

Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC
Meeting Notes

Intergovernmental Cooperation Focus Group
Burnett County Comprehensive Plan

Date: October 14, 2008

Location: The Lodge at Crooked Lake, Siren, WI

Present: Jim Tolbert, *North Memorial*; Bob Morehouse, *Burnett County Highway Dept*; Scott Johnson, *Siren School District*; Dean Roland, *Burnett County Sheriff*; Tracy Horel, *Burnett County Land Info*; Brad Jones, *Grantsburg School District*; Joel Johnson, *Town of Grantsburg*; Mark Dahlburg, *Village of Grantsburg*; Shaun Mularkey, *Foth*; Mike Kornmann, *UWEX*

Notes By: Shaun Mularkey, Foth; Mike Kornmann, UWEX

The meeting began with introductions and a presentation on the Burnett County Comprehensive Planning process, data and trends, and major issues relative to Intergovernmental Cooperation as identified by the county Comprehensive Planning Committee. These issues were discussed and validated and the following questions were discussed in detail:

Questions:

- I. What is the most successful intergovernmental cooperation effort and why?
 - County police/law enforcement especially with the St. Croix Tribe – Continual coordination
 - Fire departments – multi-jurisdictional
- II. What opportunities are there to work together?
 - Rural Association meetings every quarter including the Tribe
 - Mutual agreements that many are not aware already exist
 - Three school districts with a need for the same data (i.e. enrollment projections) – County could provide assistance and more general coordination
 - Coordinated service team
 - Providing services
 - Use the Restorative Justice program to obtain people to do road work; More coordination with the Tribe – could take meetings to the Tribe to get things moving and build relationships
 - Expand-ITV (interactive television)-opportunities (advanced training) – keep skilled labor here
 - Use County Towns Association meetings as a tool for intergovernmental cooperation. They are not currently being used as a workshop type meeting – some meetings could be used for cross-communication, coordination and problem solving

- Match businesses with successful retired people from area – tap skills, prepare business plans, etc. Need to find out who and what skills are in the county
- III. What barriers exist to greater intergovernmental cooperation in Burnett County?
- Volunteers are needed in many cases, but this is a challenge as the population ages and the County loses younger people
 - May be difficult to communicate the benefits
 - Loss (or perceived loss) of local control
 - Tribe coordination - Leadership and goals often change
 - Limited communication via two-weekly newspapers
 - Not everyone can attend county daytime meetings – not productive for maximum citizen involvement and communication
 - Internet a useful tool, but not everyone has access or is comfortable with it. High speed internet is not fully implemented
 - Too many meetings already – intergovernmental meetings may be a burden
 - Not knowing what resources exist
- IV. What possible intergovernmental opportunities are present in Burnett County that could result in better service and improved efficiencies
- Consolidating law enforcement agencies – may be able to provide better overall level of service at all times for a lower cost. Would not have gaps in service at certain times of the day that some localities currently have
 - Sharing of equipment – for instance not every town needs to necessarily have their own tractor-mower
 - Centralized County intergovernmental website divided into categories. This could be used as a forum to communicate needs and wants, coordinate efforts and have questions answered. Would need to have full-time administration to work properly
 - Sharing municipal courts
 - Need to understand ambulance costs and discuss amount of service. North Ambulance vs. First Response: potentially extra equipment – might be coordinated to potentially improve services/decrease costs
 - More interaction between the schools and local businesses to match education needs and skills
- V. What should Burnett County's role in facilitating intergovernmental cooperation (i.e. border issues, shared services, information, etc.) among local units of government?
- Supervisors should be better informed of current programs and needs
 - Providing/administering resources and acting as a clearinghouse