

Minutes

2013 WI Presidents Council Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 16th, 2013
Chula Vista Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI

Attendance

WI County Surveyors Association (Bruce Bowden)
WI Geographic Information Coordination Council (Jon Schwichtenberg, Eric Damkot)
WI Geographic Information Officer (Curtis Pulford)
WI Land Information Association (Justin Conner)
WI Land Information Officers Network (Al Brokmeier, Kelly Felton)
WI Land Title Association (Mike Brandner)
WI Real Property Listers (Matt Dahlen, Michelle Schultz)
WI Register of Deeds (Cheryl McBride, Julie Pagel)
WI Society of Land Surveyors (Frank Thousand)
WI State Cartographer's office (Howard Veregin, Jim Lacy, AJ Wortley)

Call to order

Meeting called to order by Jim Lacy at 9:05 a.m.

Brief Follow-up on October 2012 Meeting

Much of the discussion last year revolved around proposed changes to the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) and an existing social security number redaction fee. The advocacy efforts that occurred in the first half of 2013 resulted in a number of positive changes to the WLIP.

Last year, the Wisconsin Geographic Information Coordination Council (WIGICC) was pursuing permanency through an Executive Order by the Governor, but those efforts didn't pan out as hoped. Instead, they are now focused on incorporating as a non-profit.

Act 20 and the Initiative to Create a Statewide Parcel Map

Jon Schwichtenberg (WIGICC) provided some background on the initiative in the state budget to develop a statewide parcel map implementation plan. Thus far, there has been no observable movement on the proposed initiative, which is of concern to WIGICC.

WIGICC feels DOA must get the process moving if they are going to complete the project by the June 2015 deadline. If the process doesn't start soon, there may be more limited opportunity for stakeholders to be involved in the process (i.e., DOA will have to push the project through quickly to meet the deadline.)

WIGICC is proposing a resolution to get DOA moving on the project. WIGICC has already sent a letter outlining their concerns, and they are now requesting other associations send similar letters as well.

Mike Brandner asked if the ultimate goal is for DOA to take over all parcel mapping activities that have traditionally been completed by counties. Jon does not feel that is the intent. The

parcel mapping initiative is focused on aggregating existing county-maintained data into statewide products. Howard Veregin added there are many unknowns at this point regarding the initiative. For example, Jon indicated there are uncertainties about whether the “system” will be for public access, or just for government use only.

Curt Pulford (GIO) indicated DOA deals with a lot of very large projects, and he is guessing the parcel mapping project has not yet risen on the radar of upper-level management. DOA projects need formal approval to proceed, and that has not yet happened for the parcel mapping project.

Howard V. asked who would support sending a letter based on what they’ve heard today. Bruce Bowden thought the Wisconsin County Surveyors Association would support it. WLIA is likely to send a letter; WSLs is meeting on Saturday, and they will consider it.

Would DOA commit resources to hire a consultant to create a parcel implementation business plan, due to limited internal staff resources? Curt P. said that is unknown. Currently, there are no dedicated funds for the project.

ACTION: each association will consider sending a letter to DOA. Jim L. will re-send the WIGICC letter for associations to use as a model.

Draft Department of Revenue (DOR) Chapter 5 Wisconsin Property Assessment Manual Re-write

Michelle Schultz from the Real Property Listers Association gave the group an overview on DOR’s plans to update the existing property assessment manual. It is a major overhaul of the document.

Property Listers have a number of concerns with the re-write. The first major concern is the proposal to implement a statewide 35-digit parcel id numbering scheme. The Listers are not in favor of that change. Another big concern relates to how assessment roles are sorted.

The motives behind the proposed parcel ID change are unclear. Several in the group wondered why DOR can’t simply add a county code prefix to each existing parcel number in order to achieve statewide unique parcel id’s. Others noted it will be nearly impossible to print a 35-digit parcel id on most parcel maps. Eric Damkot suggested that encoding geography (township/range/section, etc.) into parcel id’s is less critical than it once was, given the current state of digital parcel mapping.

If the DOR proposals are implemented, the Real Property Listers want assurances that Act 20 funds would be available to help accomplish these tasks.

What actions should associations take, if any, at this time? The State and Local Finance Committee (an advisory committee to DOR) is meeting in November. Many of the groups with concerns are represented on that committee, and they will be raising their issues via the committee process.

Organization Reports

Wisconsin County Surveyors Association (WCSA)

- No legislative initiatives underway at this time. They are supporting WSLS in their efforts to pass the land surveying profession modernization bill.

Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors (WSLS)

- Bruce Bowden is the new Chair of their legislative committee. They are once again working on the land surveying modernization bill. The purpose is to update outdated statutes related to the practice of land surveying.
- They are working directly with aerial mapping firms, who were some of the most vocal opponents when the bill was introduced last time.
- The bill should be introduced very soon. Bob Welch, WSLS lobbyist, has been leading the process on behalf of WSLS.
- **ACTION: WSLS will send a copy of the draft bill to the Presidents Council listserv**

Wisconsin Geographic Information Coordination Council (WIGICC)

- Efforts to gain permanency through Executive Order didn't go anywhere, so they are instead looking at incorporating as a non-profit.
- Much of the Council's current energy is focused on developing a comprehensive geospatial strategy for Wisconsin. This will be more extensive than the 2007 "Wisconsin Location Matters" strategic plan.
- They are also working on a model government-to-government geospatial data sharing policy through their data framework committee.

Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA)

- WLIA Board, Legislative Committee, and members put a lot of work into advocacy for the WLIP last spring. Those efforts were all very successful, and resulted in positive changes to the WLIP.
- Justin expects WLIA will be putting more energy towards Act 20 and the DOA parcel mapping initiative in the coming months.
- Justin reminded the group about the WLIA Annual conference happening February 12-14th in Middleton.

Land Information Officers Network (LION)

- Things have been quiet since state budget was approved and updates were made to the WLIP.
- As with WLIA, LION will likely be doing more follow-up on Act 20 and the parcel mapping project.

Wisconsin Land Title Association (WLTA)

- WLTA has been more active recently with legislative items. One big thing this year for them is the mortgage satisfaction act, which allows title companies to issue satisfaction of mortgages. The act has bi-partisan support.
- A big problem in the industry is out-of-state lenders that do not release mortgages properly in a timely manner. The act should allow for major improvements if passed.

- New stringent procedures are being put into place within the industry related to protection of consumer information. This incurs major costs for title companies. Although expensive, these protections are ultimately good for the industry.
- Because of the many changes on the horizon, Mike feels there is likely to be a lot of consolidation in the industry in the coming years.

Wisconsin Real Property Listers (WRPL)

- Many of their efforts recently have been focused on the Chapter 5 re-write discussed earlier.
- They are currently working with Department of Revenue on making revisions to the Notice of Property Assessment Form.
- Transportation Project Plat Plans – many Listers are seeing a lot of errors in recordings.

Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association (WRDA)

- Rodney Key is speaking at their conference on the electronic recording of plats.
- WRDA is trying to resurrect the Electronic Records Council; RODs have written letters to the Governor requesting action.
- Act 20 – WRDA trying to get some clarification on details of recording fees.
- They are working with Representative Gary Hebl on fraud issues related to property deeds. Citizens are getting letters offering copies of deeds for large sums of money. Many people may not realize they can get the same records for much less from county RODs.
- WRDA is doing a presentation at the February WLIA conference on the \$30 deed recording fee. Goal is to educate folks on where that money goes.

Geographic Information Officer (GIO)

- Their focus is on support for shared GIS environment, support for small agencies, and developing applications for these agencies. Curtis participates in a variety of state and national organizations, and has recently chaired a data sharing workgroup for the National States Geographic Information Council.
- GIO was recently charged by the CIO to communicate with stakeholder groups regarding a “geoportal” and spatial data repository.
- Curtis was also involved in fostering a statewide K-12 Esri software license.

State Cartographer’s Office (SCO)

- See the SCO annual report for more details on their activities (http://www.sco.wisc.edu/images/stories/publications/2012/SCO_annual_report_2011_12_final.pdf)
- Howard noted that SCO works with most of the groups present today.
- Last year, Howard discussed the so-called “Kroll Report” related to DNR management in Wisconsin and the potential impact on GIS/mapping. One outcome is a statewide land cover project that is being conducted by the DNR and University of Wisconsin-Madison. SCO is involved in coordinating that effort. More news in the coming months as the project gets started.
- SCO is also working on a contract with the Department of Administration to develop a statewide address database from county data. The information will be used by the

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to improve their broadband mapping efforts. The SCO project is dubbed "Enhanced Broadband Mapping" (EBM).

- SCO is hosting a Webinar later in the month to explain the details of the EBM project. They will continue reaching out to stakeholders for the duration of the project.

SAGIC

- SAGIC is an informal group of state agency GIS managers that has been meeting since 2005. SAGIC has no "executive sponsor," so they have no authority in state government. Goal is to share best practices, discuss common problems, and keep lines of communication open.
- They are exploring options to gain more formal authority in state government business decisions.
- Time spent the last several months spent providing input to Curtis P. and David Cagigal (State Chief Information Officer) on a geospatial data repository.
- Act 20 and parcel mapping: state agencies are also very interested in seeing some progress on this important initiative.

Summary of Action Items

1. Associations should consider sending their own letters regarding the statewide parcel mapping (Act 20) issue. Jim will re-send the WIGICC letter via e-mail.
2. WSLs will share the draft land surveying modernization bill to listserv when it is available.

Next Meeting

- Next meeting will be in October 2014, specific date and place to be determined.
- We agreed that Wisconsin Dells continues to be a nice compromise for people coming from northern parts of the state.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.