

CHAPTER 7: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

I. Regional Context

- *Adjacent Towns:* The Town of Oregon shares borders with the Dane County Towns of Montrose and Rutland, and with the Green County Town of Brooklyn.
- *Adjacent Cities and Villages:* The Town of Oregon shares borders with the City of Fitchburg and the Villages of Oregon and Brooklyn.
- *Dane County:* The Town of Oregon is within County Supervisory District 31. The town relies on a number of Dane County ordinances to regulate land use in the Town. Currently, the Town uses Dane County's zoning ordinance, floodplain zoning ordinance, land division ordinance, subdivision ordinance, erosion control and stormwater management ordinance, and shoreland/wetland zoning ordinance. The Town continues to maintain a good relationship with Dane County departments.
- *School Districts:* The town is served by two school districts: Oregon and Belleville.
- *Capital Area Regional Planning Commission:* The Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) was created on May 2, 2007 to serve as the regional planning and areawide water quality management planning entity for the Dane County region. Its responsibilities include approval of urban service areas and delineation of environmental and open space corridors. The Commission is composed of thirteen Commissioners appointed by the Mayor of the City of Madison (4), the Dane County Executive (3), the Dane County Cities and Villages Association (3), and the Dane County Towns Association (3).
- *Relevant State Agencies:* The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) owns a substantial amount of land in the town (see Public Lands District in Chapter 8: Land Use), and has regulatory authority over stream crossings and other work in navigable streams. The town also participates in the Department of Agriculture Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP)'s Farmland Preservation Program.
- *Relevant Federal Agencies:* The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns lands in the north central part of the town. Many farmers and other landowners in the town participate in conservation programs funded and operated by the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

II. Existing or Potential Conflicts:

The adopted Village of Oregon Comprehensive Plan shows planned growth areas outside the current village boundaries and urban service area that are currently within the Town of Oregon. (See Agricultural Transition Areas in Chapter 8, Land Use.) Future annexations and the Village of Oregon's exercise of its extraterritorial land division review authority may frustrate efforts by the town to create town development areas associated with TDR receiving areas or new subdivision development. The Town of Oregon Board and Plan Commission should explore potential for intergovernmental agreements with

the Village of Oregon to establish long-term village boundaries and explore opportunities for town development areas.

The adopted comprehensive plan for the Village of Brooklyn do not show any projected expansion into the Town of Oregon within the next 20 years. Consequently, no potential conflicts are anticipated.

The towns of Rutland, Montrose and the City of Fitchburg all participate in the state farmland preservation program and maintain rural density policies similar to those adopted in the Town of Oregon. Consequently, few land use conflicts are anticipated across these town lines. The Town of Brooklyn, to the south, in Green County, however, allows for higher residential density than is permitted under this plan. The Town of Oregon Board and Plan Commission should work cooperatively with their counterparts in the Town of Brooklyn to minimize any potential conflicts arising from incompatible land uses.

III. Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives and Policies:

A. *Goals:*

1. Facilitate and encourage cooperation and communication between all levels of government.
2. Establish a process for mutually beneficial intergovernmental relations with other governmental jurisdictions to promote cooperation and communication.

B. *Objectives:*

1. Maintain good working relationships with adjoining municipalities and other governmental jurisdictions.
2. Explore opportunities for joint planning and cooperation with other towns, villages, cities, Dane County, and state and federal agencies, including intergovernmental land use, service, and boundary agreements.
3. Actively seek opportunities for shared public service agreements that improve services and lower costs.

C. *Policies and Programs:*

1. Continue to actively participate in intergovernmental organizations such as the Dane County Towns Association and events sponsored by the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission, and explore other opportunities to meet with representative from other governments.
2. Continue to actively participate in formal public hearings, workshops, committees and other outreach opportunities sponsored by other governmental units, including Dane County, the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission, nearby cities and villages, surrounding towns and state and federal agencies.

3. Provide formal comments and recommendations on proposed municipal, county or state plans, regulations or infrastructure improvements that have the potential to affect the Town of Oregon.
4. Work with the Dane County Board of Supervisors to have the *Town of Oregon Comprehensive Plan* formally adopted as part of the *Dane County Comprehensive Plan*.