

Plan Commission Hosts Intergovernmental Meeting

December 14, 2004. Before this special meeting of the Town of Oconto Falls Planning Commission, mailed an invitation to representatives from Oconto County, all neighboring towns, school districts, WDOT, WDNR, Bay Lake Regional Plan Commission, and the City of Oconto Falls. Given that this meeting was dedicated to the topic of Intergovernmental Cooperation – one of the Smart Growth Law's nine required Elements – it was important to try to get as much participation as possible.

The purpose of this meeting was twofold:

- 1) To review the planning activities and draft materials developed to date.
- 2) To obtain comments and ideas from the Town's intergovernmental partners about their respective planning programs, potential conflicts with the Town, and ideas/desires for the future.

Amy Emery of OMNNI Associates, the Town's Planning Consultant, facilitated the meeting. To begin, she presented an overview of the Town's planning program. This included highlights from all of the elements, and a look at several of the maps that have been developed. Important results from earlier efforts, including the visual preference survey and cognitive mapping exercise, were also presented.

The representatives in attendance expressed general agreement with the Town's plan and the draft Intergovernmental Cooperation Element chapter. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Town to better understand the status of the County planning program (set to begin in 2005) and the planning efforts of nearby towns (e.g. Lena).

Prior to adjourning the meeting, the Town Planning Commission set a public hearing date of February 15, 2005. They also discussed several approaches to "get the word out" to residents. It was decided to continue posting information on this web site, send a postcard invitation to property owners, distribute media releases to local newspapers and radio stations, and create a display at the Oconto Falls Public Library. These efforts are in addition to the 30-day newspaper notice required by the Comprehensive "Smart Growth" Planning Law.