

## **Intergovernmental Cooperation Development**

### **7.1 Introduction**

Coordination and cooperation among the many units of government at all levels is a very important goal. Yet, there are instances where the actions of one governmental unit can negatively affect another unit as in the case of annexation, creation of a tax increment financing (TIF) district, or certain transportation improvement projects, just to name a few. In such instances, it is important for the various units of government to strive for consensus to the mutual benefit of all involved. In the absence of this, financial and human resources can be wasted with little result. More importantly, intergovernmental conflict can foster a negative attitude toward all governmental units. Even where conflict does not exist, cooperation between local units of government can often provide more or different services at a lower cost to taxpayers.

### **7.2 Governmental Units and Relationships**

#### *Relationship to Adjoining Towns*

Within Trempealeau County, there are 15 towns. The Town of Trempealeau is the most populous town with 1783 residents as of 2007 and the second most populous municipality in Trempealeau County. It is rural in character with agricultural activities predominating. The town shares borders with the towns of Arcadia, Caledonia, Dodge and Gale. The very western edge shares a border with the Town of Buffalo in Buffalo County.

#### *Relationship to the Village of Trempealeau*

The Village of Trempealeau is within the town boundaries. It is the fifth most populous city or village in the county.

#### *Relationship to Trempealeau County*

The Town of Trempealeau is located in southern Trempealeau County. The County was created in 1854 and Whitehall is the county seat. The Trempealeau County Board of Supervisors consists of 17 members. The Town is located in portions of District 1, 2 & 3. The town relies on the county for enforcing zoning regulations.

The town works closely with the County on zoning, planning, and land conservation issues. The County provides a planner to the town for revision on their zoning and land use maps every three years or upon request. The town currently uses the transportation facility engineering services the county provides for an annual fee. They work with the Trempealeau County Highway Department on transportation needs.

#### *Relationship to School Districts*

The majority of the Town is located in the Gale-Etrick-Trempealeau School District. Total enrollment as of September 2008 is 1344. Each hometown has their own elementary school (grade 1 through 6), Trempealeau is home to the District's middle school and Galesville is home to the High School and Kindergarten Center. The District offices are located in the high school building. In November 2007, the residents passed a

referendum to build a new grades 6-8 middle school in Galesville, therefore allowing room for the kindergarten students to be returned to their home school.

A small area of the Town is located in the Arcadia School District.

*Relationship to the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission*

The Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC) is a Commission of nine counties located along the Mississippi River in Western Wisconsin. The Commission was organized in 1964 under Wisconsin State Statutes to plan for the physical, social and economic development of the Region. Other authorized functions include providing advisory services on regional issues to local governments and other public and private agencies, acting as a coordinating agency for programs and activities and contracting with local units of government to make studies and offer advice on land use, thoroughfares, community facilities, public improvements, and encouragement of economic and other developments.

The MRRPC provides services to 9 counties in the area. Commission activities are directed by a Board of 27 commissioners appointed by the County Boards and Governor.

*Relationship to State of Wisconsin*

***Wisconsin Department of Transportation***

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) was officially established in 1967 by combining formerly independent agencies and the Department of Motor Vehicles (which included the State Highway Commission, State Aeronautics Commission and State Patrol). WisDOT is geographically organized into 5 district offices throughout the state. Trempealeau County is in the Northwest region with offices in Eau Claire and Superior.

WisDOT supports all forms of transportation. The department is responsible for planning, building and maintaining Wisconsin's network of state highways and Interstate highway system. The department shares the costs of building and operating county and local transportation systems - from highways to public transit and other modes. WisDOT plans, promotes and financially supports statewide air, rail and water transportation, as well as bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

***Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources***

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is organized into 5 geographic regions. Trempealeau County is located in the West Central Region, along with 19 other counties.

Perrot Park, which is managed by the DNR, is within the Town's boundaries. The Town and Perrot State Park officials have worked together over the years on different projects.

***U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service***

Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It was established by Executive Order in 1936 as "a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife. The 6226 acre Refuge is a backwater of the

Mississippi River and strategically located within an important migration corridor, providing resting and feeding habitat for thousands of waterfowl and other birds during spring and fall. The Refuge also includes more than 700 acres of native prairie and oak savanna, habitat types that are scarce in Wisconsin. An estimated 70,000 visitors enjoy birding, hiking, biking, hunting, fishing or photography at the Refuge.

The Town and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have worked cooperatively benefiting both as well as the birds, animals and the land.

#### *Conflict Resolution Process*

When a conflict arises the parties involved will meet and investigate the issue at hand and resolve the conflict as best they can.

### **7.3 Existing and Proposed Local, County and Regional Plans**

#### *Adjacent Units of Government*

Adjacent governments to the Town of Trempealeau are the Towns of Arcadia, Caledonia, Dodge and Gale, along with the Village of Trempealeau, which are located in Trempealeau County. The Town of Buffalo in Buffalo County is another adjacent government. The Towns located in Trempealeau County have all participated in the comprehensive planning process. The Village of Trempealeau has adopted their comprehensive plan. The Town of Buffalo is currently working on its comprehensive plan.

#### *Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan*

Trempealeau County is currently working on its comprehensive plan for the county. The county started with the bottom-up approach and worked with the towns first on their comprehensive plans and then will incorporate ideas from those plans into the overall county plan.

#### *Regional Plan*

The Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission does not have a regional plan and does not intend to create one.

### **7.4 State and County Agency Plans**

#### *Trempealeau County Revised Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (2000)*

The zoning ordinance consists of land use regulations most of the town residents must follow for land uses and structures in the county. The Town of Trempealeau adopted this ordinance in 2000.

#### *Trempealeau County Outdoor Recreation Plan (April, 2008)*

The Trempealeau County Outdoor Recreation Plan was adopted in April of 2008. This plan reviews the needs/actions for the outdoor recreation facilities needed throughout the county.

*Trempealeau County Land and Water Resource Management Plan (December, 2006)*  
The Land and Water Resource Management Plan do not have town specific issues but is for countywide use. This plan is to be the “process” by which counties assessed their resource conditions and needs and would decide how best to manage their resources.

*Trempealeau County Solid Waste Management Plan*  
Trempealeau County does not have a Solid Waste Management Plan, however, there are some landfills throughout the county.

*Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan (July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1981)*  
In Wisconsin, the state has enacted a Farmland Preservation Act (Chapter 91, Wisconsin Statutes) aimed at preserving farmland. Trempealeau County has been involved in the Farmland Preservation process since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1978. Landowners within Trempealeau County have the option of signing Farmland Preservation contracts. Trempealeau County has the highest number of agreements of all the counties in Wisconsin.

*Trempealeau County Roadway Improvement Plan*  
The county has a five year roadway improvement plan from 2008-2012. There are no improvements planned in the Town of Trempealeau during those five years.

*Wisconsin State Highway Improvement Plan*  
The state has a roadway improvement plan from 2008-2013. There is some work to be done in the Town of Trempealeau but it should not affect the town’s comprehensive plan.

## **7.5 Existing Relationships, Shared Services, and Agreements**

### *Existing Areas of Cooperation*

The Town operates an EMS service and fire department with both the Village of Trempealeau and the Town of Caledonia. The 3 communities successfully built a new facility. The Town operates with both the Village of Trempealeau and Town of Caledonia the Trempealeau Youth Sports Club for the youth in the 3 communities.

The Town is part of the Southern Trempealeau County Solid Waste Commission, which is a multigovernmental unit formed under §66.30 Wisc. Stats. The other participating jurisdictions include the towns of Dodge, Gale, Caledonia, the City of Galesville, and the villages of Trempealeau and Melrose (Jackson County).

The Town shares roadwork with neighboring towns, however there is no formal agreement.

### *Cooperative Boundary Agreements*

The Town currently does not have a cooperative boundary agreement with any other municipality.

## **7.6 Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives, and Actions**

Goal: Establish cooperative relationships with adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions.

Objective 1: Share community facilities when feasible.

*Action: List facilities to share.*

Objective 2: Encourage working relationships with neighboring communities.

*Action: Promote attendance at town meetings.*