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# Town of Schoepke Comprehensive Plan

2010-2030

REVIEW DRAFT  
October 2009

Prepared by:  
North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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# **Town of Schoepke**

## **Town Board**

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## **Schoepke Plan Commission**

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**Review Draft  
October 2009**

Photos: NCWRPC

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This plan was prepared at the request of the Town of Schoepke under the direction of the Town of Schoepke Plan Commission by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

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Insert Map 1 – Location

## **CHAPTER 1: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

This chapter, the first of nine chapters of the Town of Schoepke Comprehensive Plan, explores potential issues that may have an effect on the development of the Town over the 20-year planning period of the plan. As required by the state's comprehensive planning law [§66.1001(2)(a) Wis. Stats.], this chapter contains trends and forecasts with jurisdictional comparisons for some basic demographics including: population, households, employment, age, education, and income. Although forecasts should typically cover the 20-year planning period, in some cases, the only acceptable sources had lesser time periods for their forecasts. Official sources are used for data and forecasting, including the WDOA Demographic Service Center, and the U.S. Census Bureau.

Plans are required to be updated every 10 years, roughly corresponding to the decennial census with fresh community data. This is the minimum amount of time between extensive review and update of issues and related objectives, policies, and goals.

### **A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **1. POPULATION TRENDS AND FORECASTS**

In 2000, 352 people lived in Schoepke. Between the 1990 and the 2000 Censuses, the Town of Schoepke's population decreased by 6.9%, see TABLE 1. Both the county and the state grew with growth rates of 16.1 and 9.6 percents respectively. Schoepke's population went down by 24 from 1990 to 2005. According to the 2007 population estimate, Schoepke gained one resident since the 2000 Census.

TABLE 1 displays the total population for the Town of Schoepke, the neighboring towns, the county, and the state. Although Schoepke has declined, towns surrounding Schoepke have grown at very different rates. Monico and Elcho (Langlade County) grew the fastest from 1990 to 2005 with overall gains of about 27 percent. Nashville (Forest County) grew the fastest by gaining 37 percent more people, and Enterprise only gained population by 1 percent from 1990 to 2005.

**Table 1: Population Trends**

	1990	2000	Estimate 2005	% Change 1990-00	% Change 2000-05	% Change 1990-05
Town of Schoepke	378	352	354	-6.9%	0.6%	-6.3%
Town of Pelican	3,198	2,902	2,628	-9.3%	-9.4%	-17.8%
Town of Monico	294	364	374	23.8%	2.7%	27.2%
Town of Crandon, Forest Co.	529	614	629	16.1%	2.4%	18.9%
Town of Nashville, Forest Co.	871	1,157	1,192	32.8%	3.0%	36.9%
Town of Elcho, Langlade Co.	1,075	1,317	1,363	22.5%	3.5%	26.8%
Town of Enterprise	271	274	278	1.1%	1.5%	2.6%
Oneida County	31,679	36,776	38,073	16.1%	3.5%	20.2%
Wisconsin	4,891,769	5,363,675	5,580,757	9.6%	4.0%	14.1%

Source: US Census, and WDOA Demographic Services Center

**Table 2: Population Estimate 2005 and Population Forecasts to 2025**

	Estimate 2005	Projection 2010	Projection 2015	Projection 2020	Projection 2025
Town of Schoepke	354	330	319	307	297
Town of Pelican	2,628	2,418	2,382	2,342	2,306
Town of Monico	374	386	394	401	408
Town of Crandon, Forest Co.	629	662	681	694	707
Town of Nashville, Forest Co.	1,192	1,299	1,358	1,405	1,449
Town of Elcho, Langlade Co.	1,363	1,479	1,555	1,622	1,670
Town of Enterprise	278	261	254	247	241
Oneida County	38,073	38,284	38,846	39,254	39,674
Wisconsin	5,580,757	5,751,470	5,931,386	6,110,878	6,274,867

Source: WDOA Demographic Services Center

Population projections in TABLE 2 show the Town of Schoepke declining by 16.1 percent over the next 20-year period (2005-2025). Pelican and Enterprise also have 12-13 percent declines projected. Elcho (Langlade County) and Nashville (Forest County) are projected to grow the most at 22.5% and 21.6% respectively. Monico is projected to grow 9.1 percent; and Crandon (Forest County) is projected to grow by 12.4 percent from 2005-2025. Oneida County is projected to have a 4.2 percent growth rate.

Further analysis of population change can be found in the other chapters of this Plan, particularly in the Housing chapter and the Land Use chapter.

## 2. HOUSEHOLD TRENDS AND FORECASTS

The 352 (year 2000) residents of the Town of Schoepke formed 156 households. Total households are projected to decrease by 10 in 2025, see TABLE 3. This reflects the population decline projected in TABLE 2. Average household size in Schoepke was 2.35 people in 1990, and 2.26 people in 2000. TABLE 3 reflects an overall trend of fewer people per household, and projected population changes. Monico's average household size increased from 1990 to 2000.

Further analysis of housing unit change can be found in other chapters of this Plan, particularly in the Housing chapter and the Land Use chapter.

	Total 2000	Projection 2005	Projection 2010	Projection 2015	Projection 2020	Projection 2025
Town of Schoepke	156	154	154	153	149	146
Town of Pelican	1,167	1,005	1,025	1,036	1,034	1,026
Town of Monico	128	135	143	150	155	159
Town of Crandon, Forest Co.	238	254	273	289	301	312
Town of Nashville, Forest Co.	485	528	580	623	659	692
Town of Elcho, Langlade Co.	613	663	720	775	822	857
Town of Enterprise	124	124	125	124	123	121
Oneida County	15,333	15,992	16,809	17,469	17,934	18,265
Wisconsin	2,084,556	2,190,210	2,303,238	2,406,789	2,506,932	2,592,462

Source: US Census, and WDOA Demographic Services Center

## 3. AGE DISTRIBUTION

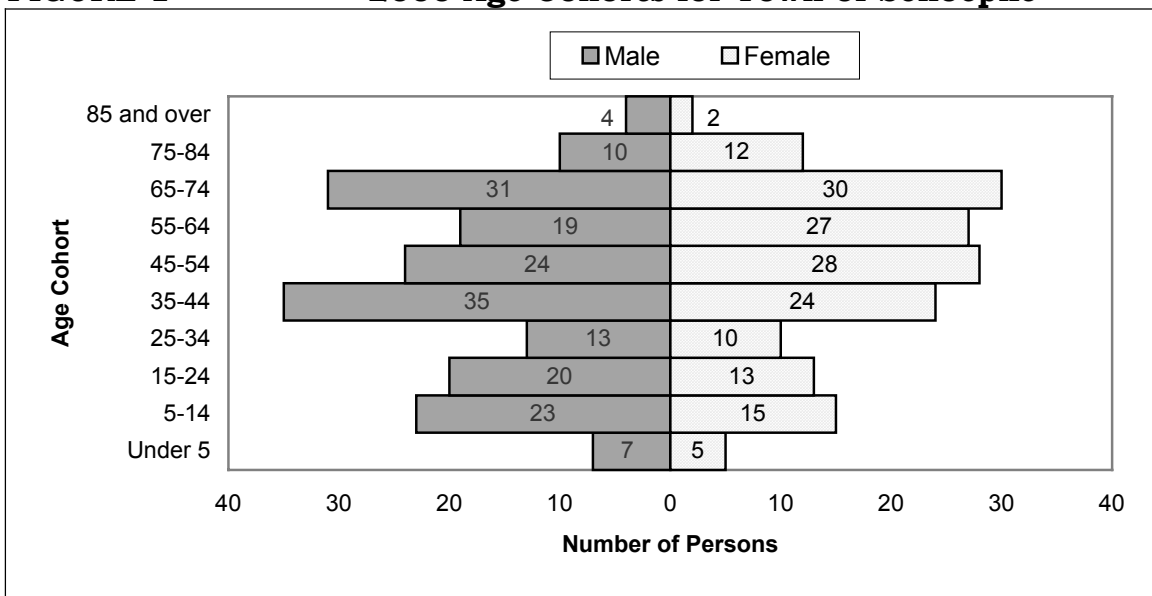
Population distribution by age is important in the planning process. Two age groups are examined here: 1) people 5 to 17 years old, and 2) people 65 years and older. These two age groups are often referred to as dependent populations and have different needs. The younger group requires schools, and the older group is retiring from the workforce. TABLE 4 shows each of these groups in 1990 and 2000.

In 1990, the median age of Schoepke's population was 46.6 years. At that time, residents of the County had a much lower median age (38.7 years). Both the Town and the County had populations older than the State (32.9 years) as a whole. The Town of Schoepke had a much lower proportion of population

(13.0%) in school (5-17 age class) than the County (17.4%), and the State (19.0%). Schoepke's over-65 population percentage of 28.6 is higher than both the County (18.1%), and the State (13.3%).

By 2000, the median age of Schoepke's population had remained constant at 46.6; which is still higher than both the County's the State's. All of the surrounding towns except Elcho (Langlade County) have lower median ages than Schoepke. The Town of Schoepke's school age population (5-17 age class) increased to 14.8 percent in 2000. This is still a lower proportion of the population than the County (17.6%), and the State (19.1%); both of which remained about even from 1990 to 2000. Schoepke's over-65 population percentage of 25.3 is also still higher than both the County, which rose slightly (18.7%), and the State, which remained steady at 13.1 percent.

**FIGURE 1 2000 Age Cohorts for Town of Schoepke**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

A shifting age structure affects a variety of services and needs within the community including transportation, housing, elderly care, and schools. It will become increasingly important to retain or attract younger age groups in order to provide for service demands and maintain the workforce. FIGURE 1 displays the population pyramid for the Town

The Town of Schoepke population pyramid, in FIGURE 1, shows a population heavily skewed toward the older age groups. This is likely an expression of the predominance of retirees and recreational housing within the town. Roughly a quarter of residents are under 25 (23.5%) and a quarter are over 65 (25.3%). Forty-three percent of residents are over the age of 62 while only fourteen percent are under 25. Over forty percent of all households have someone over 65, and 23.1 percent of households contain children under 18.

**Table 4: Age Distribution 1990 to 2000**

		Percent of Population				Median Age
		<5	5-17	18-64	65+	
Town of Schoepke	1990	5.0%	13.0%	53.4%	28.6%	46.6
	2000	3.4%	14.8%	56.5%	25.3%	46.6
Town of Pelican	1990	6.9%	17.8%	58.2%	17.0%	36.8
	2000	5.8%	19.5%	61.3%	13.5%	40.1
Town of Monico	1990	8.2%	21.1%	57.5%	13.3%	32.6
	2000	4.9%	27.2%	58.2%	9.6%	37.2
Town of Crandon, Forest Co.	1990	9.1%	18.1%	60.1%	12.7%	32.6
	2000	5.4%	21.5%	59.1%	14.0%	37.9
Town of Nashville, Forest Co.	1990	11.1%	21.7%	51.3%	15.8%	32.2
	2000	6.6%	19.4%	57.0%	16.9%	39.8
Town of Elcho, Langlade Co.	1990	4.5%	14.0%	52.7%	28.9%	50.3
	2000	3.2%	14.8%	55.4%	26.7%	51.2
Town of Enterprise	1990	5.5%	12.5%	59.8%	22.1%	46.1
	2000	3.3%	14.2%	62.0%	20.4%	44.5
Oneida County	1990	6.3%	17.4%	58.2%	18.1%	38.7
	2000	4.7%	17.6%	59.0%	18.7%	42.4
Wisconsin	1990	7.4%	19.0%	60.3%	13.3%	32.9
	2000	6.4%	19.1%	61.4%	13.1%	36.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

#### 4. EDUCATION LEVELS

The educational attainment level of persons within a community is often an indicator of the overall income, job availability and well being of a community.

In 1990, 73.5% of the Town of Schoepke's population age 25 and over were high school graduates, compared to 77.6% in the County and 78.6% in the State. By 2000, the percentage of high school graduates had increased to 79.0% in the Town, and rose significantly in both the County at 85.1% and the State at 85.1%. See TABLE 5 for details.

The number of residents in Town who are 25 and older and have a bachelors degree or more has declined in Town from 25 people in 1990 to 16 in 2000. Both the County and the State rose from 1990 to 2000, as shown in Table 5.

**Table 5: Education Levels**

	Town of Schoepke		Oneida County		State of Wisconsin	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	58	20	2,167	1,160	294,862	186,125
9-12 Grade / No Diploma	16	32	2,796	2,791	367,210	332,292
High School Diploma	95	119	8,379	9,648	1,147,697	1,201,813
College / No Degree	63	37	3,952	5,733	515,310	715,664
Associate Degree	22	24	1,558	1,837	220,177	260,711
Bachelor Degree	20	13	2,199	3,444	375,603	530,268
Graduate/Professional Degree	5	3	1,102	1,836	173,367	249,005
Total Persons 25 & Over	279	248	22,153	26,449	3,094,226	3,475,878
Percent high school graduate or higher	73.5%	79.0%	77.6%	85.1%	78.6%	85.1%
Percent with bachelors degree or higher	9.0%	6.5%	14.9%	20.0%	17.7%	22.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## 5. INCOME LEVELS

In 1990, the median household income for the Town was 15.8% lower than the County, and about 31.6% lower than the State. On a per capita basis, the income of Schoepke's residents was 12.7% lower than that of the County, and about 23.2% lower than the State in 1990.

Between 1990 and 2000, Town of Schoepke's median household income expanded 43.7%, but trails the County by 23.1% in 2000. On a per capita basis, Schoepke's income grew 97.5%, is 1.9% higher than the County, and trails the State by 5.3% in 2000, see TABLE 6.

**Table 6: Income Levels**

	1990			2000		
	Town of Schoepke	Oneida County	State of Wisconsin	Town of Schoepke	Oneida County	State of Wisconsin
Median Household Income	\$20,125	\$23,901	\$29,442	\$28,929	\$37,619	\$43,791
Per Capita Income	\$10,195	\$11,681	\$13,276	\$20,134	\$19,746	\$21,271

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## 6. EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS, TRENDS AND FORECASTS

According to the 2000 Census, the population aged 16 years and older was 272, and 131 of these people were not in the labor force. The civilian labor force (population 16 and over) living in Schoepke was 141 people in 2000, with

6 people unemployed for an unemployment rate of 4.3%. The unemployment rate for the County was 6.1% in 2000.

The primary occupation of Schoepke residents in the labor force as of 1990 was *Management, professional, & related*; followed closely by *Sales & office*. By 2000, *Sales & office* had increased 54% to become the primary occupation; see TABLE 7.

The leading industry sector in the Town was *Retail Trade* in both 1990 and 2000. *Construction* gained 6 people by 2000. *Arts; Public Administration; and Other Services* became sectors that now employ Town residents; see TABLE 8.

Historically, *Retail Trade* has been the strongest industry sector countywide, with 3,064 workers in 1990, but declined by 8.1% to employ only 2,815 people in 2000. *Education, Health and Social Services* has jumped ahead 38.2% as the dominant industry sector in 2000 by employing 1,093 people countywide.

These figures are all based on the number of workers residing in the Town and what they do for employment not where they are actually employed. Information regarding the number of jobs available in the Town of Schoepke itself is not readily available.

	Town of Schoepke		Oneida County	
	1990*	2000	1990*	2000
Management, professional & related	28	25	3,791	5,117
Service	20	26	2,294	2,747
Sales & office	26	40	3,443	4,465
Farming Fishing & Forestry	7	2	410	268
Construction, extraction & maintenance	0	13	495	1,998
Production, transportation & material moving	20	29	3,352	2,604

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

\*Adjusted for differences between 1990 and 2000 Census Categories.

Employment forecasts are difficult to come by and not available at the town level. However, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (WDWD) prepares workforce projections by industry for its multi-county service regions. The current projections, released August 2006, cover 2004-2014. The projections for the North Central Workforce Development Area cover Oneida County and include eight other counties.

Another way to look at future employment is to examine the labor force and unemployment rates. In 1990, the labor force in the Town was 132 people, with an unemployment rate of 14.4%. By 2000 there were 135 people employed with 4.3% unemployment. The degree to which this available

workforce is actually employed is dependant on external economic factors reflected in the unemployment rate.

	Town of Schoepke		Oneida County	
	1990*	2000	1990*	2000
Ag., Forestry, Fishing, Hunting & Mining	5	5	422	526
Construction	5	11	1,013	1,455
Manufacturing	26	26	2,265	2,080
Wholesale Trade	3	2	320	425
Retail Trade	28	33	3,064	2,815
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	12	--	768	689
Information	N/A	--	N/A	434
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing	0	--	566	636
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative & Waste Mgmt Services	9	7	1,089	898
Education, Health and Social Services	25	16	2,860	3,953
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services	0	16	136	1,694
Public Administration	0	11	715	733
Other Services	0	8	740	861

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

\*Adjusted for differences between 1990 and 2000 Census Categories.

## **B. ISSUE IDENTIFICATION**

### **1. REVIEW OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS**

Demographic change is a principle factor in predicting future community growth. Population characteristics relate directly to the community's housing, education, utility, recreation, and facility needs, as well as future economic development. Over time, fluctuations in local and regional economies can influence population change.

From Part A—Background Information—a number of issues and opportunities facing the Town of Schoepke can be identified:

- ✓ The Town of Schoepke is currently in a period of gradual population decline.

- ✓ Household formation is driven by the decline in average household size or persons per household, and a growing retirement population.
- ✓ A shifting age structure affects a variety of services and needs within the community including transportation, housing, elderly care, and schools.
- ✓ Schoepke has a much older population compared to surrounding communities and the county.
- ✓ Median household income of Town residents rose from 1990 to 2000, but still trails the county median, but per capita income was higher than the county.
- ✓ The unemployment rate among Town residents decreased by 10 points from 1990 to 2000.

## 2. PLANNING ISSUES

The ongoing conversion of seasonal dwellings on Pelican Lake and other lakes in the town to year-round residences can lead to some conflicts between newer residents and more established rural lifestyles. Newer residents, often accustomed to urban life can engender demand for a higher level of services (snowplowing, fire protection), but can also lead to conflicts between residents and more traditional uses such as forestry.

As lake frontage within the Town fills in, development of back lots and increasing demands on existing Town Roads not designed to handle the load is a significant concern of the Town.

Unkempt or poorly maintained buildings and properties including accumulating junk and vehicles have been generally labeled as “eyesores” and identified as a conflict issue by the Town Plan Commission.

### **D. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, & PROGRAMS**

Each of the following chapters of this comprehensive plan includes a set of goals, objectives and policies, which the Town Board will use to guide the future development of the Town over the next 20 years.

For purposes of this plan, goals, objectives, and policies are defined as follows:

- ✓ **Goals:** Broad statements that express general public priorities about how the Town should approach development issues during the next 20 years. These goals are based on key issues, opportunities and problems that affect the community.

- ✓ **Objectives:** More specific than goals and are usually attainable through planning and implementation activities. Accomplishment of an objective contributes to the fulfillment of a goal.
- ✓ **Policies:** Rules or courses of action used to ensure plan implementation and to accomplish the goals and objectives. Decision-makers use policies on a day-to-day basis.

Each chapter also includes a listing of possible programs that the Town might implement in order to advance the goals and objectives of this plan. The listing does not imply that the Town will utilize every programs shown, but only that these programs are available to the Town and may be one of many possible ways of achieving the Town's goals.

## **CHAPTER 2: NATURAL, AGRICULTURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

This chapter, the second of nine chapters of the Town of Schoepke Comprehensive Plan, is based on the statutory requirement [§66.1001(2)(e) Wis. Stats.] for a compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs for the conservation, and promotion of the effective management, of natural resources such as groundwater, forests, productive agricultural areas, environmentally sensitive areas, threatened and endangered species, stream corridors, surface water, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat, metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources consistent with zoning limitations under §295.20(2), parks, open spaces, historical and cultural resources, community design, recreational resources and other natural resources.

### **A. PAST PLANS**

Schoepke is about 32,000 acres and has three lakes, most notably Pelican Lake. Much of the town is forested. Schoepke is part of the Northern Highland geomorphic region with a glacial landscape that includes gently rolling, rounded, forested hills rising above adjacent marshy areas.

All planning efforts need to examine relevant previous plans about the community and the surrounding county. Those plans are discussed below:

#### **1. Oneida County Land and Water Resource Management Plan 2006-2011**

This Plan provides a framework for local/state/federal conservation program implementation efforts. Implementation of this plan will help protect and improve the valuable water and soil natural resources in Oneida County. Some of the plan's recommendations include protecting shoreland areas, reducing nonpoint source pollution, replace failing septic systems, and reduce wildlife conflicts. A copy is available in the Oneida County Land Conservation Department.

#### **2. Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2009-2013**

Creation of this plan is in process. The primary purpose of this recreation plan is to provide continued direction in meeting the current and future recreation needs of the County. This direction takes the form of an inventory and analysis of outdoor recreational facilities followed by establishing recommendations to meet identified needs. Adoption of this plan and its subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) allows for continued eligibility for financial assistance from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), the Stewardship Fund, and many other federal and state funding programs. A copy is available in the Oneida County Forestry Department.

### 3. Oneida County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2006-2020

The mission of the County Forest is to manage, conserve and protect the natural resources within the county forest on a sustainable basis for present and future generations. The Plan contains information about forest resource planning, outdoor recreation planning, silvicultural practices, aesthetic management zones, trails and access control, biological communities, and wildlife species that exist within the county forest. A copy is available in the Oneida County Forestry Department.

## **B. WATER RESOURECE INVENTORY**

### 1. SURFACE WATER

Surface water resources support the area's economy by drawing tourists, and providing a good quality of life for residents. Oneida County contains one of the highest concentrations of natural lakes in the world.

Schoepke is in part of two watersheds. The subcontinental surface-water divide basically divides the Town in half from east to west. The western half lies within the Pelican River watershed. The eastern half lies within the Upper Wolf River and Post Lake watershed. All streams east of the subcontinental surface-water divide flow into Lake Michigan. All streams west of the subcontinental surface-water divide flow into the Mississippi River.

Oneida County Shoreland Zoning is in effect. Actual shoreland jurisdiction measurements are coordinated through the County Zoning Department. Refer to Natural Resources Map for water bodies in the Town.

#### Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters

Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs) and Exceptional Resource Waters (ERWs) share many of the same environmental and ecological characteristics. The primary difference between the two is that ORWs typically do not have any direct point sources discharging pollutants directly to the water. In addition, any pollutant load discharged to an ORW must meet background water quality at all times. Exceptions are made for certain types of discharge situations to ERWs to allow pollutant loads that are greater than background water quality when human health would otherwise be compromised.

Two area water bodies are listed as ORWs—Wolf River (throughout the whole Town), and Upper Post Lake, which is fed by the Wolf River. A few area water bodies are listed as ERWs—Palm Creek and an un-named creek nearby (T35N R11E Sec2) both feed into the Wolf River; another un-named creek (T35N R11E

Sec 22-23); and Walczak Creek (T35N R11E Sec 13, 23, 24, 26, & 35) all drain into the Wolf River.

### Impaired Waters

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to develop a list of impaired waters, commonly referred to as the "303(d) list." A water body is considered impaired if a) the current water quality does not meet the numeric or narrative criteria in a water quality standard or b) the designated use that is described in Wisconsin Administrative Code is not being achieved. A documented methodology is used to articulate the approach used to list waters in Wisconsin. Every two years, states are required to submit a list of impaired waters to EPA for approval.

There are no impaired water bodies in Town.

### Invasive Aquatic Species

Surface water resources in Oneida County are threatened by the introduction of invasive aquatic species. These species out compete native species and degrade habitats possibly by decreasing biodiversity from having less plant and animal species. Upper Post Lake has infestations of curly leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), and rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*). Pelican Lake has infestations of rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*), banded mystery snail, and Chinese mystery snail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*). Contact the County Land Conservation Department for public outreach education strategies.

## 2. WETLANDS

Wetlands perform many indispensable roles in the proper function of the hydrologic cycle and local ecological systems. In terms of hazard mitigation, they act as water storage devices in times of high water. Like sponges, wetlands are able to absorb excess water and release it back into the watershed slowly, preventing flooding and minimizing flood damage. As more impermeable surfaces are developed, this excess capacity for water runoff storage becomes increasingly important.

Wetland plants and soils have the capacity to store and filter pollutants ranging from pesticides to animal wastes. Calm wetland waters, with their flat surface and flow characteristics, allow particles of toxins and nutrients to settle out of the water column. Plants take up certain nutrients from the water. Other substances can be stored or transformed to a less toxic state within wetlands. As a result, the lakes, rivers and streams are cleaner.

Wetlands that filter or store sediments or nutrients for extended periods may undergo fundamental changes. Sediments will eventually fill in wetlands and nutrients will eventually modify the vegetation. Such changes may result in the loss of this function over time. Eradication of wetlands can occur through the

use of fill material. This can destroy the hydrological function of the site and open the area to improper development. The WDNR has promulgated minimum standards for managing wetlands.

The wetlands shown for the Town of Schoepke were mapped from the WisDNR Wetlands Inventory, see MAP 2.

### 3. FLOODPLAINS

A floodplain is generally defined as land where there is a one percent chance of flooding in any year. The primary value of floodplains is their role in natural flood control. Flood plains represent areas where excess water can be accommodated whether through drainage by streams or through storage by wetlands and other natural detention/retention areas. Specific areas that will be inundated will depend upon the amount of water, the distance and speed that water travels, and the topography of the area. If uninterrupted by development, the areas shown on a map as floodplains should be able to handle the severest (regional) flood, i.e. those that have a probability of occurring once every one hundred years.

The 100-year floodplain was digitized by the NCWRPC from FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps, for planning purposes only, see MAP 2.

### 4. GROUNDWATER & GEOLOGY

Groundwater is water that occupies void spaces between soil particles or cracks in the rock below the land surface. It originates as precipitation that infiltrated into the ground. The type of soil and bedrock that a well is drilled into often determines water's pH, saturation index, and the amount of hardness or alkalinity in water. The type of soil and bedrock in a region also determines how quickly contaminants can reach groundwater.

The majority of the Town lies within a glacial drift aquifer, which is the major source of ground water in most of the county. The fractured crystalline bedrock underlying the county is not considered a significant source of water, although locally it provides a small amount for domestic uses.

The thin deposits of glacial drift overlying the bedrock in the Monico area, generally yield only a few gallons of water per minute.

Aquifers in the moraines of the southeastern and southwestern parts of the county, generally yield 5–50 gallons of water per minute. Most of this groundwater is in thin lenses of sand and gravel within the glacial till.

Yields from wells in areas of glacial outwash range from a few gallons to 2,000 gallons per minute. A well at Rhinelander yields more than 1,000 gallons per minute.

Groundwater quality in Oneida County and the Town of Schoepke is generally good. The aquifer water principally contains calcium, magnesium, and bicarbonate ions, and a high concentration of iron also exists, but it is not considered a health hazard. In areas with moraines, the aquifer water is hard.

Susceptibility of groundwater to pollutants is defined here as the ease with which a contaminant can be transported from the land surface to the top of the groundwater called the water table. Many materials that overlie the groundwater offer good protection from contaminants that might be transported by infiltrating waters. The amount of protection offered by the overlying material varies, however, depending on the materials. Thus, in some areas, the overlying soil and bedrock materials allow contaminants to reach the groundwater more easily than in other areas of the state.

Groundwater contamination susceptibility in the Town of Schoepke is "most susceptible, level 4" based upon a scale of 1-5, with level 5 being "most susceptible." This rating was determined by reviewing soil characteristics, surficial deposits, depth to water table, depth to bedrock, and type of bedrock.

Many land use activities have the potential to impact the quality of groundwater. A landfill may leach contaminants into the ground that end up contaminating groundwater. Gasoline may leak from an underground storage tank into groundwater. Fertilizers and pesticides can seep into the ground from application on farm fields, golf courses, or lawns. Leaking fluids from cars in junkyards, intentional dumping or accidental spills of paint, used motor oil, or other chemicals on the ground can result in contaminated groundwater.

## **C. LAND RESOUCCE INVENTORY**

### **1. FORESTS**

Forests play a key role in the protection of environmentally sensitive areas like steep slopes, shorelands, wetlands, and flood plains. Expansive forests provide recreational opportunities, aesthetic benefits, and economic development.

The pre-settlement composition of forestland in the Town of Schoepke was a mixed conifer and wetland forest of tree species that included aspen, swamp conifers (white cedar, black spruce, tamarack, and hemlock), sugar maple, yellow birch, with white and red pine throughout.

All forests are dynamic, always changing from one stage to another, influenced by natural forces and humans. Changes can be subtle and occur over long periods, or can happen in seconds from a timber harvest, windstorm, or fire.

A significant portion of the land in the town is owned by Plum Creek Timber. Timber production has always been a mainstay of the local economy. Since being acquired by Plum Creek there has been some conversion of timberland to recreational use. In the process some large tracts have been broken up into smaller parcels. There has been some concern over the effect that breaking up these large forest parcels will have on the long-term viability of forestry.

Some private woodlands in the county are enrolled in Managed Forest Law (MFL). This program provides a low annual tax rate per acre and requires a management plan for the property that must include some harvesting along with allowing some public uses based on acreage thresholds. When timber is harvested from MFL properties, a harvest tax is also assessed. This provides an incentive to keep woodlots in active production and allows some community access to the site in exchange for greatly reduced taxes. See the programs section at the end of this chapter for more detail on this program.

## 2. METALLIC & NON-METALLIC MINERAL RESOURCES

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources estimates that there could be no more than five metallic mineral mines developed in Wisconsin over the next twenty years (1997-2017). This includes the Flambeau Mine now in operation, the Crandon Project now owned by two tribes, the Lynne Project no longer being considered, the Bend Project known but not yet under consideration, and one additional ore body not now known. This estimate is based on the current state of knowledge about the geology of northern Wisconsin and the steps necessary to discover an ore body and the time it takes to complete the regulatory requirements.

## 3. SOILS & PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL AREAS

According to the *Wisconsin Land Use Databook*, the Town of Schoepke between 1991-1993 was 6.6 percent agricultural, 56.4 percent forested, and 32.7 percent wetlands. The town's total land area is 46 square miles, of which 0.5 percent was used for row crops, 1.0 percent was used for foraging, and 5.1 percent was grassland.

In terms of farming trends, the town has lost 21.5 percent of farmland acreage on tax rolls between 1990 and 1997. During that same period the number of farms increased from 4 in 1990 to 10 farms in 1997 according to the *Wisconsin Land Use Databook* there were, one of which was a dairy farm in 1997.

Prime farmland produces the highest yields with minimal inputs and results in the least damage to the environment, see Natural Resources Map.

#### 4. ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

Environmentally sensitive areas are typically defined by the local jurisdiction and often include many of the areas referred to in this section such as special groundwater protection areas, threatened or endangered species habitat, floodplains, wetlands and other unique or special resources where encroachment or development could have negative consequences. Some potentially sensitive areas are discussed below.

**Upper Wolf River** is a DNR Legacy Place that was identified to meet future conservation and outdoor recreation needs for the next 50 years. The DNR Land Legacy report recommends protection of such places. Each place is summarized by a table of current status with 5 stars representing the highest level for that category:

<b>UP</b> <u>Upper Wolf River</u>	
Size	Large
Protection Initiated	Substantial
Protection Remaining	Moderate
Conservation Significance	☆☆☆☆☆
Recreation Potential	☆☆☆☆

The Upper Wolf River corridor contains excellent examples of old growth forest. Starting in Pine Lake, the upper stretch of the Wolf River winds through several large, high quality wetlands, some of which contain wild rice.

Potentially contaminated sites might fall under the environmentally sensitive designation in part because they may need special care or monitoring to prevent further environmental degradation or hazard to human life. The WDNR Internet database known as the Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) lists one site.

The following site is listed as “closed”:

- Spill: Artus & Sabinoise near Hwy 47 & CTH Q

**LUST (leaking underground storage tank)** sites have contaminated soil and/or groundwater with petroleum, which includes toxic and cancer causing substances.

**Spill** sites are a discharge of a hazardous substance that may adversely impact, or threaten to impact public health, welfare or the environment.

**ERP (environmental repair)** sites are sites other than LUSTs that have contaminated soil and/or groundwater.

All these sites were remediated to DNR standards, and are available for use.

## 5. RARE SPECIES & NATURAL COMMUNITIES

The Town of Schoepke has 10 sections with occurrences of endangered resources (rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants & animals, and high-quality natural communities) as identified in the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory.

Wisconsin's biodiversity goals are to identify, protect and manage native plants, animals, and natural communities from the very common to critically endangered for present and future generations. Knowledge, appreciation, and stewardship of Wisconsin's native species and ecosystems are critical to their survival and greater benefit to society.

## 6. HISTORICAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES

There are 11 buildings in the Town that appear on the Wisconsin Architectural History Inventory including:

- Five houses
- Mecikalski General Store, Saloon, and Boardinghouse
- Restaurant on corner of Appleton and Milwaukee
- Schoepke Town Hall
- Walentowski Store (dance hall)
- Retail building on Max Rd near CTH Z, 0.4 mi S of CTH B
- Weaver's Resort

**Mecikalski General Store, Saloon, and Boardinghouse** at 465 Max Road is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## D. PROGRAMS

Programs available to the Town of Schoepke to achieve their goals and objectives with regard to agricultural, natural and cultural resources are identified below. The following list is not all-inclusive. For specific program information, the agency or group that offers the program should be contacted.

Use the Oneida County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, available in the County Land and Water Conservation Department, to coordinate implementation of the following land and water resource management programs preceded with an asterisk (\*). The Land and Water Resource Management Plan will show which agency is taking the lead to solve a particular resource problem.

\*Aquatic Habitat Protection Program: The WDNR provides basic aquatic habitat protection services. Staff members include Water Management (Regulation) Specialists, Zoning Specialists, Rivers (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission-FERC) Specialists, Lakes Specialists, Water Management Engineers, and their assistants (LTEs). The program assists with water regulation permits, zoning assistance, coordination of rivers, lake management, and engineering.

County Conservation Aids: Funds are available to carry out programs for fish or wildlife management projects as per §23.09 (12), Wis. Stats. and NR 50, Wis. Adm. Code. Projects related to providing improved fish or wildlife habitat or projects related to hunter/angler facilities are eligible. Projects that enhance fish and wildlife habitat or fishing and hunting facilities have priority. Contact the WDNR for further information.

Drinking Water and Groundwater Program: This WDNR program is responsible for assuring safe, high quality drinking water and for protecting groundwater. This is achieved by enforcing minimum well construction and pump installation requirements, conducting surveys and inspections of water systems, the investigation and sampling of drinking water quality problems, and requiring drinking water quality monitoring and reporting. A team of specialists, engineers, hydrogeologists, and a program expert and program assistants staff the program. WDNR staff provide assistance to public and private well owners to help solve water quality complaints and water system problems. They also provide interested citizens with informational or educational materials about drinking water supplies and groundwater.

Wisconsin Fund is a program by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, Safety and Buildings Division. Grants are provided to homeowners and small commercial businesses to help offset a portion of the cost for the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of existing failing Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS). Eligibility is based upon several criteria, including household income and age of the structure.

\*Endangered Resources Program: The WDNR's Endangered Resources staff provides expertise and advice on endangered resources. They manage the Natural Heritage Inventory Program (NHI), which is used to determine the existence and location of native plant and animal communities and Endangered or Threatened Species of Special Concern. The NHI helps identify and prioritize areas suitable for State Natural Area (SNA) designation, provides information needed for feasibility studies and master plans, and maintains the list of endangered and threatened species. All management activities conducted by Wildlife Management and Forestry staff must be reviewed to determine the impact on NHI-designated species. A permit for the incidental take of an Endangered or Threatened species is required under the State Endangered Species Law. The Endangered Resources Program oversees the permit process, reviews applications and makes permit decisions. Funding for the Endangered

Species Program comes from a number of sources, including tax checkoff revenue, license plates, general program revenues (GPR), gaming revenue, Natural Heritage Inventory chargebacks, wild rice permits, general gifts and Pittman Robertson grants.

\*Fisheries Management Program: The WDNR funds this program primarily through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The program assists with fishery surveys, fish habitat improvement/protection, and fish community manipulation. This program may also be used to fund public relations events and a variety of permitting and administrative activities involving fisheries.

\*Forest Management Program:

Funding for the forestry program is supported primarily by a fixed rate mill tax on all property in the State of Wisconsin. Other support is received from the federal government, from recreation fees, from sale of forest products, from sale of state produced nursery stock, forest tax law payments, and other miscellaneous sources. All activities of the Forestry Program help support efforts to promote and ensure the protection and sustainable management of Wisconsin's forests.

Private Forestry: The WDNR's goal is to motivate private forest landowners to practice sustainable forestry by providing technical forestry assistance, state and federal cost-sharing on management practices, sale of state produced nursery stock for reforestation, enrollment in Wisconsin's Forest Tax Law Programs, advice for the protection of endangered and threatened species, and assistance with forest disease and insect problems. Each county has at least one Department forester assigned to respond to requests for private forestland assistance. These foresters also provide educational programs for landowners, schools, and the general public. Both private and industrial forest landowners have enrolled their lands under the Managed Forest Law.

Managed Forest Law (MFL): The purpose of the MFL is to promote good forest management through property tax incentives. Management practices are required by way of an approved forest management plan. Landowners with a minimum of 10 contiguous acres (80% must be capable of producing merchantable timber) are eligible and may contract for 25 or 50 years. Open lands must allow hunting, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, and sight-seeing, however, up to 80 acres may be closed to public access by the landowner. There is a 5% yield tax applied to any wood products harvested. Contact the WDNR for further information.

\*Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Program: This WDNR program is currently undergoing restructuring and being gradually replaced by short-term grants that will address specific projects rather than focusing on entire watersheds. The goal of this voluntary program is to improve and protect the water quality of surface waters and groundwater within the watershed.

Landowners are encouraged to control nonpoint pollution on their properties through cost sharing of Best Management Practices. This program will be replaced by Targeted Runoff Management projects (TRM). These are projects that are more specific in nature and may last up to three years. They are scored on a competitive basis, based on the amount of pollutant control they will achieve and the degree of impairment of the location. One nonpoint source coordinator is located in the Rhinelander WDNR Service Center. This coordinator administers and oversees the priority watershed program and will also assist with the TRM grants. The coordinator also provides nonpoint source pollution advice to counties that are implementing their land and water plans.

Parks and Recreation Program: The WDNR gets its authority for administering the Parks and Recreation Program from Chapter 27 Wisconsin Statutes. This program provides assistance in the development of public parks and recreation facilities. Funding sources include: the general fund, the Stewardship Program, Land and Water Conservation fund (LAWCON), and the recycling fund, and program revenue funds.

Stewardship Grants for Nonprofit Conservation Organizations:

Nonprofit conservation organizations are eligible to obtain funding for the acquisition of land or easements for conservation purposes and restoration of wildlife habitat. Priorities include acquisition of wildlife habitat, acquisition of lands with special scientific or ecological value, protection of rare and endangered habitats and species, acquisition of stream corridors, acquisition of land for state trails including the Ice Age Trail and North Country Trail, and restoration of wetlands and grasslands. Eligible types of projects include fee simple and easement acquisitions and habitat restoration projects. All projects must be in a WDNR approved outdoor recreation plan. Contact the WDNR or NCWRPC for further information.

\*Wastewater Program: The Department of Natural Resources provides this program to address point and non-point source pollution control. Operating funds for this program come from the federal government's Clean Water Act funding as well as state general program revenues. The core work of this program involves the issuance of wastewater discharge permits that discharge directly to surface or groundwater and enforcing the requirements of these permits. The program closely monitors the impacts of industry, septic tanks, sludge, and stormwater on the environment. Pretreatment plants for wastewater are offered economic assistance and provided with plan review services before the facility is established.

\*Watershed Program: The WDNR seeks to protect wild and domestic animals, recreational activities, natural flora and fauna, agriculture, business, and other land uses through watershed management. Funds to run this program are provided by the federal government through Clean Water Act and through state general program revenues. The program assists with watershed planning, water

quality monitoring and modeling, and development of water quality standards and policy.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP): The purpose of the WRP is to restore wetlands previously altered for agricultural use. The goal of the WRP is to restore wetland and wildlife habitats. Lands that have been owned for at least one year and can be restored to wetland conditions are eligible. Landowners may restore wetlands with permanent or 30-year easements or 10-year contracts. Permanent easements pay 100% of the agricultural value of the land and 100% cost-sharing; 30-year easements pay 75% of the agricultural value and 75% cost sharing; 10-year contract pays 75% cost share only. Permanent or 30-year easements are recorded with a property deed, however 10-year contracts are not. Public access is not required. Contact the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for further information.

Wildlife Management Program: The WDNR's Bureau of Wildlife Management oversees a complex web of programs that incorporate state, federal and local initiatives primarily directed toward wildlife habitat management and enhancement. Programs include land acquisition, development and maintenance of State Wildlife Areas, and other wild land programs such as State Natural Areas. Wildlife Staff work closely with staff of state and county forests to maintain, enhance, and restore wildlife habitat. Wildlife Management staff conduct wildlife population and habitat surveys, prepare property needs analysis's, develop basin wildlife management plans and collaborate with other WDNR planning efforts such as Park, Forestry or Fishery Area Property Master Plans to assure sound habitat management. Funding comes from the federal government in the form of Endangered Species grants and Pittman-Robertson grants and from state government in the form of hunting and trapping license revenues, voluntary income tax contributions, general program revenue and Stewardship funds.

Wisconsin Historical Society, Office of Preservation Planning (OPP): The OPP can provide information on how to protect and preserve your own historic property, to implement grassroots strategies for preserving and protecting historic properties, and on state or federal laws and regulations that may be applicable to a given case.

## **E. GOALS, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES**

### **Goals:**

1. Encourage the protection of natural areas, including wetlands, water bodies, forest lands, wildlife habitats open spaces and groundwater resources.

2. Encourage the protection of economically productive areas, including farmland, forests and recreational areas.
3. Preserve scenic, cultural, historic, archaeological and recreational sites.

***Objectives:***

1. Preserve the land now in agricultural use.
2. Prevent new development in the Town from negatively impacting natural resources.
3. Minimize impacts to the Town's natural resources from metallic or non-metallic mining.
4. Promote development that minimizes groundwater impacts from on-site septic systems and other sources.

***Policies:***

1. Make residents, developers and potential landowners aware of Wisconsin's Right to Farm law and other aspects of living in a rural agricultural area.
2. Work with Oneida County to enforce existing regulations of septic systems to protect groundwater quality.
3. Encourage the protection of wildlife habitat and natural settings.

DRAFT

Insert Map 2 – Natural Resources

## CHAPTER 3: HOUSING

This housing chapter is based on the statutory requirement for a compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to provide an adequate housing supply that meets existing and forecasted housing demand. As required by the state's comprehensive planning law [§66.1001 (2)(b) Wis. Stats.], this chapter provides a basic housing stock assessment and identifies policies and programs that promote the development of housing for all residents of the Town including a range of choices that meet the needs of persons of all income levels, age groups and special needs; that promotes the availability of land for low-income housing; and that maintains the existing housing stock.

### A. HOUSING STOCK ASSESSMENT

#### 1. AGE CHARACTERISTICS

TABLE 9 indicates the age of the housing stock in the Town of Schoepke area that is based on the year the structures were built, as reported in the 2000 Census. Less than six percent of Schoepke's housing units were built before 1940, and only 17.6 percent were built before 1960, compared to a third (33.7%) for the county and over half (52.8%) in Enterprise. Nearly half (48.9%) of the housing units in Schoepke were built between 1960 and 1980, higher than the county (34.7%) or any of the surrounding towns. A third of housing units in the town have been built since 1980, comparable to the county (32%), Monico (31.7%), and Nashville (34.6%), but higher than Enterprise (25.1%), Pelican (22.9%), or Elcho (27.3%).

	1939 or earlier	1940-1959	1960-1969	1970-1979	1980-1989	1990-2000
Town of Schoepke	36	71	152	144	82	119
Town of Enterprise	95	134	30	65	37	72
Town of Pelican	164	464	169	373	155	193
Town of Monico	36	40	5	45	28	31
Town of Nashville, Forest County	41	58	43	133	58	88
Town of Elcho, Langlade County	295	244	211	256	151	227
Oneida County	3,806	5,176	3,263	5,851	3,357	5,174
Wisconsin	543,164	470,862	276,188	391,349	249,789	389,792

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## 2. OCCUPANCY CHARACTERISTICS

TABLE 10 breaks down the occupancy status of housing units in the Town of Schoepke. Nearly three-quarters (73.5%) of housing units in the town are for seasonal use, this is almost double the rate for the county (39.1%) and higher than Enterprise (64.7%), Nashville (57.3%), Elcho (51.8%), or Monico (34.5%). Owner occupancy is about 89% of occupied housing in Schoepke, slightly less than Monico (90.6%), but higher than Enterprise (84.6%) and the county (79.6%).

	Total Housing Units	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied	Vacant Units	
					Seasonal (Part of Vacant Units)
Town of Schoepke	626	139	17	470	460
Town of Enterprise	433	105	19	262	250
Town of Pelican	1,532	985	182	365	302
Town of Monico	216	116	12	88	74
Town of Nashville, Forest County	1,264	354	131	779	727
Town of Elcho, Langlade County	1,370	517	96	757	709
Oneida County	26,627	12,213	3,120	11,294	10,429
Wisconsin	2,321,144	1,426,361	658,183	236,600	142,313

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## 3. STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

The overwhelming majority (86.2%) of housing units in the Town of Schoepke are detached single-family dwellings, higher than the county (82%). Mobile homes comprise 13.7 percent of the housing stock in Schoepke, this is higher than the county (8.2%), Enterprise (8.5%), Monico (7.5%), or Elcho (7.5%), and about the same as Nashville (13.5%), but lower than Pelican (16.3%).

See TABLE 11.

TABLE 11 Housing Units by Structural Type, 2000

	Single-family	%	Multi-family	%	Mobile Home	%	Total
Town of Schoepke	521	86.2	0	0	83	13.7	604
Town of Enterprise	372	75.5	12	2.7	37	8.5	433
Town of Pelican	1,229	79.5	36	2.3	248	16.3	1,519
Town of Monico	164	88.6	5	2.7	14	7.5	185
Town of Nashville, Forest County	1,045	82.8	19	1.5	171	13.5	1,262
Town of Elcho, Langlade County	1,237	89.3	36	2.6	104	7.5	1,384
Oneida County	22,156	83.2	2,061	7.7	2,179	8.2	26,627

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## 4. VALUE CHARACTERISTICS

The year 2000 median home value in the Town of Schoepke is below Oneida County's median. About 75 percent of Schoepke's home values are below \$150,000. This is higher than the County (70.7%), similar to Elcho (75.4%), but below Enterprise (80.5%), Nashville (80.9%) or Monico (94.2%). Schoepke has a higher percentage (22.7%) of homes valued below \$50,000 and between \$150,000 and \$199,999 than any of the surrounding towns or the county. See TABLE 12 for more details.

TABLE 12 Housing Values, 2000

	<\$50,000	\$50,000 - 99,999	\$100,000 to 149,999	\$150,000 to 199,999	\$200,000 to 299,999	\$300,000 and up	Median Value
Town of Schoepke	22.7%	36%	16%	22.7%	2.7%	0	\$89,400
Town of Enterprise	7.8%	52.9%	19.6%	7.8%	11.8%	0	\$85,400
Town of Pelican	2.4%	46.1%	30.3%	8.3%	10.2%	2.8%	\$101,900
Town of Monico	17.4%	55.1%	21.7%	5.8%	0	0	\$78,300
Town of Nashville	6.2%	41.2%	33.5%	10.6%	7.5%	0.9%	\$103,100
Town of Elcho	16.4%	37.1%	21.9%	13.1%	9.9%	1.5%	\$95,300
Oneida County	7.1%	39.3%	24.3%	12.6%	11.4%	5.3%	\$106,200
Wisconsin	6.5%	35.4%	30.6%	15.5%	8.5%	3.5%	\$112,200

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## **B. PROGRAMS**

Various organizations offer a variety of programs to assist with the purchase, rehabilitation, or construction of housing. Many of these programs are listed below:

Housing Repair and Rehabilitation Grant: This program is administered by the Rural Housing Service of the USDA Rural Development Department. Seniors aged 62 and older may obtain a grant for rehabilitating their home provided they are below 50% of the area median income and are unable to procure affordable credit elsewhere.

Housing Repair and Rehabilitation Loan: Also administered by USDA, this program is a loan for rehabilitation provided applicants meet the same standards as the grant above.

Rural Housing Guaranteed Loan: USDA also offers this loan that is used to help low-income individuals or households purchase homes in rural areas. Funds can be used to build, repair, renovate or relocate a home, or to purchase and prepare sites, including providing water and sewage facilities.

Rural Housing Direct Loan: USDA-Rural Development also offers this loan to provide financing at reasonable rates and terms with no down payment. The loan is intended for low-income individuals or households to purchase homes in rural areas. Funds can be used to build, repair, renovate or relocate a home, or to purchase and prepare sites, including providing water and sewage facilities.

Rural Housing Direct Loan: USDA-Rural Development uses this program to help very low- and low-income households construct their own homes. The program is targeted to families who are unable to buy clean, safe housing through conventional methods.

HUD's FHA Loan: This program is administered by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department and offers a low down payment of 3% mortgage loan for home purchase or construction for selected applicants under certain income limits.

HUD Insured Loans for Condominiums, Energy Efficiency, Special Credit Risks, and Rehabilitation: These programs are administered by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department. HUD will insure selected applicants under certain income limits when procuring loans for rehabilitation or for rehabilitation at the time of purchase.

FHA HUD 203(k) Home Rehabilitation Loan Program: Whereas HUD desires to see current housing stock rehabilitated, this program provides owner

occupants of existing homes, or intended owner occupants who are looking to purchase a home, readily available mortgage money to refinance/rehabilitate or purchase/rehabilitate their homes, respectively.

VA Home Loans: These loans, administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, are often made without any down payment at all, and frequently offer lower interest rates than ordinarily available with other kinds of loans. These loans may be used for purchase or construction up to \$240,000.

HOME Loans: The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) offers federal HOME Investment Partnership Program loans with a low, fixed interest rate to help low- and moderate-income individuals and families buy a home.

### **C. GOALS, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES**

Although the town has not historically played a role in housing, it supports equal opportunity housing, and understands the importance of sound housing stock for its residents and the community as a whole. A review of housing stock assessment information has led to the establishment of the following housing policy statement:

#### **Goals:**

1. Promote housing development that provides a variety of housing choices for residents of all income levels, age groups, and people with special needs.
2. Promote the availability of land for the development or redevelopment of low- and moderate-income housing.
3. Maintain and rehabilitate the existing housing stock as appropriate.

#### **Objectives:**

1. Encourage residential developers to provide a variety of housing types for all income and age groups.

#### **Policies:**

1. Promote programs to assist residents in maintaining or rehabilitating existing housing units.

## **CHAPTER 4: UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

This is the fourth of nine chapters of the Town of Schoepke Comprehensive Plan. It is based on the statutory requirement for a compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide future development of utilities and community facilities. As required by the state's comprehensive planning law [§66.1001 (2)(d) Wis. Stats.], this element inventories existing public utilities and community facilities and assesses future needs for such services including those beyond the control of the Town located outside the community and/or under another jurisdiction.

### **A. INVENTORY & ANALYSIS OF EXISTING FACILITIES**

#### **1. WATER AND WASTEWATER FACILITIES**

The Town of Schoepke has no public water supply system or sanitary sewer service.

Water supply is accessed via individual private wells. The drilling, use and abandonment of private water supply wells is regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The disposal of wastewater is handled by private on-site septic systems that discharge wastewater to underground drainage fields and which may include: conventional (underground), mound, pressure distribution, at-grade, holding tank, and sand filter systems. These on-site wastewater treatment technologies are regulated by both the Wisconsin Department of Commerce and Oneida County Planning and Zoning.

#### **2. SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING FACILITIES**

The Town contracts with a private hauler to provide "curbside" pick up of garbage and recycling for residents in the Town of Schoepke. The Oneida County Landfill is located in the Town of Woodboro. The landfill handles collection, recycling and composting of solid and hazardous wastes within Oneida County.

#### **3. POWER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES**

Electrical service is provided by Wisconsin Public Service Corporation. Natural Gas is available in the village area and around most of Pelican Lake. It is drawn from the pipeline that passes through the Monico. Liquid petroleum (LP gas) is available for home and business delivery from several vendors. A high-

voltage electric transmission line passes through the town north to south, roughly paralleling Highway 45.

Telephone service is provided by Frontier for the town. Some residents receive DSL broadband from Frontier. Packerland Broadband provides cable TV and broadband Internet in areas close to Highway 45. Cell phone coverage is adequate, especially in western sections of the town.

#### 4. PARKS, RECREATION AND OTHER YOUTH FACILITIES

Park or Park-like facilities within the Town of Schoepke include roughly two-acres of lakefront property where the Town Hall is located. Although there are no formal facilities swimming and fishing are available.

The Town of Schoepke is in the Elcho School Districts, and is also served by two parochial elementary schools in Rhinelander. The Nicolet Technical College, located in Rhinelander, serves the town. There is no formal library service in the town, but there are public libraries in Rhinelander and Elcho, as well as the Nicolet Technical College library also in Rhinelander.

#### 5. EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police protection in the Town of Schoepke is provided by the Oneida County Sheriff's Department. The Town is involved in a joint venture with the Town of Enterprise in the Pelican Lake Fire District, Inc., that serves both towns, from a fire hall located on County Road B, owned by the Town of Schoepke and rented to the Fire District. EMS/ambulance service is provided by the County, in conjunction with St. Mary's Hospital using an ambulance stationed in Rhinelander. The Town has mutual aid agreements with all surrounding town volunteer fire departments. Maintaining necessary staffing levels is an ongoing issue for the volunteer Department.

The nearest medical facility is Saint Mary's Hospital in Rhinelander. Langlade Memorial Hospital is located in Antigo and is also available. These hospitals provide 24-hour emergency service and critical care. There is an Aspirus Clinic in Elcho.

#### 6. OTHER GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

The local road system is the most significant public facility maintained by the Town and is covered in the Transportation Element. The Town Hall is located on the shores of Pelican Lake along US Highway 45. The Town Hall serves as a meeting room available for Town residents use and includes a kitchen and restrooms. There are two cemeteries owned by the Town, in addition to a Catholic cemetery. See Utilities and Community Facilities Map.

## **B. PROGRAMS**

Providing public infrastructure – roads, sewer and water service, schools, police and fire protection – is one of the major functions of local government. In addition to these public services, both public and private entities provide electricity and telephone service as well as such specialized services as child-care, health-care and solid-waste disposal. Taken together these constitute the utilities and community facilities that represent much of the backbone of modern life. Beyond what these facilities do for us, they also represent a huge investment of public and private resources.

The efficient utilization of these resources is one of the basic principles of comprehensive planning. Already in-place infrastructure is a public asset that must be safeguarded for the future, both to conserve and protect environmental values and to maximize the benefits of economic growth. Development that bypasses or ignores existing infrastructure resources is wasteful of the public investment that they represent. Development patterns that require the extension of utilities and the expansion of public facilities while existing facilities go unused at other locations is probably not the best use of scarce public resources.

Both the state and federal governments offer programs that assist communities with the development of critical infrastructure and facilities. These programs are listed in more detail in the Economic Development Element of this plan.

## **C. GOALS, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES**

### ***Goals:***

1. Provide ambulance, volunteer fire and first responder services to residents.
2. Consider cost effectiveness of future development proposals in covering required services, utilities and community facilities.

### ***Objectives:***

1. Consider the potential impacts of development proposals on groundwater quality and quantity.
2. Explore opportunities to develop integrated, multi-use trail systems and recreational facilities.
3. Work with adjoining Towns, the County, the State, and individual landowners to address known water quality issues.

4. Share equipment and services across Town boundaries, where possible.

***Policies:***

1. Educate residents on the proper maintenance of septic systems and the benefits of recycling.
2. The feasibility of wastewater collection and treatment systems on water quality should be considered by major developments.
3. Develop and maintain a Capital Improvements Plan for major equipment purchases.

DRAFT

Insert Map 3 – Community Facilities

## **CHAPTER 5: TRANSPORTATION**

This chapter, the fifth of nine chapters of the Town of Schoepke Comprehensive Plan, is based on the statutory requirement [§66.1001(2)(c) Wis. Stats.] for a compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide the future development of the various modes of transportation, including highways, transit, transportation systems for persons with disabilities, bicycles, walking, railroads, air transportation, trucking and water transportation. This element compares the Town's objectives, policies, goals and programs to state and regional transportation plans. The element also identifies highways within the Town by function and incorporates state, regional and other applicable transportation plans, including transportation corridor plans, county highway functional and jurisdictional studies, urban area and rural area transportation plans, airport master plans and rail plans that apply in the Town of Schoepke.

### **A. REVIEW OF STATE & REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANS & PROGRAMS**

This section contains a review of state and regional transportation plans and how they affect the Town of Schoepke.

#### Corridors 2020

Corridors 2020 was designed to enhance economic development and meet Wisconsin's mobility needs well into the future. The 3,200-mile state highway network is comprised of two main elements: a multilane backbone system and a two-lane connector system. All communities over 5,000 in population are to be connected with backbone & connector systems.

This focus on highways was altered in 1991 with the passage of the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), which mandated that states take a multi-modal approach to transportation planning. Now, bicycle, transit, rail, air, and other modes of travel would make up the multi-modal plan. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) response to ISTEA was the two-year planning process in 1994 that created TransLinks 21.

### TransLinks 21

WisDOT incorporated Corridors 2020 into TransLinks 21, and discussed the impacts of transportation policy decisions on land use. TransLinks 21 is a 25-year statewide multi-modal transportation plan that WisDOT completed in 1994. Within this needs-based plan are the following modal plans:

- State Highways Plan 2020
- Airport System Plan 2020
- Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020
- Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020
- Wisconsin Rail Issues and Opportunities Report
- No plans exists for transit or local roads.

### Connections 2030

Connections 2030 will be a 25-year statewide multi-modal transportation plan that is policy-based. The policies will be tied to “tiers” of potential financing levels. One set of policy recommendations will focus on priorities that can be accomplished under current funding levels. Another will identify policy priorities that can be achieved if funding levels increase. Finally, WisDOT may also identify critical priorities that we must maintain if funding were to decrease over the planning horizon of the plan. This plan will not conflict with the Town of Schoepke Comprehensive Plan, because the policies are based upon the transportation needs outlined in TransLinks 21. Recommendations will be presented in "multimodal corridors." The Town of Schoepke is in part of the Wisconsin River corridor and the Northwoods Connection (USH 45) corridor.

### State Trails Network Plan

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) created this plan in 2001, to identify a statewide network of trails and to provide guidance to the DNR for land acquisition and development. Many existing trails are developed and operated in partnership with counties. By agreement the DNR acquires the corridor and the county government(s) develop, operate, and maintain the trail.

One potential trail runs through Schoepke:

**DNR Segment 19—Langlade County to Michigan** runs parallel to USH 45.

### Oneida County Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan, 2002

In 2002, this plan was created to guide the development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Oneida County. The vision of this plan is to increase the mobility of people within the County by making walking and bicycling viable and attractive transportation choices.

One potential trail crosses through Schoepke:

**US Highway 45** is a proposed combination of on-road and highway right-of-way land to make a trail that parallels USH 45 from Vilas to Langlade Counties.

### Regional Comprehensive Plan

The Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) titled “A Framework for the Future”, adopted by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) in December of 2003, is an update of a plan adopted by NCWRPC in 1981. The RCP looks at transportation in all ten counties that make up the North Central Region, including Oneida. It looks at general trends within the Region and recommends how county and local government can address transportation issues.

The RCP recommends a variety of strategies to address a variety of transportation issues such as growing traffic volumes, congestion and the increase of drivers aged 65 and over. Two such strategies include corridor planning and rural intelligent transportation systems. Corridor planning is one way to relieve some of the need for additional direct capacity expansion by comprehensively managing critical traffic corridors. Rural ITS applications have the potential to make major improvements in safety, mobility, and tourist information services

## **B. TRANSPORTATION MODE INVENTORY**

### 1. HIGHWAYS AND TRUCKING

#### a.) Functional and Jurisdictional Identification

Public highways and roads are generally classified by two different systems, the functional and the jurisdictional. The jurisdictional class refers to which entity owns the facility and holds responsibility for its operations and maintenance. The functional class refers to the role the particular highway/road segment plays in moving traffic within the overall roadway system. Each is described in more detail below.

In addition to these main classifications, a road or segment of road may hold a variety of other designations including county forest road, rustic road, emergency route, truck route, etc. There are no rustic roads or county forest roads within the Town of Schoepke. Truck routes are discussed at the end of this section, under Trucking.

The roadway system within the Town of Schoepke is a network of state and county highways together with various local roads and streets, see MAP 3. The jurisdictional breakdown is shown in TABLE 13. USH 45 is a Principle

Arterial. CTH B, and Q are Major Collectors. CTH Z is a Minor Collector. The remainder of roads within the Town are classified as "Local."

JURISDICTION	FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION			TOTALS
	ARTERIAL	COLLECTOR	LOCAL	
State*	4.60			4.60
County		16.22		16.22
Town			31.17	31.17
<b>TOTALS</b>	4.60	16.22	31.17	51.99

Source: WisDOT & NCWRPC.

\* WisDOT has jurisdiction over interstate and US route highways.

USH 45 is designated Corridors 2020 Connector Route by WisDOT. The significance of these corridors is to enhance economic development and mobility statewide. WisDOT records average daily traffic volumes (number of vehicles) for major state roadways. Traffic volumes on most roads in Schoepke have decreased between 1994 and 2003. See Table 14 for traffic counts.

Site	1994	2006	Change
USH 45 north of CTH G	3,500	2,600	-25.7%
USH 45 between CTH B & Q	3,200	2,700	-15.6%
USH 45 north of CTH Q	3,000	2,800	-6.7%
CTH B east of CTH Z	140	110	-21.4%
CTH Z south of CTH B	140	150	7.1%
CTH Q west of USH 45	390	290	-25.6%

Source: WisDOT

Corridors 2020 was designed to enhance economic development and meet Wisconsin's mobility needs well into the future. The 3,200-mile highway network was comprised of two elements: a multilane backbone system and a two-lane connector system.

The backbone system is a 1,650-mile network of multilane divided highways interconnecting the major population and economic centers in the state and tying them to the national transportation network. The connector system is 1,550 miles of high-quality highways that link other significant economic and tourism centers to the backbone network. All communities over 5,000 in population are to be connected to the backbone system via the connector network. Within Oneida County, USH 51 south of USH 8 is designated as part of the Corridors 2020 Backbone system. USH 8 and USH 45 in Oneida County are part of the Corridor 2020 system as connectors.

County Highways B, Q, and Z serve the Town of Schoepke. County highways serve rural land uses and distribute local traffic to the regional arterial system.

They serve an important role in linking the area's forestry resources to the major highways and urban centers.

Town roads are an important component of the county-wide transportation system, because they serve local development, as well as the forestry areas. A particular issue of concern with Town roads is that of seasonal weight limits. In Schoepke, a 5-ton limit applies to all Town roads from March 15 to May 1. Forestry activities within the Town make logging trucks a significant concern.

A functional classification system groups streets and highways into classes according to the character of service they provide. This character of service ranges from providing a high degree of travel mobility to providing land access functions.

The current classification system used in Wisconsin consists of five classifications divided into urban and rural categories. Functional classifications are used to determine eligibility for federal aid. For purposes of functional classification, federal regulations define urban as places of 5,000 or more population, so the rural classifications apply throughout the Town. TABLE 15 summarizes the rural functional classification system.

Principal Arterials	Serve interstate and interregional trips. These routes generally serve to connect all urban areas greater than 5,000 population. The rural principal arterials are further subdivided into 1) Interstate highways and 2) other principal arterials.
Minor Arterials	In conjunction with the principal arterials, they connect cities, large communities, and other major traffic generators providing intra-regional and inter-area traffic movements.
Major Collectors	Provide service to moderate sized communities and other inter-area traffic generators and link those generators to nearby larger population centers or higher function routes.
Minor Collectors	Collect traffic from local roads and provide links to all remaining smaller communities, locally important traffic generators, and higher function roads. All developed areas should be within a reasonable distance of a collector road.
Local Roads	Provide access to adjacent land and provide for travel over relatively short distances. All roads not classified as arterials or collectors are local function roads.

Source: WisDOT

### b.) Trucking

USH 45 is the principal truck route within the Town as designated by WisDOT. This corresponds with its role as Corridors 2020 connecting route, linking to

the Backbone highway system, and facilitating the movement of goods between Oneida County and the rest of the state/nation.

Local truck routes often branch out from these major corridors to link local industry with the main truck routes as well as for the distribution of commodities within the local area. Mapping these local routes is beyond the scope of this study, and local issues such as safety, weight restrictions, and noise impacts play significant roles in the designation of local truck routes.

A number of private trucking companies are available in Rhineland.

## 2. TRANSIT AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED

The Oneida County Department on Aging coordinates driver-escort service to residents of Oneida County, which includes Schoepke. Escort drivers provide transportation to elderly and disabled residents of Oneida County that qualify as a priority trip purpose. Travel includes both in and out of county travel, and generous volunteers have driven any day or time necessary.

Scheduled intercity bus service is no longer available in the area since Greyhound discontinued service to Rhineland in a cost cutting move. Private charter/tour bus companies are based in surrounding cities.

## 3. BICYCLING AND WALKING

All county forest trails, roads and fire lanes are open for recreational bicycle use. Roads within Schoepke are all available for bicycle and pedestrian travel.

In 2002, Oneida County developed a bike route plan (Oneida County Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan, 2002) with assistance from the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. This plan established a number of scenic, on-road bike routes throughout the County.

The Town of Schoepke contains portions of a planned bike route that would follow the railroad right-of-way along USH 45; as described in section A of this chapter under Oneida County Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan, 2002 on pages 2 and 3.

The County Bike Plan recommends institutionalizing bicycle needs within local schools, public health programs, local law enforcement programs, and transportation planning processes that occur in Oneida County. The potential routes were added to the Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2009-2013 to advance their chances of implementation.

In 2001, the WDNR created the State Trails Network Plan to identify a statewide network of trails and to provide guidance to the DNR for land

acquisition and development. Many existing trails are developed and operated in partnership with counties. By agreement the DNR acquires the corridor and the county government(s) develop, operate, and maintain the trail.

Any trails from the State Trails Network Plan are not automatically going to become bicycle and walking trails. The WDNR is more likely to create multi-use trails to provide the most access for a variety of uses.

There are no bike routes identified in the Town of Schoepke from the State Trails Network Plan.

#### 4. RAILROADS

There is no local access to rail service in Schoepke. Shipments needing rail service would have to be trucked to nearby cities with rail access such as Rhinelander, Tomahawk, or Wausau.

#### 5. AIR TRANSPORTATION

The Rhinelander/Oneida County Airport (RHI) in Rhinelander is the closest public airport to Schoepke. RHI is an air carrier / air cargo airport, which is designed to accommodate virtually all aircraft. Airports in this category are usually referenced by the type of air carrier service provided—RHI is a short haul air carrier airport. This airport serves scheduled, nonstop, airline markets and routes of less than 500 miles. Short haul air carriers typically use aircraft weighing less than 60,000 pounds, and use primary runways with a length between 6,500 to 7,800 feet.

There were about 42,340 total aviation operations (take-offs and landings) in 2000. WisDOT projections show total aviation operations increasing at RHI to 44,040 by 2010, and 45,740 by 2020; an 8 percent increase from 2000.

#### 6. WATER TRANSPORTATION

There are no harbors or ports within the Town, so there is no significant water transport of passengers or freight. Some of the streams and lakes within the Town could support a canoe or small boat potentially but such use would be primarily recreational in nature. No water trails have been designated at this time.

### **C. PROGRAMS**

Below is a listing of programs that may be of assistance to the Town with regard to the development of the local transportation system. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is the primary provider of programs to assist

local transportation systems. A wide variety of programs are available to serve the gamut of jurisdictions from county down to the smallest town. The programs most likely to be utilized by rural towns such as Schoepke include:

- General Transportation Aids
- Flood Damage Aids
- Town Road Improvement Program
- Town Road Improvement Program – Discretionary
- Local Bridge Improvement Assistance
- Local Transportation Enhancements
- Traffic Signing & Marking Enhancement Grant
- Rustic Roads

More information on these programs can be obtained by contacting the WisDOT region office in Rhinelander or on the Internet at [www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/index.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/index.htm).

#### **D. GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

***Goal:***

- Support and maintain a safe and efficient Town road system.

***Objective:***

- Avoid land uses that generate heavy traffic on local roads that have not been constructed or upgraded for such use.

***Policies:***

1. Roadway access should be spaced along the existing Town road network to increase safety and better preserve capacity.
2. Future road locations, extensions or connections should be considered when reviewing development plans and proposals.
3. Update road signage to improve visibility for all Town residents.
4. Require that Town roads serving residential areas accommodate access requirements for emergency services (fire, EMS, ambulance, etc.) as well as school bus and snowplow.

## **CHAPTER 6: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

This is the sixth chapter of the nine chapters Town of Schoepke Comprehensive Plan. It is based on the statutory requirement for a compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to promote the stabilization, retention or expansion of the economic base and quality employment opportunities in the Town. As required by the state's comprehensive planning law [§66.1001 (2)(f) Wis. Stats.], this chapter analyzes the labor force and economic base, ensures designation of adequate sites for business and industry, evaluates potentially contaminated sites for reuse, and identifies applicable county, regional and state economic development programs.

### **A. ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF LOCAL CONDITIONS**

#### **1. Labor Force**

According to the Census, the civilian labor force (population 16 and over) living in the Town of Schoepke was 272 workers in 2000. Of these, 6 were unemployed for an unemployment rate of 2.2%. The unemployment rate for the County was 6.1% in 2000. Schoepke's 1990 unemployment rate was 16.8%. The County unemployment rate is about 4% (2006).

#### **2. Economic Base Analysis**

Geographically, the land within the Town is overwhelmingly dedicated to the forestry sector. Almost 85% of the land in the Town of Schoepke is woodland. See the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources and Land Use chapters of this plan for more on the forest cover of the community.

The primary occupations of Schoepke residents in the labor force include: Sales & office; Production, transportation and materials moving; Service; and Management, professional and related, see TABLE 16. The leading economic sectors or industries in the Town are: Retail trade; Manufacturing; Education, health, & social services; and Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food service, see TABLE 17.

Historically Retail Trade industry has been the strongest sector countywide, with 3,064 workers in 1990, but declined by 8.2% to employ only 2,080 people in 2000. Education, Health and Social Services has become the dominant industry sector in 2000 by employing 3,953 people countywide and 16 people in Town. Retail Trade employment increased by 17.8% in Town from 28 in 1990 to 33 in 2000.

TABLES 16 & 17 are all based on the number of workers residing in the Town. Commuting patterns provide one way to estimate the number of jobs within a community. The 2000 commuting data shows a total of 132 workers, of whom, 22 worked outside the town, and 50 worked outside of Oneida County. Of those who did not work at home 19.2% had a commute less than fifteen minutes, 38.5% traveled between 15 and 30 minutes, and 46.9% traveled between 30 minutes and an hour. Eight workers traveled more than an hour.

TABLE 16 Occupation of Employed Workers 1990–2000

	Town of Schoepke		Oneida County	
	1990*	2000	1990	2000
Management, professional & related	28	25	3,791	5,117
Service	20	26	2,294	2,747
Sales & office	26	40	3,443	4,465
Farming Fishing & Forestry	7	2	410	268
Construction, extraction & maintenance	0	13	495	1,998
Production, transportation & material moving	20	29	3,352	2,604

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

\*Adjusted for differences between 1990 and 2000 Census Categories.

TABLE 17 Industry Sectors 1990–2000

	Town of Schoepke		Oneida County	
	1990*	2000	1990	2000
Ag., Forestry, Fishing, Hunting & Mining	5	5	422	526
Construction	5	11	1,013	1,455
Manufacturing	26	26	2,265	2,080
Wholesale Trade	3	2	320	425
Retail Trade	28	33	3,064	2,815
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	12	--	768	689
Information	N/A	--	n/a	434
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing	0	--	566	636
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative & Waste Mgmt Services	9	7	1,089	898
Education, Health and Social Services	25	16	2,860	3,953
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services	0	16	136	1,694
Public Administration	0	11	715	861
Other Services	0	8	740	733

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

\*Adjusted for differences between 1990 and 2000 Census Categories.

### 3. Assessment of Local Conditions

Based on the importance of forestry to the community, the Town supports the development of forest-related business. The forested character of the Town, along with its water resources, also lends itself to tourism and recreation based industries, which the Town is in favor of as well. Beyond that, the Town has no specific preference for categories or types of business desired.

In discussion among Schoepke and the surrounding Towns the major strengths of the southeastern section of Oneida County identified were: a strong recreation base with clean air and water, wildlife, lakes and streams, and large blocks of forest; these woodlands were also the basis of a forestry industry; there are mineral resources in the area; natural gas and electric service is good; two federal highways 45 & 8 provide excellent transportation connections; good schools; good people; low density development; all make for a good place to retire.

Some challenges were identified as well: the relatively remote location leads to long travel distances; there is a shortage of high-paying jobs in the area; the long, cold winters lead to a short growing season and high heating bills.

There are a number of environmentally contaminated or potentially contaminated sites located within the Town. For example, the WisDNR Internet database known as the Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) lists one site in Schoepke, which is currently in use at the time of this writing, so there is no opportunity or need for redevelopment at this time. The Town supports the reuse of contaminated or potentially contaminated sites provided that the Town is secure of liability issues. The list of sites in Schoepke is located in the Natural Resources chapter of this plan.

#### **B. PROGRAMS**

Various organizations at the County, Regional and State level offer a variety of programs to assist with economic development. Many of these are listed below:

*Local:*

Tax Increment Financing: In 2004, the WI State Legislature enacted changes to the state's Tax Increment Financing statutes. One significant change involved allowing townships to establish tax increment districts for specified economic development projects. Tax Increment Financing has been employed by numerous communities throughout the state to promote redevelopment in blighted areas and finance new industrial development.

*County:*

Oneida County Economic Development Corporation (OCEDC): The Oneida County Economic Development Corporation (OCEDC) was founded in 1989 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) Corporation to act as an economic development coordinator for all of Oneida County. OCEDC assists individuals investigating the feasibility of going into business, works with existing business to expand and retain economic viability, and works to attract new business in an effort to expand our economic base and provide employment alternatives to the citizens of Oneida County. OCEDC also acts as a conduit between business and government on a local, regional, state, and federal level.

Oneida County Revolving Loan Fund: A Wisconsin Department of Commerce Economic Development Grant was awarded to Oneida County, which enabled the county to establish a revolving loan fund in order to assist local businesses. The fund is managed and administered by the OCEDC.

*Regional:*

North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation: The North Central Wisconsin Development Corporation (NCWDC) manages two revolving loan funds designed to address a gap in private capital markets for long-term, fixed-rate, low down payment, low interest financing. The fund is targeted to businesses in the ten county region.

North Central Advantage Technology Zone Tax Credits: The County has been designated a Technology Zone by the Department of Commerce. The Technology Zone program brings \$5 million in income tax incentives for high-tech development to the area. The North Central Advantage Technology Zone offers the potential for high-tech growth in knowledge-based and advanced manufacturing clusters, among others. The zone designation is designed to attract and retain skilled, high-paid workers to the area, foster regional partnerships between business and education to promote high-tech development, and to complement the area's recent regional branding project.

*State:*

Rural Economic Development Program: This program administrated by Wisconsin Department of Commerce provides grants and low interest loans for small business (less than 25 employees) start-ups or expansions in rural areas. Funds may be used for "soft costs" only, such as planning, engineering, ad marketing assistance.

Wisconsin Small Cities Program: The Wisconsin Department of Commerce provides federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to eligible municipalities for approved housing and/or public facility improvements and

for economic development projects. Economic Development grants provide loans to businesses for such things as: acquisition of real estate, buildings, or equipment; construction, expansion or remodeling; and working capital for inventory and direct labor.

Wisconsin Small Business Development Center (SBDC): The UW SBDC is partially funded by the Small Business Administration and provides a variety of programs and training seminars to assist in the creation of small business in Wisconsin.

Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA): This program, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, provides immediate assistance for the cost of transportation improvements necessary for major economic development projects.

Other State Programs: Technology Development grants and loans; Customized Labor Training grants and loans; and Major Economic Development Project grants and loans.

*Federal:*

U.S. Dept. of Commerce - Economic Development Administration (EDA): EDA offers a public works grant program. These are administered through local units of government for the benefit of the local economy and, indirectly, private enterprise.

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Development (USDA – RD): The USDA Rural Development program is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life. Financial programs include support for water and sewer systems, housing, health clinics, emergency service facilities, and electric and telephone service. USDA-RD promotes economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks and community-managed lending pools. The program also offers technical assistance and information to help agricultural and other cooperatives get started and improve the effectiveness of their member services.

Small Business Administration (SBA): SBA provides business and industrial loan programs that will make or guarantee up to 90% of the principal and interest on loans to companies, individuals, or government entities for financing in rural areas. Wisconsin Business Development Finance Corporation acts as the agent for the SBA programs that provide financing for fixed asset loans and for working capital.

### **C. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES**

Although the Town of Schoepke has not, historically, played a role in economic development, it supports efforts to stabilize and expand the economic base and employment opportunity for its residents and the community as a whole. A review of economic base assessment information has led to the establishment of the following economic development policy statement:

#### **Goal:**

- Promote the stabilization of the current economic base.

#### **Objectives:**

1. Encourage new retail, commercial & industrial development to locate adjacent to county or state highways.
2. Discourage industrial development from negatively impacting environmental resources or adjoining property values.
3. Encourage businesses that are compatible with a rural setting.
4. Review costs and benefits of a proposed development project prior to approval.

#### **Policies:**

1. Accommodate home-based businesses that do not significantly increase noise, traffic, odors, lighting, or would otherwise negatively impact the surrounding areas.
2. Support efforts to promote economic development within the county.
3. Commercial and industrial development should be directed to designated planned areas consistent with the Future Land Use Map.
4. Intensive industrial uses should be steered to areas that have the service capability to support that development.

**CHAPTER 7:  
LAND USE CHAPTER**

This is the seventh of nine chapters of the Town of Schoepke Comprehensive Plan. This chapter is based on the statutory requirement [§66.1001(2)(h) Wis. Stats.] for a "compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide the future development and redevelopment of public and private property". This chapter reviews existing land uses, trends, programs, and future land use.

**A. EXISTING LAND USE INVENTORY**

Current land use activity in the Town is characterized by a mix of woodlands, lakes, shoreland and development. The Town is centered on the unincorporated settlement of Pelican Lake, located on the eastern shore of the lake along US Highway 45. Most of the development in the town is along the eastern and northern shores of Pelican Lake. The eastern section of the town is woodlands much of it held as industrial forest.

The existing land use map was developed in two steps. The first was an air photo interpretation by NCWRPC. The Plan Commission then reviewed that first map and corrections were made. The intent of this map is to provide a generalized overview of land uses as they currently exist in the town. See the Existing Land Use map.

Once that map was completed the NCWRPC developed calculations to determine land areas by use. The majority of the Town is woodlands at about 27,700 acres or 86%. The next largest classification is water with 9.8%. Agricultural use takes up an additional 2.2% of the Town's land, and residential at 1.2%. Other land uses combined use only about 1.2% of the total land area. See Table 18.

Table 18: EXISTING LAND USE		
Land Use	Acres	Percent
Agriculture	705.97	2.2%
Commercial	.97	0%
Open Land	246.5	.76%
Residential	388.25	1.2%
Transportation	132.72	.4%
Water	3155.86	9.77%
Woodlands	27,685	85.67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,315.28</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: NCWRPC, Town of Schoepke

## **B. LAND USE TRENDS**

### 1. Land Supply

As shown by the existing land use inventory, the majority of the Town is woodlands, so the supply of land available for development appears to be adequate. Some of this undeveloped area is large block industrial forest, which is most productive if roads are not cut into it and subdivided. The supply of land in the Town of Schoepke is more than sufficient to accommodate projected demand over the next 20 years for all use categories.

### 2. Land Demand

#### Residential:

The overall residential demand for land in the Town of Schoepke results from a projected decrease in households (2010–2030). TABLE 19 shows projected residential land demand based on household projections for the period. Because the DOA (and a continuation of the 20-year population trend) anticipates a net loss over the next twenty years, no increase of residential land will be required in the Town to accommodate growth by the year 2030. This does not account for seasonal home development.

Seasonal housing comprises about 73% of the total units within the Town. Existing seasonal homes are being converted to full-time permanent residences. This is the most likely source any future population growth in the town. Increases in the number of seasonal dwellings are likely to be limited by the availability of waterfront properties. As shoreland in Schoepke, especially on Pelican Lake, becomes more developed growth in this kind of housing will slow.

#### Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural:

Historically, there has been extremely limited industrial development in the Town.

Commercial development is subject to market forces and difficult to predict. There has not been significant commercial development in the Town, but new commercial enterprises have appeared over time. As a result an increase of the current level of commercial from less than an acre to just over an acre by 2030.

The level of agricultural land within the Town may not be fully reflected in the land use figures as the actual scale of some operations may not be identified, but it is anticipated to remain stable over the planning period, although some land may be expected to be taken out of agriculture. Table 19 shows the projected change of commercial, industrial and agricultural land uses in 5-year

increments. Since these projections are based on the assumption of falling population over the planning period the demand for residential land is shown as dropping.

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Full-Time Residential Acreage Demand	380	374	365	353	338
Industrial/Commercial Acreage Demand	1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2
Agricultural Acreage Demand	705	705	705	705	705

Source: NCWRPC

\*Extension of 2000-2025 trend.

### 3. Land Values

Overall land values in the Town have increased about 157 percent over the last eight years; however, not all categories of land increased equally. Residential property values increased by 166 percent, commercial property increased by 149 percent, and forestland values increased 128 percent, while agricultural decreased by 40 percent. Based on equalized valuation, the average value of an acre of land in Schoepke is \$2,940. See Table 20, Land Values, below.

Type of Property	2000	2008	% Change
Residential	\$25,367,400	\$67,545,300	166%
Commercial	\$1,167,000	\$2,908,100	149%
Manufacturing	0	0	0%
Agricultural	\$215,900	\$129,600	-40%
Undeveloped	\$501,900	\$899,600	79%
Ag. Forest	0	\$285,200	N/A
Forest	\$5,997,200	\$13,700,000	128%
Other	\$33,300	\$252,000	657%
<b>Total Value</b>	<b>\$33,282,700</b>	<b>\$85,719,800</b>	<b>157.5%</b>

Source: WI DOR Land & Improvements, 2000 & 2008

### 4. Opportunities for Redevelopment

There is one property in Town that had environmental contamination on it and is still in use. See the Natural, Agricultural, and Cultural Resources and Economic Development chapters, for more details.

Quarries have a built-in redevelopment mechanism via reclamation regulations. Most existing quarries within the Town have a number of years of life left. Reclamation to a useable state is required upon closure of any quarry.

## 5. Existing and Potential Land Use Conflicts

The ongoing conversion of seasonal dwellings on Pelican Lake and other lakes in the town to year-round residences can lead to some conflicts between newer residents and more established rural lifestyles. Newer residents, often accustomed to urban life can engender demand for a higher level of services (snowplowing, fire protection), but can also lead to conflicts between residents and more traditional uses such as forestry.

As lake frontage within the Town fills in, development of back lots and increasing demands on existing Town Roads not designed to handle the load is a significant concern of the Town.

Unkempt or poorly maintained buildings and properties including accumulating junk and vehicles have been generally labeled as “eyesores” and identified as a conflict issue by the Town Plan Commission.

This Plan seeks to avoid or minimize potential future land use conflicts through controlled development, planned use-buffers and public information and education components.

## **C. PROGRAMS**

A number of different programs directly and indirectly affect land use within the Town. The principle land use programs include the County General and Shoreland Zoning ordinances, and the County Subdivision and Platting Ordinance. Official mapping authority is available but not widely used. See the Implementation Chapter of this Plan for more on these ordinances.

The principle land use programs include the Oneida County Zoning and Land Division ordinances. See implementation for more on these tools. There are two other related programs that could have some affect on land use within the Town, they are listed below:

Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Program:

In October of 1999, the Governor signed into law Wisconsin Act 9, the Budget Bill, containing substantial revisions of statutes governing comprehensive planning. The law has been revised by the signing of two additional bills into law. The first is AB 872, containing “technical revisions” which was signed May 10, 2000. The second bill, signed April 13, 2004, is AB 608, which

reduced the number of items that must be consistent with the plan to three, these are: official mapping, subdivision ordinances and zoning ordinances. Taken together these bills represent the most sweeping revision of the State's planning enabling laws in half a century.

The law (§66.1001 WI Stats.) requires all jurisdictions within the state that exercise control over land-use to prepare a comprehensive plan by 2010. It lays out the nine required chapters of the plan and requires a public participation process. Jurisdictions that do not have a comprehensive plan in place by the deadline may not engage in actions that impact land-use.

The comprehensive planning law is significant in many ways. The law creates for the first time a definition of a comprehensive plan; it requires that almost all local units of government have a plan; it sets requirements for public participation; and requires that the plan be consistent with local implementations tools. Most important, is that it maintains that the process be locally driven so all local units of government decide their own future.

Farmland Preservation/Working Land Initiative:

This is a major update to an existing program. Details are outlined in the current budget and when finalized they will be summarized here.

#### **D. FUTURE LAND USE**

The Future Land Use map represents the long-term land use recommendations for all lands in the Town. Although the map is advisory and does not have the authority of zoning, it is intended to reflect community desires and serve as a guide for local officials to coordinate future development of the Town.

Town of Schoepke Plan Commission members participated in a mapping exercise with NCWRPC staff to identify the desired future land uses by using nine common Land Use Map Classifications, as described below. Town Plan Commission members used their broad knowledge of the Town to draw shapes on a map representing the different land uses. The goal was to produce a generalized land use plan map (future land use) to guide the Town's growth. See the Future Land Use map.

Land Use Map Classifications:

Land use classifications are groups of land uses that are compatible, and separates conflicting uses. The classifications are not zoning districts and do not have the authority of zoning, but are intended for use as a guide when making land use and zoning decisions. In parentheses are the land use

classifications from the 2001 plan that most closely conform to these classifications.

1. Residential

Identifies areas recommended for residential development typically consisting of smaller lot sizes.

2. Rural Residential

Identifies areas that are recommended for less dense residential development, consisting of larger minimum lot sizes than the residential category. These areas will also allow a mixture of residential uses, and provide a good transition from more dense development to the rural forested countryside.

3. Commercial

Identifies areas recommended for commercial development, as well as existing commercial establishments located throughout the Town.

4. Industrial

Identifies areas recommended for industrial development, as well as existing industrial areas located throughout the Town.

5. Governmental/Public/Institutional

Identifies existing or planned governmental/public/institutional facilities within the Town, including recreational facilities like parks and boat launches.

6. Agricultural Areas

Identifies areas to be preserved for the purpose of general crop farming, the raising of livestock, orchards, or tree farms.

7. Forestry Areas

Identifies areas of large woodlands within the Town.

8. Transportation Corridors

Identifies the existing road network along with the recommendations for improved and safe traffic movement in the town, including airports, rail facilities, and potential recreational trails.

9. Preservation & Open Space

Contains sensitive environmental areas, such as 100-year floodplains as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, DNR wetlands, and steep slopes of 12 percent or greater. This could include endangered species habitat or other significant features or areas identified by the Town.

## **E. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES**

The following land use policy statement is a means of guiding future development within the Town towards a more orderly and rational pattern:

### ***Goals:***

1. Maintain orderly planned growth that promotes the health, safety and general welfare of Town residents and makes efficient use of land and efficient use of public services, facilities and tax dollars.
2. Promote and regulate development that preserves the rural character of the Town, and minimizes groundwater impacts from on-site septic systems and other sources.
3. Preserve the productive farmland and forest in the Town for long-term use and maintain agriculture and forestry as important economic activities and a way-of-life.

### ***Objectives:***

1. Small or medium scale commercial development intended to serve local needs will be encouraged.
2. All industrial development proposals will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
3. Commercial and industrial development will be directed to main roads that are better able to handle the traffic.
4. The location of new development will be restricted from areas in the Town shown to be unsafe or unsuitable for development due to flood hazard, potential groundwater contamination, loss of farmland, highway access problems, incompatibility with neighboring uses, etc.

### ***Policies:***

1. Maintain a long-range Comprehensive Plan, which will serve as a guide for future land use and zoning decisions. New development will be permitted based on consideration of this Plan, as well as other Town, County, and State plans and ordinances.
2. The Town may actively participate in zoning and subdivision review decisions at the County level, which affect the Town.

3. Use-buffer or landscaped areas may be used as shields to lessen the impacts of potentially conflicting land use types located in relatively close proximity; i.e. rural residential type development should be planned as a buffer between single-family and forestry or agricultural.
4. Consider proposals involving the keeping or raising of livestock or other animals, fish, and fowl on a case-by-case basis in relation to the potential impact on water quality and neighboring land uses, consistent with Wis. Stat. 93.90.

DRAFT

Insert Map 4 – Existing Land Use

DRAFT

Insert Map 5 – Future Land Use

## **CHAPTER 8: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION**

This is the eighth of nine chapters in the Town of Schoepke's Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of this chapter is to overview intergovernmental cooperation, inventory existing cooperative efforts, identify potential opportunities, and establish goals, objectives, and policies to promote intergovernmental cooperation.

### **8.1 BACKGROUND**

#### **A. OVERVIEW**

As discussed earlier in the plan, the Town is surrounded by the Towns of Enterprise, Pelican, Monico, Nashville in Forest County, and Elcho in Langlade County, as well as, being part of Oneida County. These are important intergovernmental relationships for the Town. Efforts should be made to maintain good working relationships with the surrounding towns and the County.

The issue of intergovernmental cooperation is increasingly important; since many issues cross over political boundaries, such as watersheds, labor force, commuter patterns, and housing. Communities are not independent of each other, but rather dependent on each other. The effects from growth and change on one spill over to all surrounding communities and impact the region as a whole.

Statewide, Wisconsin has over 2,500 units of government and special purpose districts. Having so many governmental units allows for local representation, but also adds more players to the decision making process. In general terms, intergovernmental cooperation is any arrangement by which officials of two or more jurisdictions coordinate plans, policies, and programs to address and resolve issues of mutual interest. It can be as simple as communication and information sharing, or it can involve entering into formal intergovernmental agreements and sharing resources such as equipment, buildings, staff, and revenue.

#### **B. BENEFITS**

There are many reasons intergovernmental cooperation makes sense. Some examples include:

- **Trust:** Cooperation can lead to positive experiences and results that build trust between jurisdictions. As jurisdictions communicate and collaborate on issues of mutual interest, they become more aware of one

another's needs and priorities. They can better anticipate problems and work to avoid them.

- **Cost Savings:** Cooperation can save money by increasing efficiency and avoiding unnecessary duplication. Cooperation can enable some communities to provide their residents with services that would otherwise be too costly.
- **Consistency:** Cooperation can lead to consistency of the goals, objectives, plans, policies, and actions of neighboring communities and other jurisdictions.
- **Address Regional Issues:** Communicating and coordinating their actions, and working with regional and state jurisdictions, local communities are able to address and resolve issues, which are regional in nature.

The major beneficiary of intergovernmental cooperation is the local resident. They may not understand, or even care about, the details of a particular intergovernmental issue, but residents can appreciate their benefits, such as costs savings, provision of needed services, a healthy environment, and a strong economy.

### C. TRENDS

A variety of factors, some long-standing and others more recent have brought the issue of governmental cooperation to the forefront. Some of these factors include:

- Local governments financial situation;
- Opportunity to reduce costs by working together;
- Elimination of duplication of services;
- Population settlement patterns and population mobility;
- Economic and environmental interdependence; and

In addition, as more jurisdictions create comprehensive plans and share them with surrounding communities, new opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation will be identified.

## D. TOOLS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

There are a variety of tools that can be used in the area of intergovernmental cooperation.

### 1. Shared Service Agreements

Wisconsin Statute s.66.0301, formerly 66.30, entitled "Intergovernmental Cooperation"; does enable local governments to jointly do together whatever one can do alone. Typically, intergovernmental cooperation and coordination refers to the management and delivery of public services and facilities. It is also dependent upon a defined geographic area within which cooperation and coordination may be feasible.

Intergovernmental agreements prepared using this statute, are the most common form of agreement and have been used by communities for years, often in the context of sharing public services such as police, fire, or rescue. This type of agreement can also be used to provide for revenue sharing, determine future land use within a subject area, and to set temporary municipal boundaries. However, the statute does not require planning as a component of any agreement and boundary changes have to be accomplished through the normal annexation process. Shared service agreements are utilized to allow this type of cooperation.

### 2. Municipal Revenue Sharing

Wisconsin Statute, 66.0305, Municipal Revenue Sharing, gives authority to cities, villages and towns to enter into agreements to share revenue from taxes and special charges with each other. The agreements may also address other matters, including agreements regarding services to be provided or the location of municipal boundaries.

Boundaries of the shared revenue area must be specified in the agreement and the term of the agreement must be for at least 10 years. The formula or other means for sharing revenue, the date of payment of revenues, and the means by which the agreement may be invalidated after the minimum 10 year period.

## E. EXISTING / POTENTIAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFLICTS

A challenge for intergovernmental cooperation exists in the question of locating a new fire hall for the Pelican Lake Fire District. The current facility, in the village area of Lake Pelican, is owned by the Town of Schoepke, that charges the Fire District rent. Oneida County also stores an ambulance in the building to serve the southeastern part of the county. This building has high energy costs and needs to be replaced. In its current location near US Highway 45 it

provides good access to areas along the highway but is seen as remote from some areas in the western sections of Enterprise. There is also some interest in having the District own the building.

Both Towns (Enterprise and Schoepke) also work with the Pelican Lake Association on invasive species measures and the placement of navigational aids, such as bouys.

The process for resolving these conflicts will in part be a continuation of past practices as new mechanisms evolve. The Town will continue to meet with surrounding towns when significant issues of mutual concern arise.

## **8.2 INVENTORY & TRENDS**

Currently there are numerous relationships and several general agreements in place. The following is a summary of existing and potential cooperative efforts.

### **A. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS**

#### **1. Surrounding Towns**

The Towns of Schoepke is involved in a joint venture with the Town of Enterprise in the Pelican Lake Fire District, Inc. that provides fire service to both towns. The Fire District has mutual aid agreements in place with the surrounding communities.

#### **2. County**

Oneida County directly and indirectly provides a number of services to the Town and the Town enjoys a good working relationship with many of the responsible departments. These departments include Sheriff, Health, and Land Records. The Town contracts with the County for EMS service, provided by St. Mary's Hospital using an ambulance stationed in Schoepke.

The County Sheriff provides protective services through periodic patrols and on-call 911 responses. The Sheriff also manages the 911-dispatch center, not only for police protection, but also for ambulance/EMS response and dispatching the Town Fire Department. The Forestry, Land and Outdoor Recreation Department maintains a countywide park system and county forest system for the use and enjoyment of all residents including the Town of Schoepke. The County Planning & Zoning Department administers shoreland zoning in the Town.

In many cases where state and federal agencies require area-wide planning for various programs or regulations, the County sponsors a countywide planning effort to complete these plans and include individual local units in the process

and resulting final plan. Examples of this include the County Outdoor Recreation plan which maintains the eligibility for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources administered park and recreation development funding of each local unit that adopts it, and All Hazard Mitigation Plans which are required by Federal Emergency Management Agency in order for individual local units of government to qualify for certain types of disaster assistance funding.

### 3. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) was formed under §60.0309 Wis. Stats. as a voluntary association of governments within a ten county area. Oneida County is a member of the NCWRPC, which qualifies the Town of Schoepke for low cost local planning assistance. Typical functions of the NCWRPC include (but are not limited to) land use, transportation, economic development, intergovernmental and geographic information systems (GIS) planning and services.

The NCWRPC has prepared comprehensive plans for the towns of Cassian, Crescent, Newbold, Stella, and Woodboro and the City of Rhinelander, and is working with Oneida County to develop a county level comprehensive plan. Other countywide projects by the NCWRPC that cover the Town of Schoepke include a county economic development strategy, county outdoor recreation plan, county bike route plan, the human services public transit coordination plan, rural addressing and address ranging for 911 response assistance, county all hazards mitigation plan, county public access study, and various regional project assistance that includes Oneida County.

### 4. State and Federal Government

The Wisconsin departments of Natural Resources and Transportation are the primary agencies the Town might deal with regarding development activities. Many of the goals and objectives of this plan will require continued cooperation and coordination with these agencies.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources takes a lead role in wildlife protection and sustainable management of woodlands, wetland, and other wildlife habitat areas, while Wisconsin Department Of Transportation is responsible for the planning and development of state highways, railways, airports, and other transportation systems. State agencies make a number of grant and aid programs available to local units of government like the Town of Elcho. Examples include local road aids, the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) and the Priority Watershed Program. There are also a number of mandates passed down from the state that the Town must comply with, such as the biannual pavement rating submission for the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR).

Most federal programs are administered by the states, so the Town would be dealing with the responsible state agency with regard to federal programs and regulations.

## 5. School District

Schoepke is in the Elcho School District. The Nicolet Technical College district includes the Town of Schoepke and has its nearest campus in Rhineland.

The main form of interaction with both school and college districts are through payment of property taxes, which help to fund both districts' operations. The Town has little participation in issues pertaining to administration or siting of new facilities.

### **8.3 GOAL, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES**

As in the previous chapters of this plan, a series of goals, objectives, and policies are identified.

#### ***Goal:***

- Seek mutually beneficial cooperation with all levels of government.

#### ***Objective:***

- Maintain current agreements and explore additional opportunities with adjacent communities for services.

#### ***Policies:***

1. Review service agreements and identify opportunities to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness.
2. Maintain a close relationship with the Elcho School District related to existing and new facilities.
3. Work with the surrounding Towns to develop cooperative boundary agreements.
4. Investigate cost sharing or contracting with neighboring Towns and the County to provide more efficient service or public utilities.
5. Investigate joint operation or consolidation when considering expanded or new services or facilities.

## **CHAPTER 9: IMPLEMENTATION**

This is the ninth and final chapter of the Town of Schoepke Comprehensive Plan. It is based on the statutory requirement for a compilation programs and specific actions to be completed in a stated sequence. As required by the state's comprehensive planning law [§66.1001 (2)(i) Wis. Stats.], this element describes how each of each of the elements of the comprehensive plan, including a process for updating the comprehensive plan.

### **A. RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

This Plan is intended to be used as a guide by local officials, both town and county, when making decisions that affect growth and development in Schoepke. It is also important that local citizens and developers become aware of the Plan.

Some steps taken to implement this Plan include the adoption of written public participation guidelines, Plan Commission formation, a Plan Commission resolution recommending Plan adoption by the Town Board, a formal public hearing, Town Board approval of the Plan by ordinance, distribution of the Plan to affected government units and ongoing Plan Commission reviews and updates.

#### RECOMMENDATION 1: PLAN COMMISSION -

It is incumbent upon the Town Board that once the Plan is approved, it will be used to guide decisions that affect development in the Town.

The Town of Schoepke Plan Commission is to review the Plan's effectiveness on an annual basis, and make a comprehensive review of the Plan every five years.

Since Schoepke is not subject to County zoning, the responsibilities of the Town and the Plan Commission in land use regulation are limited. The primary implementation tool for this Plan is the Oneida County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, which provides the underlying regulatory framework that supports many of the Plan's policies. It is recommended that eventually the Schoepke Plan Commission be given responsibility for reviewing zoning applications and proposed land uses and for making formal recommendations to the Town Board. This would relieve political pressure on the Town Board related to zoning decisions and add credibility to Town recommendations that are forwarded to the County. In addition, the Plan Commission would be most familiar with the Schoepke Comprehensive Plan and better able to focus on land use issues coming before the Town. This is consistent with a large number of towns across Wisconsin.

Also recommended is that a standard form be used for recording Plan Commission zoning recommendations to the Town Board and Town Board zoning recommendations to the County, including all reasons for the recommendation and each member's vote on the matter, and that it be attached to the original zoning petition and also copied for Plan Commission records.

## RECOMMENDATION 2: TOWN ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

### a. Enhance procedures for review / acceptance of new Town Roads

The Plan Commission should be delegated the responsibility for review of development proposals involving creation/dedication of new Town roads including follow-up inspection prior to acceptance. This will improve consistency in the process and ensure that all Town roads meet state standards required for eligibility to receive road aids.

It is recommended that the Town develop and adopt a land division ordinance as one tool to facilitate this goal. A land division ordinance would reinforce the guidelines within the Town's Road Ordinance as to what standards a Town road must be built to. In addition, a land division ordinance would have secondary benefits in providing the Town with more say in how land is developed within the Town. The ordinance would be administered by the Plan Commission, however, the Town Board would have final say in all decisions.

### b. Town Road Improvement Program

The Town should undertake the development of a Town Road Improvement Plan (TRIP) to formalize the process of determining annual road improvements and establishing budget levels to meet needs. It is recommended that the Town more aggressively pursue Town Road Improvement Program (TRIP & TRIP-D) grants from Wisconsin Department of Transportation to help upgrade the Town road system.

## RECOMMENDATION 3: GROUNDWATER PLANNING

Due to the quality of the local groundwater the Town should undertake a ground water planning effort. This would include town-wide general protection efforts. Although there are a number of policies established within the Comprehensive Plan intended for groundwater protection, a more focused effort is needed to develop a complete and effective set of groundwater protection policies and programs for the Town. The land division ordinance could also be a useful tool in groundwater protection for the Town.

RECOMMENDATION 4: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION -

The Town of Schoepke must cooperate with neighboring communities and other units of government to minimize intergovernmental conflict and ensure that the goals and objectives of this plan are fully realized. Key recommendations include the following:

- ✓ Work with Oneida County to develop and implement an All Hazards Mitigation Plan for reducing the impacts of natural disasters on the Town and County.
- ✓ Continue to build on the initial framework established in the Intergovernmental Cooperation Chapter of this Plan.

RECOMMENDATION 5: INFORMATION AND EDUCATION -

Copies of this Plan should be made available to the public and all materials, maps, programs and information mentioned in the Plan should be assembled and displayed at the Town Hall, available for anyone to review when the facility is open or upon reasonable request. In addition, the same information should be made available on the Internet.

**B. PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATE**

An annual review is to be completed by the Plan Commission, comparing how each land use decision made during the year measured up to the goals and policies of the Plan. If a pattern of land use decisions inconsistent with the goals and policies of this Plan is found, the following options are to be considered:

- ✓ Appropriate revision should be made to bring decision-making back in line with Plan goals and policies
- ✓ The goals and policies themselves should be reviewed to ensure they are still relevant and worthwhile
- ✓ New implementation tools such as a local land division ordinance or building permit/site plan ordinance should consider gaining more control over land use decisions.

Although a comprehensive plan review every 10 years is required by the State, it is recommended here that a comprehensive review of this Plan by the Plan Commission should take place every 5 years, and that statistical information should be updated when available. An essential characteristic of any planning program is that it reflects the desires of the Town's citizens.

### **C. PLAN AMENDMENT PROCEDURE**

Amendments to this Plan may include minor changes to plan text or maps or major changes resulting from periodic review. Frequent changes to accommodate specific development proposals should be avoided. The Comprehensive Planning Law (§66.1001 Wis. Stats.) requires that the same process used to adopt the Plan will also be used to amend it, specifically:

An amendment or change may be initiated by either the Town Plan Commission or the Town Board and may result from a regular review or a request from a resident.

The Town Plan Commission prepares the specific text or map amendment being considered, holds a public meeting, and votes to recommend approval or disapproval of the proposed amendment, by resolution to the Town Board.

If an amendment is approved by resolution to the Town Board, then the Town Clerk publishes a 30-day Class 1 notice announcing a Town Board public hearing on the proposed changes. At the same time, the Town Clerk also mails this notice to all owners and operators of mines within the Town.

The Town Board conducts the public hearing and votes to either approve the Plan amendment by ordinance, disapprove, or approve with changes by ordinance.

Any approved changes are sent to:

- The school district, and the technical college district that serve the Town;
- All adjacent town clerks;
- Clerks of Price, Lincoln, and Oneida counties;
- The local library;
- North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; and
- WDOA, Division of Intergovernmental Relations, Comprehensive Planning Program.

### **D. PLAN CONSISTENCY BETWEEN CHAPTERS**

The state comprehensive planning law requires that the Implementation chapter describe how each chapter of the plan will be integrated and consistent with the other chapters. Preparing all the chapters of the Town of Schoepke Comprehensive Plan simultaneously has ensured that there are no known inconsistencies between the different chapters of the Plan.

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

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# **TOWN OF SCHOEPKE**

## **Public Participation Plan**

### **I. Background**

The Town recognizes the need to engage the public in the planning process. This document sets forth the techniques the Town will use to meet the goal of public participation. Therefore, this Public Participation Plan forms the basic framework for achieving an interactive dialogue between citizens, local decision makers, Town staff, and the NCWRPC.

The creation of the Public Participation Plan is a task required in meeting the requirements of Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Legislation (§66.1001 Wis. Stats.). As the planning process develops, it should be expected that deviations from the plan might occur.

### **II. Objectives**

The following is a list of objectives for the Public Participation Plan:

- Notify town residents, land owners, and other interested parties of the importance of participating in creating the Town Comprehensive Plan.
- Provide the public with opportunities to share their input with the Town Plan Commission and Town Board.
- Allow public access to all Town Comprehensive Plan chapters and maps created throughout the planning process on a web page available on the Internet.
- Request input from residents and landowners to represent the broadest range of perspectives and interests in the community as possible.
- Solicit public comment through a variety of means (i.e. through a web page on the Internet, printed notes in Town mailings, and orally), and in such a way that it may be carefully considered and incorporated into the comprehensive planning process.
- The process of public involvement should strengthen the sense of community.

The goal will be to inform, consult and involve the public and the communities served during each phase of the planning process. Hopefully, this will help balance the issues related to private property rights.

### **III. Techniques**

The public participation plan for the Town's comprehensive planning process will incorporate the following:

1. All meetings for the comprehensive planning process will be posted by the Town, and will be open to the public.
2. NCWRPC will create and maintain a web page on the Internet for the Town Comprehensive Plan. All Comprehensive Plan chapters and maps created will be posted to this web page throughout the planning process.
3. Comprehensive plan meeting handouts will be maintained by the Town, and available for review by the public at the town hall.
4. When the draft comprehensive plan is prepared, it will be available at the town hall, the Rhinelander library, and on the Town Comprehensive Plan web page.
5. NCWRPC will distribute the draft Comprehensive Plan to all surrounding communities and the County after the Town Plan Commission adopts a resolution in favor of adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.
6. Town Board will hold a public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan after the Town Plan Commission recommends adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.



**Town of Schoepke**

**Resolution For Adoption of a Public Participation Plan**

WHEREAS, the Town of Schoepke is required to prepare and adopt a Comprehensive Plan as outlined in Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, public participation is critical for the development of a sound plan; and


WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Town of Schoepke to approve a process to involve the public in the planning process; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Schoepke does approve and authorize the Public Participation Plan as presented.

ADOPTED on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008.

ATTEST:  Dick Dvorak, Clerk

The governing body of the Town of Schoepke has authorized this Resolution, dated today.

ATTEST:  James Sharon, Chairman

**ATTACHMENT B**  
**PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION**

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Town Board Ordinance - place holder.



Town Plan Commission Resolution - place holder.