

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 and agencies, identifies existing and potential conflicts, and offers processes to resolve conflicts and build cooperative relationships.

Administration

The City of Menomonie is in regular communication with adjacent and regional municipalities to promote consistency among their respective planning. Regular communication has resulted in various formal and informal agreements between the City and other communities and governmental units. These include:

- Contracting with the Dunn County Treasurer's Office to act as their agent in collecting real estate and personal property taxes for the city.
- Meeting quarterly with Dunn County and the Towns of Menomonie, Red Cedar, Dunn and Tainter to discuss various topics such as land use, transportation, development, and utilities.
- Meeting two to four times a year with other Cities and Villages in the Chippewa Valley to maintain relationships and discuss timely issues communities are facing.
- Joining with other agencies such as Momentum West, Dunn County Economic Development Corporation, and West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to discuss and plan regional economic development.

The City also holds weekly interdepartmental meetings with Administration, Parks and Recreation, Police, Fire, Public Works, Streets, Wastewater, City Engineer, and the Public Library to communicate plans and discuss needs.

Public Works

The City of Menomonie has two sanitary districts where it provides utilities to surrounding communities. The first district is in the Town of Menomonie where sanitary sewer service is provided to the Birch Terrace Mobile Home Park. The second sanitary district is in the Town of Red Cedar where water is supplied to the unincorporated community of Rusk. Other examples of intergovernmental cooperation include:

- Participates in bulk salt purchases through a state contract.
- Purchases paint for curbs, crosswalks, and centerline striping with the City of Eau Claire.
- Is a member of the Chippewa Valley Stormwater Forum that meets monthly to discuss stormwater education and outreach. The Forum consists of communities in the Chippewa Valley that have Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permits.

- The City provides sewer vector truck and camera services to the Cities of Durand and Eau Claire when needed. The City of Eau Claire will also provide the same services to the City.

The Public Works Department is considering participating in a Public Works Mutual Assistance Agreement between Wisconsin Public Works Departments to coordinate mutual aid during times of emergencies, natural disasters and man-made catastrophes.

Police Department

The City of Menomonie is home to four distinct police agencies: State (for interstate purposes), County, UW-Stout, and the City of Menomonie. The Menomonie Police Department works with these agencies to share resources, equipment, and facilities to make their departments more effective. A list of equipment, facilities, and personnel is provided below by jurisdiction.

Equipment

Menomonie Police Department

- Owned and staffed forensic computer work station.
- Maintained and staffed Child Locator computer that was acquired by the Dunn County Sheriff's Department with a grant.
- Owned and staffed multimedia computer for security video capture.
- Varda Alarm unit owned by the Menomonie Police Department and made available to all county law enforcement

Dunn County Sheriff's Department

- Owned and staffed Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) work station.
- Simunitions firearms training equipment that is used by trainers from the Dunn County Sheriff's Department and Menomonie Police Department.
- Child Locator computer- acquired by the Dunn County Sheriff's Department via a grant, maintained and staffed by the Menomonie Police Department
- Owned and operated Voice Stress Analysis Computer and software.
- Varda Alarm unit owned by the Dunn County Sheriff's Department and made available to all county law enforcement agencies.
- ID Maker software and capability available to all law enforcement agencies in Dunn County
- Red Man Suit
- Fiber Optic Camera for searching vehicles and enclosed areas
- Accident Reconstruction Equipment available with reconstruction deputy to other Dunn County law enforcement. Menomonie Police Department also has officers trained to do reconstruction.

Wisconsin State Patrol

- Provides assistance in accident reconstruction.

UW-Stout Police

- ID Reader used by MPD for underage party enforcement.
- Photo and image technology equipment and expertise.

Other

- Incident Command Vehicle for all Dunn County Emergency Providers.
- Records Software -jointly owned and utilized
- Water Patrol/Rescue -2 DNR boats (boat for river use, one boat for lake use) and one Menomonie Fire Department boat

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:

Menomonie Police Department

- Firearms Range. The Dunn County Sheriff's Department also supplies some maintenance supplies for the range.

Dunn County Sheriff's Department

- Training Room
- Fitness Room
- Locker Rooms
- Emergency Communications Center that serves all emergency services in Dunn County.

Human Resources

Menomonie Police Department

- Police Artist -Trained and supplied by the Menomonie Police Department
- The Menomonie Police Department provides personnel as members of the Eau Claire Regional SWAT team. The Eau Claire Regional SWAT team pays for training
- Provides one officer as a narcotics investigator who is a member of the West Central Drug Task Force
- Monthly investigators meetings (both within Dunn County and surrounding jurisdictions)
- Menomonie Police Department firearms instructors provide machine gun training for all Village officers (except Elk Mound P.D.)
- Provides a Youth Services Officer who responds to calls for service at the schools located within the City of Menomonie. They are responsible for investigating juvenile felony crime within the City and providing security for special school events and counsels the school administration on safety issues relating to law enforcement.

Dunn County Sheriff's Department

- 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.
- Provides one officer as a narcotics investigator who is a member of the West Central Drug Task Force
- Dunn County Sheriff's Department instructors provide firearm training for all municipal officers (except Elk Mound P.D.)

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- The Sheriff's Department provides personnel as members of the Eau Claire Regional SWAT team

Other

- Chaplain Programs at both the Menomonie Police Department and the Dunn County Sheriff's Department. Available to other agencies.

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 Aid Incident Command Center

Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

The Menomonie Fire and Rescue Department collaborates with a number of fire departments and agencies to provide the best service possible to residents in its service area as well as providing mutual aid to other departments when called upon. The main cooperative efforts include:

- The Menomonie Fire and Rescue Department serves the City of Menomonie and rural areas that surround the City including the Village of Knapp and Towns of Dunn, Lucas, Menomonie, Red Cedar, Spring Brook, Tainter, Weston, and Sherman. Services are funded through an annual contract with the Rural Fire Board and fees collected per incident.
- Participates in the voluntary Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) which is a mutual aid measure that may be used for deploying fire, rescue and emergency medical services personnel in a multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-agency response.
- Receives 911 dispatches from Dunn County Emergency Communications.
- The Menomonie Fire and Rescue Department Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances assist surrounding EMS Departments with ALS intercepts.
- Takes part in the Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Response Plan that encompasses a response area centered on I-94. The Menomonie Fire and Rescue Department is prepared to respond to mass casualty incidents within the county or outside if called upon.

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- Participates in the Dunn County Medical Emergency First Responder Program.
- The Menomonie Fire and Rescue Department is designated as the county wide level "B" hazardous materials team provider for Dunn County and is in the preliminary process of becoming a Wisconsin Regional Type III hazardous material response team.
- Maintains the National Incident Management System (NIMS) NIMS that is designed to aid in managing any type of incident with a coordinated effort from fire, rescue, police, school, and government officials.
- Participates in the County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that 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.
- Participates in a number of joint training sessions in the Dunn County 2 to 3 times a year that involve various Fire, EMS, Hazmat, and Law Enforcement Departments.

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, and a telecommunications Wide Area Network. Other examples of how the library provides additional services to its patrons by working with other entities include:

- Being part of the MORE Libraries which is a consortium of libraries in Western Wisconsin that shares resources totaling more than a million items. Materials can be searched using the online catalog to find materials or find additional information at any of the MORE member libraries.
- Participating in the Interlibrary Loan service that is a free service that provides access to library materials (both academic and public) that the MORE consortium does not own.
- Providing digital downloads of audiobooks, e-books, music and videos to patrons through the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium, MORE, and OverDrive.
- Managing the Elk Mound Public Library

UW-Stout

City of Menomonie and UW-Stout Staff meet approximately every eight to ten weeks to discuss projects, collaboration, and potential issues. City Staff typically includes the Administrator, Public Works Director, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Building Inspector, and City Engineer/Planner. UW-Stout Staff typically includes the Vice Chancellor for Administrative and Student Life Services, Police Chief, Faculties Planning and Engineering staff, Parking Coordinator, and others based on topics for discussion.

School District of the Menomonie Area

The City of Menomonie and School District of the Menomonie Area (SDMA) have worked together on various projects including the creation of the Pedestrian Corridor and Safe Routes

to School Plan, securing land for the Wakanda Elementary School and playground facilities, utility and transportation planning during the site plan review process for new schools.

The City and the SDMA do not have regularly scheduled meetings.

Extraterritorial Zoning

State statutes authorize Cities and Villages to participate with Towns in the zoning of lands outside their incorporated boundaries. Although the City's legal extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction is three miles beyond corporate limits, it has adopted a 1½ mile planning boundary. The purpose of creating extraterritorial zoning is to minimize land use conflicts, provide for a smooth transition between urban and rural areas, and to promote joint planning of an area.

Zoning ordinances in the extraterritorial zoning district are adopted by a joint extraterritorial zoning committee that is made up of three City representatives and three members from each of the Towns included within the area proposed to be zoned. The City currently has an extraterritorial zoning agreement with the Town of Red Cedar which affects a small number of parcels outside the City's boundary to the northeast.

The City of Menomonie or the Town(s) must refer proposed changes to the joint zoning committee of the City and Town in which the zoning is in effect. Changes must be made by majority vote of the joint committee and the common council following a public hearing.

Dunn County Emergency Management

The City of Menomonie has adopted the Dunn County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to evaluate the County's potential exposure to natural disasters and identify mitigation strategies. Participation in natural hazards mitigation planning is required to be eligible for Federal hazard mitigation grant dollars.

Existing Conflicts

The City of Menomonie meets regularly with adjacent Towns and Dunn County 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.

Future Collaborative Efforts

There are ongoing issues that require collaboration between the City and neighboring communities and other agencies. These efforts will cross municipal boundaries because they are regional issues:

- Watershed Protection
- Stormwater Management
- Farmland Preservation
- Multi-modal Transportation Planning
- Natural Resource Protection
- Hazard Mitigation Planning

Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives, Programs, Policies & Actions

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

Objectives

1. Create mutual understanding between the City of Menomonie and neighboring communities, agencies, and groups in order to reduce potential conflicts.
2. Explore ways to maintain or increase services while sharing and reducing costs.
3. Improve the connectivity of transportation infrastructure.

Programs, Policies, and Actions

1. Work with the surrounding communities and governmental agencies to establish long-range multi-modal transportation, natural resource protection, and other forms of long range planning.
2. 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.
3. Meet regularly with the School District of the Menomonie Area to share information related to population growth, land use planning, and facility needs to encourage collaborative planning.
4. Periodically review existing intergovernmental relationships with each neighboring community, agency, and group to discuss how communication may be improved.
5. Organize joint informational meetings between the Menomonie City Council and Plan Commission to promote a better understanding of roles and duties.