

Introduction

Intergovernmental cooperation involves working with neighboring communities and agencies to understand how their future planning activities will impact the Town of West Kewaunee. At a minimum, this involves sharing information about West Kewaunee’s plan with neighboring communities and agencies and vice versa. However, West Kewaunee 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 West Kewaunee coordinate with:

- Towns of Casco, Montpelier, Carlton, and Pierce
- City of Kewaunee
- Kewaunee County
- Bay Lakes Regional Planning Commission
- Kewaunee School District
- 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 West Kewaunee 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 West Kewaunee. This section highlights programs that are currently in place. The maps provided throughout this plan indicate the proximity of adjacent communities to West Kewaunee.

ADJACENT/NEARBY GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

- Towns of Casco, Montpelier, Carlton, Pierce
- City of Kewaunee

West Kewaunee'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 West Kewaunee. Since Towns cannot annex land from one another, boundary disputes are non-existent.

The Town of West Kewaunee shares it's a portion of its eastern boundary with the **City of Kewaunee**. West Kewaunee residents enjoy access to Kewaunee's parks, library and businesses. As a result, Kewaunee is an important destination point for residents. Kewaunee is also the community that has the greatest potential for future conflict over land use with the Town of West Kewaunee, particularly as it relates to possible annexation and the desirability of sewer and water service extensions. The Town of West Kewaunee 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 City of Kewaunee 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

Currently, the Town cooperates with Humboldt, Eaton, Franklin, and Montpelier to achieve greater efficiencies with regards to snowplowing. Other opportunities exist to further share resources and reduce expenditures.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The Town's relationship with the school district can be characterized as cooperative. The Town appreciates the quality service provided by the school district 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 West Kewaunee and the school district. Through intergovernmental efforts, it is believed that operating efficiencies of the Town and the school district 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 West Kewaunee is located in Kewaunee County. Kewaunee County provides many programs, services, and facilities that are available to West Kewaunee residents. Kewaunee County programs that most directly impact West Kewaunee 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 West Kewaunee 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 West Kewaunee 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. West Kewaunee 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, West Kewaunee 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 West Kewaunee. 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 West Kewaunee, 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, a great deal of planning is underway. The Towns of Casco, Pierce, Montpelier and Carlton are currently in the process of developing their own Smart Growth Comprehensive Plans. The City of Kewaunee is also in the process of developing a comprehensive plan. Kewaunee County has started its planning efforts 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 City of Kewaunee due to potential future annexation attempts. Lines of communication between the Town and all surrounding communities are open. A program initiative to foster better communication is highlighted in the goals and objectives in the Intergovernmental section of the Implementation chapter.

Based on the information available, BLRPC is expected to produce a Smart Growth Plan shortly. In preparing the West Kewaunee 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, West Kewaunee 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 West Kewaunee. In order to facilitate future school district planning efforts the Utilities and Community Facilities chapter of this plan recommends a study by the school district of opportunities to improve coordination of facilities and the sharing of services in order to minimize duplication and decrease costs.

The Kewaunee school district has a long history of planning for improvements and expansion in response to the growth rates. The districts build facilities to accommodate new students coming to the districts. 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, this plan has been made available to those districts as a tool to predict future school enrollments from the Town of West Kewaunee.

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 *Natural Features Map* (chapter 7), 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, West Kewaunee 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 West Kewaunee. 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.