

7 Intergovernmental Cooperation

This element of the comprehensive plan analyzes the planning and decision-making relationship of the Town of Brigham to adjacent local governmental units and quasi-public, regional, state, and federal governmental entities. The element looks at these governmental entities' planning and land use control/growth management documents, agreements, and programs and how they relate to the Town. This chapter also contains goals, objectives, and recommendations for maintaining or enhancing intergovernmental relationships.

Existing relationships between the Town of Brigham and each of the surrounding or overlapping jurisdictions are described below. A process for resolving conflicts is described at the end of this element.

7.1 Brigham's Intergovernmental Relationships

7.1.1 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

The Wisconsin DNR is currently working in the region on a number of priority programs, including the Military Ridge Heritage Area preservation project and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Grassland Bird Project to protect rapidly declining grassland bird numbers. The DNR also works to preserve local waterways, for example the Sugar River, Pecatonica River, and Wisconsin River tributaries and coordinates the Rails to Trails conversion of the Canadian National freight line.

The DNR, in concert with other state agencies such as the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), is also working to eradicate chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer populations within communities located in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Brigham is located within a Disease Eradication Zone.

7.1.2 USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Services Agency (FSA)

Many farmers and landowners in the town participate in the conservation programs offered by NRCS and FSA. There are lands in Brigham that have been established as grass, trees, or wetland cover through programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). Conservation practices are maintained on active farmland through the Conservation Compliance Program.

7.1.3 Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT)

The actions of the Wisconsin DOT will have a major local impact within the town as plans to control access along USH 18/151 progress. Already, the DOT has communicated some limited access restrictions that will likely discontinue through access on some county highways traversing USH 18/151. The Town will continue to attend pertinent DOT meetings where state highways are discussed.

7.1.4 Iowa County

The Iowa County Planning & Development Office provides shore land and wetland zoning controls within the town. The Office also enforces a countywide subdivision ordinance for unincorporated communities. Brigham also coordinates with Iowa County for administration of their local planning and zoning functions (use countywide zoning ordinance).

The Town receives service provision from the Iowa County Highway Department. Interaction with this department has been good. The condition of the county highway system is a priority concern for the

Town since these roadways provide important linkages to service centers and other regional highways within the area.

The Iowa County Sheriff's Department, based in Dodgeville, provides police protection to Brigham and all of Iowa County. The relationship between the Town and Sheriff's Department has been good with coordination occurring on an as-needed basis.

7.1.5 Local School Districts

The majority of Brigham students are enrolled in the School District of Barneveld. Very small sections of the Town are served by the Dodgeville and Pecatonica school districts. The Town and school districts work together on matters of mutual concern, but coordination could be enhanced to better serve the Brigham community.

7.1.6 Surrounding Municipalities

Towns: Brigham has little interaction with the surrounding Towns of Ridgeway, Moscow, and Arena. Aside from some mutual cooperation for road maintenance with the Town of Ridgeway, each of these governments relies on agreements forged independently to provide municipal services. There might be an opportunity to identify cost-sharing agreements, consolidation of facilities, or other capital assets in coming years, but communication is currently limited due to lack of interest or need.

Village of Barneveld: Brigham shares a boundary with the Village, and many residents utilize services and amenities located within the municipality including the school, the post office, the library, and other shopping and service facilities. The Town works cooperatively with the Village through the joint Barneveld-Brigham Fire Department that provides emergency response aid. There is no boundary agreement with the village however and annexations occur with limited town notification.

7.1.7 Local Area Organizations

The Nature Conservancy: The Conservancy, and other local organizations like the Driftless Area Conservancy and Prairie Enthusiasts, controls more than 1,000 acres in Iowa County consisting of prairie remnants and more heavily-grazed prairie pastures surrounded by tilled agricultural fields, hay fields and pastures. The preserve is located in the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, a 50,000-acre grassland landscape in Dane and Iowa counties that contains one of the highest concentrations of native grasslands in the Midwest.

Relations with this organization have been mixed, because a landowner can sell or donate land to the Conservancy without Town approval, Brigham is often unaware of these transactions. There is also some debate as to how much and what types of lands are best suited for conservation. Further, opinions vary on how these lands should be protected, if they are, and whether existing policies are adequate or appropriate.

7.2 Existing or Potential Conflicts

As with most unincorporated communities located adjacent to, or within the extraterritorial area of an incorporated community, Brigham could be affected by annexations to the villages of Barneveld and Blue Mounds (though Blue Mounds could not annex across county lines without Town of Brigham and Iowa County Board approval). Although currently this has not been a contentious issue, there may be a need to draft boundary agreements if the rate of annexation exceeds Brigham's ability to cope with the decreased tax revenues that result or interferes with the town's ability to plan for infrastructure improvements or impedes sufficient delivery of public services.

7.3 Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals & Objectives

Goals and objectives identify what the plan should accomplish. Goals are statements that describe a desired future condition, often in general terms. Objectives are statements that describe a specific future condition to be attained, to reach the established goals. This plan provides brief goal(s) followed by an objective statement.

7.3.1 Enhance cooperation with local, regional, and state entities.

Brigham seeks to establish and utilize communications to build a spirit of cooperation for solving development, infrastructure, and budgetary problems with the governments of neighboring villages and towns, Iowa County, and the State of Wisconsin, as well as with Brigham residents. Working with non-profit groups, benevolent organizations, and conservation programs will enhance Brigham's role as a leader in community building and fiscal sustainability, and is therefore expected of the Town Board. Continued support for and partnership with the Barneveld School District, fire and rescue services, law enforcement agencies, Iowa County, and others is essential to maintain the quality of life and economic status of this and surrounding communities.

7.4 Intergovernmental Cooperation Recommendations

Recommendations identify the action necessary to achieve goals and objectives. For this reason, recommendations should be actionable, attainable, and specific. Not all recommendations can be achieved in the short-term, so they should be specific enough so that any individual or group wishing to achieve a stated goal can take action.

The following recommendations were jointly developed by the Town of Brigham Plan Commission and its consultants.

- 7.4.1 Continue to work with local, regional, and state agencies in the development of local plans and facilities.
- 7.4.2 Inform local, regional, and state agencies of changes in local land use and other developments as appropriate.
- 7.4.3 Request proper notice of regional planning, development, and construction activities from the appropriate public agencies as warranted.
- 7.4.4 Work to provide cost effective and efficient service delivery to the local area. This includes proactive cooperation with entities involved in service provision.
- 7.4.5 Maintain an active dialogue with the DNR and area land trusts concerning public and private land purchases.
- 7.4.6 Maintain regular communication with the DOT concerning land use development plans or changes to the county or state highway network especially USH 18/151.
- 7.4.7 Continue to coordinate with the Iowa County Highway Department for repair and upgrade of local highways.

- 7.4.8** Formalize a process for the development of boundary agreements with the Village of Barneveld and other incorporated communities that may have extraterritorial jurisdiction.
- 7.4.9** Increase communication and coordination of land use planning with adjacent towns, including those in Dane County as well as coordinating land use planning and implementation with Iowa County.