

10.0 Implementation Element

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This element serves as a “priority” list for implementing and realizing the Plan. It prescribes those actions necessary to realize the visions, goals, and objectives highlighted in previous chapters of the Plan. The Plan addresses many important components critical to sustaining a healthy community while preserving the area’s rural character, natural resources, and history. As change is inevitable, the Plan may need to be amended to appropriately reflect land use changes.

*Wis. Stats. 66.1001(2)(i)
(i) Implementation element. A compilation of programs and specific actions to be completed in a stated sequence, including proposed changes to any applicable zoning ordinances, official maps, or subdivision ordinances, to implement the objectives, policies, plans and programs contained in pars. (a) to (h). The element shall describe how each of the elements of the Comprehensive Plan will be integrated and made consistent with the other elements of the Comprehensive Plan, and shall include a mechanism to measure the local governmental unit’s progress toward achieving all aspects of the Comprehensive Plan. The element shall include a process for updating the Comprehensive Plan. A Comprehensive Plan under this subsection shall be updated no less than once every 10 years.*

If there is a question regarding a decision that is not clearly conveyed in the details of this Comprehensive Plan, then the decision should be based on the intent of the vision statements. All nine elements included in this Plan work to achieve the desired future for Chippewa County.

10.1 Action Plan

The Chippewa County Comprehensive Plan is intended to help guide land-use decisions within the County. The Plan is an expression of Chippewa County’s wishes and desires, and provides a series of policies for assisting the community in attaining its visions, goals, and objectives. The Plan is not an attempt to predict the future, but rather an attempt to document the community’s values and philosophies that citizens of Chippewa County share. The Plan guides a variety of community issues including housing, transportation, utilities/community facilities, land use, economic development, and intergovernmental cooperation.

The Chippewa County committees, Board, and citizens in reviewing all proposals pertaining to development in the Towns throughout the County that fall under County zoning and subdivision regulations should utilize the Comprehensive Plan. Development proposals should be examined to determine whether they are consistent with community wishes and desires as expressed in the Plan. As part of the review, a thorough review of the Plan is necessary with particular attention given to the goals and objectives. Where the impact of a proposed development is minimal, the evaluation may simply be a determination of whether or not the Plan provides relevant direction and whether the requested action is in conformance with the Plan. Development proposals with significant potential impacts will require a more detailed analysis in order to determine consistency.

10.2 Plan Integration and Consistency

Within this implementation element, it is required to “describe how each of the elements of the Comprehensive Plan will be integrated and made consistent with the other elements of the Comprehensive Plan.” As a result of the Comprehensive Plan being developed in a coordinated and simultaneous effort, the planning process has ensured that the development and review of each element is consistent with the others; and based on that analysis, there are no known inconsistencies between the planning elements. In the future, as plan amendments occur, it is important that the applicable County committees and Board both conduct consistency reviews. Those reviews will ensure the document continues to represent an integrated approach to planning.

To ensure consistency across jurisdictional boundaries, Chippewa County encourages early dialogue between all adjoining and overlapping jurisdictions (towns, villages, and cities) as they develop or revise their Comprehensive Plans and ordinances. Where inconsistencies are identified and a resolution cannot be reached, future actions can be developed to bring the parties together to address their concerns.

10.3 Plan Monitoring and Evaluation

As part of the Comprehensive Planning process, a number of goals, objectives, and policy items were developed that when implemented are intended to build stronger relationships and give direction to the County Board and its residents. The goals are the “purpose or end” that provides direction for Chippewa County. Objectives are statements that are measurable benchmarks the community works to achieve, and the policies are more specific statements that set preferred courses of action to carry out the objectives in the future. While many of the objectives and actions can be accomplished in the short term several others will be continuous or ongoing and do not have a specific implementation target date. As is stipulated in 1999 Wisconsin Act 9, a Comprehensive Plan must be updated at least once every ten years. However, in order to ensure that Chippewa County’s plan is an effective management tool, the Board and appropriate committees will review the plan goals and objectives annually to track those activities that have been completed to realize its accomplishments and identify areas where additional resources or actions are needed. Part of this effort, will also include addressing conflicts which may arise between the elements of the Plan.

As a means of measuring progress towards achieving the goals of the Comprehensive Plan, action steps have been developed for goals that lend themselves to measurement. Included in these action steps are strategies to achieving the goal, identifies leaders who must take charge of the process, identifies and recognizes key partners that can aid in the process, identifies potential funding sources, and provides a timeline for actions and strategies to take place.

From the start of the Comprehensive Planning process it was decided that each element would be given to the department that is primarily responsible for that respective element's subject matter. The department's oversight committees - being the policymakers of the County - were given the responsibility of deciding the goals, objectives and actions (GOA's) that would be taken. Each of the individual elements reflects an accurate and true account of those approved GOA's.

With the above in mind, the County Board elections in April 2010, the reality of merging departments and reorganization of the oversight committees, it has been determined that the GOA's - as listed in each element - will be reviewed and prioritized in May/June of 2010. Each oversight committee, with the help of the individual departments, will utilize the existing information to determine if the plan meets the intent of the committee and will revise the GOA's as needed.

The Planning and Zoning Committee - being the general steward of the Plan - will retain general oversight of the Plan as a whole. It will be their responsibility to ensure proper actions are being taken to fully implement the Plan. It is proposed that an annual report will be given by each respective committee chair to the full county board detailing the progress and actions taken in relation to the stated goals, objectives and actions for the previous year. Statute requires an update every ten years, but this reporting process will ensure an annual review of the Plan, as a whole, to keep it current with changing conditions.

Chippewa County views the plan as an opportunity to be proactive vs. reactive. This plan will give numerous oversight committees - with new or incumbent county board members - the ability to see where the programs in Chippewa County have been and where they are headed. Obviously, this will allow the county to excel in all areas and provide for a "sense of direction", but a direction that will change based on the continuous update of the Plan.

10.4 Plan Amendments and Updates

Evaluating the Comprehensive Plan is an ongoing process and will, at some time, lead to the realization that the Plan requires updating and amendments. The time that elapses between the completion of the Plan and the need to amend the Plan depend greatly on evolving issues, trends, and land use conditions. Periodic updates will allow for updates to statistical data, and too ensure the Plan's goals, objectives, and actions reflect the current conditions, needs, and concerns. The Comprehensive Planning legislation requires plan updates at least every ten years. The County will remain flexible in determining when and how often the Plan should be updated. Generally, a Comprehensive Plan update should not be expected more often than once every five years. A tremendous amount of change can occur in a community over just a couple of years and Chippewa County will be prepared to address

changing conditions with timely plan updates. Amendments to the plan will follow the requirements of State law and will be evaluated for consistency with the existing plan, including all elements.

To ensure residents are involved in plan amendments, the following process and protocol should be followed to allow public involvement and comment. The appropriate Chippewa County committees shall undertake a review of the Plan and shall consider necessary amendment(s) to the Plan resulting from property owner requests and changes to social and economic conditions. Upon the committee reviews, recommended changes to the Plan shall be forwarded to the Board. The Chippewa County Board of Supervisors shall call a public hearing to afford property owners time to review and comment on recommended Plan changes. A public hearing shall be advertised in accordance with Chippewa County's public meeting notice procedures. Based on public input, committee recommendations, and other facts, the Board will then formally act on the recommended amendment(s).

