

Introduction

Intergovernmental cooperation involves working with neighboring communities and agencies to understand how their future planning activities will impact the Town of Casco. At a minimum, this involves sharing information about Casco’s plan with neighboring communities and agencies and vice versa. However, Casco believes intergovernmental cooperation should not end with the sharing of plans. Instead, this process should be the beginning for joint planning and decision-making, conflict resolution, and other strategies to promote regional coordination.

The Comprehensive Planning Law requires that the Town of Casco coordinate with:

- Towns of West Kewaunee, Lincoln, Luxemburg and Pierce
- Village of Casco
- Kewaunee County
- Bay Lakes Regional Planning Commission
- Algoma, Kewaunee and Luxemburg-Casco School Districts
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Administration
- Wisconsin Land Council

Intergovernmental Cooperation Vision

By 2025, intergovernmental cooperation efforts have enabled Casco to establish partnerships with neighboring communities, state agencies, Kewaunee County, and the school districts to provide coordinated, cost-effective services. Annexations have been avoided based on carefully planned Town development patterns that utilize local services and through boundary agreements that seek to protect the rural character of the Town.

Intergovernmental Partners, Activities and Conflicts

In June of 2004, Kewaunee County and its municipalities began a multi-jurisdiction planning process, funded under a general Planning Grant from WDOA, to prepare a county-wide Comprehensive Plan compliant with Wisconsin Act 9 (Smart Growth). Eight of the fourteen Kewaunee County municipalities joined the effort led by Kewaunee County and Bay Lakes Regional Planning Commission:

- City of Algoma
- City of Kewaunee
- Village of Luxemburg
- Town of Ahnapee
- Town of Franklin
- Town of Luxemburg
- Town of Pierce
- Town of Red River

The remaining six communities, listed below hired OMNNI Associates to prepare their plans:

- Village of Casco
- Town of Carlton
- Town of Casco
- Town of Lincoln
- Town of Montpelier
- Town of West Kewaunee

Many intergovernmental programs already in effect impact the Town of Casco. This section highlights programs that are currently in place. The maps provided throughout this plan indicate the proximity of adjacent communities to Casco.

ADJACENT/NEARBY GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

- Towns of West Kewaunee, Lincoln, Luxemburg and Pierce
- Village of Casco

Casco's relationship with its **neighboring towns** can be characterized as one of mutual respect and compatibility from a land use and political standpoint. These Towns share a common rural character with Casco. Since Towns cannot annex land from one another, boundary disputes are non-existent.

The **Village of Casco** is entirely surrounded by the Town of Casco. Town residents enjoy access to the Village's parks, and businesses. As a result, the Village is an important destination point for residents. The Village of Casco is also the community that has the greatest potential for future conflict over land use with the Town of Casco, particularly as it relates to possible annexation and the desirability of sewer service extensions. The Town of Casco is committed to providing quality development choices within its boundaries and believes that, with proper planning, its soil conditions and water resources make this possible without municipal water or sewer systems. The Town will coordinate its development in ways consistent with the development plans of the Village of Casco and believes that annexation of any portion of the Town would not be in the best interest of the citizens of either municipality.

SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENTS

There are currently no shared service agreements, but there exists many opportunities for agreements in the future.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The Town's relationship with the school districts can be characterized as cooperative. The Town appreciates the quality service provided by the school districts and the fact that the schools are a major draw to the area for new residents. Regular and open communication is critical to ensure that this cooperative relationship will continue and be strengthened as growth continues.

With respect to intergovernmental cooperation, several opportunities were identified during this planning program to strengthen relations between the Town of Casco and the school districts. Through intergovernmental efforts, it is believed that operating efficiencies of the Town and the school districts can be improved and additional services can be made available to area residents. Specific goals and objectives are included in the Intergovernmental section of the Implementation chapter.

COUNTY AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

The Town of Casco is located in Kewaunee County. Kewaunee County provides many programs, services, and facilities that are available to Casco residents. Kewaunee County programs that most directly impact Casco include:

- County highway maintenance and improvement programs
- County park maintenance
- County police protection
- Land and Water Conservation efforts for permitted sanitary systems and maintaining wetland areas and lake quality
- Economic development assistance
- Social services

In those areas where Kewaunee County has jurisdiction, the County attempts to get input from the Town before making decisions affecting the Town. Likewise, the Town has attempted to maintain communication with Kewaunee County by providing recommendations. During the planning process, additional communication with the County was identified as a priority, particularly with respect to County road improvement projects. Future communication will also be especially important as it relates to:

- Stormwater management
- Coordination with the Kewaunee County Comprehensive Plan
- Economic development
- Emergency management
- Courts
- Health department
- Public safety

Kewaunee County and the Town of Casco are part of the Bay Lakes Regional Planning Commission (BLRPC). In this planning program, the Town acquired mapping data, demographic statistics, and policy information for this comprehensive plan effort from Kewaunee County and BLRPC.

STATE AGENCIES

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)
- Wisconsin State Historical Society
- Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA)

WDNR and WisDOT are the primary state agencies that Casco must coordinate to achieve the goals and objectives of this plan. WDNR takes a lead role in wildlife protection and the sustainable management of woodlands, stormwater regulations, wetlands and other natural wildlife habitat areas. Casco has a good relationship with WDNR.

WisDOT is a key player in the planning and development of highways and pedestrian/cycling facilities in the region. During the planning process, WisDOT indicated that it wanted even more opportunities to coordinate with the Town to better anticipate the impacts of development on state highway corridors.

Open communication and participation in historic, natural, land use and transportation decisions that impact the Town will remain important priorities for intergovernmental cooperation with state agencies.

Intergovernmental Comprehensive Planning Process


To facilitate a planning environment open to intergovernmental cooperation, Casco sent all of its intergovernmental partners an invitation to participate in the planning program at the onset of its effort. The letter included direction to the project web page and an open invitation to review materials and provide feedback. All plan documents, including text and maps, were available throughout the plan program on the project web site for review and comment to ensure the widest range of public participation and input from overlapping and neighboring jurisdictions as well as any other interested entity or individual.

On an element-by-element basis, the Town (through its consultant and staff) also contacted Kewaunee County officials, local school district representatives, neighboring communities, and state agencies to complete inventories of available services, facilities and programs. For example, during the development of the Transportation Element, WisDOT was contacted to obtain information available related to transportation facilities and programs in the Town of Casco. Likewise, WisDOT was provided a preliminary copy of the Transportation Element to review and comment upon. This same courtesy was extended to the WDNR during development of the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Element. Similarly, the school district was an important resource during development of the Utilities and Community Facilities Element.

Throughout the plan development process, the Town also coordinated with Kewaunee County and BLRPC to obtain mapping resources as well as information from existing plan documents.

More than 30 days prior to the public hearing, all intergovernmental agencies/communities were provided a copy of the Recommended Plan and asked to provide comments, as is required by state statutes. Comments received were addressed at the Public Hearing and in the *Final Adopted Plan*.

The activities of the WDNR are discussed further in the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Element of this plan. Additional information is also available on-line at: www.dnr.state.wi.us.



For additional information about WisDOT activities in the Town of Casco, refer to the *Transportation Element* of this plan. Additional information is also available on-line at: www.dot.state.wi.us

Existing and Proposed Plans

ADJACENT/NEARBY GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

No adjacent or nearby governmental unit has adopted a Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan. However, all of the communities surrounding the Town are in the process of developing plans. A great deal of planning is underway in Kewaunee County. Kewaunee County is only has begun its comprehensive plan and should be completed in 2007.

In an effort to provide as much intergovernmental coordination as possible, the Town facilitated a process to review the adopted and/or on going plans of its intergovernmental partners in order to identify common issues, plan discrepancies, and implementation strategies. Particular attention was given to the Village of Casco due to its location. Lines of communication between the Town and Village are open and will remain that way.

Based on schedule information available in the *Regional Planning Framework for Smart Growth Planning and Development in Southeastern Wisconsin*, BLRPC, is expected to produce a Smart Growth Plan in 2007. In preparing the Casco Smart Growth Plan, transportation and land use planning materials available from BLRPC were used as a tool for understanding regional development plans. In order to improve communication with BLRPC and to avoid inconsistency in plan development and implementation, a series of activities and programs are identified in the Intergovernmental section of the Implementation chapter.

To ensure compatibility with the goals and objectives of this plan, Casco will continue to participate in the planning efforts of its neighboring communities, counties, and BLRPC as opportunities arise.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

At this time, no school district has plans to build within the Town of Casco. In order to facilitate future school district planning efforts the Utilities and Community Facilities chapter of this plan recommends a study by the school districts of opportunities to improve coordination of facilities and the sharing of services in order to minimize duplication and decrease costs. This may result in changes to district boundaries, and coordinated bussing, and possibly the development of a consolidated high school to serve the students of Casco.

The three school districts serving the Town have a long history of planning for improvements and expansion in response to the growth rates. Since school district boundaries extend well beyond the Town, it is very possible that if any new schools are built, they may be constructed beyond the Town limits. To further facilitate school district planning (possibly to reconfigure borders to allow for even distribution of students in districts / and or a consolidated high school), this plan has been made available to those districts as a tool to predict future school enrollments from the Town of Casco.

STATE AGENCIES

WDNR is a major agency involved in the acquisition and development of recreational/pedestrian trails – an important component of this plan. Furthermore, the WDNR takes a lead role in wildlife protection and the protection and sustained management of woodlands, wetlands and other natural wildlife habitat areas. These priorities are reflected in the environmental corridors shown on the *Future Land Use Map*, as well as the groundwater protection and other natural resource goals, objectives and policies outlined in the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources section of the Implementation chapter.

WisDOT has completed a series of statewide planning documents for use in the development of local comprehensive plans. These documents include plans for the state highway corridors, bicycle corridors, rail corridors, and air transportation. These plans were used as a beginning point when preparing the Transportation Element Chapter of this plan.

The Land Use Element identifies connectivity and walkability as important development theme. This initiative will not only improve local quality of living by discouraging sprawl, but will also encourage further pedestrian and transit-friendly roadway improvements (i.e. trails and a park-and-ride).

Human Infrastructure to Support Town Success

Historically, Casco has been able to function very well with a limited staff. However, as the Town's population continues to grow, additional staff may be needed to meet the demands of a growing community. The addition of staff should be carefully considered as part of a larger organization structure designed to meet resident, economic, and intergovernmental challenges. Staff expansion decisions should be based on periodic job reviews of the Town's staff (both local and contract).

Similarly, issues of providing adequate space for government to function is also an issue that will impact the Town's ability to coordinate well with neighboring communities and provide needed services for residents. This issue is addressed in the Utilities and Community Facilities Chapter with information provided about a local facilities assessment.

Relationship to Other Required Plan Elements

Intergovernmental Cooperation weaves its ways into every element of this Plan. Regional housing demand and supplies determine the market for housing in the Town of Casco. Transportation improvements made to County and State highways have the potential to impact the land use and development patterns in the Town. Likewise, the Town's ability to expand economically depends on quality services being provided, not only by the Town, but also its intergovernmental partners (i.e. schools, police, fire, etc.). Moreover, the Town's ability to support development opportunities at its perimeter must be coordinated with neighboring communities to ensure compatibility with adjacent land uses.