

CHAPTER 7 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

66.1001 (2)(g) Wis. Stat.:

Intergovernmental Cooperation element. 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 sighting 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 incorporate any plans or agreements to which the local governmental unit is a 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.

The Intergovernmental Cooperation chapter identifies opportunities for establishing or maintaining cooperation between local units of government. Cooperation improves lines of communication between different units of government, and 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 cooperative relationships.

Section 7.1 Analysis and Inventory of Intergovernmental Agreements

Inventory and examination of existing municipal relations allows for the understanding of how municipalities currently work and how any of these relationships can be enhanced. The Town of Stockton shares its borders with the Towns of Amherst, Buena Vista, Sharon, Plover, and Hull, and also falls within the extraterritorial area of the City of Stevens Point (3 miles), Village of Plover (1½ miles) and Village of Nelsonville (1½ miles).

A. Adjacent Units of Government

Stockton has written agreements for snow removal and road maintenance on boundary roads with the surrounding Towns of Buena Vista, Plover, Amherst, New Hope, and Sharon.

The Town of Stockton has worked with the City of Stevens Point on identifying future road needs of the City (Map 3.3) within the Town of Stockton boundaries. The Town and the City have also had some preliminary discussions on future land use, and these will/should continue into the future. Similar discussions have taken place with the Village of Plover.

Other agreements include fire and rescue services provided by the City of Stevens Point (rescue), Village of Plover (fire), Amherst (fire) and first responders (Stockton). Mutual aid agreements exist between all fire districts.

Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

Recognizing that land uses in town territory may affect neighboring cities and villages that may need to grow beyond their borders, state laws have long provided these municipalities with certain “extraterritorial” authority over adjacent town lands and have provided methods for them to expand their borders through annexation. This city and village extraterritorial authority may apply to planning, land division approvals, zoning, and the city or village official map. The extraterritorial jurisdiction for a city with a population of 10,000 or more is three miles from its corporate boundary, while the extraterritorial jurisdiction for a city whose population is under 10,000 and for villages is one and one half miles from their corporate boundaries.

The City of Stevens Point, the Village of Plover, and the Village of Nelsonville’s, extraterritorial boundaries extend into the Town of Stockton (see Map 8.4).

B. Portage County

1. Portage County Solid Waste Disposal Facility

The Town of Stockton has a negotiated settlement agreement with Portage County regarding the existing solid waste disposal facility. The Town contracts with Onyx Disposal for handling solid waste and recycling materials.

2. Portage County Highway Department

The Highway Department of Portage County maintains and plows State and County highways 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 (LRIP).

3. 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.

4. Portage County Planning and Zoning Department

There are currently six different sections operating under the Planning and Zoning Department. These sections include: planning, zoning and code administration, land conservation, on-site waste, groundwater management, and economic and business park development.

- The Planning 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, and Floodplain Zoning, Shore land Zoning, Non-metallic Mining Reclamation, and Private Sewage System Ordinances.
- The Land Conservation Section staff works with individuals to design and implement conservation practices. Assistance may be given to Towns upon request.

5. Portage County Parks Department

The Portage County Parks, including Standing Rocks Park and Rails to Trails are open all year. Standing Rocks Park is open during the winter season for skiing and sledding. These are maintained by the Parks Department which communicates to the Town on an as needed basis as issues arise.

6. Portage County Treasurer Department

The Treasurer's Department collects real and personal property taxes for the Town of Stockton.

C. Towns of Plover, Hull, Sharon

In the recent past, the Towns of Stockton, Hull, Plover, 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 (1) publication instead of four (4).

D. School Districts

The Town of Stockton falls within the Stevens Point Area School District, Tomorrow River School District, and a small portion of the Rosholt School District. There are no educational facilities located in Stockton, so all school children must be transported. The primary form of interaction with these Districts is through the payment of property taxes which help to fund the Districts.

E. State

The four primary State agencies that the Town of Stockton interacts with are the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and the State Elections Board.

1. Department of Transportation (WisDOT)

The Wisconsin DOT is one of the four main agencies that the Town deals with. 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). Stockton receives an annual payment from WisDOT for road maintenance.

2. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR)

The DNR is responsible for natural resource protection, compliance monitoring, and law enforcement.

3. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture provides assistance to farmers regarding matters relating to animals, raising crops, and land and water resources. Other information regarding counseling services, farm transfers, financial, legal, and vocational assistance and can be obtained by contacting the Wisconsin Farm Center at 1-800-942-2474.

4. State Elections Board (SEB)

Beginning in 2005 the State of Wisconsin will begin Statewide Voter Registration (SWVR). The SEB also provides law updates, guidelines and election forms.

Section 7.2 Analysis of Intergovernmental Agreements

The Town of Stockton strives for open communications between governmental units and other agencies. The Town would like to continue its intergovernmental agreements and meet with the various governing units/agencies on a periodic basis or as the need arises. The Town will continue to review how relationships and services can be improved.

The City of Stevens Point and the Village of Plover are both expanding to the east and their extraterritorial rights move farther and farther into the Town. The need exists to continue intergovernmental cooperation and planning in several very important areas: land use planning, expansion of sewer and water services, transportation corridors, annexation expansion, and regional/urban development.

Stockton realizes the need to 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/Potential Conflicts with Other Governmental Units

A. Existing Conflicts and Issues

- US HWY 10 bypass issue has been a major conflict and will continue to be so because of the delay of the WisDOT on their final decision for the location of the bypass.
- Issues of extraterritorial rights with regards to the City of Stevens Point, the Village of Plover and the Town.
- Issues are being resolved between the Amherst and Plover Fire Departments and the Town of Stockton.

B. Potential Conflicts and Issues

- Find a way to balance the budget without raising taxes due to decreased state shared revenues, loss of property through annexation, and the Town's ability to provide services at current or an improved status.
- The movement of the area for City and Village extraterritorial boundaries as growth occurs.
- Potential for conflict when proposed new roads within the extraterritorial area occur. Discussion with urban municipalities on location and potential for cost sharing for the development of these roads.
- Lack of willingness by County to help maintain/cost share roads going to and from County Parks.

C. Possible Methods for Conflict Resolution

- Shared revenue agreements need to be adopted between the Town of Stockton and the City of Stevens Point and the Village of Plover with respect to future annexations.
- The Town supports continued discussions to resolve conflicts between fire departments on any issues that may arise during the formation of a volunteer fire department/substation in the Town of Stockton. Ongoing review of fire services and equipment is needed to ensure an efficient operation and maintain cooperative efforts with other area fire departments.
- As Stockton grows, the Town will need to work to ensure efficient delivery of services, improve our road network, and strive to maintain the quality of life that its residents currently enjoy.
- Urban area communities need a structure to improve communication, development practices and planning processes.

Section 7.4 Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives, and Policies

There are no specific survey results relating to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Chapter.

A. Goals

1. Jointly identify with Stevens Point and the Village of Plover an expansion and development plan for growth over the next twenty (20) years.
2. Identify a process to improve communications with neighboring municipalities.

B. Objectives

1. Maintain or improve the present level of communication with surrounding municipalities for discussion of land use issues along adjacent boundaries.
2. Review shared services with other municipalities every two years.
3. Communicate with surrounding municipalities on economic development.

C. Policies

1. Meet with adjacent units of government as needed.
2. Review intergovernmental agreements (boundary agreements, snow plowing, road maintenance, shared revenue, and any other existing agreement) at least once every five years.
3. Continue participation with the Portage County Towns Association.
4. Work to preserve natural resources and open spaces in our Town.