

7. Intergovernmental Cooperation

State and Federal Agencies

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The Town of Medary has experienced little contact with the WDNR. The WDNR does have jurisdiction over the waterways in the Town of Medary and maintains floodplain regulations that are enforced through the County Zoning Office

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT). The Town of Medary participates in the WDOT Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) program. The WISLR program maintains a complete listing of public roads in the Town of Medary by jurisdiction, classification and number of miles. This program assists in the facilitation of state funding for town road maintenance.



Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Town of Medary has minimal interaction with federal agencies. In the event of a natural disaster (flooding, tornado, etc.) FEMA would be the federal agency to assist in relief efforts. The Town recognizes this and has participated in the development of the La Crosse County All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Regional Planning Commission

The Town of Medary and La Crosse County are located in the multi-county boundary of the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC). The MRRPC represents nine counties in western Wisconsin; Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse, Pepin, Pierce, Trempealeau and Vernon. The MRRPC maintains the regions eligibility as an Economic Development District and eligible for Economic Development Administration funding. They also provide planning and development assistance to local governments including comprehensive planning and zoning assistance, economic development assistance, geographic information system mapping, and grant writing.

Other Local Governments

The Towns of Onalaska, Hamilton, Barre, and Shelby border the Town. The Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska also border parts of the Town. La Crosse, Onalaska and West Salem school district boundaries also include parts of the Town. The Town has a fire service agreement with the City of Onalaska Fire Department. The Town also is an active member of the La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC), a federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization that is charged with planning and funding transportation projects in the La Crosse metro area. The Town has maintained very favorable working relationships with most of its neighboring local governments and school districts.

La Crosse County

The Town maintains positive relationships with numerous County agencies and departments. The La Crosse County Sheriffs Department provides police protection services to the Town. The La Crosse County Highway Department maintains county and state roads in the Town. The Town also has adopted the La Crosse County Zoning ordinances so the County enforces zoning within the Town. It is expected that these services will continue to be provided by the County.

School Districts

La Crosse, Onalaska and West Salem school districts serve the Town of Medary. During the planning process no intergovernmental conflicts or planning concerns were identified with the school districts.

Comprehensive Planning

La Crosse County. La Crosse County is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan to meet the requirements of Section 66.1001, Wisconsin Statutes. The original County Comprehensive Plan “La Crosse County Wisconsin Development Plan 2020” was prepared by the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission with cooperation of La Crosse County and the various local units of government between 1995 and 2000. In 2004 La Crosse County participated in a successful a comprehensive planning grant from the Wisconsin Department of Administration to update their plan so the plan meets the new State planning requirements. La Crosse County adopted its Comprehensive Plan on March 20, 2008.

The timing of the planning processes for La Crosse County and the Town of Medary created an opportunity for the governmental entities to work cooperatively in the development of their respective plans. This cooperation took place as the local units of government, planning consultants and planning commissions monitored each others progress in an effort to create coordinated and consistent planning documents.

Town of Onalaska. The Town of Onalaska completed their Comprehensive Plan in 2005. No conflicts appear to exist with Town of Medary in this Plan.

Town of Hamilton and the Village of West Salem. The Town of Hamilton (east of Medary) and the Village of West Salem (surrounded by the Town of Hamilton) are in the early stages of developing comprehensive plans. Similar to La Crosse County, opportunity exists to work cooperatively in the development of these plans as well. The Town of Medary Planning Commission will monitor the progress of these plans in an effort to create a coordinated plan.

Town of Barre. The Town of Barre developed a Town Plan over 12 years ago and is currently working with the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission on a contract to update it. A review of their existing plan did not illustrate any intergovernmental conflicts.

Town of Shelby. The Town of Shelby is in the process of developing their comprehensive plan now and the Town of Medary will take this opportunity to review it to avoid conflicts.

City of La Crosse. The Town’s western boundary and portions of its northern boundary are adjacent to the City of La Crosse. The City of La Crosse Adopted their Comprehensive Plan in 2005. The Town will review this plan as well to identify potential ways to work together and avoid conflicts. Relations with the City of La Crosse have been strained due to annexation disagreements.

Existing or Potential Intergovernmental Conflicts

An existing intergovernmental conflict impacting the Town is annexation. Continual annexation will eventually leave the Town with not enough tax base to provide cost effective Town services in comparison to what surrounding cities could provide Town residents. This situation would culminate in dissolving the Town government and remaining land areas within the Town being absorbed into the surrounding Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska. To help resolve this problem, the Town proposes a Town viability analysis study as proposed in Table 9.1 Comprehensive Plan Implementation Schedule.