

# Minutes

## 2017 WI Presidents Council Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017  
A/B Room, Dane County Extension Building, 1 Fen Oak Ct., Madison

### Attendance

Association of Assessing Officers (Alice Hagen)  
Association of Public-Safety Communication Officials (Gary Bell)  
County Surveyors Association (Bryan Meyer)  
Department of Administration – Division of Intergovernmental Relations (Peter Herreid)  
Department of Transportation – Surveying and Mapping (Rodney Key)  
Land Information Association (Emily Champagne, Eric Damkot)  
Land Information Council (Adam Derringer)  
Land Information Officers Network (Jeremiah Erickson)  
Land Title Association (Leigh Rodebaugh, Cheri Hipenbecker)  
Real Property Listers Association (Krista Paulson, Kim Christman)  
Register of Deeds Association (Beth Pabst, Tyson Fettes)  
Society of Land Surveyors (Frank Thousand, Larry Miller)  
State Agency Geospatial Information Committee (Larry Cutforth)  
State Cartographer's office (Howard Veregin, Jim Lacy)

### Call to order

Meeting called to order by Jim Lacy at 1:00 p.m.

### Discussion Topics

#### Next Generation 911 – Gary Bell, APCO

- Motion 50 – requires Department of Military Affairs to report on interoperability
- Emergency services network needs to move away from 1960's tech
- State 911 subcommittee includes a land information representative
- NG911 relies heavily upon location accuracy
  - Getting rid of borders and boundaries
  - Able to direct calls/messages to distant PSAP if a PSAP is overwhelmed or not operational.
  - This requires geographic data to be shared broadly within the statewide NG911 system
- NG911 is very large undertaking
  - Involves both technology and policy changes
- \$7 million in funding, which is inadequate
- In 2009 funding went to state general fund, originally intended for phase 1 and 2 wireless
- Wisconsin is behind other states

#### PLSS Working Group – Howard Veregin, SCO

- Ad hoc group created to advocate for advancement of Public Land Survey System in Wisconsin
- Parcel survey forums - three held so far; most recent was “day with your county surveyor.” Attended by ~100 people.
- Next one in Wausau area in April 2018.
- Planning a session at WLIA annual meeting on "Influencing decision makers"
  - Educate on the status of PLSS in the state
  - Advocacy
- Be aware of a new geodetic datum coming in 2022
  - Many different implications

#### WLIA Working Group for NG911 – Emily Champagne, WLIA

- WLIA reached out to other associations to be part of a WLIA NG911 task force
- Immediate task is to come up with a process and nominee for the governor for NG911 subcommittee
- Working group provides a framework for talking through technical issues, outreach, communication related to GIS/NG911
- Governor’s office wants land info nominee by next Wednesday
- WLIA task force meets this coming Friday

#### Statewide Address Data – Larry Cutforth, SAGIC

- State agencies thinking about it; addressing and address standardization is a big deal to them
- SAGIC has an addressing working group
- Is there a process for defining standards?
- Role of NG911?
- Many different county and city systems to consider

#### SB131/AB175

- Proposed statute change would allow for elimination of vol/page from recordings
- Creates flexibility for RODs
- Legislation will also change Chapter 236
- Schedule in assembly next week
- Note: Passed as Act 102, November 30, 2017
- <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/acts/102>

#### SB175/AB253

- Relates to Sheriff deeds
- Has support from many different orgs
- Clerks would give docs to ROD, they send to owner
- Note: Passed as Act 104, November 30 2017
- <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/acts/104>

## Organization Reports

### Association of Assessing Officers (WAAO)

- WAAO is new to Wisconsin Presidents Council in 2017
- Alice is new to assessment profession and WAAO, but has over 20 years of experience working in land information and GIS.
- Our attendance at the 2017 Wisconsin Presidents Council meeting is primarily to learn about the group and how WAAO can contribute in the future.
- We have a lot of common interests with participating organizations. Of particular note in 2017:
  - a) Register of deeds legislation to require sheriff deed registration directly from clerk of court.
  - b) Property lister association work on closing loophole on annexation registration in low population counties.
  - c) Concerns about deregulation of professional licensing raised by Society of Land Surveyors.
- We see this group as a useful mechanism for dialogue and collaboration, and look forward greater participation in coming years.
- Alice will be reporting information from this year's meeting to WAAO board members and encouraging the attendance of WAAO president and legislative committee chair at Wisconsin Presidents Council meetings in future years.

### Association of Public-Safety Communication Officials (WI-APCO)

- Nothing in particular to add beyond earlier discussion on NG911

### County Surveyors Association (WCSA)

- 1) PLSS Forum: For the third consecutive year, State Cartographer's Office along with assistance from our organization held a Public Land Survey in Wisconsin forum held on April 3, 2017 in Wisconsin Dells. The effort was titled "A Day with Your County Surveyor" and offered sessions on the importance of the corners of the Public Land Survey System. The group then went on a field trip (about a half mile walk through the woods) to visit a PLSS corner with a standing original government bearing tree. Our target audience was elected local officials – namely town and County Board members. The event was well received and very much appreciated by those in attendance.
- 2) AE7: The surveying community has administrative rules governing minimum standards for land surveys. This document was updated in July of 2016 and has created some friction among land surveyors. Efforts are now underway to alter the current version of AE 7 to soften some of the language and make it a more workable document. A portion of this document relates to Public Land Survey System corners and our organization has offered some simplified language to clear up confusion that exists in the current rules.
- 3) AB-253 and SB-175: Letters of support of proposed legislation to alter language regarding sheriff's deeds were sent out to legislators in advance of public hearings. These letters were sent at the request of the Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association and we were happy to support that effort.
- 4) PLSS Layer for the statewide parcel map: Peter Herreid from the Department of Administration reached out to our organization seeking support of a PLSS Layer for the state

wide parcel map. On behalf of WCSA, I sent a letter strongly supporting the PLSS layer. Peter asked for follow-up information and I was able to provide that.

- 5) County Surveyor Status: The current status of County Surveyors in Wisconsin is as follows: There are 62 County Surveyors in Wisconsin – 31 serving on a full time basis, 31 serving on a part-time basis and 10 without a County Surveyor. Four Counties still elect their County Surveyor Iowa, Portage, Sauk and Vilas.
- 6) Meetings: In addition to an annual membership meeting in January, the WCSA board of directors meets 4 times a year in Neillsville. While these quarterly meetings technically constitute a board meeting, we have anywhere between 25 and 35 people attend. There are educational segments with representatives from The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (Diane Arent), The State Cartographer's Office (Brenda Hemstead) and the National Geodetic Survey (John Ellingson) in attendance. We are seeing not only surveyors, but many others from the land information community (GIS Mappers, vendors, etc.).
- 7) River boundaries is another issue that should be considered as the State-wide parcel map develops. The exact location of the state line as it follows the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers has been lost and remains uncertain.

#### Department of Administration - Division of Intergovernmental Relations (DIR)

- 1) WLIP Grant Applications Due
  - a) The 2018 WLIP grant application is due December 31st.
  - b) Total of \$6.2 million in grants offered
- 2) V3 Parcel Project
  - a) The V3 Project successfully aggregated all known digital parcel datasets within the state, resulting in a statewide GIS parcel layer of 3.48 million parcels.
  - b) Collaboration of DOA, SCO, and counties.
  - c) The parcel database was made publicly available online on July 31, 2017.
  - d) The V3 Project was another phase in the incremental approach towards the Parcel Initiative—improving the statewide parcel map with each iteration.
  - e) Attribute completeness is significantly improved over V2, such as property valuation data.
  - f) V3 Final Report now available online.
  - g) Now working towards V4 call for data in January 2018.
- 3) Collaboration with the UW-Madison Robinson Map Library
  - a) Great success with the Robinson Map Library's portal for geospatial data
  - b) A total of 457 county datasets have been added in tandem with the V3 Parcel Project.
  - c) 323 of these are non-parcel/non-zoning layers.
  - d) GeoData@Wisconsin makes many datasets available for download, is well-organized for discoverability, is managed by a professional librarian who writes complete metadata, and serves an archival function.

#### Department of Transportation (DOT)

- 1) Transportation Project Plats (TPPs) – Recordable R/W Plats
  - a) Over 6600 TPPs have been recorded in 71 counties since 1998.
  - b) Over 1800 TPPs have been amended, which is 27% of the total.
  - c) TPPs are based on the PLSS system and are “survey accurate”.
  - d) E-Recorded TPPs
  - e) Over 1100 TPPs have been recorded electronically in 18 Counties since Oct, 2010.

- f) Counties E-Recording are: Barron, Brown, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Door, Jefferson, La Crosse, Marquette, Outagamie, Portage, Racine, Rock, Sheboygan, St. Croix, Washington, Wood, and Winnebago. I'd like to Thank all of these counties for making my job that much easier.
  - g) 9 other Counties are on the waiting list to e-recording.
  - h) ePN and Simplifile are the recording vendors for WisDOT, so most counties would be able to record electronically.
- 2) WisCORS (Wisconsin Continuing Operating Reference Stations)
- a) 85 Stations operating within the WISCORS Network. 13 MNDOT CORS stations along the Minnesota-Wisconsin border have also been incorporated into the WISCORS Network.
  - b) Testing is ongoing for the five new WISCORS stations which were constructed in the Dekorra, Reedsburg, Mauston, Oxford and De Pere areas this past year. They will be incorporated into the network in 2018.
  - c) Currently there are approximately 2600 registered users for the network with about 575 being able to use the network at any one time.
  - d) Testing is ongoing regarding Michigan DOT and Iowa DOT CORS stations along the respective borders before they can be incorporated into the WISCORS network.
  - e) Two new WISCORS stations constructed in 2017 near Rochester and Beloit will be incorporated into the WISCORS Network in 2018.
  - f) Currently \$350,000/yr maintenance cost to run WisCORS network. WisDOT is proposing a yearly subscription fee of \$300/subscriber per year for the first 5 subscribers of an organization and \$150/subscriber per year after that. For example, if an organization had 7 subscribers the fee would be  $\$300 \times 5$  or  $\$1500 + 2 \times \$150 = \$1800$ . The proposed fee for monthly subscribers such as Ag users would be \$50/month. Exemptions are being looked at. Supposedly this will go into effect by the end of Fiscal Year 2018 (June 30).
  - g) Geodetic Surveys Unit has built a new CORS station(s) near Portage which is being run using solar power. It should be incorporated into the network in 2018.
- 3) Wisconsin Geodetic Survey Control Network (Height Modernization Program)
- a) Over 9000 Passive Monuments Statewide
  - b) In Northeast Wisconsin - Phase 8D and 8E bench mark elevations and GPS horizontal components have now been published.
  - c) Due to deficiencies in the current geoid model in the Phase 8D & 8E areas, stations with GPS derived elevations, which are not on a level line, will not have published elevations on NGS data sheets. These elevations will be published once a new geoid model is developed and made available by NGS. This may be within the next couple of years.
  - d) Constructed 24 replacement passive monuments in 2017 projects. Can now charge back the cost of replacing destroyed stations to the WisDOT project that destroyed them. Depending on the station it costs between \$8k – \$25k to replace a station.

#### Land Information Association (WLIA)

- 1) Fall Regional Conference next week in La Crosse.
- 2) WLIA created a NG911 Task Force (July 2017) under the association's standing committee on Technical Issues and Information Policies.
  - a) Task Force will work on specific projects to support the Subcommittee including (but not limited to) research, education, and recommendations on GIS/ spatial standards for NG911 data and maps, outreach, and coordination with other geospatial organizations in matters concerning NG911. WLIA reached out to other land information related

- associations (LION, ROD, SAGIC, Surveyors) for interest in becoming members of the Task Force. Currently there are 13 members on the Task Force.
- b) The Task Force has defined a process and will select a nominee to be recommended for the 911 Subcommittee as a representative of association of land information professionals.
    - i) Nov 8 deadline to provide a nominee for the 911 Subcommittee to the Governor's office
    - ii) WLIA Task Force has expedited to their timeline. Call for applications is out now. Task Force meets via conference call Friday 11/3 to vote on nominee.
  - 3) Foundational Layers - WLIA Technical Committee has been working on updating the status report on the Wisconsin Foundational Layers.
  - 4) Statewide Open Data continues to be a high priority and topic of discussion.
  - 5) Legislative activity: WLIA Registered Support for ROD Recording Requirements and Sheriffs Foreclosure Sales
    - a) Watch list:
      - i) Homeowners Bill of Rights
      - ii) Supervised Release of Sexually Violent Persons - LRB-4362 (Land Information / Land Use Planning be part of the County Committee)
      - iii) Comp Planning Repeal (funding for WLIP)

#### Land Information Council (WLIC)

- The Council advises DOA on Wisconsin Land Information Program Issues
- Advised DOA on draft program plan and 2018 benchmarks
- Data sharing issues
- Asked the GIO to establish committee regarding data portal
- If your organization has a seat at the table, make sure your rep is there.

#### Land Information Officers Network (LION)

- Worked on a proposal to create geoportal housed at LTSB
- They want to continue the conversation about geoportal; ultimately it is a user-defined thing.
- Most LIOs feel money for a statewide geoportal needs to come from somewhere else
- Peter H: DOA requested other data layers; data is made available via Geodata@Wisconsin
  - a) Gets WLIP data out there for public to consumer
- How is RML different from the LION proposal? Different people define portal differently, what it is supposed to be
- Howard: What is really needed? Why a desire to re-create another system? Technology discussions are only a minor part of the problem. RML offers someone (Jaime Martindale) that understands data, metadata, staff to support the tool
- Adam D: access to certain data is problem, continuity concerns about long-term support, ability to support infrastructure.

#### Land Title Association (WLTA)

- 1) WLTA is currently in the process of forming a subcommittee and we are interested in gaining partners to formulate legislation to clarify the rules for the State of Wisconsin when it comes to electronic notarization as well as remote notarization. We are hoping to compare the existing rules and laws in place in the states of Virginia and Montana where remote

notarization is allowed, and see how we can adapt that to our state to make sure that we are keeping our transactions secure for our customers.

- 2) Remote Notary: legally commissioned notary public who is authorized to conduct notarizations over the internet via digital tools and a live audio video call. Wet signature on a document even though the signer is not in front of them. No clear way of knowing if the document was notarized traditionally or electronically.
- 3) Electronic Notary: Notary's stamp says that it is electronic.
- 4) Homestead Issues
  - a) Cheri gave a brief summary of the U.S. Bank vs. Stehno case, its outcome, and how it has impacted our interpretation of the current Homestead Law. Our message for the presentation was that the WLTA is not trying to get rid of the law, but in light of today's modern marriage and culture, we are reviewing the statutes to perhaps amend the existing law to better fit our times.

#### Real Property Listers Association (WRPLA)

- 1) Over the last two years their organization has had a large turnover of members. Therefore, she asked the other organizations present to forward to her any educational opportunities that she could share with her association. Paulson mentioned that she had talked with Leigh Rodebaugh, WLTA, about any title classes that they are holding. Paulson also mentioned that the WRPLA encourages their members to attend the WLIA Conferences, and the WSLS Conference in the Dells.
- 2) The NE Chapter of the WSLS had hosted a one day seminar on Condos and Adverse Possession earlier in the year that was attended by multiple WRPLA members and was very informative. Any seminars or opportunities like that would be passed along to the WRPLA membership, please use the contact list for her email address. Paulson stated that the more knowledgeable the WRPLA can be, the better we all do our jobs and work together.
- 3) Regarding legislation for the upcoming year, the WRPLA would be starting to work on changing Annexation review and recording of those Annexations.
  - a) Not always recorded with ROD
  - b) Counties with less <50k population don't need review from DOA plat review
  - c) Change so that all annexations are reviewed?
  - d) Make sure that annexation is recorded
  - e) WRPLA is looking for comments/feedback.

#### Register of Deeds Association (WRDA)

- RODs don't always feel involved in land information committees
- 30 new RODs in recent years
- Safe at home program - trying to understand how it works
  - a) Thinking about how legislation can be modified so it can most useful
  - b) Many unknowns at this point

#### Society of Land Surveyors (WSLS)

- Donation to NSPS hurricane disaster relief fund
- WSLS has put effort into support work of 45/90 geographic center point in Marathon County, and celebrations related to that location. See <https://www.wsls.org/current-news/487-45-n-90-w-geographic-marker>
- Working on deregulation of land surveying, other fields as well

- May ask for help from presidents council groups in future

#### State Agency Geospatial Information Committee (SAGIC)

- Open data page in the works for access to state agency geospatial data
- DNR has put up an open data page, DNR imagery services, DNR elevation data
- Also working on establishing a business case for statewide leaf off aerial imagery
  - Planning for WROC 2020
  - state government should support those efforts
- As mentioned earlier, SAGIC has an address working group thinking about state agency needs for address geocoding, standardization, and validation.

#### State Cartographer's Office (SCO)

- "v3" statewide parcel project continues; V4 continuation planned.
- We are in third year of statewide parcel application
- Moving counties closer to a standard for streamlined data integration
- New layers submitted in addition to parcels includes: street centerlines, address points, hydrography, zoning, parks/open space, trails, PLSS, building footprints
- Working continues on streamlining data integration process. "Asynchronous" update is the ultimate hope, which would make it theoretically possible to update in almost real-time. Depends upon formatting, and little or no human intervention
- Tax roll is still an annual update
- Still a lot of fine tuning required to create statewide parcel project

#### **Summary of Action Items**

- 1) Send any comments to WRPLA regarding annexations proposal.

#### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be in October 2018, specific date and place to be determined. Group prefers to continue meeting in person, versus teleconference. Hard to stay engaged and develop relationships via teleconference.

## Wisconsin Height Modernization Program

Jacob J. Rockweiler, P.E. – Wisconsin Height Modernization Program Manager  
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### **What is Height Modernization?**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), in cooperation with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS), initiated a Program in 1998 to improve the accuracy of elevations (orthometric heights) and increase the density of bench marks listed in the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). This is known as Height Modernization.

The Wisconsin Height Modernization Program (HMP) consists of two networks; the Passive Network known as the Wisconsin Geodetic Survey Control Network which establishes precise 3-dimensional monumentation throughout Wisconsin using a densified network of geodetic survey control stations; and the Active Network known as the Wisconsin Continuously Operating Reference Station (WISCORS) Network to which the Geodetic Survey Control Network serves as backbone. The Height Modernization Program provides surveying efficiencies for Transportation improvement projects statewide.

### **Wisconsin Geodetic Survey Control Network (Passive Network)**

The Passive Network, which was developed and is maintained by WisDOT, consists of approximately 8,000 geodetic survey control stations across the state. Each geodetic survey control station typically consists of a bronze disk with a unique designation (*Figure 1*) set in a 16 inch diameter concrete base (*Figure 2*) that extends approximately 8 feet below grade.



*Figure 1 – WisDOT HMP bronze disk*



*Figure 2 – View from 3 feet above station*

There are two types of passive geodetic survey control stations: bench marks and Global Positioning System (GPS) stations. Bench marks are vertical-only stations with a high order leveled elevation known to 1/8-inch (0.01 feet). Their accuracy is derived from multiple geodetic leveling runs through them. Each run begins and ends on a station with a known elevation of equal or higher accuracy. Bench marks (*Figure 3*) are typically surrounded by three white witness posts. Replacement costs per benchmark (construction of new monument and resurvey) are approximately \$8,000.



*Figure 3 – WisDOT HMP Bench mark*



*Figure 4 – WisDOT HMP GPS station*

GPS stations are 3-dimensional with a precise horizontal position to  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch (0.01 feet) and an elevation known to less than 1 inch (0.07 feet) that have been surveyed using multiple GPS observation sessions to determine the latitude, longitude and ellipsoidal height. These stations used in conjunction with bench marks help a user to obtain more reliable GPS-derived elevations. GPS stations (*Figure 4*) are typically surrounded by three orange guard posts. Replacement costs (construction of new monument and resurvey) per GPS station range from approximately \$8,000 to \$25,000. It is important to note that if a bench mark or GPS station is bumped, moved or disturbed, the station will need to be resurveyed. The resurvey is the major cost of any replacement.

The Wisconsin Geodetic Survey Control Network also consists of bronze disks that have been installed in bridge components such as wing walls and abutments (*Figure 5*) and box culverts (*Figure 6*) and typically have a white witness post installed nearby. The locations of the WisDOT HMP bronze disks in *Figure 5* and *Figure 6* are identified by a pink spray paint can.



*Figure 5 – WisDOT HMP bronze disk set in bridge abutment*      *Figure 6 – WisDOT HMP bronze disk set in box culvert*

The majority of WisDOT HMP geodetic survey control stations are located within the right-of-way of state, county and local roads. While most engineers and contractors will not be involved in geodetic surveying, they should understand the importance and value of these stations for design, construction and maintenance of construction projects. WisDOT HMP stations are used to help establish on-site project control. Often, a small design modification early in the design process can save a WisDOT HMP station from destruction. Outreach efforts are ongoing to provide additional information and knowledge about the WisDOT HMP and the importance of improved positioning throughout Wisconsin.

WisDOT HMP station locations can be viewed in a web browser setting on the Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office website at <http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/ControlFinder/>. Datasheets for any WisDOT HMP station and additional information on Height Modernization can be found at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/>. To report an endangered, disturbed or destroyed station or to inquire about general Passive Network information or questions, please email [geodetic@dot.wi.gov](mailto:geodetic@dot.wi.gov) or phone (866) 568-2852.

### **WISCORS Network (Active Network)**



*Figure 7 – WISCORS reference station  
(Portage, WI)*

The WISCORS Network consists of over 80 continuously operating permanent Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) reference stations (*Figure 7*) that can provide GNSS corrections to mobile users in real-time. A typical WISCORS reference station consists of an 8 foot tall obelisk set on a 3 foot diameter concrete base that extends approximately 12 feet below grade. Mobile users who are properly equipped to take advantage of these GNSS corrections can position their field location horizontally and vertically to 2 centimeter accuracy in real-time. WISCORS stations can also provide files to allow a user to post-process survey data after the survey in the field has been completed.

Additional information on Continuously Operating Reference Stations can be found at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/CORS/>.