



Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors

Affiliated with American Congress on Surveying and Mapping
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Presidents' Council

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2007

I. Call to order

Harold Charlier called to order the meeting of the Presidents Council at 9:05 am on April 10, 2007 at the Kalahari in Lake Delton, WI.

II. Attendees

The following persons were present: Jason Grueneberg, President, Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA); Bret Davies, President-elect of the Land Information Officers Network (LION); Nathan Czech, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, (WisDOT); Sue McDonald, (President-elect) Wisconsin Real Property Listers Association (WRPLA); Allen Brokmeier, President, WRPLA; Harold Charlier, Executive Director, Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors (WLS); Marge Geissler, President, Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association (WRODA); Lisa Van Horn, President, WLS; Ted Koch, State Cartographer and Francis Thousand, Legislative Committee Chair, WLS.

III. Background

Harold Charlier welcomed the attendees and gave a brief history on how this meeting came about. The WLS Board of Directors, during a discussion on legislative issues, asked Mr. Charlier to see if there might be an interest in resuming the Council meetings. He drafted a letter and sent it out to contacts from the previous participating organizations. Two additional groups were included in the invitations: the State Cartographer and LION.

IV. Introductions

The attendees took turns introducing themselves, who they worked for and the organizations they represented.

V. History

Interest and discussions on the modernization of land records in Wisconsin can be traced back to the late '60s and early '70s at UW-Madison. With a grant from the Department of Administration the 1978 Larson Report identified issues concerning how the state was dealing with land records and how much all the duplication was costing the taxpayer—at all levels of government. In 1985 Governor Tony Earl appointed a Land Records committee, whose two-year effort culminated in a series of recommendations to then Governor Tommy Thompson. The recommendations included the establishment of an Office of Land

Information for the state, a Land Information Board, the establishment of a land information office in each county, and a grants-in-aid program, all funded by fees charged for recording land records documents. The plan also called for the establishment of a private association of land records users.

In 1988 WLIA was formed as the association of the stakeholders in land records. At WLIA's annual meeting in 1996 several of the officers and attendees agreed that it would be very helpful if the representatives of the participating associations could get together to advise the others about legislative issues of common interest to all. All agreed that for any one group to successfully have legislation enacted, it behooved them to "run it past" the other organizations first. And that idea was the basis for establishing the Presidents' Council. WRPLA hosted the first meeting in 1996 followed by WLTA in 97, WLIA in 98, WCSA in 99, WSLS in 2000, WRODA in 2001, and WRPLA in 2003 which was the last meeting held.

A number of other organizations were suggested to be included in the future meetings. Those groups include the Realtors, the Wisconsin Bar, the County Code Administrators, the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association, the Wisconsin Chapter of the IRWA and the 911-planning group.

VI. Wisconsin Land Information Association (Jason Grueneberg)

WLIA has about 500 members and holds an annual conference, retreat and meetings in June and November. Their members have a diverse background. Their current effort is the distribution of the strategic plan to the legislature. The plan is on their website. WLIA is encouraging their members to contact their legislators and presenting the strategic plan. Their next step is to create a state wide Geographic Advisory Council. WLIA is currently gathering information on forming the council. WLIA hopes to create the Council by Executive Order. In the legislative arena WLIA is concerned about whether a bill introduced in the last session will be re introduced. The bill was AB 1167 and dealt with searches by name that could produce an address. They are also interested in using GIS to track sex offenders using GPS and mapping wireless calls.

VII. Wisconsin Real Property Listers Association (Allen Brokmeier)

WRPLA has between 80 and 100 members. Their members work for Counties and Cities. WRPLA is working with the Wisconsin Land Title Association to resolve issues that were raised in last session's discussion of SB 444. WRPLA will again introduce the proposed changes to Chapter 70. WRPLA is opposed to AB 140 and AB 168. They are also watching a Joint Resolution tracking development rights.

VIII. Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors (Lisa Van Horn)

WSLS has about 1100 members. Members meet twice a year and the Board meets six times a year. Continuing education is the priority. WSLS passed out a sample survey to be sent to the County LIOs requesting information on the county surveyor position, public land survey records, survey records and other issues.

There would also be a request for 5 survey maps for review by WSLs to determine how well surveyors state wide are doing in including all the information on the survey required by the statutes and administrative code. WSLs is working on establishing a Peer Review group to have a contact for those who have questions or issues with surveys or surveyors. The Peer Review group would include surveyors from each chapter and be a resource as well as a forum for problems. WSLs is working on a number of bills and other issues. WSLs opposes AB 140 (school board review of subdivisions) and AB 168 (limitations on adverse possession) and is supporting AB 181 (continuing education for the design professionals). WSLs is also working with the DNR on some water issues and ownership issues in areas abutting waterways. In addition, WSLs is looking at modifying the right of entry in order to perform surveys, and the redefinition of land surveying. There are no specific proposals on these issues. When drafts are available the other groups will be asked to review the proposals. The last issue WSLs, together with Plat Review and WRODA are working on is electronic recording of plats and CSMs. At this point the issues are being identified and input is being sought from around the state from the stakeholders.

IX. Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association (Marge Geissler)

WRODA represents all 72 counties and meets 3 times a year. In the budget bill there is a proposal to raise the transfer tax. The proposal doubles the fee and reduces the percentage the county gets. They are also concerned about increases in the fees for vital records. They feel that the increase is a burden on the people who need copies of their vital records. Another area of concern is the number of plats of survey attached to deeds. They are questioning whether some people maybe trying to circumvent the CSM law. The group felt that it probably was not an issue of avoiding Chapter 236. The group also briefly discusses standardizing forms including CSMs so the recording information is on the upper right corner of the front page.

X. Wisconsin County Surveyors Association (Lisa Van Horn)

No one was present representing WCSA, but Lisa is a County Surveyor and reported that the County Surveyors are discussing their role, including whether they should review maps and plats that are submitted for filing.

XI. Land Information Officers Network (Bret Davies)

There is a Land Information Office in every county. LION's interests are similar to the interests of WLIA. The concerns they are addressing is a way to obtain funding for their offices and programs. They are working with DOA to try to structure the funds collected from the recording fee to insure that the counties get the share they need to continue land records modernization. Some of the areas of interest are E 911, grant money for disaster mitigation from FEMA, and open records.

XII. WISDO (Nathan Czech)

WISDOT thanked all the groups that assisted them in passing the latest changes to the Transportation Project Plats in the last session. There is no up date on Trans 233. WISDOT is looking at requiring any entity that destroys section corners must pay to restore the corners. It was suggested that property corners be added to the list of protected monuments. It was reported that the height modernization program is complete in the lower 2/3s of the state and that when the funds are available the other 1/3 will be completed. WISDOT reported that they are working on a statewide CORS (Continuously Operating Referencing System) with stations on a 31-mile grid. They hope to complete the 90 stations in four years. Trimble will be the vendor and they can be used by anyone with a wireless connection to your GPS receiver at no cost. WISDOT is also working on mark maintenance.

XIII. State Cartographer (Ted Koch)

Based on the recommendation of the WLIA strategic plan and with funding from a grant, a group was formed to create a Statewide Geographic Advisory Council. The group includes among others the Geographic Information Officer and the State Cartographer who presented two preliminary models of what the council could look like. He reported that 38 states have a geographic council and they all are formed slightly different. One is a non-profit separate corporation. Most are similar to the model B that was presented. Some of the councils have legislators as members of the council. There will be four listening sessions this year: May 10th in Madison, May 23rd in Waukesha, May 30th in Eau Claire and May 31st in Green Bay. The sessions will include a half hour talk on what is GIS followed by an introduction to the process and then a 2.5-hour listening session conducted by a facilitator. The session will include input from the whole group as well as some small group break out discussions. The sessions will include discussion of the models and other issues. In mid summer a 2-day summit will be held on the listening sessions and other input, which will result in a draft of the model for the council. It is hoped that the council can be formed by Executive Order in late summer. It was also reported that the National States Geographic Council will be meeting in Madison in September.

XIV. DISSCUSSION

The notes from the meeting will be sent to all the members present for comment. It was suggested that we should contact each other between meetings as needed. It was decided by the group to meet twice a year on the first Tuesday of April and October. WLIA volunteered to host the next meeting on October 2, 2007. The meeting following the fall meeting will be on April 1, 2008 and tentatively be hosted by WRPIA.

XV. ADJOURN

Harold Charlier adjourned the meeting at 12:15.

Minutes submitted by: Francis R. Thousand