

**Wisconsin Presidents Council
Organization Reports**

November 2020

Wisconsin County Surveyors Association (WCSA) Presidents Council Meeting Report – November 18, 2020:

PLSS Forum: The Wisconsin PLSS Forum is titled “*The PLSS: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*” that was scheduled for April 28, 2020 in Marinette, Wisconsin was canceled due to Covid-19. There are plans to give it a try again in Marinette in 2021 but no dates have been set.

COUNTY SURVEYOR STATUS: The current status of County Surveyors in Wisconsin is as follows: There are 61 County Surveyors in Wisconsin – 31 serving on a full-time basis, 30 serving on a part-time basis. 11 counties choose to function without a County Surveyor. Four Counties still elect their County Surveyor Iowa, Portage, Sauk and Vilas.

MEETINGS: In addition to an annual membership meeting in January, the WCSA board of directors met 3 times this year, once in Neillsville, a hybrid meeting in Wisconsin Rapids with roughly half of the attendees attending virtually and our last meeting which was 100% virtual. While these quarterly meetings technically constitute a Board of Directors meeting, we have anywhere between 20 and 35 people attend. There are educational segments with representatives from The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (Mick Heberlein), The State Cartographer’s Office (Dave Vogel) and the National Geodetic Survey (Jacob Heck) in attendance. We are seeing not only surveyors, but many others from the land information community (GIS Mappers, property listers, vendors, etc.).

NATRF 2022: WCSA along with the entire surveying community will be impacted the North American Terrestrial Reference Frame 2022. NATRF is a coordinate system that better conforms to a global framework. Corey Hughes, Assistant County Surveyor for La Crosse County is the WCSA representative on the initial Discovery Team and serves as a Co-Chair of the Education and Outreach Committee.

STATE BOUNDARY CONCERN: This was not addressed this past year. I will again blame Covid-19. The exact location of Wisconsin’s western state boundary is uncertain. It lies within the shorelines of the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, but neither Wisconsin nor Minnesota can accurately point to an exact location of that line. Locating this line is important for four main reasons:

EMERGENCIES - Emergencies frequently take place on rivers. 911 dispatchers need to know immediately which municipal emergency response unit(s) to dispatch to those emergencies. Seconds count in emergency situations and uncertainty can cause unnecessary delays and possibly result in loss of life.

REGULATIONS - Boating, fishing and hunting regulations require adherence and enforcement. Both citizens and those responsible for administering regulations have a genuine need to know an exact location for the State line to enforce applicable laws.

CONSTRUCTION - Bridge projects take place to connect states. An accurate state line location is necessary to determine how many federal dollars each state would receive for these projects and to apply prevailing wage rates.

OFFICIAL RECORDS - Should a tragedy take place on the river, a death certificate would need to be filed. Knowing the location of the state line will determine which Coroner would be called to investigate the death and file the death certificate. Our attempt to remedy the situation is to create a boundary line agreement for a line that is workable for both states. We are in the early stages of this effort and we realize there is much work to be done to accomplish a final line.

WCSA Summary: It was a challenging year for most people. Despite having a new President, Secretary and Treasurer it was the first year in a while that we had our Past-President position filled on the WCSA Board of Directors. We learned a lot about virtual meetings. Thankfully many of us were able to keep working through the challenges and we all look forward to a better 2021.

Respectfully submitted: Ryan Duckart - President

County Treasurers' Association

Submitted by Valerie Etzel, President

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What legislative initiatives does your organization expect to introduce or support in 2021?

Our association hasn't had an opportunity to meet and/or discuss any specific legislative initiatives due to COVID. We will begin to look into this after the first of the year and once the legislative body is back in session.

What other items of interest is your association working to address in 2021?

WCTA is not facing any major changes at this time.

Does your organization have any concerns related to land information or land records that you would like to discuss at the Presidents Council meeting?

WCTA is not facing any concerns at this time.

Dept. of Admin - Division of Intergovernmental Relations

Submitted by Peter E Herreid, WLIP Grant Administrator
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What legislative initiatives does your organization expect to introduce or support in 2021?

None at this time

What other items of interest is your association working to address in 2021?

Continuing to fund development of county GIS and land records modernization with grants totaling \$6.1 mil for 2021, with Strategic Initiative Grants at the \$50k level for each county.

Will be creating Version 7 of a statewide digital parcel map and the third edition of statewide PLSS database in collaboration with the State Cartographer's Office

Will also be collecting a host of other county layers in collaboration with the UW Robinson Map Library to be made publically available online.

Will continue to coordinate a grant application to obtain federal funding for lidar.

The Coastal Management Program and State Cartographer's Office will continue to work on the Wisconsin Coastal Management Data Infrastructure (WICDI) project in 2020.

DOA will continue to host Wisconsin Land Information Council meetings.

Dept. of Transportation

Submitted by Keif S Callaway, Surveyor

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WISCORS Updates:

There are 106 active stations in the WISCORS Network. Of these, 93 are Wisconsin Department of Transportation stations; these stations consist of concrete pillar monuments (75) and building mounts (18).

- Ongoing testing regarding Iowa and Michigan stations.
- Sister Bay (SIBA) decommissioned in 2020 due to wastewater treatment plant improvement project.
- Sister Bay 2 (SIB2) incorporated in 2020; in-ground solar station monument. Located at Village of Sister Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Wausau (WAAU) decommissioned in 2020 due to wastewater treatment plant improvement project.
- Wausau 2 (WAU2) incorporated in 2020; located at Wausau Downtown Airport.
- Osseo (OSEO) decommissioned in 2020 due to Countryside Cooperative building improvements.
- Osseo 2 (OSE2) incorporated in 2020, in-ground solar station monument. Located in WisDOT ROW near Osseo.
- Eau Claire station to be incorporated in 2021. Located at the City of Eau Claire Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- Washington Island station to be incorporated in 2021. Located at the Washington Island Airport.
- The Galileo satellite constellation and L5 civilian GPS signal are available for the WISCORS Network.

Static Observations of WI-Height Modernization passive geodetic survey control stations for 2022 datum modernization:

- In July of 2020, NGS announced that passive geodetic survey control stations without recent GNSS observations will receive transformed coordinates rather than calculated coordinates in the 2022 datum.
- WisDOT built or utilized 9,000 survey stations for the Wisconsin Height Modernization Program and most lack current GNSS observations.
- WisDOT is therefore leading an effort to complete as many GNSS observations on WI-HMP
- Observations need to be processed via OPUS Share by December 31, 2022 to be incorporated into the 2022 datum passive mark data pull.
- WisDOT's Bureau Survey Coordinator Mick Heberlein will be presenting on 'GNSS Observations on Passive Geodetic Survey Control Stations for 2022 Datum' at the Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors 2021 annual institute.

Transportation Project Plat (TPP) Electronic Recording Update:

- 53 of the 72 counties in Wisconsin have been contacted about E-recording TPPs.

- 44 of the 53 counties contacted are participating.
- 61 percent of the 72 counties are participating.
- Simplifile is WisDOT's e-recording vendor.

Management Update:

Ray Kumapayi, WisDOT's Chief Surveying & Mapping Engineer will be retiring at the end of the year after 30 years of state service.

Land Information Association

Submitted by Jeremiah Erickson, President

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What legislative initiatives does your organization expect to introduce or support in 2021?

Department of Military Affairs (DMA) budget request for Next Generation 911 (NG911) GIS grant program and funding

What other items of interest is your association working to address in 2021?

The WLIA recently voted to host our Annual Conference virtually. Plan to attend the 34th WLIA Annual Conference, which will now take place virtually during the week of February 15-19, 2021. Our Keynotes so far are Dr. Este Geraghty and Kevin Ehrman-Solberg. Dr. Este Geraghty, MD, MS, MPH, CPH, GISP is the Chief Medical Officer at Esri, developer of the world's most powerful mapping and analytics platform. Kevin Ehrman-Solberg is one of the co-founders of the Mapping Prejudice Project at the University of Minnesota, which is identifying and mapping racially restrictive housing covenants in the 20th century. You can learn more at our conference page: <https://www.wlia.org/annual-conference/> and if you have any questions please contact Carmen Novak our conference Chair: CNovak@bayfieldcounty.org

Our NextGen911 Task Force and a number of interested parties have been hard at work with DMA and GeoComm whom was awarded the contract for the gap analysis. Recent efforts by the Technical Committee, to produce standards for address points and road centerlines proved invaluable as discussions on that front continue on a weekly basis.

Does your organization have any concerns related to land information or land records that you would like to discuss at the Presidents Council meeting?

I am concerned that as budgets get strained there is always the possibility that someone will attempt to raid land records funding to try to balance budgets. The WLIP funds must be protected and that is an ongoing effort. We cannot lose sight of the importance of those funds and need to highlight what has been accomplished with them and what can be accomplished in the future with adequate funding.



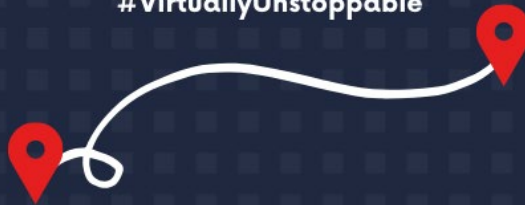
WILIA

2021 Annual Conference

Modernizing and Moving Confidently Forward

February 15-19, 2021

#VirtuallyUnstoppable



November XX, 2020

Governor Tony Evers
Attn: Jennie Dye, Policy Director
State Capitol, Madison, WI

RE: Support for the Department of Military Affairs Next Generation 911 Budget Request

Dear Governor Evers:

As representatives of organizations who develop, maintain, distribute, and utilize data critical to emergency management and public safety operations, we write today in support of your administration's ongoing efforts to modernize the state's 911 system.

On September 15th, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) submitted a comprehensive budget request that represents significant progress towards enabling Next Generation 911 (NG911). The thoughtful and collaborative approach demonstrated by DMA and the 911 Subcommittee is greatly appreciated.

The DMA budget request acknowledges NG911 implementation is dependent upon the development and maintenance of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data, including street centerlines, address points, and emergency response boundaries. Standardized geospatial data is the backbone of NG911, helping to accurately locate 911 calls and efficiently route responders via dispatch.

Enhancing the local data to meet the needs of NG911 will place additional burdens on local governments. For this reason, DMA has proposed the creation of a grant program to assist local governments with preparing the GIS data and technology required for NG911 to function. As the administration prepares the Executive Budget, **our organization respectfully requests you adopt DMA's request to provide \$3 million beginning in FY 2023 for a GIS grant program.**

In closing, as difficult decisions are made in this challenging budgeting environment, we urge you to make the long overdue modernization of 911 a priority. Support for the DMA NG911 budget request in its entirety will help ensure Wisconsinites have access to timely, reliable emergency services for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership. If you would like additional information or to discuss further, please let us know.

Sincerely,

cc: Maj. Gen. Paul E. Knapp, Adjutant General
Erik Viel, Director Office of Emergency Communications
Maggie Gau, Chief of Staff



Wisconsin Land Information Association: Areas of Interest

The Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) is made up of professionals dedicated to bringing geographic information system (GIS) solutions to problems facing both government and private industry. For 30 years our nearly 1,000 members throughout Wisconsin have been leaders in the development, operation and maintenance of a network of statewide GIS and land information systems. WLIA membership can serve as a resource for policymakers as GIS and land information systems have come to impact most areas of public policy. WLIA's areas of interest/expertise include:

Next Generation 911 (NG911)

Land information professionals are often called upon to provide accurate address point, road centerline and base map data for use in emergency vehicles and call centers. Next Generation 911 (NG911) enables the transfer of images, video and text messages by the public to emergency responders. Access to this data will enable first responders to better assess caller and victim conditions from the call site. WLIA sees the value and importance of NG911 and looks to partner in initiatives that make public safety even more effective.

Economic Development

Attracting and keeping businesses in Wisconsin is enhanced by easy access to parcel-based land information data. This enables businesses to identify property available for purchase, rent, or lease. Documents that have been recorded in the Register of Deeds offices are mapped and enhanced by additional information, such as zoning, plat and easement information, and aerial imagery. The parcel mapping and value added data is created and maintained by county and other local government professionals, many of whom are WLIA members. The data is available on local GIS websites and aggregated by DOA to create a statewide parcel map, which is downloadable and available in app form to the general public.

Emergency Management

Severe weather events have brought to the fore the importance of geospatial data access, sharing and distribution. Emergency response to recent flooding events throughout the State of Wisconsin was expedited by the use of GIS and Land Information. Aid locations, road closures, areas of extreme damage and much more were mapped and made available to the public and emergency professionals in a timely fashion to minimize duplicative efforts. These tasks were handled by association members at every level of government. The same holds true for other incidents, natural disasters or otherwise, such as acts of terrorism, chemical spills, fires, and more. Targeted preparation and faster response using geospatial data means healthier, safer communities.

Transportation

Traffic patterns and trends, accident data, travel time, vehicle and snowplow routing are just a few of the issues that local agencies depend on GIS and Land Information Systems (LIS) professionals to provide. Data maintenance and integrity is maintained in a variety of State, County and Local departments and shared to Public Works and Transportation departments. This collaboration and effort ensures that Wisconsin's road, rail and trail infrastructure meets its travel, industrial and recreational needs.

Election Districts and Voter Registration

Association members from county and local governments maintain the ward data from which all other election districts are created. Ward, district and address data are shared with and used by the Wisconsin Elections Commission and the Legislative Technology Services Bureau in applications such as WisVote. Many association members have experience with the redistricting that takes place after each decennial census; often serving as the technical lead for their municipality or county.



Property Ownership & Assessment

When parcel mapping is paired with property ownership information and overlaid atop recent aerial imagery in an online GIS application it becomes a powerful tool. The WLIA realizes that this would not be possible statewide without the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) funding and support continuing efforts to provide geospatial data available to all. GIS applications allow assessors to calculate categorical acreage estimates and visualize property sales and land divisions, private property owners to utilize and access vast amounts of information for planning development or conservation, and the tax and assessment information and mapping assists real estate professionals.

Conservation Planning and Environmental Monitoring

Urban and rural environments both require proper planning whether it is for residential and commercial development or environmental corridor protection or agricultural land preservation. Many of the core data layers of the Wisconsin Land Information Program are utilized for local, regional and statewide resource conservation efforts. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have become embedded in virtually every government planning office to assist in smart design, construction, restoration and preservation.

Engineering

The construction industry requires sound engineering design that relies on accurate topographic data and aerial photography. The Wisconsin Land Information Program has witnessed and subsequently embraced new technologies like Light Detection and Radar (LiDAR) and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) to collect better, more complete ground data. This data in concert with aerial photography allows for realistic 3D models to expedite engineering projects and spur economic development.

Surveying

As survey practices have evolved from transit and stadia rods to high precision GPS, the requirements for accurate benchmarks, monumentation and tie points has become critical. One of the critical datasets that the Wisconsin Land Information Program is working to complete statewide is the Public Land Survey System. The location and establishment of these monuments forms the infrastructure for all other land related information. Land surveying professionals have come to expect access to supporting GIS layers to do their jobs. Members of our association are instrumental to the exchange of location data to and from the surveying community.

Utilities

Wisconsin geospatial professionals make data available for all major utility providers. This information is vital to supporting Wisconsin's One-Call Center and Digger's Hotline (811) to protect underground utilities and assets in compliance of Wisconsin State Statute 182.0175. The Wisconsin Land Information Association community continues to push for open data standards to insure that data access to this type of critical data is simple, fast and free for public and private sector utilities.

Rural Broadband Mapping

Internet connectivity and access plays an integral role in the lives, education and growth of our urban and rural communities. A recent federal report indicated over 744,000 people in Wisconsin lack access to at least one broadband service. Wisconsin's constituency increasingly demands internet access. The land information community already maintains much of the data and mapping needed to analyze underserved areas and possess the tools to study ways to increase coverage.

Land Information Council

Submitted by Adam Derringer, Chair

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What legislative initiatives does your organization expect to introduce or support in 2021?

NG-911

What other items of interest is your association working to address in 2021?

Summary

WLIC continues to stay informed on key geospatial topics affecting our organizations and community to best help us advise the Wisconsin Land Information Program. Key current topics:

WLIP

-2021 Grant Application has been released. Counties are eligible for Training & Education, Base Budget, and Strategic initiative grants up to \$50,000 level.

-WLIP has released the V6 Report. Members (including LION) have asked if the WLIP can release the call for data earlier to avoid rework in county offices. While this may not happen for V7 the WLIP is open to bump up the timeline in V8. DOA is also open to including more stakeholders with future schema changes.

-DOA is open to help foster a conversation between LION/RPLs and DOR to help streamline on-going tax data issues.

LiDAR

The WLIP continues to support the update of LiDAR in the state and Wisconsin is nearing completion of QL2 LiDAR data. Some focus will start transitioning to use this new LiDAR for hydrography updates.

NG-911

We all know NG-911 will have major benefits to citizens but it will take a major effort by many to get it done, including the geospatial community. The WLIC has great interest in seeing not just assessable standardized data come from this effort but also to ensure local offices are supported in the creation and maintenance of the geospatial data which will drive NG-911.

Does your organization have any concerns related to land information or land records that you would like to discuss at the Presidents Council meeting?

WSRS 2022

The new coordinate systems will cause coordinates in Wisconsin to shift over a meter horizontally and vertically. This will have significant implications, especially for county data producers, who will likely be seeking out funding in the future.

Land Information Officers Network

Submitted by Zachery Newton, Chair
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What legislative initiatives does your organization expect to introduce or support in 2021?

Currently Supporting NG-911 and the DMA's budget proposal of a NG-911 grant.

What other items of interest is your association working to address in 2021?

NA

Does your organization have any concerns related to land information or land records that you would like to discuss at the Presidents Council meeting?

NA

Land Title Association

Submitted by Cheri Hipenbecker, Immediate Past President
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What legislative initiatives does your organization expect to introduce or support in 2021?

Private road maintenance - to address residential mortgage lending issues on private roads

What other items of interest is your association working to address in 2021?

Remote online notarization (see Chapter 140, Wis. Stats)

Real Property Listers Association

Submitted by Britta Kelly, President

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What legislative initiatives does your organization expect to introduce or support in 2021?

Support for NextGen 911 Budget Request

What other items of interest is your association working to address in 2021?

We have been asked to comment on the impacts to Listers on the proposed change to County Assessment.

Register of Deeds Association

Submitted by Kyle J. Franson, President

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What legislative initiatives does your organization expect to introduce or support in 2021?

1. The WRDA is currently looking to introduce and support Condominium Legislation. The WRDA introduced the cleanup legislation in the last biennium and it was not voted on in the Legislature. We would like to bring it up for this biennium. This cleanup legislation was a collaboration from several groups including, WI Surveyors, WI Realtors, WI State Bar, WI Counties Association. This legislation will clarify several areas for the condominium consumer.
2. The WRDA is also looking to support of the Department of Military Affairs budget request for Next Generation 911 GIS grant program and funding. Each District within the WRDA is currently weighing in, but the Board fully supports this request and I expect that we will sign the letter of support and forward it along to Jeremiah Erickson with the WLIA.

What other items of interest is your association working to address in 2021?

Many register's are continuing to work with other county departments and our business partners to keep up with and improve technology and accessibility. Many offices are continuing to back index and work toward 30, 40 and 60 year searching options and continuing to back scan and image documents, plats and CSM's for online availability.

Does your organization have any concerns related to land information or land records that you would like to discuss at the Presidents Council meeting?

No immediate concerns from the WRDA at this time.

Society of Land Surveyors

Submitted by Francis R Thousand, Executive Director

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What legislative initiatives does your organization expect to introduce or support in 2021?

Chapter 236 will need changes to allow for the foot instead to the US Survey foot. There will also be changes with regards to coordinate systems. The assumption is that this will be done in coordination with all other interested parties. While Chapter 236 is primarily a subdivision statute, it has references in other parts of the statutes and codes which impact many groups.

We are still waiting for A-E 7 to be finally approved and published. It has been stuck due to the pandemic. The last approval was the Joint Board in October but they failed to get a quorum at their October meeting.

What other items of interest is your association working to address in 2021?

WSLS has been involved with Governor's office to get on the essential workers list. It is easy to social distance when you are working alone in a farm field or woods. We were successful last spring and will be keeping an eye on further requirements if necessary.

WSLS was in support of the Bankers Association in their efforts to address the concerns about the PPP small business loans.

WSLS sent a letter to WLIA to be included in the NG911 funding requests.

NSPS is working on the Ligato FCC licensing objections in Washington. Ligato is the left over Lightsquared discussion from a few years ago. If Ligato gets its way it may adversely impact the GPS signals. WSLS members are also NSPS members and use GPS.

Does your organization have any concerns related to land information or land records that you would like to discuss at the Presidents Council meeting?

State Agency Geospatial Information Committee

Submitted by Colter Sikora, Chair

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What legislative initiatives does your organization expect to introduce or support in 2021?

As SAGIC consists of Wisconsin state agency employees, we are obliged to work within our agencies' legislative liaisons when legislative initiatives are afoot. That being said, we support the work of other geospatially minded organizations as appropriate, usually through offering constructive commentary and partnerships that help shape initiatives.

What other items of interest is your association working to address in 2021?

- Legislative/Stakeholder Outreach:

- a. Beginning to plan a virtual replacement for the "Maps at the Capitol" legislative outreach event. This will likely involve a series of short recorded presentations shared with the Legislature and other interested stakeholders throughout 2021. Presentations topics and potential partnerships may be considered.
- b. Wants to continue building communication and relationships with other stakeholders (Presidents Council, State Agency Information Technology Directors Council, etc.).

- Open Data:

- a. SAGIC is now partnered with GeoData@UW (Robinson Map Library and State Cartographer's Office) to host state agency open geospatial data. Link: https://geodata.wisc.edu/?f%5Bdct_isPartOf_sm%5D%5B%5D=Wisconsin+State+Agencies&q=&search_field=all_fields
- b. SAGIC members are refocusing Open Data efforts to encourage more agency to develop Open Data tools and to support maintenance of said tools.
- c. SAGIC members also plan to run an initiative to take stock in geospatial business needs across the state agency GIS enterprise in early 2021.

- COVID-19:

- a. A subset of state agencies (Administration, Emergency Management, Health Services, Military Affairs, Public Service Commission) have been meeting on a weekly to bi-weekly basis to share COVID-19 geospatial updates. This group also works together and with the cooperation of SAGIC members to support state agency mapping needs through the pandemic.

b. All SAGIC agencies have had multiple opportunities to share their individual agencies geospatial response to COVID-19 among SAGIC membership and through Wisconsin Land Information Association meetings.

- ESRI Master Purchase Agreement, 2021 Revision (ESRI MPA): The Department of Administration (DOA) and ESRI are required to come to terms on an updated ESRI MPA by early March 2021. This impacts ESRI software purchases for most public sector entities in Wisconsin. SAGIC is forming a small working group that expects to work with DOA and ESRI from November 2020 until the revised ESRI MPA is signed.

- SAGIC Leadership: Annual SAGIC elections are expected to be held in December 2020, with the newly elected officer team assuming their roles in February 2021.

Does your organization have any concerns related to land information or land records that you would like to discuss at the Presidents Council meeting?

Any of the above topics that are considered worth discussing with the group are fine with SAGIC (or anything else that someone thinks of, just give us some warning first)!

State Cartographer's Office

Submitted by Howard Veregin, State Cartographer
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What legislative initiatives does your organization expect to introduce or support in 2021?

I think the only legislative initiative might be related to the NGS's NSRS modernization plans, e.g., revising statute to include new datums and definition of the foot.

What other items of interest is your association working to address in 2021?

We're doing all sorts of things: statewide parcels, statewide PLSS, working on flood-related infrastructure issues in northern Wisconsin, upgrading access to geospatial data online, etc. Most of this is covered in our latest annual report available on our website under publications.

Does your organization have any concerns related to land information or land records that you would like to discuss at the Presidents Council meeting?

Funding for NG9-1-1.

Funding for NSRS modernization including handling legacy data.