



DRAFT

Wisconsin Land Information Council Minutes 2026-10-12

Meeting Date: Monday, October 12, 2026
Time: 2:00–4:00 p.m.
Location: [WLIA 2026 Fall Conference \(GIS Pro 2026\)](#) | Hilton Milwaukee, Miller Room, 4th Floor
Remote ID: [Click here to join the meeting](#) | Meeting ID: 262 610 521 677 380 | Passcode: f9KW6v8m
Or call in (audio only) +1 608-571-2209 | Phone Conference ID: 950 748 454#

WLIC Appointees (Y = present; N = not present; some participated via teleconference)					
Adam Derringer	Y	Sarah Hedtke	Y	Colter Sikora	Y
Kim Christman	Y	Chris Carrillo	N	Joe Tew	Y
John Grams	Y	Christina Muller	N	Howard Veregin	Y
Steve Schauer	N	Cody Brommerich	Y	Rachel Thompson	Y
GIO (Vacant)					

Other Attendees

Mike Friis, Peter Herreid, Davita Veselenak, Lucille Hentzen, Joe Fleischmann.

- Welcome and Introduction** (Adam Derringer)
- Approval of previous meeting's minutes** from [2026-05-18](#)
 - Motion to approve by Tew, seconded by Grams.
 - Minutes approved.
- WLIC Business** (Mike Friis)
 - Council membership for WLIC positions**
 - Friis reported on council membership.
 - The terms for several [council members](#) will end on December 31st, 2026:
 - Geospatial professional
 - Land title or financial lending industry representative
 - Representative of realtor industry
 - Public safety or emergency communications representative
 - Representative of state or federal government
 - Applications, available on the [WLIC webpage](#), are due January 11, 2027.
 - Geographic Information Officer position update**
 - Friis reported on the Geographic Information Officer (GIO) position at the Department of Administration (DOA), which is currently vacant.
 - The timeline to fill the GIO position will likely be delayed by the upcoming change in administration. With an upcoming gubernatorial change, there will be a transition team.
 - A transition team might be a good venue for stakeholders to discuss the importance of the Council, the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP), and the GIO position.
 - The GIO is still in the DIR HR hiring queue, but other position vacancies have priority. The position description will go through a review by the DOA Division of Personnel Management. There is a position number for the GIO, although position numbers may be transferred to other programs, as position authority is scarce and creating a new position number requires legislation.

- Some groups submitted letters of support for filling the position, including the Land Information Officers Network (LION) and State Agency Geospatial Information Committee (SAGIC) by way of an email from Sikora.
- Additional comments on the GIO PD can be sent to [Mike Friis](#).
- [Joe Tew](#) expressed a desire for the GIO to potentially be involved in the Wisconsin Spatial Reference System (WSRS) Task Force, relating to the effort headed by the National Geodetic Survey to upgrade the nation's National Spatial Reference System. The new reference frame will come out in 2027.
- Tew took over for Richard Kleinmann as Task Force co-chair, with [Howard Veregin](#).
- The WSRS webpages hosted by the State Cartographer's Office (www.sco.wisc.edu/community/wsrs2022) and the [Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors](#) will soon be updated to reflect the "reboot" of the WSRS group now that it has become active again.
- The GIO could potentially be involved in one or more WSRS Task Force sub-groups, which exist in areas like education, implementation, technical, and legislative issues.

c. 2026 WLIP Report

- Herreid gave an overview of the 2026 WLIP Report (https://doa.wi.gov/DIR/2026_WLIP_Report.pdf).
- The annual report features a list of program activities and accomplishments, with program data and analysis. It links to several other files documenting program activities, like the Statewide Parcel Map Initiative's [V12 Final Report](#).
- The annual WLIP report updates many of the outdated data, figures, and graphics in the outdated 2016 WLIP Program Plan. An additional graph depicting the distribution of funding to all 72 counties was added this year. The report can be a useful resource for presentations and Land Information Officers and others should feel free to borrow graphs and figures from this public record.

4. WLIP Program Update (Peter Herreid)

a. WLIP grants and program status

- Herreid provided WLIP updates. The 2027 WLIP [grant application](#) for counties is due December 31st. Counties are eligible for Strategic Initiative grants at the \$40,000 level, which is double the previous year. Future projections are difficult to make, but Herreid expects that for 2028, the number may go down to \$30,000 per county.
- In 2026, the WLIP and the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program coordinated Wisconsin state agencies' first application for a program called the U.S. Geological Survey's 3D National Hydrography Program (3DHP). The 3DHP project will create elevation-derived hydrography data over northeast Wisconsin in the Green Bay area. Partner funding was provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. It will leverage data created for the USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP). The project is uniquely focused on watersheds—not county boundaries.

5. Project Updates

a. 2025 Wisconsin Regional Orthoimagery Consortium status and lidar projects (Adam Derringer)

- Derringer provided information on lidar efforts.
- At the federal level, the 3DEP and 3DHP applications have been delayed, which will impact the timing of the 2027 data collection.
- For lidar collection, Ayres Associates often collects data over areas defined by county boundaries, but aligned with the USGS preference for groups of counties that cover watersheds. Last year, data was collected for 8 counties in the Upper Fox River Valley area. For 2027, the target may be the Chippewa watershed area.
- 3DHP projects make use of lidar data to create hydrological data that meets a certain specification.
- DOA is the grantee for the 3DHP project, and DOA executes grant agreements with the counties.
- Counties contribute about 40 percent of project costs for 3DEP projects. There could be federal partners beyond USGS, like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for 3DEP or 3DHP projects.
- Derringer also provided updates relating to the Wisconsin Regional Orthoimagery Consortium (WROC).
- For 2026, there were 19 projects to collect imagery, all of which, at least a preliminary level, have been delivered.
- On the topic of imagery collection specific to tribal lands, there is a process for engagement with tribes to respect tribal sovereignty and their concerns.
- Herreid noted that over 65 counties have made their imagery data available through the [GeoData@Wisconsin](#) geospatial data portal. Imagery downloads in the last year numbered about 3,000, while lidar downloads numbered about 23,000.

- Counties can take advantage of GeoData storage and hosting for public download, as it may be more cost effective than self-hosting. Other avenues, like Esri's Community Maps, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) may also help with data hosting.

b. WLIP Program Plan discussion (Adam Derringer and John Grams)

- Derringer and Grams had circulated comments on a document, the *WLIP Program Plan: 2016-2021*.
- Significant sections of the report are out-of-date. Many objectives have been successfully accomplished. Other data and information in the report could be updated.
- Herreid clarified that DOA has moved the *2016 WLIP Program Plan* to the WLIP [Legacy Materials](#) webpage, in order to avoid confusion about its currency and relevancy.
- There was discussion about the scope and purpose of Council efforts surrounding the plan document. Questions from the wide-ranging discussion centered on a broad number of issues:
 - Would an update be a total re-write or minor, and what might a "lightweight" update look like?
 - The possibility of a "living plan" that is regularly updated.
 - How often would it be updated? Is it a 3-year update cycle?
 - What might be the usefulness for unfamiliar audiences, such as new Land Information Officers.
 - Possible tension of the WLIC members giving counsel and advice to DOA while remaining neutral to avoid conflicts of interest.
 - The desire to capture diverse voices for input in any planning-related effort.
 - What possible future WLIP grant benchmarks and strategic direction for benchmarks might be.
 - What initiatives or fundamental changes the Council might recommend to DOA.
 - The role of a new GIO in a potential plan update process.
 - Benefits and barriers to use of an outside consultant for a strategic planning process, as LION suggested in their letter of support.
 - Use of a document to keep the Council accountable, make something more purposeful than an archival document; to facilitate regular, meaningful structured review by the Council.
 - Should it feature a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats)?
 - What other organizations' strategic plans typically look like.
 - Could it be a strategic document for the Council itself, rather than the WLIP?
 - What might be the plan for the strategic plan?
- Friis noted that although the plan document is out of date, the program has a strategic direction, in that it follows the legislation and funding strings, the [WLIP grant application](#), the Council, and other inputs.
- The parcel project annual cycle, the annual WLIP report, and making recommendations in the parcel project [Final Report](#) are processes of incremental planning, as well as the development of the DOA [Instructions for County Land Information Plans](#).
- Herreid stated that without new funding or new legislation, it would be hard to make giant leaps forward. Funding shrinks each year, dropping by about 3% due to inflation. That makes it hard to do more with less funding for counties, and hard to do more without a legislative mandate. The state biennial budget process, beginning with an internal process at state agencies, is also a planning process. The Governor's budget, when released, is both part of and will affect any future planning process for the WLIP.
- The discussion reflected a general alignment among members, that elements of the plan or purposes for it could potentially be separated out. For example, the reporting elements could be treated separately from the strategic plan elements.
- Herreid volunteered that updates to some of the information in the 2016 document could be provided in less than 32-pages. An introductory guide to the WLIP, such as a 2-page educational document that links to other program materials, is something that DOA could produce. This would document current practice only.
- A 2-3 page document authored by DOA does not preclude a separate Council effort or a Council-led strategic visioning effort.
- The Council could have an additional meeting in early December to continue discussion, then meet again for the WLIA annual conference on February 17, 2027.

6. Next Steps/Action Items

- Council: Tentatively meet in December
- DOA: Create 2-3 page document on WLIP and share draft with WLIC
- Next WLIA meeting – WLIA [2027 Annual Conference](#): February 17-19, 2027; Madison Monona Terrace

7. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm ###