

DRAFT

# Comprehensive Plan

Prepared for the City of Chetek

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 The Setting

The City of Chetek is located in the south east corner of Barron County, at the intersection of USH 53 and CTH A, in the Indianhead region of west central Wisconsin. The City is heavily influenced by Lake Chetek, which impacts land use, transportation and recreation.



Nearby major urban areas include the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area to the southwest and the Eau Claire-Chippewa Falls area to the southeast. Although Barron County is not adjacent to either urban area, development in the county has been directly influenced by these areas, especially in shoreland areas. While this has not impacted the City directly, development in adjacent towns, especially adjacent to the Chain of Lakes, has.

### 1.2 The Comprehensive Plan

1999 Wisconsin Act 9 created a new framework in the State of Wisconsin for community planning. In addition, the law created a planning grant program intended to assist local governments with the cost of producing their plans. There are nine (9) elements of a comprehensive plan that must be addressed under the current planning legislation:

1. Issues and Opportunities
2. Housing
3. Transportation
4. Utilities and Community Facilities
5. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources

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6. Economic Development
  7. Intergovernmental Cooperation
  8. Land Use
  9. Implementation

The Comprehensive Plan is now enacted by ordinance and the community's ordinances and decisions affecting land use must be consistent with the comprehensive plan by January 1, 2010.

### **1.3 The Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Planning Effort**

Barron County consists of four cities, seven villages, and 25 towns. The multi-jurisdiction comprehensive planning project, which includes 18 Barron County communities, represents a grass-roots effort by local government officials to coordinate local planning efforts and to address cross-jurisdictional issues and concerns. The City of Barron served as the lead community in a process to generate interest among 19 Barron County municipalities, including the three cities, two villages and fourteen townships to participate in a multi-jurisdiction comprehensive planning project. In the summer of 2002, Barron County explored the option of proceeding with a county wide planning process. At that time, the Board decided to wait and not proceed.

A number of communities desired to proceed forward, not wanting to wait until the County made (or did not make) a decision. A series of meetings were organized by the City of Barron, in conjunction with the Cities of Chetek and Cumberland, for all Barron County jurisdictions. The government entities, including the County, were invited to discuss and explore interest in joining to apply for a planning grant. The meetings included discussions of statutory requirements and planning related issues impacting the communities of Barron County. About sixty people attended the meetings including representatives of nearly all Barron County jurisdictions. Key multi-jurisdiction and cross-jurisdiction issues mentioned including the significant land use impacts associated with the U.S. Highway 8 Improvement Project and general growth pressures, including demand for residential development on recreational lakes and growth related to both the Twin Cities area and the Eau Claire/Chippewa Falls area. At the conclusion of these meetings a consensus of those present agreed that enough interest existed to pursue a 2003 Multi-Jurisdiction Comprehensive Planning Grant.

In 2003 a comprehensive planning grant was awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Administration to eighteen communities. One community, not being contiguous to any other, was not awarded. The multi-jurisdictional planning process began with a kick-off meeting in November 2003 led by the City of Barron's planning and engineering consultant Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH) and the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC).

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The following jurisdictions are participating in the development of this comprehensive plan for their respective communities:

Town of Almena	Town of Sioux Creek
Town of Barron	Town of Stanfold
Town of Bear Lake	Town of Stanley
Town of Chetek	Town of Sumner
Town of Crystal Lake	Village of Turtle Lake
Town of Dovre	Village of Almena
Town of Doyle	City of Barron
Town of Maple Plain	City of Cumberland
Town of Prairie Lake	City of Chetek

Since the whole of Barron County is not participating in this planning effort, a unique approach was used where existing conditions for the majority of plan elements (e.g., transportation, land-use, housing, natural resources, etc.) are presented and analyzed for the entire county. Then, in consideration of these existing conditions, each participating municipality develops their individual plans, goals, and policy recommendations. Hence, the communities participating in the Barron Area Comprehensive Planning effort will receive an Existing Conditions Report that contains background information for all of Barron County, and an individual community plan document containing supplementary background information, and goals, objectives, policies, programs and maps specific to that community. The comprehensive plan for each community will then in total equal the Existing Conditions Report and community plan document.