

## **CHAPTER 7 Intergovernmental Cooperation Element**

66.1001 (2)(g) Wis. Stat.:

**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 sighting 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 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.

The intergovernmental cooperation chapter identifies opportunities for establishing or maintaining cooperation between local units of government. Cooperation improves lines of communication between different units of government, and aids in the recognition and possible resolution of, conflicts between jurisdictions, and allows for the identification of mutual service needs and improvements,

The intent of this chapter is to identify, inventory and analyze existing and potential cooperative relationships.

### **Section 7.1 Inventory of Intergovernmental Agreements**

Inventory and examination of existing municipal relations allows for the understanding of how municipalities currently work together and how these relationships can be enhanced. As Whiting develops and redevelops over the next 20 years it is important for the Village to continue to work with surrounding municipalities. The Village of Whiting has several standing formalized and non-formalized agreements for service provision with the neighboring units and jurisdictions.

#### **A. City of Stevens Point (see Map 7.1)**

- Whiting provides sewer and water service to the Stevens Point School Board Administrative Offices (Bliss Center), located on Polk Street in Stevens Point, just north of the Whiting boundary. There is no written agreement.
- The City of Stevens Point provides water service to six parcels in Whiting located on Sherman Avenue, west of Whiting Avenue (River Pines Nursing Home, Fireside Apartments, Seventh Day Adventist Church and School, St. Joseph's convent house, the Kevin Konapacky residence, and the former pharmacy building on the River Pines grounds). There is no written agreement.
- Whiting has an emergency water service connection with Stevens Point.
- Whiting receives mass transit service from Stevens Point at a cost of \$18,280 per year, with \$10,000 of this cost being paid for by the Fireside Apartments. There is no written agreement.

B. Village of Plover (see Map 7.1)

- Whiting provides sewer and water service to Village of Plover residential properties located along Elm Street and Elm Court, as well as water service (no sewer) to two residences located at 3401 and 3421 Tommy's Turnpike Road. There is no written agreement.
- Whiting provides a temporary water connection to the McDill School gardens, which are located in the Village of Plover. There is no written agreement.
- The Village of Plover provides water service to the ReMax Building on the east side of Post Road in Whiting. There is no written agreement.
- Whiting and Plover share an emergency water connection.
- Whiting is also working cooperatively with the Village of Plover and Wisconsin Department of Transportation in Post Road transportation and land use planning.

C. Town of Linwood: Whiting currently has no formal or informal intergovernmental agreements with Linwood.

D. School Districts

The Village of Whiting provides financial support for the after-school athletics program at McDill School, but currently has no formal or informal intergovernmental agreements with Stevens Point Area Public Schools.

E. Portage County

- Whiting participates in the solid waste agreement with Portage County for waste and recycling pick-up and disposal.
- Whiting has a written agreement with Portage County Humane Society for animal control.
- Whiting receives police and ambulance service from Portage County, and cooperates with County Park and the Green Circle Committee regarding the Green Circle Trail segment through the Village. There are no written agreements covering these items.

F. State of Wisconsin

Whiting currently has intergovernmental agreements with the State of Wisconsin through the Department of Natural Resources, including the siting of the ranger station on Village property, and the permit for establishing the water level of McDill Pond, both of which benefit communities beyond the Village borders.

G. Other Relationships: The Village of Whiting also:

- participates in the area-wide Cable TV Franchise Agreement with Charter Communications,
- participates in the Fire Department Mutual Aid Agreement.
- offers Plover/Whiting Youth Baseball the use of Village baseball diamonds;
- participates in the McDill Cemetery Association with the Town of Plover.

There are no written agreements covering these.

The Village of Whiting also maintains written lease agreements with the Stora Enso and Kimberly-Clark Paper Companies for the provision of water for industrial processing.

Map 7.1: Areas of Intergovernmental Service Provision

## **Section 7.2 Analysis of Intergovernmental Agreements**

The Village of Whiting needs to follow through with ongoing negotiations to remove the user surcharge currently being paid by Whiting for use of the emergency water connection with Stevens Point.

## **Section 7.3 Existing or Potential Conflicts with Other Governmental Units**

The possible extension of Cty Rd HH west of Cty Rd P to USH 10 West, and the designation of Cty Rd HH as a major truck route through Whiting, could create traffic and noise conflicts within the Village. The Portage County Highway Committee had previously pledged to the Village that they would not undertake any system changes to this County Road through Whiting without consulting with the Village in return for the Village's cooperation in establishing the extension of Cty Road HH through Whiting.

## **Section 7.4 Issues/Conclusions Regarding Intergovernmental Relations**

- Village of Whiting should begin negotiations with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation regarding the jurisdictional transfer from the State to the Village of that portion of Business Highway 51 located within Whiting. There are many issues related to this transfer that need to be resolved before it can take place. The issues are complex, and the negotiations may be lengthy.
- Village of Whiting should investigate the feasibility of bringing McDill Cemetery into the Village to square off the Whiting boundary, and allow for more efficient over-sight. It has potential to become a Town island.
- There continues to be a possibility for discussions between the Villages of Whiting and Plover regarding a merger of their fire departments.
- The Village of Whiting needs to follow through with ongoing negotiations to remove the user surcharge currently being paid by Whiting for use of the emergency water connection with Stevens Point.
- Actions taken by the City of Stevens Point and Village of Plover over the years regarding annexation and development have landlocked Whiting and precluded the Village from any possibilities for expansion of its borders. The Village of Whiting would like to enter into discussions and negotiations with Stevens Point and Village of Plover regarding tax-base sharing to address Whiting's inability to expand its tax-base area as a community.

## **Section 7.5 Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives and Policies**

### **A. Goals**

1. Encourage cooperation between Village of Whiting and other units of government, where appropriate, to ensure availability of services and facilities.
2. All intergovernmental agreements shall be entered into with the best interests of the residents of the Village of Whiting getting foremost consideration.

## B. Objectives

1. Whiting and local units of government work together to develop creative ways to plan for and share the benefits of growth across municipal boundaries, where appropriate.
2. Share services across county or municipal borders whenever deemed appropriate by the Village.
3. Periodically review intergovernmental agreements to re-affirm that they are still in the best interests of the residents of Whiting.

## C. Policies

1. Establish and maintain communication with surrounding municipalities for discussion on land use and other related issues.
2. Maintain existing intergovernmental relations and cooperation with surrounding municipalities.
3. Explore additional opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation and beneficial agreements.
4. Take an active role in the Urban Area Transportation Plan.
5. Any new major intergovernmental agreements, or changes to any existing agreements, are to be reviewed by the governing committee and Plan Commission for recommendation to the Village Board.