APPENDIX H: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

INTRODUCTION

The relationship a municipality has with school districts, neighboring communities, the county, the Regional Planning Commission, the state, and the federal government can impact residents in terms of taxation, planning, service provision, and siting of public facilities. An examination of these relationships and the identification of existing or potential conflicts can help a municipality address these situations in a productive manner. This appendix, along with Chapter 2: Framework Plan and Implementation and Chapter 10: Intergovernmental Cooperation addresses these.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Governmental Units and Relationships to the Town of Eldorado

Adjacent and Nearby Communities

*The Town of Eldorado shares its borders with the towns of Friendship, Fond du Lac, Lamartine, Springvale and Rosendale in Fond du Lac County and the towns of Utica, Nekimi and Black Wolf in Winnebago County.* As a result, the land use planning; road system planning and maintenance; trail planning, construction, and maintenance; and other planning issues should be coordinated between municipalities. *Since towns cannot annex land from one another, boundary disputes are non-existent.*

The Town of Eldorado is located less than 2 miles from the City of Fond du Lac and less than 1.5 miles from the villages of North Fond du Lac and Rosendale. Therefore these incorporated communities have the authority to exercise extraterritorial authority under the state statutes. Currently the Town has a good working relationship with its neighbors.

School Districts

*The Town of Eldorado is served by two school districts: the Rosendale-Brandon Public School District and the North Fond du Lac Public School District.* Most of the Town is within the Rosendale-Brandon Public School District. While the North Fond du Lac Public School District covers a small area along the eastern boundary. Consequently, a very small amount, if any, of the students within the North Fond du Lac Public School District are from the Town of Eldorado. Currently, no schools are located in the Town and students must be transported to schools within the villages of Rosendale or North Fond du Lac.

*Presently, no formal written intergovernmental agreement exists between either of the two school districts and the Town of Eldorado.* Communities, school districts and local businesses can establish agreements to work together on a variety of issues. This could include looking at providing students with safe routes to school and the establishment of a partnership to construct local buildings (sheds, garages, houses) that not only give students valuable life and work skills but also benefit individuals within the local community. Other partnerships could include working together on community service type projects. Encouraging students to volunteer for projects that benefit their communities strengthen young peoples’
sense of civic engagement and can have lifelong implications. Therefore the Town could benefit from establishing a method of communication with the local school districts.

**The Town is served by the Moraine Park Technical College.** The closest campus is located in the City of Fond du Lac. Opportunities may exist to partner with the Technical College on projects that would benefit the residents in the Town of Eldorado.

**Community Facilities**

The Town is situated in Fond du Lac County and either abuts or is close proximity to the City of Fond du Lac and the villages of North Fond du Lac and Rosendale and the towns of Friendship, Fond du Lac, Lamartine, Springvale and Rosendale in Fond du Lac County and the towns of Utica, Nekimi and Black Wolf in Winnebago County. As a result, the Town must work closely with others to provide services to its residents. **Police protection for the Town of Eldorado is provided by the Fond du Lac Sheriff’s Department.** Fire protection for the Town is provided by the Eldorado Volunteer Fire Department. The department is the first response within the Town, and others respond as needed. The fire department also provides rapid emergency medical response for victims of illness and injury through the Eldorado First Responders. Ambulance service is provided through the Village of North Fond du Lac Fire and EMS. The Town works closely with the Fond du Lac County Communications and Emergency Management Department for training, planning and emergency response. Fire, ambulance and emergency medical First Responders are dispatched through the Fond du Lac County 911 call center. **The Town is part of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), which is a mutual aid measure used to deploy fire, rescue and emergency medical services in a multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-agency response.**

**Library service to Town residents is provided through the Fond du Lac Public Library in the City of Fond du Lac.** The library is part of the Winnefox Library System. The Winnefox Library System is one of 17 library systems in the state and is a federation of the public libraries in Fond du Lac, Waushara, Winnebago, Marquette and Green Lake counties. Residents of the system may use any of the public libraries in the five counties. Library systems are designed to provide expanded library services to more people without making additional large expenditures. **Libraries receive the majority of their revenue from local municipalities and the county.**

Communication and coordination between the Town of Eldorado and providers of utility infrastructure (electric, natural gas, telecommunication, etc.), WisDOT and the Fond du Lac County Highway Department ensures that road construction and utility upgrades will run smoothly and that all work is done before restoration is completed. This lessens the chance that new road surfaces and restored terraces will need to be excavated shortly after construction is complete. Likewise, local governments, school districts and businesses working together on technological upgrades, ensure that these upgrades are made in concert without duplication of efforts so that a common goal can be achieved.

**Fond du Lac County**

The Town of Eldorado is located in Fond du Lac County. **The Town works with county departments to coordinate road construction, maintenance and snow plowing on major roads; police, fire and emergency dispatch; election and planning assistance.** Town residents have access to county departments and services including senior citizen and other social services, recreational resources, property information, birth and death certificates, and
others. The Town and the county continue to maintain open communications with one another that work to foster good working relationships and mutual respect.

**Regional**

**East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.** Fond du Lac County, and thus the Town of Eldorado, is a member of the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC). **ECWRPC provides planning and technical assistance to counties, communities, businesses, interest groups and individuals within its region.** These services include environmental management, housing, demographics, economic development, transportation (including Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) work), community facilities (including Sewer Service Area (SSA) planning responsibilities), land use, contract planning, and others. ECWRPC has worked with the Town of Eldorado on several projects over the years including transportation and sewer service area work and the current comprehensive plan update.

**State**

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).** The WDNR is responsible for the regulation, protection, and sustained management of natural resources within the state. The WDNR operates various programs in water and air quality management, habitat preservation, recreational trail development, and other programs. **WDNR managed lands in the Town of Eldorado include the Eldorado Wildlife Area and the Mascoutin Valley State Trail.** These facilities are open to the public.

**Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP).** The overall mission of DATCP is multi-fold. The agency oversees programs which ensure the safety and quality of food, fair business practices for buyers and sellers, consumer protection, efficient use of agricultural resources in a quality environment, healthy animal and plant populations, and the vitality of Wisconsin agriculture and commerce. Since agriculture will continue to be an important economic industry within the Town and surrounding area, many of the programs DATCP offers will benefit and help local citizens and businesses.

**Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT).** WisDOT deals with issues related to all transportation uses in the planning area. **WisDOT works with Fond du Lac County, and local municipalities to evaluate existing transportation infrastructure including bicycle and pedestrian trails as well as assists in planning efforts for future trails.**

**Intergovernmental Cooperation Planning Efforts**

Eldorado worked closely with the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission throughout the planning process. This helped ensure consistency and concurrence between Eldorado’s Comprehensive Plan and pertinent regional plans and studies.

At the beginning of the plan process, all adjacent and overlapping units of government (Town, Village, City and/or County), including owners of non-metallic mines, were notified of Eldorado’s intent to initiate the plan update process and were afforded opportunities to review materials online or attend public meetings of the Plan Commission to discuss issues.
Lastly, Eldorado hosted an Intergovernmental Cooperation meeting, which was held on ______. In all, approximately ____ persons attended the meeting, ___ of which represented governments other than Eldorado. The purpose of this meeting was to recognize and address potential conflicts with other governmental bodies, and to identify opportunities for collaboration, communication, and coordination resulting from the implementation of this Comprehensive Plan. Participants were also given the opportunity to view and comment on the draft Year 2040 Land Use Framework Map and Framing Concepts.

Cooperative Boundary Plans and Agreements

Cooperative boundary plans and agreements are joint planning efforts in which two or more municipalities establish a mutually agreeable plan to establish boundary lines, provide public services and facilities, share revenues, and establish land use criteria. The majority of municipal boundary agreements are conducted between a town and an incorporated village or city. Cooperative boundary plans, which are subject to a minimum of a ten-year period, must be approved by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. Currently, Eldorado does not have any cooperative boundary agreement with adjacent communities.

Extraterritorial Subdivision Regulation

Incorporated villages and cities can exercise plat review authority in unincorporated areas adjacent to their communities. This allows incorporated areas the same authority to approve or reject a specific plat or CSM as if it were within its own jurisdiction. This authority extends to a distance of 1.5 miles from the incorporated boundary for villages and small cities and 3.0 miles for cities with population of greater than 10,000. The incorporated area must have a subdivision ordinance in place in order to exercise this authority.

The City of Fond du Lac is within 3 miles and the villages of North Fond du Lac and Rosendale are within 1.5 miles of the Town of Eldorado. The City of Fond du Lac has established extraterritorial plat review, while the villages of North Fond du Lac and Rosendale have not.

Extraterritorial Zoning

Incorporated villages and cities have been given authority to practice extraterritorial zoning authority if they have developed a zoning ordinance for the incorporated areas. This authority extends to a distance of 1.5 miles from the incorporated boundary for villages and cities with populations less than 10,000 and 3.0 miles for cities if the population exceeds 10,000. Extraterritorial zoning allows for smooth transitions between suburban and rural areas, reduces conflicting land uses, and promotes intergovernmental cooperation in planning for future community needs.

The City of Fond du Lac or the villages of North Fond du Lac and Rosendale have not established extraterritorial zoning into Eldorado. Presently, no other cities or villages are within close enough proximity to Eldorado to exert this authority.

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1 Wisconsin State Statutes s.236.10.
2 Wisconsin State Statutes s.62.23.