



## **ELEMENT 7: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION**

### **7.1 Introduction**

Intergovernmental Cooperation is a necessity for all levels of government to operate in a cost effective and efficient manner while providing citizens with required services. The importance of intergovernmental cooperation has increased in the last several years in Wisconsin due to funding constraints and mandates to provide services and/or programs. Citizens demand a high level of service for their tax dollars and expect that the services will be provided in the most cost effective and efficient way possible. Intergovernmental cooperation can offer solutions to many of these issues and at a minimum should be pursued to allow for good governmental relations between adjoining and overlapping jurisdictions.

The intent of the Intergovernmental Cooperation element is to analyze the existing relationships between the Town of Drummond and other units of government and identify means of working cooperatively toward the goals and objectives in this plan.

### **7.2 Analysis and Relationship between Drummond and Other Jurisdictions**

The Town of Drummond shares borders with four towns in Bayfield County and is encompassed by one school district. In addition, the town must also coordinate with state and federal agencies. Adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions include:

- Town of Barnes (west)
- Town of Cable (south)
- Town of Delta (north)
- Town of Grand View (east)
- Bayfield County
- Drummond School District
- Northwest Regional Planning Commission
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- US Forest Service

#### **Relationship to Adjoining Towns**

Drummond's relationship with all neighboring towns can be characterized as one of mutual respect and compatibility from a land use standpoint. The Town of Drummond and its adjoining jurisdictions share a common rural or "northwoods" character. In the future, as mutually beneficial opportunities for shared service contracts arise, the Town of Drummond is open to considering such shared services options.



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### **Relationship to Bayfield County**

Bayfield County provides the Town with a variety of services including police, highway maintenance, and zoning. The relationship between Drummond and the County is a good working relationship. Since Bayfield County is the zoning authority for the Town of Drummond, the enforcement and implementation of many aspects of this plan will need to occur through the county. It is the Town's desire to have its future planning recommendations given serious consideration by the County when they make future land use decisions affecting the Town of Drummond.

### **Drummond School District**

The Town of Drummond is served by the School District of Drummond. Overall, communication is good as the town maintains a cooperative relationship with the district by sharing resources and maintenance responsibilities. Some examples of this include the school library and the town library sharing resources through ordering and book exchange. Many of the elementary classes make a supervised trip to the Drummond Public Library where the librarian shows the children about the facility. The school also comes to the library sledding hill in the winter and the library acts as the warming house and provides support for the visits. The school has also adopted a section of US Highway 63 for the annual roadside cleanup. The Ascend Academy that has helped the town in maintenance of the sledding hill, planting projects and maintenance of the Drummond Ski Trail.

### **Regional Government**

The Town of Drummond is located within the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) jurisdiction, which covers a 10-county region in northwest Wisconsin. NWRPC provides planning assistance, assist local interests in responding to state and federal programs, serve as a coordinating agency for programs, and provide other technical and advisory assistance to local government. The Town of Drummond and the NWRPC have collaborated on a number of projects in the past, and have a good working relationship.

### **Federal Government**

Cooperation and coordination with federal government agencies is limited to the U.S. Forest Service and their management of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. The Forest Service manages approximately 80% of the forested area in the Town of Drummond.

### **State Government**

The Town of Drummond has worked with a number of state agencies in the past and continues to cooperate with them on an as-needed basis. The two primary state agencies that the Town of Drummond interacts with are the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). The DNR is responsible for natural resource protection, compliance monitoring, and law enforcement and WisDOT is responsible for the planning and development of road networks and associated infrastructure.



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The University of Wisconsin operates the Pigeon Lake Field Station located on 50.4 acres along the north shores of Pigeon Lake.

### **Cooperative Boundary Plans and/or Agreements**

Currently, the Town of Drummond does not have a formal cooperative agreement, program, or boundary agreement with any adjoining or overlapping jurisdictions. Any intergovernmental coordination activities that have been executed are voluntary informal arrangements between the Town and other governmental units.

Existing intergovernmental agreements are as follows:

- Agreement with FEMA and the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS)
- Formal agreements with the three towns involved in the Cable Union Airport.
- Formal agreement with Cable, Namakagon and Grand View for the operation of the Great Divide Ambulance.
- Mutual aid agreements for surrounding fire departments.

### **Identification of Existing and Potential Intergovernmental Conflicts**

The Town Plan Commission identified some issues with other governmental units that need further attention:

#### **Existing Conflicts**

1. Old railroad grade and the desire to turn it into a recreational trail.

#### **Potential Conflicts**

1. Additional wilderness areas and the notion that the US Forest Service may limit public access to federal lands.
2. Cell tower development.
3. Land swap or change of ownership that increases the holdings of Federal lands.

#### **Process to Resolve Conflicts**

There are a number of processes that the Town and the surrounding communities could utilize to resolve or prevent conflicts in the future outside of the legal system, which should be the last resort. These methods include cooperative planning, informal negotiation, facilitated negotiation, mediation, and binding arbitration.