

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION**

### **7.1 INTRODUCTION**

In order to ensure continuity and prevent potentially conflicting development patterns, community planning must incorporate a thorough inventory and analysis of the plans of adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions.

Within the Washburn County Comprehensive Planning process, maps, goals, objectives, and plan recommendations were developed in conjunction with one another. Development of individual local plan components was conducted in concert, as to achieve a logical and consistent framework among the local units of government and Washburn County.

Inventory and examination of the existing jurisdictional relationships within the community provides the cornerstone for intergovernmental cooperation. Understanding the nature and complexity of these relational issues is key to understanding how these relationships can be enhanced to provide maximum coordination and cooperation. Presently, many jurisdictions within the county have informal agreements with other units of government. It will be the aim of the intergovernmental component to achieve a superior level of multi-jurisdictional cooperation through formalization of relationships, opening the lines of communication between jurisdictions, and to promote intergovernmental agreements.

### **7.2 GOVERNMENTAL UNITS AND RELATIONSHIPS TO THE TOWN OF LONG LAKE**

The Town of Long Lake shares borders with four municipalities, one county, and is divided among two school districts. In addition, the town must also coordinate with state and federal agencies.

#### **Adjacent & Overlapping Jurisdictions**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| ➤ Town of Birchwood | ➤ Spooner School District                   |
| ➤ Town of Madge     | ➤ Rice Lake School District\                |
| ➤ Town of Oak Grove | ➤ Northwest Regional Planning Commission    |
| ➤ Town of Sarona    | ➤ Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources |
| ➤ Barron County     | ➤ Wisconsin Department of Transportation    |
| ➤ Washburn County   |   |

#### **Relationship to Adjoining Towns**

Towns have fixed borders and do not have annexation authority, thus, boundary disputes do not occur. The Town of Long Lake's maintains a general working relationship with adjoining towns. The town does cooperate with adjacent towns on road maintenance issues. Of greatest concern to the Town of Long Lake is the monitoring of adjoining land uses to ensure

compatibility between communities and avoid potential conflict. Additionally, the Town of Long Lake is open to working with adjoining communities to improve critical services such as fire, police, and emergency medical services.

### **Relationship to Washburn County**

Washburn County has some jurisdiction within the town. In particular, the county has jurisdiction over land divisions, on-site sanitary sewer systems, and zoning (including shoreland, wetland, and floodplain areas) in the Town of Long Lake. Washburn County also owns and maintains the county roads.

In general, the relationship between the Town of Long Lake and Washburn County can be characterized as one in which cooperation and understanding could be enhanced. The primary conflict lies between proposed zoning and land use recommendations made by Washburn County. A large part of the rationale for developing the comprehensive plan is the desire of the town to look forward and to identify where the community chooses to go. The development of the future land use map is intended to provide town officials, the Washburn County Zoning Committee, and the Washburn County Board of Supervisors with a better understanding of development trends and preferred future land use patterns.

In areas where the county has jurisdiction in the town, the county attempts to get input from the town before making decisions affecting town land use. Likewise, the town has attempted to maintain open lines of communication with Washburn County. These lines of communication have not always proved to work effectively or efficiently, resulting in conflict.

Washburn County has committed to incorporating town land use recommendations into a formal zoning revision process, following plan adoption. Following the revision, the county zoning ordinances should be consistent with town level land use requirements and desires. A formal process of communications has been developed to ensure both parties are informed, involved, and engaged in the zoning/land use process.

### **Relationship to School Districts**

The Town of Long Lake is within the School Districts of Rice Lake and Spooner. The Town maintains a cooperative relationship with the districts but does not directly participate in administration, facility siting, or improvement issues. Town residents also pay property taxes, which partially fund the district.

The Spooner School District is in the process of developing a Strategic Plan. The strategies outlined in this document will provide guidance and direction for the district for the next 20 years. Facilities improvement and/or development will be dictated by the plan's assessments and recommendations.

### **Relationship to Northwest Regional Planning Commission**

Regional planning commissions are formed under Section 60.0309 of Wisconsin State Statutes to provide a range of services to local units of government within the RPC boundaries. RPC's 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 government. The Town of Long Lake is within the boundary of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC), which is based in Spooner, Wisconsin. The Town of Long Lake has a working relationship with NWRPC.

### **Relationship to State of Wisconsin**



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) are the principal state entities with whom the town must communicate. WDNR is responsible for natural resource protection, environmental law enforcement, and compliance monitoring. WisDOT is responsible for planning and development of transportation infrastructure, and facilities. In order to achieve the goals of this comprehensive plan, the Town of Long Lake must continue to communicate and cooperate with these agencies. It is important that the town be informed of changes in policy, management or planning conducted by these agencies. Currently, the only identified relationship the Town of Long Lake has with state agencies is the relationship for receiving general transportation aids through the WisDOT.



### **Conflict Resolution Process (CRP)**

Potential conflicts related to land use decision-making have been greatly diminished due to the concerted development of local jurisdictional plans through the planning process. Although, it is important to recognize that unplanned future variables may result in conflict, planning for potential future conflict between jurisdictions requires a process to resolve such disputes. The conflict resolution process developed for Washburn County outlines the appropriate steps to be taken by the local governing body to resolve these disputes in a logical, systematic, and equitable manner. See Appendix for detailed description of the conflict resolution process.

## **7.3 EXISTING AND PROPOSED LOCAL, COUNTY AND REGIONAL PLANS**

### **Adjacent Units of Government**

The Town of Long Lake shares borders with the Washburn County Towns of Birchwood, Madge, and Sarona, and the Barron County Town of Oak Grove. All Washburn County units of government mentioned above participated in the Washburn County Comprehensive Planning process. Each participating local unit of government has a comprehensive plan with individual goals, objectives, and a future land use map.

The Intergovernmental Cooperation goal of the Town of Long Lake is to ***“Establish cooperative relationships with adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions”***. In order to achieve this broad goal, the town must keep the lines of communication open with adjacent jurisdictions. The town must continue to participate in the planning efforts and any future plan revision efforts with neighboring communities. Likewise, the Town of Long Lake must continue to inform adjacent communities of changes to its comprehensive plan and ongoing efforts to implement the plans actions.

The Town of Long Lake Planning Commission will be the entity responsible for promoting town communications and coordinating planning affairs with adjacent units of government.

#### **Washburn County Comprehensive Plan**

The Washburn County Comprehensive Plan was developed to address countywide growth and development issues, transportation, economic development, housing, and the provision of public utilities services and facilities.

The key link between the Town of Long Lake Comprehensive Plan and the county plan is land use and zoning changes. Washburn County will conduct a comprehensive revision of the county zoning ordinances following local plan adoption. This revision will incorporate community level land use concerns into the overall growth management strategy for Washburn County.

The Town of Long Lake Planning Commission and Town Board will be responsible for communications and correspondence with the Washburn County Zoning Committee regarding both local and county comprehensive planning issues.

#### **Regional Plan**

Under Wisconsin's 1999 Comprehensive Planning legislation, each regional planning commission must develop a full nine element comprehensive plan. Under this law, the Northwest Regional Planning Commission will be responsible for developing a regional plan for the ten-county northwest region. In development of this plan, it is important that the Town of Long Lake is solicited for input relating to the overall future land use efforts already completed for the town.

### **7.4 STATE AND COUNTY AGENCY PLANS**

#### **Washburn County Outdoor Recreation Plan (1980)**

The plan includes a list of general recommendations that apply to all Washburn County communities, with no recommendations specific to resources within the Town of Long Lake. No conflicts with the Town of Long Lake Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

#### **Washburn County Forest Recreation Plan (1999-2003)**

No recommendations specific to the Town of Long Lake have been identified, although guidelines of County-Owned Land Ordinance (22-98) apply only to lands that are County owned and maintained. No conflicts with the Town of Long Lake Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

#### **Washburn County Land and Water Resource Management Plan (July 1999)**

No recommendations specific to the Town of Long Lake exist, although general guidelines apply to all of Washburn County. No conflicts with the Town of Long Lake Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

**Long Range Program, Washburn County Soil & Water Conservation District (1980)**

No recommendations specific to the Town of Long Lake exist, although general guidelines and actions would apply to the town. No conflicts with the Town of Long Lake Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

**Washburn County Solid Waste Management Plan (July 1983)**

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 enacted standards for treatment, storage, and disposal of solid waste. Since this legislation, all local landfills (town) have since closed. No conflicts with the Town of Long Lake Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

**Washburn County Farmland Preservation Plan (May 1982)**

Portions of the Town of Long Lake have been identified by the plan as “Agricultural Preservation Areas”; “Transition Areas”; “Woodlands, Wetlands, and Environmentally Significant Areas”; and “Exclusion Areas”. These areas would be subject to the recommendations and actions as outlined in the plan. The general plan recommendations would also apply to lands in the Town of Long Lake. No conflicts with the Town of Long Lake Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

**Washburn County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan (1996-2005)**

There is no county-owned land in the town. No conflicts with the Town of Long Lake Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

**Washburn County Roadway Improvement Plan**

County roadway improvements within the Town of Long Lake are identified in the **Transportation Element** (Table 3.2). Roadways under Washburn County jurisdiction within Long Lake include: County Highway’s D and M. No conflicts with the Town of Long Lake Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

**Wisconsin State Highway Improvement Plan**

State roadway improvements within the Town of Long Lake are identified in the **Transportation Element**. The only road the state has jurisdiction over in the Town of Long Lake is State Highway 53 (0.45 miles), located in the far southwest corner of the town. No conflicts with the Town of Long Lake Comprehensive Plan have been identified.

## **7.5 EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS, SHARED SERVICES, AND AGREEMENTS**

**Protective Services (Police, Fire, EMS)**

- ❑ Fire-The Village of Long Lake Fire Department provides fire protection. The cost for this service is based on the equalized value of the Town of Long Lake.
- ❑ Police- Police protection is provided by the Washburn County Sheriff’s Department.
- ❑ Ambulance- Ambulance service is provided by Lakeview Medical Center in Rice Lake and the Village of Long Lake ambulance.

**Transportation Services (Road Maintenance, plowing, etc.)**

Long Lake contracts with Washburn County to maintain town roads. Washburn County Highway Department does road maintenance based on time and materials. The town owns their own snowplow.

**Public Facilities (Town Hall, garages, library, etc.)**

A recycling and compost area located in the town is for countywide use. Does the town share or rent the town hall for any events?

**Relationships between the Town of Long Lake and Washburn County**

No county-owned lands exist in the Town of Long Lake.

**Relationships between the Town of Long Lake and State Agencies**

The Town of Long Lake has boat landings that were improved in cooperation with the DNR. The DOT has provided information for road improvements.

**Relationships between the Town of Long Lake and Federal Agencies**

FEMA provides the town with some funds when rainwater washes out town roads.

**Relationships between the Town of Long Lake and School Districts**

Representatives from both the Rice Lake and Spooner school boards have attended town board meetings and provided information on school concerns.

**7.6 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS**

A set of recommended goals, objectives, and action-plans has been recommended for the town to engage and work with adjoining and overlapping jurisdictions. Implementation of the action steps is a start to providing discussion and cooperation of a broad range of issues impacting the town and surrounding jurisdictions.

**Goal: Establish cooperative relationships with adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions.**

**Objective 1:** Coordinate the sharing of community facilities whenever possible.

*Education Action: Attend joint meetings with neighboring towns to identify and share resources.*

*Resource Improvement Action: Jointly apply for grants or pool money for capital projects.*

*Incentive Action: Shared costs for resources shared.*

**Objective 2:** Develop partnerships with neighboring towns and Washburn County to minimize land use conflicts and effectively protect the areas natural resources.

*Regulation Action 1: Develop and enforce consistent zoning and land use in all contiguous towns.*

*Regulation Action 2: A proposed land use change in the Town of Long Lake within a half-mile of another town border requires the requestee to submit the land use proposal to the neighboring town to avoid surprises.*

*Regulation Action 3: Develop regulations and agreements between town and county to enforce ordinances developed by the Town of Long Lake.  
Education Action: Communicate new or changed ordinances with surrounding townships.*

*Resource Improvement Action 1: Work with all contiguous towns and encourage them to use town-owned properties to protect the watersheds.  
Resource Improvement Action 2: Attempt to coordinate signage for access onto all lakes in Long Lake Township.*

*Monitoring Action: Periodically monitor water quality and watershed quality and share results among townships involved.*

**Objective 3:** Develop reciprocal agreements with bordering jurisdictions for the purposes of grading and maintaining current and new roads and other right-a-ways.

*Education Action: Request and share the 5-year road improvement plan with neighboring townships.*

*Resource Improvement Action: Identify town roads that cross jurisdictional boundaries to coordinate improvement efforts.*

**Objective 4:** Develop and/or enhance relationships and shared service agreements with police, fire, emergency and other town services.

*Education Action 1: Periodically update residents of costs associated with these services and any actions being taken on them through published reports.*

*Education Action 2: Hold joint meetings with neighboring towns to share service agreements and contracts for such services and evaluate the feasibility of future joint ventures.*

*Resource Improvement Action: Investigate other alternatives to emergency service agreements.*

*Monitoring Action: Annually compile service costs associated with police, fire, and medical services at the town level.*