

APPENDIX C-10: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION INVENTORY

INTRODUCTION

The relationship a municipality has with school districts, neighboring communities, the county, their regional planning commission, the state, and the federal government can impact residents in terms of taxation, planning, service provision, and siting of public facilities and infrastructure. An examination of these relationships and the identification of existing or potential conflicts can help a municipality address these situations in a productive manner. This information helped to generate the related plan element goals, framing concepts, policies, strategies and action items (see Chapter 2). The following section compiles and analyzes current conditions and factors related to intergovernmental cooperation.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Governmental Units & Relationships

Adjacent Communities

The Town of Algoma shares its borders with the City of Oshkosh and the Towns of Omro on the west and Nekimi on the south, all of which reside in Winnebago County.

Towns cannot annex land from one another, therefore these threats do not exist from two directions. The City of Oshkosh however had historically annexed significant amounts of land from the Town as it expanded westward over the decades.

At this time, the Town of Algoma has only one formal cooperative boundary agreement, that being with the City of Oshkosh. This 2004 cooperative plan established a Town “protected area”, two City “expansion areas” (20-year and 40-year automatic annexations) and provided guidance on Town islands and other areas not within the protected or expansion areas. As a result, the Town is able to plan for development in its protected area.

School Districts

Two public school districts provide education to the Town of Algoma: the Oshkosh Area School District (OASD) covers the majority of the Town of Algoma. Small pockets along the Town of Omro/Town of Algoma border are part of the Omro School District. Even so, no school facilities exist within the Town. Most grade school age children in the Town attend one of three public grade schools, two middle schools, and high school located in Oshkosh. Students within the Omro School District attend one of three schools in the City of Omro: Omro Elementary School, Omro Middle School or Omro High School.

The Town of Algoma and the two school districts should establish methods of communication and explore ways in which they can work together. Areas of overlapping interest should include at a minimum population changes, residential growth, transportation, safety, new facilities and other infrastructure needs and impacts over the long term. Joint cooperation between the town and school districts will allow the goals of the comprehensive plan to be met while providing safe, efficient transportation, community services, and related amenities.

APPENDIX C-10: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION INVENTORY

There are no institutions of higher education in the Town of Algoma. However, the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, located in the City of Oshkosh offers academic and professionally oriented bachelors and master degrees in a wide range of fields. The Town is also a part of the Fox Valley Technical College district which offers a variety of two year technical degrees.

Special Districts & Systems

Public Sewer / Town of Algoma Sanitary District

The Town is part of the Oshkosh Sewer Service Area (SSA) and hence, future sewer development must adhere to this plan administered by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Periodic updates or amendments to the plan can be considered to accommodate future sewer development. Most times, such amendments would be dictated by the Town of Algoma Sanitary District, in close coordination with the Town. Portions of the Algoma Sanitary District 1 (ASD) and the remainder of the Town of Algoma, not within the Algoma Sanitary District are included in the long range planning area for future sewer service.

The Algoma Sanitary District provides sewer and water services (although water systems are not part of the SSA planning jurisdiction) to homes and businesses in the Town of Algoma, Town of Omro and portions of the City of Oshkosh. The district is approximately 3,093 acres in size (about 70 percent is in the Town of Algoma) and has a contract with the City of Oshkosh to purchase treatment service. The Sanitary District is an independent governmental entity originally formed by the Town, but with its own elected Commission process.

Library System

Town of Algoma residents are served by the Oshkosh Public Library at 106 Washington Avenue in the City of Oshkosh and by the Carter Memorial Library at 405 E Huron Street in the City of Omro. Algoma residents also have access to academic libraries, including those on the UW-Oshkosh and UW-Fox campuses.

County

The Town of Algoma is located in Winnebago County. ***The Town of Algoma is presently under County Zoning and land use decisions are subject to the review and approval of Winnebago County. In addition, the Town of Algoma and the County must interact and cooperate regarding land divisions, on-site sanitary systems, highway system planning and special zoning (e.g. including shoreland-wetland, floodplain areas, etc.).*** The Town of Algoma works with the various county departments to coordinate road construction and maintenance; solid waste and recycling efforts; police service; and senior and other social services. The Town of Algoma and the County should continue to maintain open communications with one another to foster good working relationships and mutual respect.

APPENDIX C-10: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION INVENTORY

Regional

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Winnebago County, and thus the Town of Algoma, is a member of the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC). The Town is subject to several important regional plans including the Oshkosh MPO Long Range Transportation/Land Use Plan and the Oshkosh Sewer Service Area Plan. ECWRPC provides planning and technical assistance to counties, communities, non-profits, and economic development entities within its region. These services include environmental management, housing, demographics, economic development, transportation, transit, community facilities (including SSA planning responsibilities), land use, contract planning, and others. ECWRPC has worked with the Town of Algoma on several projects over the years.

State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

The WDNR is responsible for the regulation, protection, and sustained management of natural resources within the state. The WDNR operates various programs in water and air quality management, habitat preservation, recreational trail development, and other programs. The WDNR helps local landowners successfully manage their woodlots for wildlife habitat and timber production throughout Winnebago County. The WDNR also maintains environmental corridors which enhance surface water quality and stream habitat throughout the planning area.

Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

The overall mission of DATCP is multi-fold. The agency oversees programs which ensure the safety and quality of food, fair business practices for buyers and sellers, consumer protection, efficient use of agricultural resources in a quality environment, healthy animal and plant populations, and the vitality of Wisconsin agriculture and commerce.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)

WisDOT deals with issues related to all transportation uses in the planning area. WisDOT evaluates existing transportation infra-structure for bicycle and pedestrian trails as well as assists in planning efforts for future trails. The Town of Algoma should continue to collaborate with WisDOT to address current and future transportation issues with the I-41, STH 21 and 91/44 corridors which can impact the Town.

Intergovernmental Planning Efforts

The Town of Algoma worked closely with the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission throughout the planning process. This helped ensure consistency and concurrence between the Town of Algoma's Comprehensive Plan and pertinent regional plans and studies.

At the beginning of the plan process, all adjacent and overlapping units of governments and non-metallic mines were notified of the Town of Algoma's intent to initiate the plan update process and were afforded opportunities to review materials on-line or attend public meetings of the Plan Commission to discuss any issues.

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Lastly, the Town of Algoma hosted an Intergovernmental Cooperation meeting, which was held on (INSERT DATE). In all, (DESCRIBE # AND TYPES OF ENTITIES). The purpose of this meeting was to recognize and address potential conflicts with other governmental bodies, and to identify opportunities for collaboration, communication, and coordination resulting from the implementation of this Comprehensive Plan. Participants were also given the opportunity to view and comment on the draft Year 2040 Land Use Framework Map and Framing Concepts.

Regulations & Ordinances

Cooperative Boundary Plans and Agreements

Cooperative boundary plans and agreements are joint planning efforts in which two or more municipalities establish a mutually agreeable plan to establish boundary lines, provide public services and facilities, share revenues, and establish land use criteria. The majority of municipal boundary agreements are conducted between a town and an incorporated village or city. Cooperative boundary plans, which are subject to a minimum of a ten-year period, must be approved by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. Currently, the Town of Algoma has only one such agreement with the City of Oshkosh as noted previously.

Extraterritorial Subdivision Regulation

Incorporated villages and cities can exercise plat review authority in unincorporated areas adjacent to their communities. This allows incorporated areas the same authority to approve or reject a specific plat or CSM as if it were within its own jurisdiction. This authority extends to a distance of 1.5 miles from the incorporated boundary for villages and small cities and 3.0 miles for cities with population of greater than 10,000 (such as Oshkosh). The incorporated area must have a subdivision ordinance in place in order to exercise this authority.

The City of Oshkosh has established extraterritorial subdivision review for the Town of Algoma. Presently, no other cities or villages are within close enough proximity to the Town of Algoma to exert this authority.

Extraterritorial Zoning

Incorporated villages and cities have been given authority to practice extraterritorial zoning authority if they have developed a zoning ordinance for the incorporated areas. This authority extends to a distance of 1.5 miles from the incorporated boundary for villages and cities with populations less than 10,000 and 3.0 miles for cities if the population exceeds 10,000 (such as Oshkosh). Extraterritorial zoning allows for smooth transitions between suburban and rural areas, reduces conflicting land uses, and promotes intergovernmental cooperation in planning for future community needs.

The City of Oshkosh has not established extraterritorial zoning into the Town of Algoma. Presently, no other cities or villages are within close enough proximity to the Town of Algoma to exert this authority.