

# 2015 WLIP Report

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# OVERVIEW

The Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP), administered by the Division of Intergovernmental Relations within the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), provides public funding to Wisconsin counties for the modernization of local land records. This funding takes the form of register of deeds real estate document recording fees retained at the county level and grants awarded by DOA.

This annual report discusses the year in review for other WLIP program activities and how WLIP funding was invested in county geospatial technology infrastructure in 2014.

## WLIP YEAR IN REVIEW

### V1 STATEWIDE PARCEL MAP DATABASE PROJECT – LAYER RELEASE



On July 31, 2015, the Version 1 (V1) Statewide Parcel Map Database and Web Application were released, making them the state's first publically available statewide digital parcel map. The V1 Project has been a collaboration between DOA and the State Cartographer's Office (SCO).

The Version 1 Statewide Parcel Map Application provides the community with a web-based mapping interface for browsing the statewide parcel layer. The application, built using ArcGIS Online, enables users to search by parcel attribute information and query parcels on screen. In addition to the Version 1 Statewide Parcel Map Application, the statewide parcel layer is available for download as a file geodatabase via ArcGIS Online.

The V1 Project is part of a larger Statewide Digital Parcel Map Initiative, a multi-year, DOA initiative that resulted from Act 20, the state's 2013-15 biennial budget. The [V1 schema documentation](#) includes detailed information about available attribute information. Attributes contained in the Version 1 database include:

- Assessed value of land
- Assessed value of improvements
- Total assessed value
- Class of property, as specified in s. 70.32 (2)(a)
- Estimated fair market value
- Total property tax
- Any property address information maintained by the county
- Any acreage information maintained by the county
- Parcel ID
- School district
- Owner name – where available

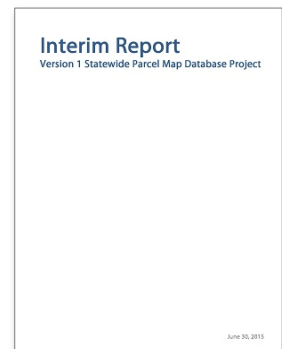
Subsequent versions of the statewide parcel map will seek to incrementally improve the layer by completing the statewide parcel fabric, standardizing parcel attributes, and improving geospatial accuracy of parcel lines.

### V1 INTERIM REPORT

On June 30, DOA released the *Version 1 Parcel Project Interim Report*, detailing the V1 Parcel Project and featuring recommendations on parcel data standards and WLIP Strategic Initiative grants.

DOA management considered the recommendations in the *V1 Interim Report* along with stakeholder feedback when finalizing the priorities—or "benchmarks" for parcel dataset development—for the 2016 Strategic Initiative grant application.

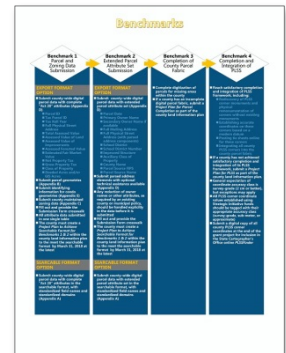
In the 2016 grant application, DOA adopted the recommendations in the *V1 Interim Report*, including the parcel data searchable format standard for all counties to achieve by March 31, 2018.



## STRATEGIC INITIATIVE GRANTS AND BENCHMARKS

On August 31, the 2016 WLIP grant application was made available, offering Base Budget, Training & Education, and Strategic Initiative grants, making it the first time WLIP has awarded Strategic Initiative grants in over a decade.

For 2016, statewide grant eligibility totals \$6.4 million. This includes eligibility for each county to receive a \$50k Strategic Initiative grant. Strategic Initiative grants are prioritized to meet benchmarks for parcel dataset improvement, as recommended by the *V1 Interim Report*. Moreover, the benchmarks are designed to complement and dovetail with the county land information plan.



Every county is also eligible for a \$1k Training & Education grant, and the 52 counties that retained less than \$100k in recording fees during the previous state fiscal year are eligible for Base Budget grants.

## UPDATE OF LAND INFORMATION PLAN INSTRUCTIONS



On June 12, significantly revised *2015 Uniform Instructions for Land Information Plans* were released. The *Instructions* are intended to fulfill statutory requirements under state statute 59.72 to guide county land information planning. The *Instructions*, designed to be used as a template, were created by a workgroup consisting of county land information officers, with surveyor, register of deeds, and real property lister representation.

The land information plan instructions also take into account the requirements of the grant application for Strategic Initiative grants. Those who apply for Strategic Initiative funding are required to include three project plans in their land information plan (if these benchmarks have not already been met):

- Project Plan to Achieve Searchable Format (Benchmarks 1 & 2)
- Project Plan for Parcel Completion (Benchmark 3)
- Project Plan for PLSS (Benchmark 4)

After all 72 county draft plans are received by DOA, the plans will go through a DOA approval process with opportunity for peer-review. The final plans will be due to DOA by March 31, 2016, along with documentation of county land information council approval.

## NEW GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OFFICER

On June 29, Jim Giglierano started in his role as Geographic Information Officer. DOA moved the position from its former home in the Division of Enterprise Technology to the Division of Intergovernmental Relations, where the WLIP is located. The position is intended to focus on providing leadership for the state's geospatial community, preparing guidelines to coordinate the modernization of land records and facilitate data sharing, and making recommendations on WLIP policy.

## OUTREACH & COUNTY SITE VISITS

### 2015 WLIP Conference Presentations

**Status of Wisconsin's Statewide Parcel Map.** See, C. & Vogel, D. WLIA Annual Conference, February 2015.

**A View of Wisconsin's Statewide Parcel Data.** See, C. Forum to Align County Surveying and Parcel Mapping Efforts in Wisconsin, March 2015.

**WLIP and Act 20 Updates.** Herreid, P. Forum to Align County Surveying and Parcel Mapping Efforts in Wisconsin, March 2015.

**County Parcel Data Standards and Benchmarks for the Statewide Parcel Map Initiative.** Herreid, P. & Veregin, H. WLIA Spring Regional Meeting, June 2015.

**Starting a Conversation About Open Data in Wisconsin.** Giglierano, J. WLIA Fall Regional Meeting, October 2015.

**Building a Statewide Lidar Program.** Giglierano, J. WLIA Fall Regional Meeting, October 2015.

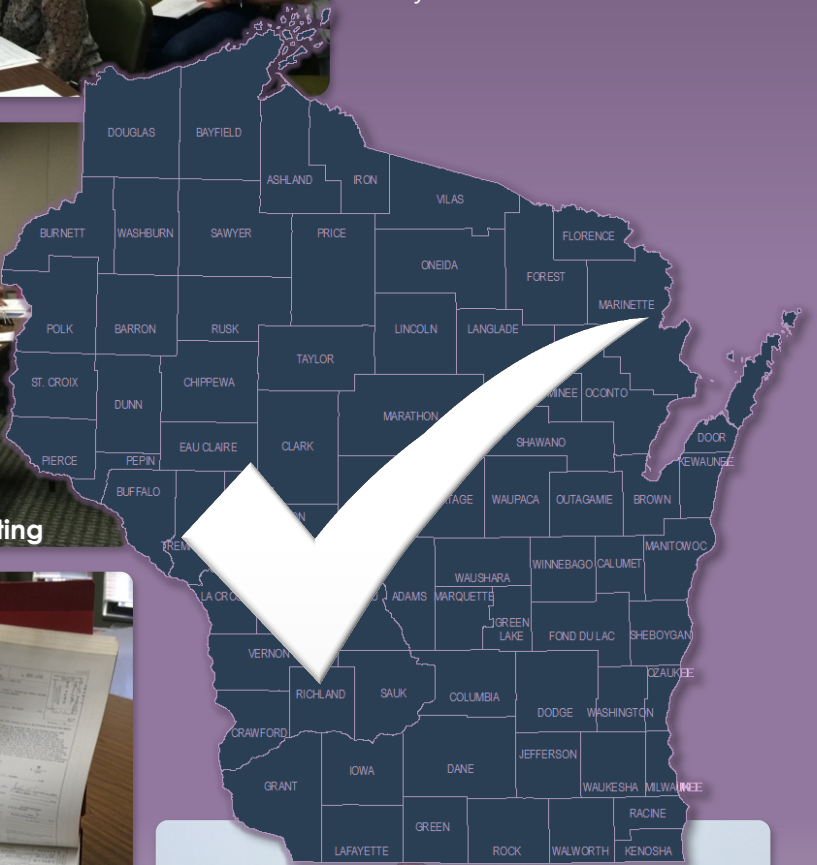


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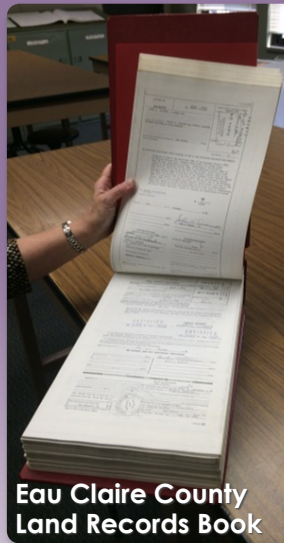
In order to gain local insight for the Parcel Initiative and the WLIP, Grant Administrator Peter Herreid successfully **completed his travel to all 72 individual counties** (2014-2015) to participate in county land information council meetings. The goal is to start another round of county site visits by 2017.



Brown County Land Information Council Meeting



Manitowoc County Deed Vault



Eau Claire County Land Records Book



Taylor County Courthouse



Green County Land Information Council Meeting

## LAND INFORMATION COUNCIL FORMED

Effective September 1, members of the Wisconsin Land Information Council (WLIC) were appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Administration. The WLIC serves in an advisory role to DOA on matters relating to the WLIP.

The first WLIC meeting took place at the Wisconsin Land Information Association Fall Regional Meeting in Oshkosh on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The Geographic Information Officer serves as the non-voting secretary to the council made up of twelve appointees, who were all endorsed by their respective organizations.

### Wisconsin Land Information Council

Real property lister	Al Brokmeier	Wisconsin Real Property Listers Association
Geospatial professional	Adam Derringer	Wisconsin Land Information Association
Land information officer	Don Dittmar	Land Information Officers Network
County surveyor	Daniel Frick	Wisconsin County Surveyors Association
Public safety or emergency communications representative	Maria Holl	Wisconsin Emergency Management Association
Representative of realtor industry	Cori Lamont	Wisconsin Realtors Association
Representative of state or federal government	Mark Paulat	Wisconsin Department of Revenue
Land title or financial lending industry representative	Kristeen Pelot	Wisconsin Land Title Association
Utility industry representative	Tim Statz	Wisconsin Utility Association
Licensed professional land surveyor	Nathan Vaughn	Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors
State Cartographer	Howard Veregin	State Cartographer's Office
Register of deeds	Cynthia Wisinski	Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association

WLIC materials, such as meeting agendas and minutes, are available on the WLIP webpage at [www.doa.state.wi.us/WLIP](http://www.doa.state.wi.us/WLIP).

# FUNDING

Counties collected retained fees and receive grants that combined total \$8.0 million for 2014. This number is expected to increase significantly in the coming years as the number of recordings is expected to rise from a historically low point and DOA will be awarding more in grant funding to carry out the directives from Act 20 of 2013. From 1990 through July 1, 2015, Wisconsin counties have retained a total of \$167 million for land information activities and received a total of \$36 million in land information grants.

In order to retain fees for land information and be eligible for WLIP grants, county land information offices must meet several requirements for accountability and transparency.

## Requirements for Counties to Retain Fees and Receive WLIP Grants

- Update the county's land information plan at least every three years
- Meet with the county land information council to review expenditures, policies, and priorities of the land information office at least once per year
- Report on expenditure activities each year
- Submit detailed applications for WLIP grants
- Complete the annual WLIP survey
- Subscribe to DOA's land information listserv
- Meet a June 30, 2017 deadline to post certain types of parcel information online – *This will be facilitated by annual submittal of parcel data for statewide parcel layer*

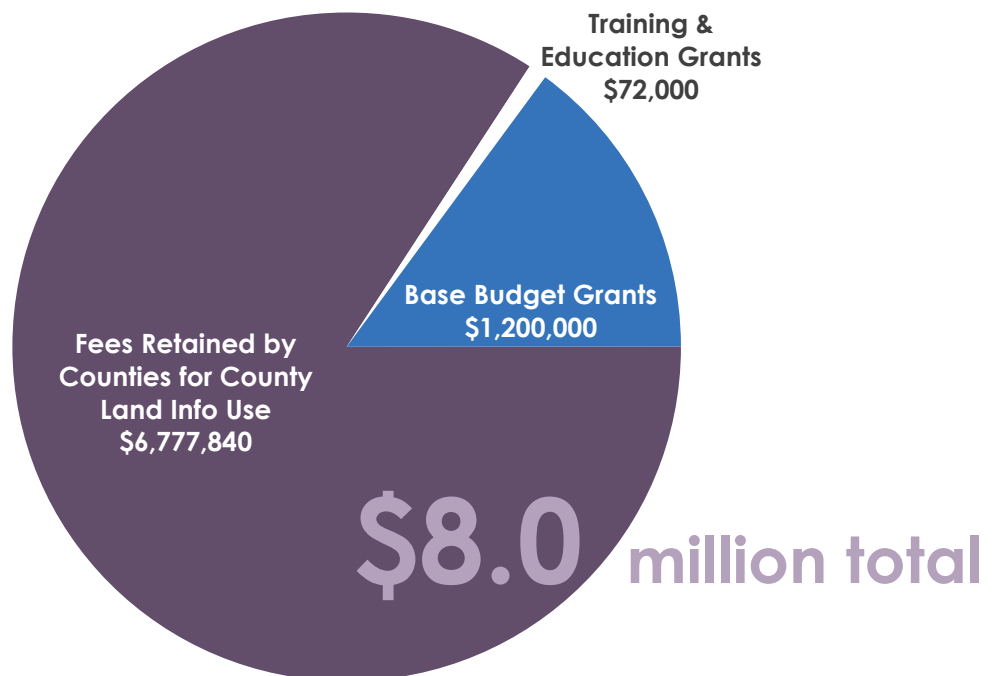
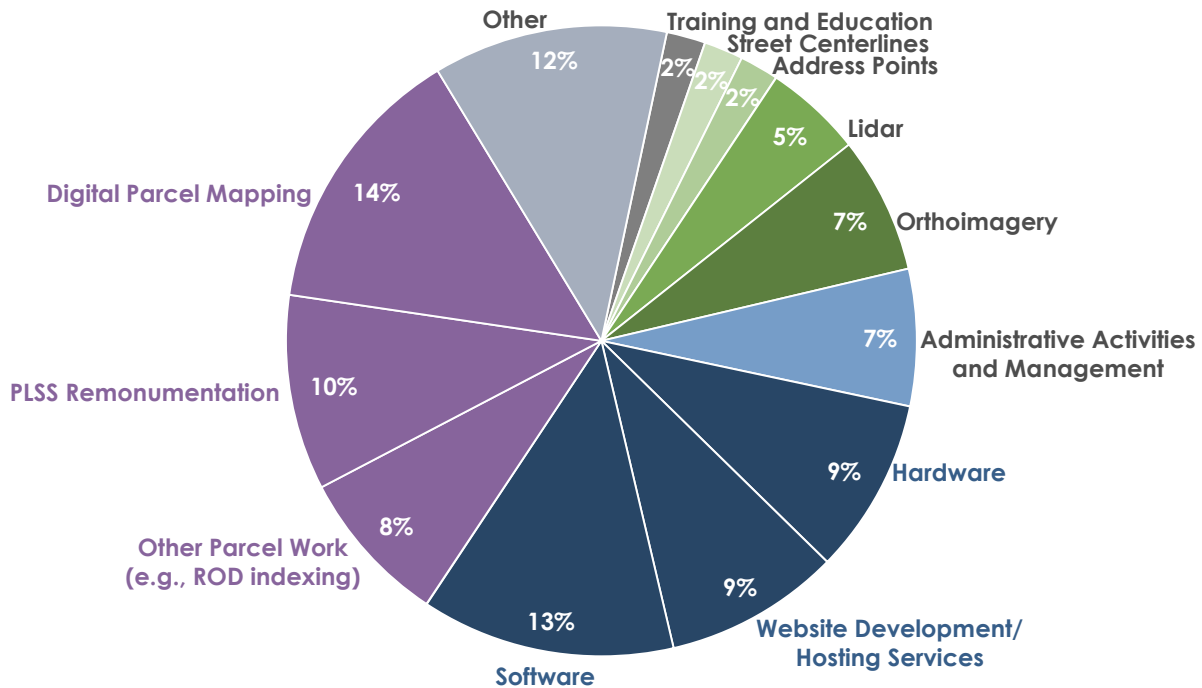


Figure 1. 2014 County Land Information Funding – Fees Retained and WLIP Grants Awarded

## EXPENDITURE OF RETAINED FEES AND GRANTS IN 2014

Counties submit annual expenditure reports on how WLIP retained fees and grants were utilized in the previous year and categorize their expenditures in a *Retained Fee/Grant Report*, according to state statute 59.72(2)(b). The statewide total of \$8.0 million in 2014 WLIP funding was devoted to the areas depicted in Figure 2.



**Figure 2. County 2014 Expenditures Reported**

As is consistent with previous years, Figure 2 illustrates that about one-third of WLIP funding in 2014 was used for the development and maintenance of county parcel map datasets, including digital parcel mapping, Public Land Survey System remonumentation, and other parcel work.

About another third of funding was used for computer hardware, software, and website development and hosting. These expenditures help to provide convenient access to land records on the Internet through searchable databases, online interactive maps, and various types of mapping applications.

The remaining third of WLIP funding supported a diverse range of activities, including the acquisition of LiDAR and aerial imagery as well as the development of address points and street centerlines. Additional activities falling under the "Other" category in Figure 2 include:

- Other GIS layer development, including farmland preservation, administrative boundaries, zoning, floodplains, and broadband
- GIS support for other departments, such as land conservation and emergency management
- Index and scanning of historical maps

The administrative activities and management category is primarily associated with counties that have large land information office budgets and thus employ multiple staff persons.

## WLIP Revenue and Grants

As of January 1, 2015, counties are required to submit \$7 per document recorded to the state Land Information Fund (an increase from \$2 prior to 2015). The \$7 contribution to the state Land Information Fund will increase state program revenue to approximately \$6.3 million per year in 2015 according to the last two-year trend for total number of documents recorded statewide or about \$7.4 mil according to a five-year average.

### ROD Document Recording Fee After Jan 1, 2015

\$15	County Undesignated
\$8	County Retained for Land Information
<u>\$7</u>	State Land Information Fund
<hr/>	
\$30	

## Base Budget Grants

Because counties with modest real estate market activity do not generate substantial land information office revenue, WLIP Base Budget grants are provided in order to enable eligible counties to develop, maintain, and operate a basic land information system. Counties that retain less than \$100k in retained fees for land information are eligible for a Base Budget grant according to the formula listed below.

### WLIP Base Budget Grant Eligibility Formula

**\$100k – ROD document recording fees @ \$8 per document recorded**

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Example: County records 5,000 documents  
\$100k – (5,000 x \$8)  
\$100k – (\$40k)  
\$ 60k = Base Budget grant eligibility

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Base Budget grants for 2014 needed to be prorated because of a lack of revenue. Base Budget grants for 2015 did not need to be prorated and the expectation is that they will not need to be prorated in the foreseeable future. 2015 Base Budget grants totaled \$2.7 mil statewide and were awarded to 52 counties in 2015.



## FUTURE GRANT PROJECTIONS

Figure 3 shows grants already awarded and the projected Land Information Program budget for the next few years.

If implemented as shown in Figure 3, beginning in 2016, all counties would receive at least \$151,000 in WLIP funding per year, made up of retained fees, Base Budget grants where applicable, a \$1k Training & Education grant, and a \$50k Strategic Initiative grant.

Such a scenario would mean that **over 90% of Land Information Fund revenue will be invested in grants to counties for local land records modernization.**

### Projected WLIP Funding in 2016

≥ \$100k	Base Budget grant + Retained fees
\$ 1k	Training & Education grant
\$ 50k	Strategic Initiative grant
≥ \$151k	per county

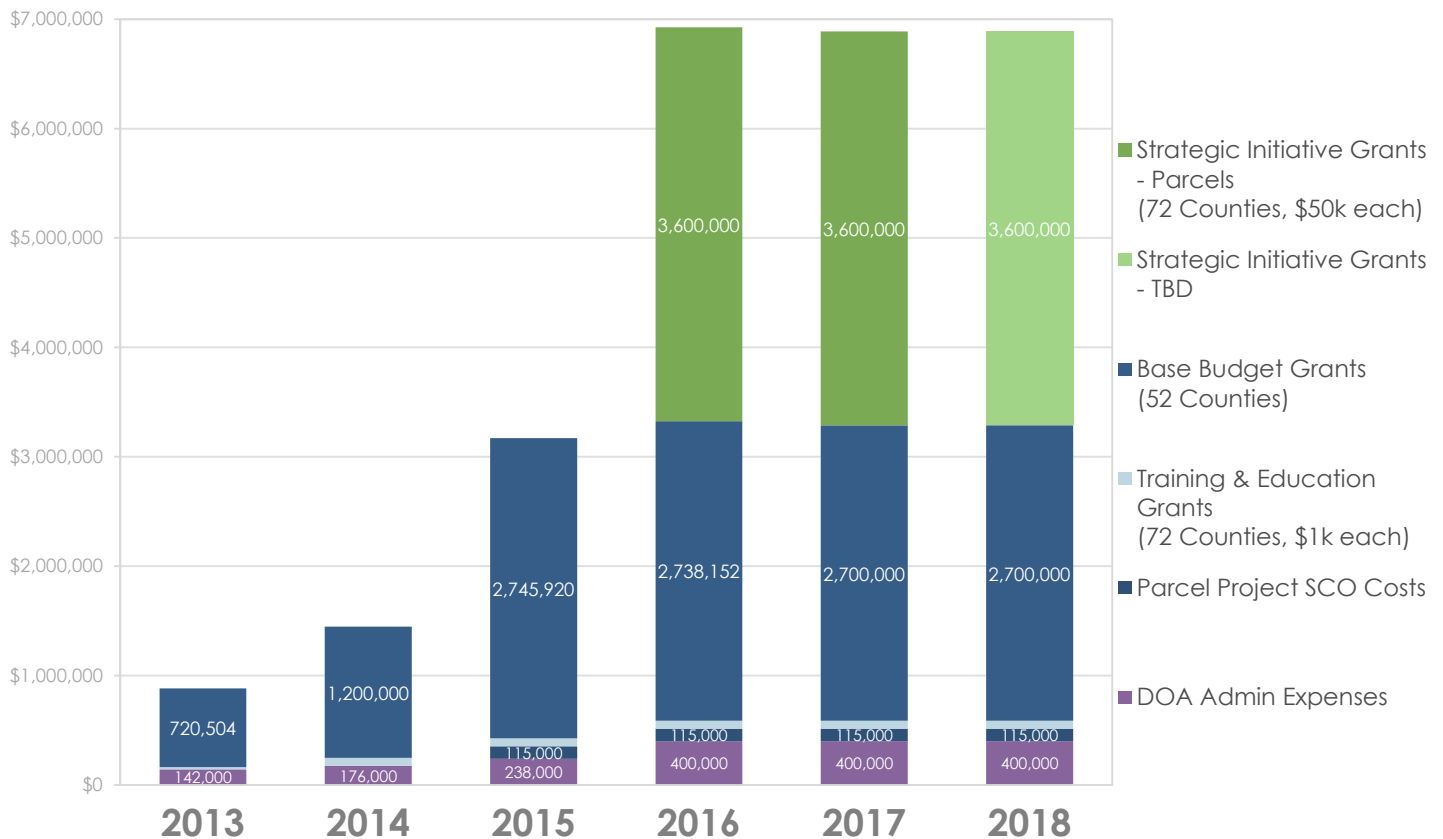


Figure 3. Projected Land Information Program Budget

DOA is mindful that utilization of Land Information Fund revenue must be consistent with statutory spending authority, as described by State Statute 16.967, and should be for well-defined activities with statewide benefits.

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