

## 8.0 Intergovernmental Cooperation Element

### 8.1 Existing Conditions

### 8.2 Assessment of Future Conditions

### 8.3 Growth Trends and Planning Activities in Adjacent Communities

### 8.4 Goals, Objectives and Policies

*Wis. Stats. 66.1001(2)(g)  
(g) 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 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 possible, 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 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.*

## 8.1 Existing Conditions

### *Intergovernmental Plans, Agreements, and Relationships*

The number of existing intergovernmental plans, agreements, and relationships involving Chippewa County is fairly extensive. Many intergovernmental agreements and relationships involve emergency services and land-use and land-division standards, on-site sanitary systems, wells, and zoning that are provided through the County to unincorporated areas. Chippewa County also operates and maintains many miles of roads throughout the County. Examples of existing contracts held between Chippewa County and local, State or other County Governments are as follows:

- Department of Administration has a contract with the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport
- Department of Human Services has a contract with Clark County Social Services and CRI – Lutheran Social Services
- Department of Information Technology has an agreement with the City of Chippewa Falls IT Department
- Land Conservation Department has storm water management agreements with various municipalities and a recycling agreement with the city of Cornell and Chippewa Falls and the Village of New Auburn.
- Planning and Zoning Department has a comprehensive land use administration and enforcement agreement with the Village of Lake Hallie.
- The Sheriff’s Department has several agreements including a boarding prisoner’s agreement with Eau Claire and Trempealeau County, an armored vehicle agreement with Eau Claire County and a joint services agreement for a Tactical Team merger with the City of Chippewa Falls.
- UW-Extension has a WNEP County Coordinator and a Cooperative Wildlife Damage Management Program agreement with area municipalities.

- Emergency Management Department has a Hazardous Materials Response Agreement with area municipalities.
- Forest and Parks Department has a Chippewa County Snowmobile Maintenance Agreement.
- Human Services Department has several agreements including a Trempealeau County Health Care contract, Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with Mississippi Valley Health Services, Workforce Resources FSET and W2 Child Care.
- Public Health Department has an agreement with the Chippewa Falls School district for services provided.

**For more information regarding any of these agreements or contracts contact the respective department.**

Other indirect relationships exist between neighboring jurisdictions, the WCWRPC, WDNR, WisDOT, and several other State agencies/departments. Enhancing the relationship of Chippewa County with all adjoining and overlapping jurisdictions can and will advance dialogue and actions necessary to ready the County for future changes in land use and growth pressures.

### ***County Departments***

#### **Planning and Zoning**

The Chippewa County Planning and Zoning Department regulates many land-use decisions in local communities throughout the County. The County shoreland zoning ordinance is enforced around all surface waters throughout the County, unless the local jurisdiction has a more restrictive ordinance. As discussed in the Land Use element, several towns throughout the County following Chippewa County Zoning, which this department administers and enforces. The Planning and Zoning Department also regulates private on-site septic and well systems. In unincorporated communities, and some incorporated communities that have chosen to follow the County ordinance, this department also enforces subdivision and platting regulations.

#### **Chippewa County Highway Department**

The Chippewa County Highway Department is responsible for coordinating maintenance activities on both the State and County Trunk Highway Systems. This department also coordinates construction and bridge plans on their road system. The Highway Department issues and reviews many driveway permits, roadway use permits, and utility permits for communities throughout Chippewa County.

### **Chippewa County Land Conservation**

The Chippewa County Land Conservation Department manages land and water resources. They also keep information on the natural environment, including any environmental preservation areas, data on soil conditions, pollution control, farmland preservation, and animal waste/water quality, among other things. This department also manages the County recycling program, and works with communities to establish recycling pick-up or drop-off services for residents.

### **Chippewa County Emergency Management**

This department maintains and records information throughout the County about where hazardous materials are stored and utilized, how to respond to natural disasters, and coordinates county highway safety programs and grants. This department also coordinates and maintains county-wide radio communications, which are important to communities who use County dispatch services.

### **Chippewa County Land Records**

The Chippewa County Land Records Department files and records land record information pertaining to land corners, maps of survey and information related to land parcels. This department also maintains the Public Land Survey System and determines the geodetic positions of locations for survey and mapping projects.

### **Chippewa County Human Services**

This department provides assistance, information, and programming for disadvantaged individuals throughout the County. They offer and coordinate mental health and alcohol and other drug addictions (AODA) counseling services, economic support, children and family services (employment programs, long-term and short-term care facilities, community re-entry programs, etc.), and programs for persons with developmental disabilities.

### **Chippewa County Sheriff Department**

The Chippewa County Sheriff Department provides police protection and emergency response for the unincorporated communities throughout the County. They also patrol the County Highway system through incorporated communities, and will assist other law enforcement departments upon request and availability. This department also oversees the administration of the County jail, which houses inmates and criminals.

### ***Adjacent Jurisdictions***

Chippewa County generally maintains a cooperative relationship with all adjacent municipalities. In general, Chippewa County has not seen a lot of disputes and confrontation in regards to land-use or planning issues from the local communities in the County. More conflict occurs between local municipalities, particularly in cases where growing incorporated communities are adjacent to unincorporated communities. Many County

departments do a good job of staying involved, and keeping local jurisdictions involved, in matters that could potentially affect them.

Chippewa County participates in the Chippewa Falls Urban Area Storm Water Management Plan, along with the Village of Lake Hallie, and the Towns of Eagle Point and Lafayette. This is described in more detail in the Utilities and Community Facilities element. Members from each of the municipalities, as well as members of the Chippewa County Land Conservation Department, Chippewa County Zoning Department, and the Chippewa County Highway Department, as well as individuals from the DNR, are on the technical advisory committee. By having intergovernmental cooperation in this management plan, communities throughout the area are able to consistently approach stormwater management and flooding in the Chippewa Falls Urban Area. Chippewa County coordinates many of the activities among participating municipalities, including an annual meeting, reporting permitting activities, and coordinating the financing of stormwater activities.

#### *Why Collaborate?*

- Provide a wider network of compatible businesses for clustering.
- Provide a greater array of services available to a larger market.
- Create traffic patterns that capitalize on the contributions of multiple communities, while retaining a greater number of dollars within the region.
- Pool government resources to prevent overlapping or duplicative services.
- Consolidate heavy-cost services.
- Pool government resources to achieve volumes necessary to access deep discounts not available individually.
- Share financial resources to protect natural resources.

*Source: Wisconsin Economic Development Institute, Inc., A Guide to Preparing the Economic Development Element of a Comprehensive Plan. 2003.*

### **Schools**

Students in Chippewa County attend public school in several school districts throughout the County, as seen in the Issues and Opportunities Element, and the Utility and Community Facilities Element. Chippewa County's relationship with these school districts is very limited, but it is important that Chippewa County take into account the location of schools when planning for land-use changes and transportation improvements.

### **Regional Agencies**

Chippewa County and the local municipalities throughout the County are part of the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC). Regional planning commissions provide planning assistance, assist local interests in responding to state and federal programs, serve as a coordinating agency for programs, and provide other technical and advisory assistance to local governments. Chippewa County has fairly regular direct contact with the WCWRPC. However, under Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning legislation each regional planning commission must also develop a Comprehensive Plan. Under this law, regional planning commissions will be responsible for developing a plan that takes on a regional aspect. In development of this regional plan, it is important Chippewa County be solicited for input as it relates to the County's Comprehensive Plan.

The WCWRPC also serves as the administrative clearinghouse for most transportation planning matters for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). This organization concerns itself primarily with the Eau Claire Urbanized Area, which encompasses many communities in Chippewa County, including the City of Chippewa Falls, the Village of Lake Hallie, and the Towns of Anson, Eagle Point, Hallie, Lafayette, and Wheaton, in addition to Chippewa County itself.

## State Agencies

WDNR and WisDOT are the primary state agencies Chippewa County must coordinate with to achieve the goals and objectives of this Plan.

WDNR has a lead role in wildlife protection and the protection and sustained management of woodlands, wetlands and other natural wildlife habitat areas. The activities of the WDNR are discussed further in the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Element of this Plan. Additional information is also available on-line at [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us).

WisDOT is also a key player in the planning and development of transportation facilities in Chippewa County. WisDOT is responsible for the maintenance of the state highways throughout Chippewa County. The County will continue to coordinate with WisDOT with respect to these decisions and regarding all roadways under WisDOT jurisdiction. Additional information is also available on-line at [www.dot.state.wi.us](http://www.dot.state.wi.us).

Open communication and participation in land use and transportation decisions, which may impact Chippewa County, is an important priority for intergovernmental cooperation in the future.

## 8.2 Assessment of Future Conditions

In the future, it is desired that an open and continuous dialogue between the Chippewa County, the towns, villages, and cities throughout the County, and other governmental jurisdictions will result in cooperative and mutually beneficial efforts. These efforts are critical to the future planning and development of public and shared services and open communications. Without the coordination and cooperation of local governmental jurisdictions, decisions critical to preserving and enhancing local and regional characteristics, activities, and natural resources will be compromised.

### *Healthy collaborations:*

- Are less competitive than traditional decision-making.
- Are based on joint learning and fact finding.
- Feature opportunities for creative and systemic thinking.
- Encourage parties to participate jointly in the decision-making process.
- Can be ongoing processes that accept new players.
- Structure participant interaction to encourage constructive dialogue, discussion and deliberation.
- Accommodate mutual gain negotiation.
- Address matters of procedure and relationships as well as substance.
- Allocate implementation responsibility across as many parties in the process as the situation warrants."

As growth and land use changes continue in the area, development in the incorporated communities that are adjacent to unincorporated communities will continue to be a contentious topic. Furthermore, many business establishments are heavily debated as to their existence and location. It will be important to work with local communities in finding suitable locations for desired and beneficial businesses.

## 8.3 Growth Trends and Planning Activities in Adjacent Communities

Chippewa County will seek to cooperate with all neighboring municipalities, the county, state agencies, regional planning commission, and the school districts for mutual benefit. To ensure compatibility with the planning goals and objectives identified in Chippewa County's Comprehensive Plan, the County will share their plan with adjacent communities and agencies, and would like to participate in future planning efforts with these entities.

## 8.4 Goals, Objectives and Policies

Based upon the planning process completed to date, and in conjunction with discussions at a meeting, a list of Intergovernmental Cooperation goals, objectives and policies were identified.

**Goal:** Coordinate and collaborate with government entities at all levels to ensure effective and efficient government services.

**Objective** – Develop and maintain open communication with government at all levels.

**Objective** – Encourage coordination/sharing of services with other government & private sector entities.

**Objective** – Educate County Board members and other local elected officials about how different units of government operate/function.