Plan. Comments received prior to and during the public hearing were entered into the record for the planning process.

Existing and Proposed Plans

LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

The communities adjoining the town of Three Lakes are in various stages of the comprehensive planning process. The current status of comprehensive planning efforts in adjoining communities is as follows:

- Oneida County – Plan in process with anticipated completion and adoption in early 2010.
- Forest County – Plan in process with anticipated completion and adoption in early 2010.
- Vilas County – Plan in process with anticipated completion and adoption in November 2009.
- Town of Piehl – Plan in process with anticipated completion and adoption in December 2009.
- Town of Stella – Plan completed and adopted in 2005.
- Town of Sugar Camp – Completing coordination plan.

- Town of Hiles – Plan in process with anticipated completion and adoption in December 2009.
- Town of Lincoln – Status unknown at this time.
- Town of Washington – Status unknown at this time.
- NCWRPC – Plan completed and adopted in 2005.

THREE LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

In order to facilitate future school district planning efforts, this plan recommends that the Town continue to work with the district on studies related to future enrollment and facilities needs. The district's current facilities can accommodate additional students. To further facilitate school district planning, this plan has been made available to the district as a tool to predict future school enrollments from the town of Three Lakes.

STATE AGENCIES

The DNR takes a lead role in wildlife protection and the protection and sustained management of woodlands, wetlands and other natural wildlife habitat areas. These priorities are reflected in Chapter 7: *Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources* and within the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources section of Chapter 12: *Implementation*.

The WisDOT has completed a series of statewide planning documents for use in the development of local comprehensive plans. These documents include plans for the state highway corridors, bicycle corridors, rail corridors and air transportation. The plans were used as a starting point when preparing Chapter 5: *Transportation* of this comprehensive plan.

Existing Intergovernmental Agreements

The Town of Three Lakes is party to the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). MABAS is a mutual aid measure that may be used for deploying fire, rescue and emergency medical services personnel in a multi-jurisdictional and/or multiagency response. Participation in the mutual aid program is voluntary. Equipment, personnel or services provided under MABAS are at no charge between municipalities. Expenses recovered from the responsible parties are equitably distributed. In addition, emergency personnel that respond to the emergency remain employees of their initial department or agency. MABAS is broken into divisions rather than regions.

The MABAS divisions basically follow county lines. The only exception is the city of Milwaukee which has established its own MABAS division due to size and number of agencies potentially involved. Currently, 20 counties have formally established MABAS divisions and an additional 14 counties are in the process of adopting the program.¹

¹ Text excerpted from the MABAS Wisconsin website, www.mabaswisconsin.org/, 2009.

Opportunities for Intergovernmental Cooperation

Eighteen various surrounding governmental bodies and agencies were formally invited through written invitation and return receipts. Meeting was held October 27, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the Three Lakes Town Board boardroom. None of the 18 invitees attended this meeting. Comments and suggestions were received prior to the meeting from the DNR regarding Chapter 7 Agriculture, Natural and Cultural Resources. These comments were considered and included into the chapter.

Relationship to Other Comprehensive Plan Chapters

Intergovernmental cooperation weaves its ways into every chapter of this plan. Regional housing demand and supplies determine the market for housing in the town of Three Lakes. Transportation improvements made to county and state highways have the potential to affect land use and development patterns in the town. Likewise, the town's ability to expand economically depends on high-quality services being provided, not only by the Town, but also by its intergovernmental partners (i.e., schools, police, fire, etc.). Moreover, the town's ability to support development opportunities at its perimeter must be cooperatively organized with neighboring communities to ensure compatibility with adjacent land uses.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives and Policies

The goals, objectives and policies related to intergovernmental cooperation in Three Lakes can be found in *Chapter 12: Implementation*.