



# DRAFT

## Wisconsin Land Information Council Minutes 2025-02-26

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025  
**Time:** 2:00–4:00 p.m.  
**Location:** [WLIA 2025 Annual Conference](#) | Appleton, Hilton Paper Valley Hotel, Redwood room  
**Remote ID:** [Click here to join the meeting](#) | Meeting ID: 286 335 649 45 | Passcode: x3VB7HS6  
 Or call in (audio only) +1 608-571-2209 | Phone Conference ID: 387 328 713#

<b>WLIC Appointees</b> (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	Y
Scott Hand	N	Cody Brommerich	Y	Cindy Wisinski	Y
GIO (Vacant)					

**Other Attendees**

Mike Friis, Peter Herreid, Nik Anderson, Nick Gamroth, Adam Dorn, Staci Hoffman, Fred lausly, Zach Robinson, Ryan Smith, Davita Veselenak

1. **Welcome and Introduction** (Adam Derringer)
2. **Approval of previous meeting’s minutes** from [2024-10-16](#)
  - Motion to approve by Felton, seconded by Sikora.
  - Minutes approved.
3. **WLIC Business** (Mike Friis)
  - a. **Appointments for WLIC positions**  
 (Real property lister, Land information officer, County surveyor, Utility industry representative)
    - Applications for open WLIC positions were submitted to the Governor’s Office but have not yet gotten back confirmation. There is the presumption that members reapplying will carry on.
    - The [WLIC bylaws](#) state that, until a new person is appointed, a council member whose term has lapsed may serve as an interim member until DOA (Department of Administration) makes an official appointment.
  - b. **Geographic Information Officer position update**
    - The Geographic Information Officer (GIO) position is currently vacant. DOA staff have reviewed the position description (PD). The Governor’s Executive Budget for 2025-2027 does not affect the position.
    - The timeline for posting the position is not certain. There are other vacancies in the DOA Division of Intergovernmental Relations that are in-progress with human resources.
    - Peter Herreid continues to fulfill duties that GIO Jim Giglierano once did, such as administration of the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) lidar grants.
  - c. **2025-27 Executive Budget**
    - Friis summarized some of the items from the Governor’s 2025-27 Budget Bill.
    - The Governor did include an item that recommends an increase in the Register of Deeds (ROD) document recording fee (“[Land Information Program Funding Increase](#)”).

- As part of this proposal, there is also a piece in which the Governor recommends making a technical change to the Land Information Fund appropriation. This would allow dollars saved from administrative expenses, which are in an appropriation that accrues interest, to be distributed as grants to counties for land information.
- A line item for GIS software in the Governor’s budget would go to the DOA facilities team (Division of Facilities & Transportation Services).
- There is also an item related to judicial privacy, which looks to expand the Wisconsin Supreme Court Marshal’s Office.

#### 4. WLIP Program Update (Peter Herreid)

##### a. WLIP grants and program status

- Herreid provided WLIP updates, including a new deadline for county parcel data submissions to DOA. The deadline was moved up to March 7th this year. DOA and the State Cartographer’s Office (SCO) did not want to straddle the implementation of [Act 235 \(\\$757.07\(4m\)\)](#), which goes into effect on April 1, 2025. There is concern that data sharing might temporarily freeze when counties react to the new law. The goal is to get all parcel data collected by March 31st. The additional effort by counties to meet the deadline is appreciated.
- For 2026, counties should plan to submit data “fit for public consumption,” which means data should *not* include shielded/redacted names of judicial officers.
- The 2025 WLIP grant agreements are being executed and will be returned to counties in March.
- Document recording levels remain low. 2024 was the lowest recorded year yet, as captured in the [2024 WLIP Report](#).
- Absent any major changes in revenue, Strategic Initiative grants can be expected to remain at the \$20,000 level for 2026.
- For Act 235 implementation, DOA is recommending that counties consider making the process for judicial officer name opt out rely on the form created by the Director of State Courts (DSCO).
- DOA/SCO want to minimize the removal of (non-judicial) owner names in the local parcel data, and to retain addresses. This data is highly valued by end users.

#### 5. Project Updates

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

- Derringer reported on the Wisconsin Regional Orthoimagery Consortium (WROC) imagery program.
- There are 32 counties flying county-wide projects in spring 2025. The program existed for 2023-2024 as well. In all, 68 counties are utilizing the program to collect county-wide imagery, which does not count tribal and municipal entities who also use the program. There are now over 100 funding partners.
- New for 2025, counties are acquiring 3-inch imagery.
- Contracts are being completed. Data will be available by the end of the first quarter of 2026. Rebate checks will go back to counties at the end of Quarter 1 or early Quarter 2.
- Efforts continue with the lidar grant program, which is based largely off 3DEP.
- 2024 datasets have been delivered to USGS (United States Geological Survey). Hopefully between March and August, USGS will release the data.
- Wisconsin submitted two grant projects for 2025 lidar flights. A project in the northeast was already given notice of award. Awaiting news on a southeast co-op project, for 30 point per meter lidar collection for seven counties in the SEWRPC (Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission) area.
- Awards have come as late as April in the past from USGS. Flights are planned and the surveys are set in advance.

##### b. Legislative update (Nik Anderson)

- Anderson reported on legislative efforts from the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA).
- WLIA is supporting legislation that would utilize Wisconsin’s real estate transfer fee (RETF) as a new revenue source for Land Information, rather than just the Register of Deeds document recording fee.
- [Representative Brooks](#) and [Senator Stafsholt](#) have been engaged on possible RETF legislation.
- A bill is being drafted that would decrease the RETF from \$3 to \$2 dollars per \$1,000 of real estate value. It would change 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. As previously drafted, implementation would be staggered over three years to get from 80/20 to 50/50.

- The county portion of the new RETF level (50% of the RETF revenue) would go to the county general fund.
- WLIA made recommendations to the bill's authors. The recommendation is for 20% of the overall fee (or 40% of the state revenue portion) to go to the Land Information Fund to be distributed as WLIP grants to counties. This scenario would produce \$15 million more in grants to counties, in addition to what is already collected via document recording fees.
- The recommendations included raising the Base Budget grants to \$175k, Training and Education grants to \$5k, and using approximately 47% of the new Land Information Fund revenue for Contribution-Based grants, which would utilize a previously unused grant type already in administrative rule.
- Contribution-Based grants administered by DOA would be calculated via the percentage that each county contributes in recording fees of the whole amount received by the state. The Contribution-based grants would have the effect of increasing the individual county funding at approximately the same level as increasing the amount of recording fees a county could retain for land information.
- It is not clear yet if the RETF proposal would be part of the budget bill or separate legislation.
- WLIA is planning a large outreach effort, to put organizational support behind the legislation, so that stakeholders can communicate their support to legislators. WLIA plans wide outreach to stakeholders soon and will encourage stakeholders to give written or verbal testimony.
- Counties must create a "land records notification" or "property fraud alert" system by January 1, 2026. This is important to the Realtors. Under such a system, a property owner gets notified when their name appears on a document recorded at the Register of Deeds, as a mechanism of property fraud protection.
- The Department of Revenue is currently working on an update to the real estate transfer form.
- There was discussion of the desirability of going straight to a 50/50 split rather than staggering toward that over 3 years. However, WLIA will prioritize the aspect of the legislation that increases Land Information funding by 20 percent of the new RETF, regardless of the staggering details.
- If there are any counties that may not need additional land information funding, Anderson and Gamroth asked for consideration of what is in the best interest of county neighbors or the profession as a whole.
- There was discussion of the mechanism for counties to send the fee to state, which now goes to the Department of Revenue (DOR). It is unclear how this 20 percent portion would come to DOA. There could potentially be existing process integration, to ensure it is efficient.
- Friis said that once there is a draft bill introduced, it can be shared with DOA's legislative liaison, who can communicate with DOR's liaison.
- Gamroth spoke about trailer legislation for 2023 Act 12 regarding Building(s), Fixture(s), and Improvement(s) (BFIs).
- WLIA is finishing a white paper recommending a number of amendments addressing BFIs. They worked with DOR and Attolles Law on it. It is hoped it will clear up Act 12 issues, such as parcels of land without legal descriptions recorded in the ROD office.

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

- Dorn provided updates from the WLIA [Judicial Officers Privacy Task Force](#) on implementation issues around Act 235.
- WLIA created several documents, including a "[Navigating Compliance](#)" document to help local governments make decisions with their legal counsel.
- The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) will hold [webinars](#), including one on March 7th which is targeted to municipalities.
- WCA has a draft of confidentiality agreements for counties to use with vendors or contractors for data that cannot be shared publicly.
- There are proposed amendments in progress, from DSCO, as well as from Greater Wisconsin's Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) Local, and WCA. The chance of seeing trailer legislation pass before April 1st is low, but amendments might pass after that date.
- The DSCO form for judicial officers will be available only from DSCO and will be a confidential record.
- Local government data brokers who receive a completed form are encouraged to accept it on face value. The judge's contact information is on the form, should there be a need to contact them.
- [Staci Hoffman](#) has a list of the fields that are on the form.
- Dorn stated that local governments should keep addresses in local records websites when judicial officials' names have been removed and use the DSCO form as the process for owner name opt out, as Herreid recommended.

- Transactions between units of government or software vendors will require confidentiality agreements. They are recommended for exchanges with municipalities and assessors.
- For some types of less-used records, like searchable digital plat books, it may be more practicable for counties to take these records offline and see what happens with demand for such records.
- Andy Phillips already provided the confidentiality agreement to all county corporation counsels in the state. Hoffman will send it to all RODs.
- Senator Wanggaard and Representative Tusler’s offices are both working on legislative amendments for Act 235. WLIA has been working with Senator Wanggaard.
- There are many questions remaining, including carveouts for land information websites and RODs and other questions of local-level implementation.

**d. Coastal erosion, lidar data, and implications for real property** (Howard Veregin)

- Veregin spoke on an informational item stemming from the Coastal Hazards working group.
- The idea is to couple coastal erosion estimates with information on real property. Cliff erosion is a significant hazard in the state, especially on the Lake Michigan coast.
- SCO has had some discussions regarding the use of lidar devices attached to drones to project coastal erosion rates in certain counties.
- They are interested in coupling such data with parcel data, building footprints, and assessment data, to do a pilot study to assess coastal erosion in a test area and investigate methods of estimating how land and improvements might be affected by the erosional process.
- Interested parties should reach out to [Howard Veregin](#).
- Friis spoke on the issue of state-owned lakebeds and legislation that would allow communities to develop on lakebed fill.
- There are methodological questions about how to determine the ordinary high watermark and what geospatial or other data might be used to achieve this.
- Because the ordinary high watermark cannot be determined by looking at a map, it will be a tall task to determine the watermark when Wisconsin became a state in 1848.

**e. State Agency updates** (Colter Sikora)

- Sikora reported from the State Agency Geospatial Information Committee (SAGIC) that there is new leadership.
- The SAGIC Chair is Samantha Olivieri from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. Alex Krebs from the Department of Military Affairs is Vice Chair. Nina Rihn from the Department of Natural Resources serves as Secretary.
- SAGIC may host another symposium event in the fall.
- From [Jim.Young@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jim.Young@wisconsin.gov) and the WI DOA Municipal Boundary Review (MBR) Team:
  - “The WI DOA Municipal Boundary Review (MBR) Team would like to share this reminder with Land Information Officers and others that assist City and Village officials and their attorneys with creating legal description and plat/scale map documents for land transfer ordinances (annexations, attachments, and detachments). Please always encourage municipal officials and attorneys that use County GIS Maps for this purpose to review the WI DOA MBR [Ordinance Filing Checklist](#) to guide them in creating a “complete legal description” and associated plat/scale map that are compliant with statutory ordinance filing requirements [Wis. Stats. 66.0217(9)(a)]. For those municipal officials in both rural and urban counties, it is always a best practice to review the resources available on the WI DOA DIR’s [Municipal Boundary Review](#) landing page and consult with MBR staff before finalizing ordinance documents to use for public notices, board/council meetings’ adoptions, and subsequent ordinance filing/recording purposes.”
- Zach Robinson noted that the statewide Esri Master Purchase Agreement (MPA) is in progress. Contact [Larry Cutforth](#) at DNR with questions.

**6. Next Steps/Action Items**

- Next WLIA meeting likely June 4<sup>th</sup> – [WLIA 2025 Spring Conference](#): June 4-6, Pewaukee

**7. Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned at 3:46 pm