

CHAPTER 8
Intergovernmental Cooperation

Introduction

Intergovernmental communication, coordination and cooperation can make a significant difference in the implementation and administration of a comprehensive plan. Intergovernmental cooperation can be developed over time. This section explores the relationships between the Village of Clear Lake and other municipalities, agencies and others; identifies existing and potential conflicts and offers processes to resolve conflicts and build cooperative relationships.

Survey Results

Residents were asked if they felt crisis planning was a priority. The responses indicate that most of the residents (67%) feel that crisis planning is a priority.

Crisis planning a priority	Count	Percent
I strongly agree	22	19.0%
I agree	56	48.3%
Not sure	28	24.1%
I disagree	9	7.8%
I strongly disagree	1	0.9%
	116	100.0%

Considerations for Cooperation

It is estimated that 75% of governmental units engage in some sort of cooperation with at least one other governmental unit. Intergovernmental cooperation provides the Village an opportunity to work with adjacent and other influential governmental units on a number of issues. The Village of Clear Lake may want to take the opportunity to do the following:

- Identify areas of common interest
- Consider the impacts of Village actions on adjacent Towns
- Anticipate the effects on your community of actions taken by neighbors
- Minimize potential conflicts before they arise
- Make the Comprehensive Plan consistent with Zoning Code, Shoreland and Wetland Zoning, Official Map, and Subdivision Code.

There are a number of benefits when considering cooperative efforts between municipalities. Intergovernmental cooperation benefits may include the following:

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cost savings through economy of scale, availability of additional services, ability to address regional issues, and meet the consistency requirements.

Units of Government Influence on Clear Lake

The first step in coordinating cooperation between various municipalities is to identify the adjacent municipalities and some of their existing plans. The Village of Clear Lake is surrounded by a number of municipal units of government. The following is a list of towns, that border the Village and the various plans those units of government may have or are working on:

Polk County

- Town of Clear Lake
 - Comprehensive Plan (in progress)
- Town of Black Brook
 - Comprehensive Plan (in progress)
 - Park Plan

School Districts

The Village of Clear Lake lies within the School District of Clear Lake. Both the District and the schools within the District were discussed in this Comprehensive Plan in the Utility and Community Facilities Chapter.

Indianhead Technical College

The Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) provides educational programs resulting in Associate Degrees and Certificates throughout Polk County and parts Western Wisconsin. The nearest campus is in New Richmond.

University of Wisconsin System

The Village of Clear Lake is fortunate to have ample higher education opportunities nearby. Both UW – Stout and UW – River Falls only 40 miles away and are part of the University of Wisconsin System.

University of Wisconsin - Stout

UW-Stout was founded as an experiment in industrial education back in 1891. Subjects taught include business, industrial management, technology, education, human development, and art and design. Average class size is 29 students for lecture sessions and 21 for laboratory sessions. Faculty and academic staff teach more than 99% of the course sections. Less than 1% of classes are taught by teaching assistants.

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University of Wisconsin - River Falls

The University of Wisconsin – River Falls (UWRF) provides undergraduate, graduate and continuing education courses which support the fine arts, liberal studies, technology, business and industry.

County and Regional Government Units

- Polk County
- West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Polk County has a number of plans that may have an influence on future growth in the Village of Clear Lake. Some of the plans below were a coordinated effort between Polk County and West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. The following is a list of the various plans developed by Polk County:

- Polk County Land Use Plan
 - This Plan was written to assist officials with decisions concerning how the various communities in the County should preserve its desired characteristics and make positive changes in an orderly fashion.
- Polk County Land and Water Management Plan
 - This Plan was written to identify and rank concerns that affect the County's Natural Resources as well as identify options for improvement implementations.
- Polk County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan
 - This Plan is intended to serve as a guide for the sustainable use and protection of the County's Forestlands.
- Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Polk County Hazard Mitigation Plan

State Agencies

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation

The Wisconsin DNR is often the regulatory agency that is responsible for the protection and sustained management of woodlands, waterways, animal habitat and other natural resources.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining and improving U.S. Highway 63, the main potential commercial growth corridor in the Village. For this reason, cooperation and communication between the Village of

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Clear Lake and the Wisconsin DOT are extremely important for the development of the Village.

Existing Village Plans

Although this document is a Comprehensive Plan, the Village of Clear Lake does have an existing Comprehensive Plan (1991) and Code of Ordinances (1990). Both are currently being revised. The Village also has a Park Plan developed in 2006 that describes future plans for the Village park system.

Current Agreements

Intergovernmental agreements can be as simple as sharing information to something more complex such as entering into contracts to provide services. The Village of Clear Lake recognizes the benefits of working with the surrounding communities and government agencies and is currently engaged in the following agreements:

School District: The School District of Clear Lake does provide schooling to the Village of Clear Lake, as well as the Towns of Clear Lake and Black Brook.

Emergency Medical Services: The Village also has agreements to provide fire, ambulance and EMS service to the Villages of Clear Lake and Clayton and the Towns of Black Brook and Clear Lake, and portions of the Towns of Forest, in St. Croix County, Vans Creek, in Barron County, and New Haven, in Dunn County (Map 8-1).

Polk and St. Croix Counties also have mutual aid agreements with the Village so the Village can support neighboring jurisdictions and neighboring jurisdictions can support the Village with emergency services if the situation occurs where additional services are needed. There are also mutual aid agreements that the Village has with the DNR and U.S. Department of Interior – Fish and Wildlife Service. Through these agreements there are grant funding opportunities for the Clear Lake Fire Department.

The Fire Department currently has a DNR Forest Fire Prevention Grant that has provided equipment and training to increase the forest fire protection and suppression capabilities of the Clear Lake Fire Department.

Clear Lake Public Library: The Clear Lake Public is open to Village and surrounding area residents and has a total service population of over 3,000. The library is also part of the MORE System which is a service of the Indianhead Federated Library System that allows residents of over 40 libraries to access and order materials with each other.

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Future Cooperative Opportunities

Being bordered by the Towns of Clear Lake (east) and Black Brook (west) the Village may want to consider extraterritorial authority for portions of both Towns in the future. The Village has the ability to plan out 1.5 miles from their municipal boundary limits. That is why it is important to work together now so that in the future, extraterritorial zoning and plat review.

The Village strives for harmonious relationships with all neighboring communities and has a generally positive relationship with them. The Village may want to consider developing cooperative boundary agreements with both Towns so future growth and development can be directed and agreed upon in a cooperative effort.

There may be tasks in the future that will require collaboration between the Village of Clear Lake and its adjacent municipalities. Some of these efforts will cross multiple boundaries because they are related to environmental conditions in the area:

- Watershed Studies
- Stormwater Management Plans
- Farmland Preservation
- Multi-modal Transportation Planning
- Natural Resource Plans

Potential Future Cooperative Efforts

As the Village of Clear Lake grows, the potential exists to have an impact on the Towns of Clear Lake and Black Brook. It is important for the Village to work with these communities so future development will be acceptable to all entities involved. One way to achieve agreeable results for future planning is to develop a joint committee, members from each municipality, that meet on a quarterly or semi-annual basis to discuss these issues. Any potential future conflicts should be presented at the joint meeting.

Benefits to Agreements

The Village of Clear Lake has a lot to gain by being actively involved in intergovernmental cooperation. Some of the benefits are cost savings, consistency, reduction in litigation, addressing regional issues, and having foresight in understanding future needed services.

Possible Conflicts

At this time the Village does not foresee any conflicts with either adjacent Town.

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Conflict Resolution

When conflicts arise, it is important to address them in a manner that produces mutual understanding of the issues and creates an atmosphere under which the conflicts can be resolved successfully. The Village should hold joint meetings with neighboring governments and agencies to resolve future conflicts. Initial guidance may come from the Village's Plan Commission or Village Board.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 1: Encourage adjacent government units to work together to achieve the goals of this Comprehensive Plan.

Objectives

1. Share services when it is possible and feasible for both the Village of Clear Lake and neighboring municipalities.
2. Establish agreements with adjacent municipalities that will benefit all parties involved.
3. Encourage adjacent government units to adopt and implement consistent residential development standards, policies and review practices.
4. Provide services in a cost effective manner.

Policies

1. Promote open communication with adjacent government units.
2. Develop a consistent Park Plan among the neighboring municipalities in order to get the most efficient use out of the existing facilities.
3. Investigate opportunities for future cooperative agreements.
4. Update and maintain Village of Clear Lake website.
5. Develop a joint meeting committee with the Towns of Clear Lake and Black Brook.
6. Work cooperatively with the Clear Lake School District sharing public buildings.
7. Consider participation in the Western Wisconsin Intergovernmental Collaborative (WWIC).
8. Provide a copy of this comprehensive plan to all surrounding or nearby local governments.
9. Create a cooperative understanding with adjoining towns for road maintenance.
10. Apply for available grants to provide equipment and training to reduce costs of providing Village services.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AREAS

Village of Clear Lake

Map 8-1

