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INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION PLAN

The Town of Dunn recognizes the importance of intergovernmental cooperation and deliberately commenced its comprehensive planning process at a time when Dane County and many municipalities and towns in the County were undergoing a parallel planning process. Intergovernmental cooperation is a critical component of this planning effort and the future wellbeing of the Town. Local services and planning strategies can be strengthened by cooperative relationships throughout the County.

Goal 1: The Town will coordinate with Dane County, neighboring communities, affected school districts and sanitary districts on area-wide growth and preservation issues.

1-1: Establish and maintain positive communication with other government officials (staff, elected and appointed officials) both formally (on committees, etc.) and informally (telephone calls, emails, etc.); and continue to build and establish new relationships.

Action 1-1a: Provide a copy of this Comprehensive Plan and any proposed Plan updates or amendments to neighboring governmental units and Dane County.

Action 1-1b: Notify neighboring jurisdictions of any updates or amendments to the Town's Purchase of Development Rights program.

Action 1-1c: Work toward resolving differences between the Town's Comprehensive Plan and plans of neighboring communities.

Action 1-1d: Continue to share meeting notices with surrounding jurisdictions and consider sharing these notices with additional jurisdictions to maintain positive intergovernmental relationships.

Goal 2: Participate in regional planning efforts and coordinate all planning activities with neighboring communities and Dane County.

2-1: Local and regional planning efforts (e.g., comprehensive, land use, transportation, farmland and natural resource protection), regulations, and specific land use decisions should be coordinated with neighboring communities and Dane County.

Action 2-1a: Participate in regional or joint planning committees and commissions.

Action 2-1b: Continue to participate in informal quad town meetings with Fitchburg, the Village of Oregon and the Town of Oregon. The meetings, which are held on a quarterly basis, help address mutual areas of concern.

Action 2-1c: Coordinate with the school districts, utility providers and sanitary districts on long range planning efforts.

Action 2-1d: Support regional efforts to provide affordable housing for the existing and the future population.

Action 2-1e: Support regional efforts to expand alternative transportation options through such measures as expanding transit service and connecting pedestrian and bicycle routes to neighboring communities and the regional trail networks, such as the Capital City Trail.

Action 2-1f: Maintain, improve or expand existing successful intergovernmental cooperation efforts, such as the McFarland/Dunn Inter-municipal Cooperation Agreement.

2-2: Establish intergovernmental agreements with the City of Fitchburg, the City of Madison, the City of Stoughton and the Village of Oregon.

Action 2-2a: Create intergovernmental agreements with the Cities of Fitchburg, Stoughton and Madison (as Madison moves forward with their process of incorporating the Town of Blooming Grove) and the Village of Oregon. This agreement should address issues such as, but not limited to, the following:

a. An agreement that will guide and achieve a coordinated land use pattern in the Town and the City and/or Village that will meet existing and future needs of the two communities and best provide for the public health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity, and the general welfare of both communities and their residents. An emphasis shall be placed on protecting natural and agricultural resources through these agreements and directing growth toward urban areas where it is most cost effectively and efficiently served by community facilities and utilities. Additionally, the agreement may address one or all of the following:

- Community boundary agreements
- Urban service area (USA) boundaries
- Future land use plans and recommendations, including areas designated for agricultural and/or natural resource preservation
- Shared services

- b. Future boundaries that are compatible with the characteristics of the comprehensive plans of both communities, taking into consideration the preservation of agriculture, environmentally and culturally important lands; current and future transportation opportunities; sewer, water and stormwater facilities; and other infrastructure.

The agreement should also address the importance of the Town’s Purchase of Development Rights program and its associated impacts in terms of what lands may be protected, just as the Dunn/McFarland Inter-municipal Cooperation Agreement did.

- c. Establishment of a joint review committee or process, or referral process for development applications on properties in or near the agreed upon future boundaries to ensure that development in adjacent communities is compact and will not adversely impact preservation efforts in the Town of Dunn. Compact and thoughtfully planned development within existing municipal boundaries can help prevent growth from sprawling into Dunn and other adjacent towns.
- d. The protection and preservation of farmland and environmentally and culturally important areas.
- e. Formal methods of resolving disputes, such as arbitration.
- f. The period for which the agreement will remain in effect and intervals in which either or both communities can call for the agreement to be amended, re-negotiated or terminated.
- g. The mechanism(s) and/or forum(s) for representatives of the City and/or Village and the Town to discuss and plan for the orderly development or conservation of lands within the agreement’s boundaries.
- h. Annexation of land from the Town of Dunn is strongly opposed. However, if it is mutually agreed that an area is to be annexed (such as our agreement with McFarland) or future intergovernmental agreement for carefully planned, necessary growth, criteria/standards should be created to address:
 - Environmental impacts
 - Agricultural impacts
 - Social/cultural impacts
 - Economic impacts

It should be emphasized that before any annexation occurs under this agreement, a demonstrated need for growth must be shown.

Goal 3: Coordinate with neighboring communities and Dane County to provide high quality services in the most cost effective and environmentally conscious manner possible.

3-1: Continue to work cooperatively with neighboring communities and school districts to lower the costs of providing services.

Action 3-1a: Share information, equipment, resources, facilities, technology and services that have cross-jurisdictional applications.

Action 3-1b: Identify opportunities to jointly provide expanded or new services such as additional recreational programs, transit programs, bicycle trail and park facilities with neighboring communities.

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