

CHAPTER 9

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 City of Menomonie and other municipalities, agencies and others; identifies existing and potential conflicts and offers processes to resolve conflicts and build cooperative relationships.

Library

Through its membership in the Indianhead Federated Library System (IFLS), a state-funded agency, the Menomonie Public Library is involved in cooperation with libraries in ten west central Wisconsin counties. Resource sharing services provided by IFLS include support for shared automated systems, Internet access, a telecommunications Wide Area Network, delivery service, and a regional interlibrary loan clearinghouse.

Revisions to Wisconsin's library law as of 1998, affect the relationship between Dunn County and the Menomonie Public Library. The provisions in *1997 Act 150* require county library plans to provide reimbursement to public libraries for non-resident service within the system area. Counties are now required to pay each public library in the county at least 70 percent of the cost of library services provided to residents of the county that do not maintain a public library; thus, Dunn County is required to pay the Menomonie Public Library for its residents' use of the library. In 2006 the Menomonie Public Library received \$236,569 for services that Dunn County rural residents used back in 2004. The County continues to increase their share and by 2007, will pay 100% of the costs to service rural Dunn County residents.

Source: Indianhead Federated Library System website: www.ifls.lib.wi.us

Administration

The City of Menomonie is in regular communication with adjacent and regional municipalities to promote consistency between plans in the precedence of cooperation that exists in the area. Regular communication has resulted in various formal and informal agreements between the City and other communities and governmental units from the occasional sharing of curb painting as well as brush and snow removal equipment to the establishment of extraterritorial boundaries.

The Dunn County Treasurer's Office has a written agreement with the City of Menomonie to act as their agent in collecting real estate and personal property taxes for the city. The three year agreement has been renewed

several times. The County sends out the tax bills and receipts, and collects the taxes. The money is wired to the City's bank account on a daily basis. The City pays the county \$1.00 per parcel for this service. Further benefits include the elimination of a time consuming data entry process for the Treasurer's Office.

The City meets quarterly with the Towns of Menomonie, Red Cedar, and Tainter to discuss various land uses and road projects and look for further opportunities to consolidate services.

Because many vital issues are regional in nature, the City of Menomonie also participates in a quarterly meeting with regional governments to maintain relationships and learn about wide-reaching land use impacts: watersheds and ecosystems, economic conditions, land use, commuter patterns, and housing.

Beyond the examples of cooperation with governmental entities, the City of Menomonie has membership in a few agencies aimed at regional economic health. They are the Chippewa Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau and Momentum Chippewa Valley—a regional economic development organization serving Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, and Pepin counties. West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Department also plays a roll in planning over multiple jurisdictions.

Sanitary Districts

The City of Menomonie has two sanitary districts. The first district is in the Town of Menomonie where sanitary sewer service is provided to the Birch Terrace Trailer Court. The second district is in the Town of Red Cedar. Here, water is supplied to the unincorporated community of Rusk.

911 Emergency Response

This City of Menomonie and Dunn County established the Dunn County Communications Center 1995. At that time an Enhanced 911 program was put in place providing all citizens of Dunn County access to the emergency number 9-1-1. The Communications Center is staffed 24 hours a day with a minimum of two dispatchers at all times.

The Communications Center dispatches for the Sheriff's Department, Menomonie Police, UW Stout, 5 Village Departments, Menomonie Fire and Ambulance, 11 Volunteer Fire Departments, 8 Volunteer Ambulance Agencies, and the Dunn County First Responders.

Source: Dunn County Website

Police Department

The City is home to four distinct agencies: State (for interstate purposes), County, UW-Stout, and the City of Menomonie. In September of 2003, the heads of local law enforcement agencies gathered to determine what resources they could share

to make their departments more effective. The following lists outline resources that the agencies have agreed to share:

Equipment

- Forensic computer work station- owned and staffed by Menomonie Police Department
- AFIS Work Station -Automated Fingerprint Identification System -owned and staffed by the Dunn County Sheriff's Department
- Incident Command Vehicle for all Dunn County Emergency Providers.
- Simunitions -firearms training equipment -Owned by the Dunn County Sheriff's Department and used by trainers from both agencies
- Child Locator computer- acquired by the Dunn County Sheriff's Department via a grant, maintained and staffed by the Menomonie Police Department
- Multimedia computer for security video capture- owned and staffed by the Menomonie Police Department
- Computerized Records Software -jointly owned and utilized
- Voice Stress Analysis -Computer and software -owned and operated by the Dunn County Sheriff's Department
- Radar Trailers -2 units owned by the Menomonie Police Department and the Dunn County Sheriff's Department. Shared with other agencies.
- ID Reader- Owned by the University of Wisconsin Stout- and used by MPD for underage party enforcement
- Photo and Image Technology -equipment and expertise provided by the University of Wisconsin Stout
- Varda Alarm -1 unit owned by the Menomonie Police Department and 1 owned by the Dunn County Sheriff's Department and made available to all county law enforcement
- ID Maker -purchased by Dunn County and is to be available to all law enforcement agencies in Dunn County
- Red Man Suit- owned by the Dunn County Sheriff's Department
- Accident Reconstruction Equipment -owned by the Dunn County Sheriff's Department and available with reconstruction deputy to other Dunn County law enforcement. Menomonie Police Department also has officers trained to do reconstruction. Assistance is also available through the Wisconsin State Patrol.
- Snowmobile / ATV Rescue Equipment
- Water Patrol/Rescue -2 DNR boats (boat for river use, one boat for lake use) and one Menomonie Fire Department boat
- Fiber Optic Camera for searching vehicles and enclosed areas

Facilities

The Menomonie Police Department has an agreement to share facilities with Dunn County Sheriff's Department in order to coordinate and be more efficient. The following is a list of facilities shared among departments:

- Firearms Range - owned and maintained by the Menomonie Police Department. The Dunn County Sheriff's Department also supplies some maintenance supplies for the range.
- Training Room - owned by Dunn County

- Fitness Room - owned by Dunn County
- Locker Rooms - owned by Dunn County
- Emergency Communications Center - owned and operated by Dunn County. It serves all emergency services in Dunn County.

Human Resources

- SWAT Team- Made up exclusively of Menomonie Police Department Officers
- Firearms Instructors -both the Dunn County Sheriff's Department and the Menomonie Police Department have instructors that are available to all Dunn County law enforcement agencies. Menomonie Police Department instructors provide machine gun training and Dunn County Sheriff's Department instructors provide training for all village officers (except Elk Mound P.D.)
- Tracking Dog -owned and staffed by the Dunn County Sheriff's Department
- Narcotics Investigators -Both the Dunn County Sheriff's Department and the Menomonie Police Department provide one officer, both are members of the West Central Drug Task Force
- Police Artist -trained and supplied by the Menomonie Police Department
- Monthly investigators meetings (both within Dunn County and surrounding jurisdictions)
- Chaplain Programs at both the Menomonie Police Department and the Dunn County Sheriff's Department. Available to other agencies.
- Sheriff's Department Reserve Deputies -Hired by the Sheriff and available to assist the Sheriff and other law enforcement agencies in Dunn County for crowd control, special enforcement, etc. They can be used to supplement full time staff or to reduce the burden to full time staff.

Future Shared Resources

It is the intention of all branches of government to continue looking for ways to collaborate as much as possible, in an effort to use tax dollars wisely. Resource sharing is a good idea and future planning is in the works to find ways to collaborate in order to continue to add resources and equipment to all Emergency Service Providers in Dunn County.

- Covert Surveillance Equipment (video cameras, GPS tracking unit, thermo imagers, night vision equipment, high tech surveillance equipment)
- Joint shared squad car and equipment purchasing.
- Information Sharing System -Protocol
- Juvenile interview room and procedure
- Grant writing to help finance new equipment and staffing when available

Menomonie is involved in a state-wide program: West Central Task Force Covert Operations comprised of 7 counties and 14 law enforcement agencies.

- The City Police will respond just beyond the city limits if the Sheriff is unavailable.
- One resource for the Police Department is the Mutual Aide Incident Command Center
- There is a regional SWAT team comprised of regional local police officers. The City has several agreements with the SWAT Team.

The Police Department's Annual Report is submitted by the Police Chief each year. This detailed report further describes the cooperative law enforcement efforts of the past year.

Fire Department and EMS

The Menomonie Fire Department provides and receives mutual aid fire protection from neighboring Fire Departments. Mutual aid is both provided and received in the form of engines, tankers, brush trucks, extrication, rescue, and staffing when requested.

The Menomonie Fire Department Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances assist surrounding communities with ALS intercepts. ALS services are mostly requested for Advanced Airways, IV therapy, and drug administration. The EMS services for Menomonie County were combined with the Fire Rescue in 1997 and serve the City and majority of the rural fire district.

Other coordinated efforts that the Menomonie Fire Department participates in:

Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Response Plan

Due to the presence of Interstate 94 and three major highways—US HWY 12, and State Highways 25 and 29—a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Response Plan is in place. The 260 square mile response area was divided into 4 quadrants, and the city itself, for a total of five MCI areas. Each MCI area has the closest assets being called to assist, depending on the number of injured. The Menomonie Fire Department can handle up to seven seriously injured victims before putting the MCI plan into effect. In addition to mutual aid departments, additional departments and four medical helicopters could be on the scene within 30-45 minutes. These assets are in place to allow the Menomonie Fire Department to mitigate a large MCI.

First Responder Program

The Menomonie Fire Department participates in the Dunn County Medical Emergency First Responder Program that involves collaboration with over sixty volunteers. The county is served by ten different ambulance services coming from seven different counties, seven of which are staffed by volunteers. The county is separated into three paging zones (North, Central, and South). Several of the first responders are EMT and EMT-I trained. The majority are first responder trained and certified to use the Heartstream Defibrillators, located at remote areas of the county. Several of our new first responders are Sheriffs Deputies who respond both on and off duty and also carry defibrillators. All first responders carry a complete oxygen system, medical bag, and rescue equipment.

Hazardous Materials Response

The Menomonie Fire Department is designated as the county wide level "B" hazardous materials team provider for Dunn County, Wisconsin and is in the preliminary stages of becoming a Chemical Assessment Team (CAT). The department staffs and maintains a specialized hazardous materials response unit for initial responses within a 960 square mile area comprised of ten separate fire

districts, an interstate, 5 state highways, 10 communities and 3 major river systems, including 3 lakes.

The primary goal of the CAT is to provide surrounding communities with immediate technical as well as tactical resources in the event of a spill or release of hazardous substances. In the event of a large scale emergency, the team would comprise the initial tier in a multi-level response, working in close cooperation with the regional level "A" team (Eau Claire Fire, Eau Claire, Wisconsin and Chippewa Falls Fire & Rescue, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin).

Rural Fire Board

The service area of the Rural Fire Board includes the towns of Lucas, Tainter, Knapp, and others. These towns provide about \$140,000 to the Menomonie Fire Department for fire services each year. They each pay a per capita fee adjusted annually for EMS service. An additional amount is paid per ambulance call.

Source: Fire Department Website: www.menomonie-wi.gov/?page_id=38

Cooperation amongst Emergency Responders

There are many occasions when more than one emergency service will respond to a scene. It is vital that the various responders be able to communicate with each other in order to provide the most efficient manner of service.

NIMS

Maintain the National Incident Management System (NIMS) locally to continue eligibility for Federal Grant Program. NIMS is designed to aide in managing any type of incident with a coordinated effort from fire/rescue, police, school and public school officials. NIMS provides guidelines for planning, finance, administration, terminology and operations across the various departments.

Emergency Operations Plan

County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is designed to get one person from each department into a central command area or Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This plan breaks down the responsibilities and tasks of each entity.

Emergency Management Department

The mission of Dunn County Emergency Management is to utilize effective planning, training and coordination to continually develop the mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery capabilities of the county's cities, villages, and townships for emergencies resulting from all hazards. The four components are mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

The Emergency Management Department is a county office that is mandated by the State of Wisconsin. It is supported by county funds that are partially reimbursed by federal and state grants. The office receives functional guidance from the Regional Director of Wisconsin Emergency Management.

Source: Dunn County Website: <http://dunncountywi.gov/office2.com>

Existing Conflicts

The City of Menomonie meets every six weeks with the Menomonie Area School District, adjacent Towns, Dunn County, and the WDOT to discuss ongoing projects and future cooperative planning efforts.

Because of the regular meetings between the City of Menomonie and other local communities, as described above, the City Administration feels there are no existing conflicts between the City and its neighboring communities. Input is taken as new projects are initiated to avoid problems down the road.

Conflict Resolution

Any potential future conflicts should be presented at the joint meeting mentioned above. From there, the identified conflicts will be presented to the City Plan Commission and Council to determine the appropriate action to be taken.

Potential Future Cooperative Efforts

There are a few tasks on the horizon that will require collaboration between the City and neighboring communities. These efforts will cross municipal boundaries because they are related to environmental conditions in the area:

- Watershed studies
- Storm water management
- Farmland preservation
- Multi-modal transportation planning
- Natural resource planning
- Bulk purchasing such as bio-diesel fuel

Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives, Programs & Policies

Goal 1: Continue existing, as well as establish new intergovernmental relationships that are mutually beneficial for the City of Menomonie and neighboring communities, agencies, and groups.

Objectives

- Create mutual understanding between the City of Menomonie and neighboring communities, agencies, and groups in order to reduce potential conflicts.
- Explore ways to reduce and share costs.
- Improve connectivity of infrastructure and services.

Programs, Policies, and Actions

- Work together with the surrounding communities and governmental agencies to establish long-range multi-modal transportation planning.

- Collaborate with the surrounding communities and governmental agencies to protect the areas natural resources.
- Continue joint meetings with surrounding communities and keep them informed of issues that may affect them as well as seek their input on these issues.
- Distribute the City of Menomonie Comprehensive Plan to surrounding communities, governmental agencies, and groups to share the City's long-term vision.
- Discuss the potential of cooperative boundary agreements with adjacent towns.