

# Local Government Collaboration for Service Delivery

Presented By:  
Gary W. Becker

Wisconsin Towns Association  
Urban Towns Committee Workshop  
April 30, 2013



LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT  
INSTITUTE  
OF WISCONSIN  
BRINGING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TOGETHER TO SERVE

Bringing Local Governments Together to Serve

# Local Government Institute

- Wisconsin Towns Association
- Wisconsin Counties Association
- League of Wisconsin Municipalities
- Urban Alliance



# Local Government Institute

## Purpose:

Collaborate with others to find solutions for the efficient delivery and funding of local government services consistent with the needs of our citizens.

# Why Collaboration?

- Bottom-up approach to regional issues requires collaboration – alternative is top-down approach
- Collaborative approach is generally more effective and lower cost than individual units each addressing an issue on their own.
- Adopting a mindset of regional collaboration is linked to economic success and global competitiveness

# Legislative Authority

**Legislative authority for local government collaborative action in Wisconsin can be found in these statutes:**

- 66.0229 – Consolidation
- 66.0301 - Intergovernmental Cooperation (including joint action agencies and regional service delivery organizations)
- 66.0303 - Municipal Interstate Cooperation
- 66.0305 – Political Subdivision Revenue Sharing
- 66.0307 - Boundary Agreements (also addresses service delivery)

# Legislative Authority

- 66.0813 – Provision of Utility Service Outside of Municipality
- 66.0823 – Joint Local Water Authorities
- 66.1105 – Multi-jurisdictional TIF Districts
- 33.21 – Public Inland Lake Protection Districts
- 200 – Metropolitan Sewerage Districts
- 91.86 – Agricultural Enterprise Areas
- 92.12 – Soil & Water Conservation

# Collaboration in Practice

## LGI Findings:

- Collaboration is “in the genes” of local government – long history
- Collaborations must be voluntary and organic – not mandated. One size does not fit all.
- Focus on the way services are delivered, not the number of local government units.

# Lessons Learned – General Collaboration

- Collaboration can result in significant efficiencies over long-term, but not in short-term – not a quick fix
- Not all services are suitable for collaboration. Factors include:
  - Association with community identity
  - Geography: Scope and Limitations
  - Operating & Capital Costs
  - Ratio of Line Staff to Customers
  - Mandates



# Lessons Learned – General Collaboration

Obstacles to collaboration include:

- Turf
- Competition for Revenue/Growth
- Perceived Differences
- Perceived Loss of Identity, Access, Reduced Control and Accountability, Threat to Employees

# Lessons Learned – General Collaboration

Many obstacles can be overcome, but it takes nearly all of the following:

- Demonstrate improved service
- Clear fiscal benefit
- Shared perception of need
- Community support
- Trust
- Collaborative Leadership

# LGI Resources

- [www.localgovinstitute.org](http://www.localgovinstitute.org)
- Case Studies of Local Government Collaboration
- Roadmap for Government Transformation
- Lean Government Conference
- Regional Collaboration Initiative
- Upcoming Events

Gary Becker  
Executive Director  
Local Government Institute  
[Exec\\_dir@localgovinstitute.org](mailto:Exec_dir@localgovinstitute.org)  
[www.localgovinstitute.org](http://www.localgovinstitute.org)  
(608)831-1662



LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT  
INSTITUTE  
OF WISCONSIN  
BRINGING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TOGETHER TO SERVE