

A Brief History of the Wisconsin Presidents Council

Jim Lacy, WI State Cartographer's Office

Last Updated: September 2014

The Wisconsin Presidents Council (WPC) was established in 1996 to improve communications between the many professional associations in Wisconsin having a stake in land information and land information modernization.

From the beginning, the specific focus of the WPC has been on sharing information regarding current and future legislation affecting land information in Wisconsin. The WPC is informally organized, and has no formal bylaws or charter. As such, the WPC has no formal authority, funding, or executive sponsorship.

The WPC was originally formed *ad hoc* by Roxanne Moore (Burnett County) after a group of officers from several organizations met during the 1996 Wisconsin Land Information Association Annual Conference, and discussed the value of having regular communications between the various stakeholder associations.

Except for one gap in 2004-2006, the WPC has met regularly since 1996, typically in October of each year. Topics covered during the meetings have varied considerably over the years, but true to the mission of the group, most discussions revolve around legislative issues. Meetings are typically a half day in length.

Jim Lacy (SCO) volunteered to be the "archivist" for the group in 2008, and keeps copies of all the meeting minutes.

Membership

In 1996, there were (according to 1998 minutes) 24 organizations on the contact list that received invitations to attend the annual meetings. According to past minutes, typically around a dozen organizations would attend each year. The following organizations have regularly participated in the WPC in recent years:

- WI Register of Deeds
- WI Real Property Listers
- WI State Cartographer's office
- WI Land Title Association
- WI Society of Land Surveyors
- WI County Surveyors Association
- WI Land Information Association
- WI Land Information Officer Network
- WI Dept of Transportation
- WI Geographic Information Officer
- WI Geographic Information Coordination Council

Looking Forward

Beginning in 2010, the State Cartographer's Office offered to organize the meetings in order to maintain continuity from year to year, and simplify the scheduling process. Also in 2010, the WPC re-affirmed

their interest in continuing to meet, and those present at the meeting expressed that legislative activities should continue to be the primary focus of future meetings.

Attendees at the 2011 meeting discussed benefits and drawbacks of expanding the participation of the WPC. The group decided any professional association with an interest in land information issues should be invited to attend future meetings. If you wish to receive notices of future meetings, contact Jim Lacy.

For More Information on the WPC

Contact Jim Lacy (State Cartographer's Office) at Lacy@wisc.edu or (608) 262-6850.