



DRAFT

Wisconsin Land Information Council Minutes 2025-06-04

Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 6, 2025
Time: 1:00–3:00 p.m.
Location: [WLIA 2025 Spring Conference](#) | Pewaukee, Ingleside Hotel
Remote ID: [Click here to join the meeting](#) | Meeting ID: 277 267 982 949 4 | Passcode: 2dS3y8yq
Or call in (audio only) +1 608-571-2209 | Phone Conference ID: 683 557 970#

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 | N | Cody Brommerich | Y | Cindy Wisinski | Y |
| GIO (Vacant) | | | | | |

Other Attendees

Mike Friis, Peter Herreid, Davita Veselenak, Nik Anderson, Nick Gamroth, Zach Robinson, Adam Dorn

- Welcome and Introduction** (Adam Derringer)
- Approval of previous meeting's minutes** from [2025-02-26](#)
 - Motion to approve by Felton, seconded by Christman.
 - Minutes approved.
- WLIC Business** (Mike Friis)
 - Appointments for WLIC positions**
(Real property lister, Land information officer, County surveyor, Utility industry representative)
 - Friis reported on [Council membership](#) vacancies.
 - Names for applicants were submitted to the administration, but have not heard back.
 - In December of 2025, the term will be up for the licensed professional land surveyor representative.
 - Geographic Information Officer position update**
 - Friis reported on the Geographic Information Officer (GIO) position, which is currently vacant.
 - There are a number of vacancies in the Department of Administration (DOA) Division of Intergovernmental Relations, with not a lot of capacity behind them. These include Plat Review and Municipal Boundary Review positions.
 - Some of these positions have been open longer than the GIO position.
 - The timeline is not certain. Historically, the hiring process at DOA can take time.
 - Peter Herreid continues to fulfill duties that GIO Jim Giglierano once did, such as administration of the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) lidar grants.
 - 2025-27 Executive Budget**
 - Friis reported on the item in the Governor's biennial budget called "[Land Information Program Funding Increase](#)" ([Register of deeds recording fees; land information program](#)) that proposed to increase the Register of Deeds (ROD) document recording fee to raise revenue for the Land Information Fund.
 - As part of the Governor's proposal, there was a piece in which the Governor recommended making a technical change to a Land Information Fund appropriation. This would allow dollars saved from

administrative expenses to be distributed as grants to counties for land information. Currently, administrative savings of about \$1 million from previous fiscal years have accumulated in an appropriation for the Land Information fund and cannot be used for WLIP grants or any other purpose.

- An [omnibus motion](#) introduced on May 8, 2025 removed the [land information item](#) from the budget bill, removing both the recording fee increase and the technical change to access administrative savings for grants.
- As it stands, nothing in the current version of the 2025-27 budget bill ([AB50/SB45](#)) impacts what the previous capacity of the Land Information Program has been. Money in the Land Information Fund cannot be spent on anything other than WLIP grants and state administrative expenses.
- Herreid noted that for the current fiscal year, all or nearly all of the funds in the Land Information Fund appropriation for state administrative expenses will have been spent by fiscal year end.
- There was discussion of how to access administrative savings from previous years in the Land Information appropriation, to be distributed as grants to counties. It would require legislation to make a change to the appropriation.

4. WLIP Program Update (Peter Herreid)

a. WLIP grants and program status

- Herreid provided WLIP program updates.
- Register of Deeds document recording levels remain low. Levels are still near the [historic low](#) for the last 30 years, although DOA's figures lag behind by a few months.
- Therefore, Strategic Initiative grants are likely to remain at the \$20,000 level per county in 2026.
- The Strategic Initiative grant figure is finalized around August of each year, with the grant application expected by September.

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.
- 2025 has been a big year, with the WROC program in a primary year of 5-year window.
- About 26 thousand square miles of the state has acquired new imagery, much of it 3-inch resolution.
- Despite challenging spring conditions, the data was successfully captured. Processing and ground control has gone well. Data is going out the door.
- Program participants numbered well over 100, with 64 counties, multiple municipalities, agencies, utilities, private entities, and many other partners.
- WROC will produce another leaf-off statewide imagery layer with no data older than 3 years old and a high level of precision in horizontal accuracy.
- Work has already begun for 2026. Multiple counties plan to collect.
- Regarding the [3DEP lidar grant program](#), efforts continue.
- In 2024, there were five Quality Level 1 (QL1) projects—Dane, LaCrosse, Portage, Taylor, and Waushara. Those datasets are nearing finalization. 2024 project data should be available the summer of 2025.
- In 2025, two grant applications were submitted. One co-op application was submitted by Rob Merry of SEWRPC (Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission) for Walworth, Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, and Ozaukee counties. Data will be at the 30 point per meter lidar data standard. Targeting about a tenth of a foot for vertical accuracy. The data was collected early this spring. Good data is anticipated.
- The second application submitted by DOA went through the USGS Geospatial Products and Services Contracts (GPSC) route. It resulted in QL1 lidar data for Langlade, Menominee, Shawano, Waupaca, and Outagamie Counties. Due to delays finalizing the contract at the federal level, data collection will occur in fall of 2025.
- Planning is already underway for 2026 with thoughts toward 2027 as well.

b. Act 235 Judicial Privacy Law implementation update (Nick Gamroth, Peter Herreid)

- Act 235 went into effect on April 1. Herreid stated that for the statewide parcel map, there have been no requests for judicial officer information redaction under [2023 Act 235 \(§757.07\)](#).
- Gamroth reported public agencies have received fewer initial requests than anticipated. Some challenges are occurring, such as requests to shield incorrect documents and non-specific requests to shield any information.
- Gamroth stated that the number shielding requests across the state might be low because some judges do not want to fill out the application form for shielding. Judicial officers know there are other mechanisms for protecting privacy like filing a property in an LLC or trust.

c. Act 235 Judicial Privacy Law proposed amendments AB171/SB169 (Nick Gamroth)

- For Act 235, there is trailer legislation with proposed amendments to [AB171/SB169](#).
- The WLIA Task Force on Act 235 is led by [Adam Dorn](#).
- For AB171, there was a public hearing on May 7th. Fred lausly and Staci Hoffman testified. It passed as amended by the committee on May 29th.
- For SB169, a public hearing was held May 27th. Fred lausly and Staci Hoffman testified. [SB169](#) was in Executive session as of June 4th.
- Some of the proposed amended language deals with confidentiality agreements. Part of one amendment allows for the transfer of records between government entities. However, the agency must notify the judicial officer of the transfers in the manner provided on the form.
- Gamroth raised concern that agencies do not want to have to send out notifications year-round, if the amendment passes as written.
- One proposed idea from Dane County is that agencies could combine their notification to judges of the completion of the redaction task with a notice that the agency will, periodically throughout the year, be sharing that data with different government agencies
- Gamroth also provided updates on [2023 Act 126](#), which goes into effect on July 1, 2025. It deals with election officials' personal information, and could impact land records.
- Statute [19.36\(14\)](#) says authorities shall not provide access to an election official's personally identifiable information.
- Proposed amendments in [AB134/SB126](#) change the privacy protections to be request-based rather than automatic.

d. Legislative update on AB216/SB218 Real Estate Transfer Fee (Nik Anderson)

- Nik Anderson from the [WLIA Legislative Committee](#) reported on proposed real estate transfer fee (RETR) legislation, [AB216/SB218](#).
- A public hearing was held on SB216. Waiting for SB218 to be heard in a general session and possibly have a hearing scheduled.
- The Governor's Office was initially concerned about possible impacts on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the state, but has re-examined the issue and determined the proposed legislation would *not* have negative impacts on ARPA funding.
- WLIA does not expect to see movement on the proposed legislation until there is movement on the state budget.
- Anderson provided information showing that the legislation benefits counties, by about doubling the funds they receive for land information.
- Herreid noted that the formula for calculating WLIP grants, including the proposed contribution-based grants, is detailed in the legislation.
- There was discussion of the need to build support for the proposal.
- With the proposed legislation, there is county concern that because a portion of fee goes back to the county, *not* designated for land information, it is going into the county general fund and therefore might not get seen by land records departments.
- If the legislation passes, possible solutions could involve advocacy, education, and outreach.
- It was suggested that maybe the Wisconsin Counties Association could advocate, to help earmark a portion of the funds toward land records, or structure it in a way that has county land information council oversight.
- The Land Information Officers network (LION) could also step in for advocacy.
- Materials like a one-page factsheet could be helpful, as well as presentations at conferences and workshops.
- For messaging, materials might relate the funding to what general audiences, like a county board, find valuable, how land records data and geospatial data are heavily used by end-users, and how the funding impacts decision-makers day-to-day.
- Herreid stated that the fiscal estimate on [AB216/SB218](#) from DOA should be available soon.
- Derringer encouraged Council members to continue the discussion on the unspent WLIP administrative funds as well as advocating to move along the filling of the GIO position, possibly in the form of a letter.

6. Next Steps/Action Items

- Next WLIA meeting – WLIA 2025 Fall Regional Meeting– October 13-15, Madison

7. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm ###