



DRAFT

Wisconsin Land Information Council Minutes 2024-10-16

Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2024
Time: 3:00–5:00 p.m.
Location: [WLIA Fall Regional Meeting 2024](#) | La Crosse, Radisson Hotel, Illinois Room
Remote ID: [Click here to join the meeting](#) | Meeting ID: 289 950 598 509 | Passcode: vn5Y83
 Or call in (audio only) +1 608-571-2209 | Phone Conference ID: 672 037 415#

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

Other Attendees

Mike Friis, Peter Herreid, Nik Anderson, Staci Hoffman, Zach Robinson, Jaime Martindale, Fred Iausly Monique Hassman, Chris Dickerson, Nick Gamroth, Sara Chiamulera, Paul Bernard, Cathy Cooper, Julie Lins, Jim Landwehr, Tim Dabbs, Davita Veselenak

1. **Welcome and Introduction** (Adam Derringer)
2. **Approval of previous meeting’s minutes** from [2024-06-05](#)
 - Motion to approve by Brommerich, seconded by Felton.
 - Minutes approved.
3. **WLIC Business (Mike Friis)**
 - a. **Accepting applications for WLIC positions**
(Real property lister, Land information officer, County surveyor, Utility industry representative)
 - Friis stated that four member’s terms are expiring.
 - Sitting members are welcome to reapply.
 - [Applications](#) are due November 15, 2024.
 - b. **Geographic Information Officer position update**
 - Friis reported on the Geographic Information Officer (GIO) position at the Department of Administration (DOA), which is currently vacant.
 - Derringer made remarks to celebrate Jim Giglierano’s service as GIO. Giglierano did a great job of securing some additional funding, making certain projects happen, and overall provided service that is appreciated by the land information community.
 - At DOA, Peter Herreid has taken over the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) lidar grant management responsibilities, so that lidar and hydrography grant projects will continue to have DOA staff support.
 - DOA is working on the GIO position description, will be sending it to the DOA Division of Personnel Management, and is seeking to fill the position as soon as possible through the human resources hiring process.
 - There are two other vacancies in the Division of Intergovernmental Relations, which are also with human resources.

4. WLIP Program Update (Peter Herreid)

a. WLIP grants and program status

- Herreid provided updates on Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) grants.
- Register of Deeds document recording levels have not picked up from historic lows, at least not to a significant degree.
- Last year was the lowest number of documents recorded in the history of the program. Statewide 734,083 documents were recorded in State FY2024, which is below the historic low of 770,705 set in FY2023. This increases the amount awarded in WLIP Base Budget grants and decreases Strategic Initiative grants.
- Unless document recordings pick up, Strategic Initiative Grants are likely to remain around \$10-20k.
- For counties, the 2025 WLIP [grant application](#) is due December 31, 2024.
- Counties are busy working on county [land information plans](#). Draft plans were due to DOA on September 30. The plans undergo DOA review and optional peer review. Herreid is on schedule to review all draft plans within a month of receipt.
- One new item in the plans is a question about how counties are handling the elimination of the personal property tax for Building(s), Fixture(s), and/or Improvement(s) (BFIs). DOA seeks to create guidelines for submission of these records for the next version of the statewide parcel map database.
- This cycle, the county land information plans also ask for more details about PLSS, with attention to the PLSS “[integration](#)” aspect.
- Final county land information plans with county land info council approval are due by December 31st, 2024.
- Herreid has taken responsibility at DOA for the 3DEP lidar grants and helped submit a 3DEP application for next year.
- Regarding [Act 235](#), Attolles Law firm put a memo for the Wisconsin Counties Association. DOA legal counsel reviewed the memo and concurred with the main themes.
- It looks like DOA will *not* need to remove the addresses from the statewide parcel map and app. Although it still hurts land records users to remove the names of judicial officers and their family members, it is better to not have to also shield/remove the address.
- DOA is hoping that the process for name opt-out in [757.07\(4m\)](#) can be equivalent to submittal of the written request for protection of personal information under [757.07\(4\)](#).
- It would be difficult and cumbersome to have two separate processes. DOA is hoping that the form created by the Director of State Courts can serve as an equivalent for the purpose of opting out names from the website. This looks like a possibility, but DOA has not seen the form and will need to coordinate with the Director of State Courts.
- Friis noted that continued dialog with legal services at DOA should enable a clear direction moving forward.
- Herreid stated that they want to avoid what AccessDane currently does, which is to allow anyone to opt their names out, not just judicial officials and their family members. Owner name has a lot of value for many different parcel data users.

5. Project Updates

b. 2025 Wisconsin Regional Orthoimagery Consortium status and Lidar Projects (Adam Derringer)

- Derringer reported that the primary Wisconsin Regional Orthoimagery Consortium (WROC) cycle is deep in planning mode for 2025. Sixty-six of 72 counties will be using the WROC program for their orthoimagery.
- All counties participating will acquire at least 6-inch resolution, and the resolutions continue to move in the direction of higher resolutions.
- They will be flying about half of counties in spring of 2025. Some counties are at 2-, 3-, 4-, or 5-year cycles. The WLIP is integral to the WROC program as counties look at their budgets.
- WROC partners include the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Emergency Management, the Bureau Indian Affairs, utilities, and private entities.
- Flights for imagery will start in March and generally go through May.
- For possible grant funding that some counties are pursuing, they hope to hear back by the end of this month.
- Derringer also provided updates on lidar projects. For the 2025 3DEP application, two grants were submitted.
- One application, for an area primarily in the Wolf River watershed, was for Menominee, Forest, and Outagamie Counties. At the Quality Level 1 standard of 8 points per square meter, it is a first attempt at targeting the contiguous blocks that USGS desires.

- A second application was submitted by SEWRPC for the seven-county SEWRPC region. Based on the Milwaukee example, it is for a 30 points per square meter standard.
- Announcements are expected by early December.
- It remains to be seen whether elections will impact funding for 3DEP or 3DHP, but future lidar grants are anticipated. Northwestern Wisconsin might have a good block of counties to be looking at for a future application.

c. Act 235 Judicial Privacy Law Implementation Update (Staci Hoffman, Peter Herreid)

- The Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) has a Judicial Officers Privacy Task Force, as does Greater Wisconsin's Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) Local chapter.
- Staci Hoffman from PRIA Local reported that the workgroup is working on corrections to the language in [Act 235](#) in order to amend the statute.
- An objective is to make it so that public-facing land records websites can remove just the name of a judicial officer and leave the address posted.
- Some education of policymakers is needed, on how important it is to have an address in the system.
- The legislation will also ideally be altered to exclude Register of Deeds from certain provisions which conflict with other laws applicable to RODs.
- A list of proposed legislative language changes has been compiled, with nine plus three newer items.
- As a next step, the workgroup plans to meet with Attolles law, the WLIA lobbyist, a WLIA liaison, and someone from the Wisconsin Counties Association, to present recommended language for the Director of State Courts [Legislative Committee of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference](#).
- April 1, 2025 is the implementation date for Act 235. The goal is to have something to the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) by January.
- The group intends to send the language to the legislature, but wants to partner with the Director of State Courts as best as possible.
- There was discussion of the usefulness of concrete examples in helping legislators to understand what is at stake, and the scope of the impact of redactions for land records stewards and end users.
- It was clarified that the legislation for the program [Safe at Home](#) is separate and distinct from Wisconsin's 2023 Act 235, sometimes referred to as Daniel's Law.
- Safe at Home is "easier" to implement, in that it involves a protected person moving to a new location, the assignment of a PO box address, and is not concerned with redaction of historic information. Counties can look to their peer counties for implementation advice on Safe at Home.

d. State Cartographer's Office Update (Howard Veregin)

- Veregin from the State Cartographer's Office (SCO) was not in attendance, no SCO update.

6. Other Business

- Derringer introduced the idea of WLIA-led legislative options for increasing land information funding for counties and the Wisconsin Land Information Program.
- Nik Anderson reported that WLIA is revisiting the idea of how to increase revenue, based on proposed changes to the Register of Deeds document recording fee in legislation WLIA put forth to increase the fee from \$30 to \$45 (2023 [Assembly Bill 915](#)).
- That legislation did not pass, but the goal is still a high priority, so WLIA continues to work on ideas.
- Representative [Robert Brooks](#), chair of the [Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate](#), suggested consideration of Wisconsin's real estate transfer fee (RETR).
- The RETR fee is currently 30 cents per \$100 of real estate value, or \$3 per \$1,000.
- Last year, legislation supported by the Wisconsin Counties Association and Wisconsin Realtors Association, proposed to decrease the RETR fee (2023 [Assembly Bill 277](#)), but it did not pass. It would have decreased fee from \$3 to \$2 dollars per \$1,000 of home value. Over 3 years, it would have changed the proportion going to the state's General Program Revenue (GPR) of 80%, with 20% retained by counties, to a 50-50 split over three years.
- Anderson named some of the possible benefits of targeting the RETR fee, rather than the ROD document recording fee. The document recording fee is a \$30 fee flat that was set in 2010. Inflation alone would bring the fee to \$42 dollars, and the WLIA-proposed amount was barely above that at \$45. Because home values increase with inflation, a RETR funding increase would not have to be revisited as often.
- One idea under development from WLIA idea is to decrease the RETR fee from \$3 to \$2 dollars per \$1,000 and alter the distribution, so that 50% of the fee remains with counties, 30% goes to the State

GPR, and 20% goes to the State specifically dedicated to the purpose of WLIP grants to counties for land information.

- This 20% to the WLIP is essentially the equivalent of last year's WLIA-proposed legislation.
- How the 20% would be distributed in form of grants is to be determined. Such a proposal would result in an increase of roughly \$15 million a year for land information.
- Given the current state budgetary surplus, the legislature might like to reallocate funds to a program that would be a priority rather than GPR. The RETR fee makes up about 1.6 percent of the state budget.
- There is nothing official from the Wisconsin Counties Association or the Realtors Association, but they may both be on board. The Realtors want to drop the RETR fee from 3 to 2 dollars, thus decreasing the tax on home sellers. Similarly, counties want funding for counties.
- The support of the Realtors Association will be crucial. Also important, if legislation is introduced, will be vocal and visible community support from stakeholder organizations.
- One consideration is appropriation structure. It is to be determined if funds could be captured in a single appropriation linked to the Land Information Fund at DOA, or earmarked, in a separate grant process.
- Fred lausly stated that, ideally, structuring the funding as part of the WLIP is a WLIA goal. Even though it is a different funding source, WLIA's goal is the same as with AB915.
- There was agreement that a different appropriation and process would complicate it.
- How to determine grant eligibility for counties has not yet been determined.
- It has not yet been decided if any proposed legislation would be presented as standalone legislation or incorporated into the state budget.
- In other business, Colter Sikora provided an update from state agencies, specifically the State Agency Geospatial Information Committee (SAGIC).
- On October 2, 2024, SAGIC hosted the first ever [State Agency GIS Symposium](#) for state agency mappers, focusing on both technical and programmatic GIS topics. Jim Lacy at the State Cartographer's Office and Christine Koeller from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation led the organizational work. With over 80 attendees and many new faces, it was a successful event, and feedback received so far has been positive.

7. Next Steps/Action Items

- Next WLIA meeting – [WLIA 2025 Annual Conference](#): February 26-28; Appleton

8. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.