



**Wisconsin Land Information Council  
Minutes 2023-10-18**

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023  
**Time:** 1:00–3:00 p.m.  
**Location:** [WLIA Fall Regional Meeting](#) | Minocqua, Pointe Hotel and Suites  
**Remote ID:** [Click here to join the meeting](#) | Meeting ID: 250 855 236 205 | Passcode: bzNLU4  
 Or call in (audio only) +1 608-571-2209 | Phone Conference ID: 550 411 278#

<b>WLIC Appointees</b> (Y = present; N = not present; some participated via teleconference)					
Adam Derringer	Y	Sarah Hedtke (remote)	Y	Colter Sikora	Y
Kim Christman	Y	Chris Carrillo (remote)	Y	Jim Osborne (remote)	Y
Kelly Felton	Y	Christina Muller	Y	Howard Veregin (remote)	Y
Scott Hand	N	Cody Brommerich	Y	Cindy Wisinski	Y
Jim Giglierano	Y				

**Other Attendees**  
 Mike Friis, Peter Herreid, Nick Gamroth, Nik Anderson, Doug Avoles  
 Jerry Bougie, Adam Dorn, Brittany Goudos-Weisbecker, Nicole Hoepfner, Jim Landwehr,  
 Jennifer Solberg, Davita Veselenak, Ben Wildenberg

1. **Welcome and Introduction** (Adam Derringer)
2. **Approval of previous meeting’s minutes** from [2023-02-22](#)
  - Motion to approve by Felton, seconded by Wisinski.
  - Minutes approved.
3. **WLIC Business** (Mike Friis)
  - a. **Council member appointments**
    - At full membership with new [WLIC member](#) appointments made in fall of 2023 for 3-year terms.
4. **WLIP Program Update** (Mike Friis/Peter Herreid/Jim Giglierano)
  - a. **Lidar status and hydrography updates**
    - Giglierano provided updates on the U.S. Geological Survey 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) lidar grants.
    - For last year’s USGS 3DEP data, Wisconsin is waiting on delivery for some counties.
    - This year’s project included Manitowoc and Buffalo Counties.
    - A new proposal for 2024 projects was recently submitted (for Dane, Waushara, LaCrosse, Taylor, and Portage Counties).
    - There is an upcoming USGS 3D Hydrography Program. It will be different in that they are looking for watersheds. The county-by-county approach will need to be adjusted to become a more watershed-centered approach.
    - There is a One-Map project which was funded by the Department of Administration Wisconsin Coastal Management program. The pilot is for watershed areas in Outagamie and Brown Counties. The goal is to get to “analysis-ready data” and build a proof of concept.
    - The projected timeline has the contractor working on the first watershed in spring of 2024, followed by the evaluation process and then the remaining two watersheds. It could be at least a year and half to get all the data.

## b. WLIP grants and program status

- Herreid provided updates on WLIP grants and revenues.
- The WLIP 2024 grant announcement went out in late August. Grant applications are due December 31, 2023.
- Total grant eligibility amount is down from the previous year. 2024 statewide grant eligibility totals \$3.8 million, down from \$7.3 million for 2023 grants.
- Documents recorded during FY 2023 marked a 43% decline from FY 2021.
- Base budget eligibility statewide increase by 61% for 2024 over 2022. Base Budget grants increase when recording revenue goes down, which shrinks the margin of grants.
- Strategic Initiative Grants will be only \$10,000 per county for 2024, down from \$70,000.
- Base Budget grants increase when recording revenue goes down, which shrinks the margin of grants.
- Page 5 of the [2023 WLIP Report](#) shows the recording levels, with the number of documents recorded over the last 30 years.
- Lower recording numbers are most likely due to higher interest rates and tight housing supply. Carillo stated that lack of inventory to meet demand is the problem (for housing sales); interest rates are secondary.
- There was discussion of whether administrative costs for the Program could be decreased. Friis commented on program administrative costs. Generally, about 85% of future Land Information Fund funding is projected to be spent on grants. State administrative budget is pre-determined by the legislature in the biennial budget. These include the statewide parcel project work done by the State Cartographer's Office and review of municipal boundaries and annexations (averaging about \$73,000 for the review portion).
- The Land Information Fund used to be one fund, now the administrative costs and "aids to locals" (grants) are two different appropriations. To get unspent administrative funds back into aids would take a separate act of legislation.
- There was concern that it is hard for counties to do anything on the little funding that they are getting. Discussion points included the fact that counties are dealing with a pie that is getting smaller while demands are going up. To demonstrate the importance of the Program, county board members are one audience that can be targeted, as well as the Wisconsin Counties Association or Towns Association, as well as the state appropriators.
- Herreid noted that the grant application cannot be put out any earlier in the year, because DOA has to wait for legislature to appropriate funding in the biennial budget act. Grants are also calculated based on the previous fiscal year's recording numbers, which are not available generally until early August.
- Herreid provided updates on the Statewide Parcel Project. The Version 9 statewide parcel layer came out at the end of June, with a new web app for V9. Usage of the statewide parcel data is tracked by downloads and hits, reported in the project final reports, including the [V9 Final Report](#).
- The V10 request for county data will come out December 1st. No disruptive changes to the call for data are expected.
- For V10, no changes related to the repeal of personal property taxes are expected, because that goes into effect January 1, 2024. V10 will collect data for parcels as assessed on January 1, 2023.
- Herreid also noted that the E5 PLSS layer has been released. Upgrades include new corner integration and quarter-quarter-section polygons. DOA and the State Cartographer's Office are always looking for feedback.
- Veregin noted that there are no coordinates published for the parcel map, although the PLSS layer or the [Survey Control Finder](#) app does include the coordinates that are the best available, which is sometimes approximate and not survey-grade.

## 5. 2023 Wisconsin Comprehensive Plan and Local Land Regulations Inventory Report (Peter Herreid)

### a. Possible land information office roles in updating comprehensive plan &

### b. Potential county roles in getting more county and municipal ordinances online

- Herreid gave overview of the [2023 Wisconsin Comprehensive Plan and Local Land Regulations Inventory Report](#).
- The report was compiled from data collected by visiting every local government website (ordinances webpage) in the state of Wisconsin.
- Findings revealed that a lot of local government ordinances webpages are not well organized or comprehensive.
- For each of Wisconsin's 1,922 counties, cities, villages, and towns, the [Comp Plan and Land Regs Inventory](#) lists last known date of comprehensive plan adoption, whether a general zoning ordinance

has been adopted, whether a subdivision ordinance has been adopted, and link to the local government's ordinances webpage, if available.

- The report also found that over half of local government comp plans are out-of-date.
- Comprehensive plan currency matters because changes to subdivision ordinances or zoning ordinances must be made consistent with a current comprehensive plan, according to the comprehensive planning law's consistency requirement.
- New legislation for housing loans to be administered by the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) requires a local government's comprehensive plan to have been updated within the last five years.
- About 25% of local governments exercise general zoning or subdivision regulations *and* do not have a current comprehensive plan.
- 39% of local governments have no ordinances posted online or are lacking a significant portion of ordinances posted online.
- Regarding Land Information office roles, there is potential for contributions to the mapping part of plans. County LIOs can contract for and assist with this sort of mapping. For example, current and future land use maps could go in the plan or help with the planning process. There is an advantage in the county doing it because then the county retains the GIS data for future amendments and updates.
- Local governments are encouraged to work with counties and vice versa.
- Maps, such as those on [page 10-11](#) of the report show which county and municipal plans are out-of-date, while others show which are missing ordinances online.
- Some plans are created by regional planning commissions, but it is not always clear who does the mapping component of a comprehensive plan.
- Contact [Peter Herreid](#) with questions on the report.

## 6. Project Updates

### a. NG911 update from Zachary Hassler (Jim Giglierano)

- Zachary Hassler from the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) did not attend and was not able to provide a written update in advance of the meeting.
- There was discussion that it is expected that the DMA grant application process for Next Generation 9-1-1 grants to local governments—a program managed by DMA—will continue to evolve.

### b. Broadband update (Colter Sikora)

- Sikora provided updates from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.
- In the past year or so, PSC completed a broadband fabric challenge to communicate to the federal government locations that are underserved.
- Broadband mapping projects point to a need for a GIS layers of improved statewide building footprints, and with points on primary structures, may be an opportunity to coordinate with Next Generation 9-1-1.
- PSCW has rolled out the *Wisconsin Broadband Planning Map* (<https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/WisconsinBroadbandPlanningMap>).
- Users can view locations in the state, broadband serviceable locations, and identify unserved locations.
- PSCW is looking to roll in additional data sources, with planning in the works to come up with identification of serviceable pockets.

### c. Personal property tax exemption (Nick Gamroth)

- Gamroth presented on [2023 Wisconsin Act 12](#), which eliminated the personal property tax.
- It goes into effect on January 1, 2024 and will have wide ranging effects on assessment, taxation, local government land records software, and other real property-related practices at the local level.
- Assessors are getting guidance from the Wisconsin Property Assessment Manual (WPAM), but the guidance post-Act 12 from DOR has been limited.
- Gamroth shared a draft document titled, "*BUILDING(S), FIXTURE(S), AND/OR IMPROVEMENT(S) DOCUMENT (Wis. Stat. § 70.17 (3))*"
- The intention is to create a uniform document for use across the state, so that there is something recorded in the Register of Deeds office to create a parcel where that is necessary.
- Some aspects of the form are yet to be confirmed, such as the specification that if a GIS coordinate is used in the document, it must be done in the county coordinate system.
- There was discussion of some of the implications and intricacies of the law.
- The timeline before implementation of the law begins is tight, so work to complete the document and any supplemental instructional materials is crucial.

- The document will be out on [WROD website](#).
- Some affected records will be part of statewide parcel map.

**d. WLIA updates (Adam Derringer)**

- Derringer provided Wisconsin Land Information Association updates.
- One WLIA committee, the [Tech Committee](#), annually looks at the layers from which other datasets are created from, called [Foundational Layers](#). Score cards list data availability, standards where applicable, who maintains the data, and contact information. They are available on the WLIA webpage.
- WLIA is in the planning process for the next WLIA annual conference, which is to take place from February 28th-March 1st.

**e. Register of Deeds Recording Fee (Adam Derringer)**

- Derringer gave a brief history of the Register of Deeds recording fee and overview of a WLIA recording document fee proposal authored by the Legislative Committee.
- The proposal was arrived at after over a year of research, including the review of local land information office expenses over the last 10 years or so and review of county land information plans.
- Requirements, demands, and costs for land information projects has grown over the years. Many stakeholders in the land information community hold that there is not enough money to take on the projects that counties are being asked to do.
- As drafted, the proposal would raise the \$30 document recording fee to \$45 per document.
- Training and Education grant funding eligibility would increase from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Base Budget grants would go from \$100,00 to \$175,000.
- The WLIA Board is moving the idea forward, working with their lobbyist, and starting conversations with stakeholder groups.
- There was discussion about the fee amount in the proposal, with some expressing concern with the \$45 figure. Considerations include keeping up with costs, inflation, Wisconsin's fee amount relative to other states, and the likelihood of getting any proposed legislation passed.
- Wisinski asked that RODs be included in discussions. Derringer commented that there are RODs on the legislative committee. WLIA is starting to talk to more groups.
- Derringer requested that Council members take the idea back to their organizations. If there are comments, reach back to WLIA legislative team. Friis also stated that DOA relies on council members to reach out to their constituency.

**7. Discussion (Jim Giglierano)**

**a. Access to assessor data / b. Building inventory**

- Discussion postponed until next WLIC meeting.

**8. Next Steps/Action Items**

- Next WLIA meeting – [WLIA 2024 Annual Conference](#): February 28–March 1, Green Bay

**9. Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned at 3:19 pm