

## **CHAPTER 7 Intergovernmental Cooperation Element**

The intergovernmental cooperation chapter identifies opportunities for establishing or maintaining cooperation between units of government. Cooperation leads to improved lines of communication between different units of government, aids in the recognition and possible resolution of conflicts between jurisdictions, and allows for the identification of mutual service needs and improvements.

The intent of this chapter is to identify, inventory, and analyze existing and potential intergovernmental agreements and other cooperative relationships.

### **Section 7.1 Inventory and Analysis Intergovernmental Relationships**

Inventory and examination of existing municipal relations allows for the understanding of how municipalities currently work together and how these relationships can be enhanced. As the Town of Hull develops over the next 20 years it is important for them to continue to work with surrounding municipalities, school districts, and other governmental units.

The Town of Hull shares borders with the Portage County Towns of Dewey to the north, Sharon and Stockton to the east, Plover and the City of Stevens Point to the south, and Town of Carson to the west across the Wisconsin River (see Figure 1.1 in the Issues and Opportunities chapter of this plan).

#### **A. Stevens Point**

- The Town has a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Stevens Point Fire Department.
- The Town has an agreement with the City of Stevens Point for a joint maintenance and management plan for Town of Hull parks near the city's boundary.
- The Town also has an informal agreement with the City regarding snowplowing for some streets within Hull.
- The Town and other urban municipalities jointly serve on the Stevens Point Urban Area Sewer Service Committee, which control sewer/water extension in the Stevens Point/Plover area.

#### **B. Towns of Plover, Stockton, Sharon**

The Towns of Hull, Plover, Stockton and Sharon agreed to share costs for publications relating to testing of electronic voting systems. In 2004 there were four (4) elections resulting in each paying for one (1) publication instead of four (4).

#### **C. Other Surrounding Communities**

The Town of Hull participates in a Mutual Aid Agreement for fire protection with the Town of Dewey. The Town of Hull currently has no written or unwritten agreements with the Town of Carson.

#### **D. School Districts**

The Town of Hull is served by one school district, the Stevens Point Area Public School District. The primary form of interaction with the District is through the payment of property taxes which, in part, help to fund the District. The Town has little or no direct input regarding administration or siting of new facilities.

#### E. Portage County

- Portage County Solid Waste -The Town contracts with Portage County which contracts with Wittenberg Disposal for handling solid waste and recycling materials. Waste is taken to the Portage County Landfill (through 2006), while recyclables are taken to the County's Material Recovery Facility (MRF).
- Portage County Highway Department - The highway department of Portage County maintains and plows County Roads in the Town. This Department also administers the dispersal of funds for local road projects as part of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Local Roads Improvement Program.
- Portage County Sheriff and Ambulance - The Town relies on the Portage County Sheriffs Department to provide protective services through periodic patrols and an "on-call" basis. The Stevens Point Fire Department operates the Ambulance Service for Portage County. See Utilities and Community Facilities Chapter for detailed information.
- Portage County Planning and Zoning Department - There are currently seven different sections operating under the Planning and Zoning Department; they include Planning Zoning and Code Administration, Land Conservation, On-Site Waste, Groundwater Management, Justice, and Economic and Business Park Development.

The Planning and Groundwater Management Section includes staff and resources to assist local communities in the preparation or amending of various plan documents including a comprehensive plan. Staff can also assist in water quality testing associated with siting new developments.

The Code Administration Section staff is responsible for administering the County's Zoning, Wellhead Protection, Tower, Subdivision, Floodplain Zoning, Shoreland Zoning, Non-metallic Mining Reclamation, and Private Sewage System Ordinances. The Town of Hull has been under the jurisdiction of County Zoning since 1968.

The Land Conservation Section staff works with individuals to design and implement conservation practices. Assistance may be given to Towns upon request.

- Portage County Parks Department - The Portage County Parks, including Jordan Park, are open all year; however, they are only maintained by the Department from May 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>. The Town interacts with the Parks Department on an as needed basis as issues arise.
- Portage County Treasurer Department - The Treasurer's Office of Portage County collects real and personal property taxes for the Town of Hull.

#### F. State of Wisconsin

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - is responsible for natural resource protection, compliance monitoring, and law enforcement.
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) - is responsible for the planning and development of road networks and associated infrastructure and is the lead agency for the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP). Town road improvement projects must be submitted as part of a two year improvement plan.

- State Elections Board (SEB) - Beginning in 2005 the State of Wisconsin will begin Statewide Voter Registration (SWVR). The Town of Hull will run the system via the internet for additions, deletions, voter registration lists, etc. The SEB also provides law updates, guidelines and election forms.
- Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) - The Town of Hull relies on the DOR for numerous functions including but not limited to: assessment, taxation laws, financial auditing, alcohol licensing guidelines/forms/enforcement.

## **Section 7.2 Summary of Findings**

The Town of Hull is a leader in cooperating with other governmental units. The Town would like to continue its intergovernmental agreements with surrounding communities and meet with them on a periodic basis to review how relationships and services can be improved.

The Town of Hull finds an overriding need exists to continue intergovernmental cooperation and planning in several very important areas: land use planning, expansion of sewer and water services, annexation expansion, and regional/urban development.

Develop a standard policy on annexation planning that takes into consideration the relative impacts on respective governmental units and communities.

## **Section 7.3 Identification of Existing or Potential Issues and Conflicts with Other Governmental Units**

Through the comprehensive planning process, the Town Plan Commission has identified some issues that they felt needed further attention. Commissioners stated that:

1. Improving police services through discussion with the Portage County Sheriff's Department is needed. *How can the Town of Hull and the Portage County Sheriff's Department work together so that police services are improved in the Town?*
2. An ongoing review of fire services and equipment is needed to ensure an efficient operation and to maintain cooperative efforts with other area fire departments. *Are there more efficient and cooperative ways to operate the Town of Hull fire services with other area fire departments?*
3. Land use decisions and development in neighboring municipalities (i.e. Stevens Point, Stockton, Plover), will have an impact on the Town of Hull residents and neighborhoods. *To what extent will the Town of Hull work with surrounding units of government to help ensure efficient delivery of services and a desired quality of life?*
4. Jointly plan with the City of Stevens Point the potential expansion and development of Stevens Point within the Town of Hull. *How and when will the joint planning take place?*
5. Stevens Point, Plover and other urban area communities need a structure to improve communication, development practices and planning within the Stevens Point/Plover urban area. *How can the Town of Hull provide leadership to institute an Urban Area planning prospective that recognizes the inter-relationship of communities in the Plover/Stevens Point Urban Area?*

#### **Section 7.4 Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals**

- A. Jointly identify with Stevens Point an expansion and development plan for growth over the next 20 years.
- B. Together with Stevens Point, Plover and other urban communities, identify a framework (structure) to improve communication, development and planning in the Stevens Point/Plover area.

#### **Section 7.5 Intergovernmental Cooperation Action Plan**

- A. The Hull Plan Commission, in cooperation with Stevens Point, should identify a 20 year development plan.
- B. The Hull Town Board and Plan Commission should have in cooperation with Urban Area communities a structure to improve planning and communication.