# Wisconsin Land Information Association
## 2003 Annual Report

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**March, 2004**

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As I approach the end of my term, I would like to thank all those called upon to get involved, even becoming a member in today’s budget crisis is noteworthy. I thank all the outgoing Board and Committee members and look forward to one more year on the Board, as Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee. I thank all the loyal vendors who contributed to our success as well.

Only you can decide if I succeeded in leading the Board to enhance the relationships we had developed over the years in the land records field. This would include our partners at the federal, state, county, local and individual levels. This last year has also shown us we must broaden our approach beyond the enhanced mapping and record retrieval, tax and assessment work, planning and land use, zoning and building construction, and the soils and photography use of our data to include hazard awareness, mitigation, homeland security and economic prosperity.

The core responsibility of the Wisconsin Land Information Association, the leader in Wisconsin’s awareness of geographic information, is to promote expertise and leadership in the sciences and technologies related to relevant, accurate and timely land information. We will continue to build on this awareness and training network through our Land Records Quarterly, the Regional Membership Meetings and especially through this Annual Meeting. Just go back to the Mapping Poster Session if you don’t think the association has rubbed off a little. I am proud to report this association has helped improve the Wisconsin Land Information Program through our professional perspectives, the open forums for sharing and the free exchange of ideas, as well as helping to promote a land information network, all through a voluntary membership.

Finally, one of our key tools to help assure this great State’s success, is you and your partnerships with government at all levels, with the private industry that helps advance technology, and our sister organizations that include the educators, surveyors, register of deeds, real property listers, planners and code administrators, gis/lis specialists, soil scientists, photogrammetrists and so on. If you want to see how effective we are and be a part of history in the making, volunteer, join a committee and groom yourself to take over. Last year at this same time, I said the events of a year naturally affect our own habits and yearly focus. Then how do we become more effective and responsible for our own information management, security and protection of assets and infrastructure? By adding you and your contributions to the equation! Please don’t forget to join a committee this year. Our new President, Alissa Bails, will be very happy you did and so will you. Thanks again for a great year!
Mission Statement: The mission of the committee is to find and attract new members through the annual conference and regional membership meetings.

Members: Both Co-chairs along with each county Land Information Officer or designated committee.

Association Membership: 2003 began with the Association having membership of 485, a reduction of 35 members from the previous year’s 523 members. Continued budget tightening measures by governmental units, account for most of this membership loss.

The Committee agreed that an effort should be made to contact individuals in the IT community and encourage their participation in the Association. Likewise it was decided that an increased level of membership from municipalities is desirable for the Association. Also considered by the Committee is the need reach out to commercial users of Land Records and to actively seek their membership.

A goal of increasing the attendance at the regional meetings was set by the Committee. This was accomplished at the fall regional meeting which had a record attendance.

It was felt that several individuals were not able to attend the conference, therefore not becoming a member for the year, because the fees were combined together in the past. In effort to encourage an increase in membership, the Board of Directors at its March meeting opted to separate membership dues from the conference registration. This action was to take effect for the 2004 Annual Conference.

It was felt that the membership brochure was in need of updating to reflect the evolving nature of our association and to attract a more diverse membership, thus the Committee finished the year updating the membership brochure.

Membership Categories:

- **Individual Members:** 413 members comprise this category. The membership in this category is available to any individual with an interest in advancing the Association’s mission.

- **Association Members:** 7 members are in this category. Membership as an association is available to non-profit organizations or state agencies having at least 25 people involved with land information activities.

- **Business Members:** 50 members are in this category. Consisting of members from for-profit businesses involved in advancing association and land information activities, members of this category are permitted to exhibit displays at any Association conference.

- **Student Members:** 15 members comprise this category. This category is open to anyone enrolled in a post secondary educational institution with an interest in land information activities.
MISSION STATEMENT: The Committee shall develop and help others to develop educational programs and materials on land information issues.

The education committee has spent the last year coordinating regional meetings, the program for the Annual Conference and Membership meeting, as well as endorsing several cooperative workshops.

2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE:
Nine pre-conference workshops have been arranged for the 2004 Annual Conference in Wisconsin Dells, including 2 free workshops. One full-day workshop: Turning Imagery into Information – A hands-on workshop; and seven half-day workshops: A Community Resource for Comprehensive Planning, Smart Decision-Making with the Aquatic & Terrestrial Resource Inventory (ATRI), Delivering GIS Functionality and Geospatial Data with Map Services, Preparing for GIS Certification, State Agency Resources for Comprehensive Planning, LIDAR Acquisition and Data Applications. The two free workshops include: GIS in the Classroom and Introduction to GIS for Local Government Officials.

2003 REGIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:
June 19-20, Manitowoc, WI GIS, E-911 & Public Safety Services
The spring meeting focused on the utilization of GIS with E-911 and Public Safety applications. Representatives from Brown County and the City of Green Bay presented hot topics in GIS as it relates to law enforcement and a presentation was given by Rock County’s Communications center on public safety mapping use. Numerous software vendors were on hand to demonstrate software solutions for an enhanced E-911 system. Issues revolving around wireless 911 services were also addressed.

July 24, Wisconsin Rapids Remote Sensing: Basics and Applications Workshop
The workshop focused on the very basics of electromagnetic energy and spectral reflectance, aerial photos, digital photos, acquiring images, resolution effects, thermal & hyperspectral sensing, radar and applications. The afternoon workshops ran concurrent: Acquisition and Applications of LIDAR for GIS and Imagery Applications: Satellites and Orthophotos.

October 16-17, Spring Green, WI GIS, PASER Data and Addressing:
The fall regional meeting began Thursday morning with topics concerning Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) and PASERWARE 3.0. The meeting smoothly progressed into a topic concerning addressing: Centerline, point address and E-911: Coordination Issues. Before lunch, there was a panel discussion, which allowed the members the chance to ask questions and state concerns to the WLIA Board of Directors. Friday’s sessions focused on MSAG’s and County and State Addressing Ordinances.

November 20, Wisconsin Rapids Height Modernization Forum
A town meeting co-sponsored by the WLIA and Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors. The forum began with the National Height Modernization Program overview, followed by Height Modernization Primer which dealt with GPS derived Heights, Datums, and Coordinates. The afternoon agenda consisted of State perspectives from North Carolina and Wisconsin and local perspectives from Waukesha and Burnett Counties. The afternoon rounded off with small focus group discussions.
MISSION STATEMENT: The Committee shall promote interaction and cooperation among the Association, other professional associations and organizations, and the public.

WLIA Web site

In 2003, we continued to redesign and update the website. Once again, we would like to thank the efforts of Ron Voigt, the WLIA webmaster, on all of the changes. We are always looking for new ideas or suggestions for improvements, so if you have any comments please let us know. Be sure to visit www.wlia.org.

Display Board

This year we purchased a more professional looking display board which included lights and a table skirt. To assure fresh material for the display, an arrangement was made with the State Cartographers Office to use various posters that were created for the annual poster contest. The association was represented at the Wisconsin Counties Association, UW Madison GIS Day, Dane County GIS Day and at the Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors Institute.

Newsletter

The newsletter continues to be a vital link to our association members. Articles are encouraged outlining various GIS activities by our members. Future plans include “meet a member” and “beyond our borders” (outlining activities in neighboring states).
Mission Statement: The Committee shall establish task forces to study land information issues and provide a forum for examining land information ideas.

Two task forces completed their missions in 2003, one continues, and one new one has started!

Thanks to the work of the Jane Licht, Marilyn Mueller, Jodi Helgeson and Drew Heiden, the Real Estate Document Definitions Task Force has completed its mission. The task force has prepared a standard set of definitions for documents routinely recorded in the office of the register of deeds. The definitions were accepted as the WLIA Document Definitions Resource at the WLIA Annual Conference in March, 2003, and are available on the WLIA website at http://www.wlia.org/standards/RealEstateDocumentDefinitions.htm.

The Information Policy Task Force, chaired by Damon Anderson and Diann Danielsen, also completed its mission in 2003. Thanks to Damon, Diann and all who helped with this task force! Since 1999, the task force has sponsored numerous educational sessions on topics related to privacy, open records, data distribution, data access and cost recovery. Materials from these sessions have been included in the WLIA Information Policy Handbook which can be found on the WLIA website at http://www.wlia.org/standards/InfoPolicy.htm.

The two task forces still active are:

**GIS Certification:** Chair: Mike Koutnik
Members: Cristina Pearson, Dave Flack, JoAnn Parks, Tim Olsen, Jeff Maxted, Diana Kanter, Dave Poffinbarger, Walt Jaeger

Mission Statement: The GIS Certification Task Force will study the issue of certification of GIS professionals from the perspective of WLIA members. The task force will make recommendations about whether WLIA should engage itself with the proposed URISA process for certifying GIS professionals, and if so, how. The task force intends to conduct 3 explicit communications efforts (two surveys and one workshop) to gather information from and provide information to WLIA members. In addition to WLIA membership, the task force will also gather perspectives from the broader Wisconsin GIS community, though in a less formal way than with the WLIA membership.

The Task Force has conducted a survey to determine the thoughts of WLIA members on GIS Certification. The results of the survey can be found on the WLIA website. A session on GIS certification was held during the 2003 Annual Conference which provided the opportunity for WLIA members comment on the proposed URISA GIS Professional Certification process and the results from the survey. The Task Force (and others) will sponsor a pre-conference workshop and technical session on the recently adopted URISA program at the 2004 Annual Conference.

**County Coordinate Systems Task Force:** Chair: Ted Koch

Members: David Moyer, NGS; David Hart, UW-Madison; Al Vonderohe, UW-Madison; Glen Schaefer, Curtis Pulford, Gene Hafermann, WIDOT; Jerry Mahun, MATC; Jay Yearwood, City of Appleton; Diann Danielsen, Dane County; Mike Koutnik, Tom Bushy, ESRI; John Laedlein, WI DNR; AJ Wortley, St. Cartographer's Office; Jerry Sullivan, WI DOA; John Ellingson, Jackson Co and Pat Ford, Brown County.
Mission Statement: Define the issues, develop test data, investigate improved standardization of data conversion methods, and officially define and register the Wisconsin County Coordinate System parameters with a recognized standards setting body.

Wisconsin County Coordinate Systems were devised and implemented for the purpose of providing a best-fit coordinate system at the local (county) level for the purpose of data acquisition, recording, and integration. Recently, it has become evident that there may be inconsistencies in how users have implemented the county coordinates within particular software environments, and how effective different software is in converting data into and out of the local coordinate configurations. The Task Force will hold its first meeting in February, 2004 to plan future activities.
The Legislative Committee’s mission is to implement the WLIA By-Laws, Article II A., titled “Policy.”

- To actively promote modern land information development.
- To provide a unified professional voice on land information issues.
- To review legislative actions and where appropriate: to provide advice on land information issues to public and private decision makers, and to promote positive legislative actions regarding information issues.

In addition, the Legislative Committee shall work in cooperation with the Legislative Coordinator who, at this time, is a registered lobbyist. The Legislative Coordinator is a standing member of the WLIA Legislative Committee.

2003-2004 ACTIVITIES

The past year has been spent primarily on getting to know the members of Governor Doyle’s Administration, particularly those in the Department of Administration. Laura Engan is Deputy Director of Administration and Pat Farley is responsible for the Office of Land Information. We had asked Representative Phil Montgomery to sponsor stand-alone legislation to abolish the sunset of the Wisconsin Land Information Program. However, the Governor’s Budget bill for 2003-2004 extended the sunset to September 1, 2005 and his administration is looking into either extending or eliminating the sunset in the next budget bill. We are grateful to Rep. Montgomery and also to Rep. David Ward for their keen interest in the program. This is especially significant in light of the fact that Senator Robert Welch, the program originator and stalwart defender, is moving on to other pursuits. We continue to count Senator Jon Erpenbach as a friend of land records and we continue to look for that “knight in white armor” from the Republican side of aisle to replace Senator Welch.

Legislative Coordinator Ron Hermes monitored a number of bills that had the potential to affect the Wisconsin Land Information Program or other land information modernization issues.

The Chair of the WLIA Legislative Committee, Jane Licht, was appointed by the Governor to the Wisconsin Land Information Board and the Wisconsin Land Council. Therefore, she resigned in October, 2003, as Legislative Chair and Jay Shambeau became the new WLIA Legislative Chair. President Jeff Bluske, and President-elect Allisa Bales, Legislative Chair Jay Shambeau, and Legislative Coordinator Ron Hermes met with Pat Farley late in January and discussed the Wisconsin Land Information Program. Mr. Farley indicated that the Administration welcomes our input regarding the future direction of the Wisconsin Land Information Program.

Members of the 2003-2004 WLIA Legislative Committee were: Damon Anderson, Jeff Bluske, Dave Fodroczi, Scott Galetka, Fred Halfen, Drew Heiden (who later resigned), Ron Hermes, Jim Johnston, Jane Licht (who later resigned), Roxanne Scott, and Jay Shambeau.
BACKGROUND

Information is distributed to members encouraging them to nominate persons for the WLIA Board of Directors to fill vacancies on the Board, and to nominate persons and/or groups for the various awards presented at the WLIA Annual Conference. The Past President is Chair of this Committee and the President shall call upon others to serve on the Committee.

NOMINATIONS TO THE WLIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The past-president is pleased to report that numerous nominations were received for the 7 vacancies, and one of the current board members, Ken Pabich, agreed to run for president-elect.

Ballots will be distributed and accepted prior to the Annual Conference. Votes will be counted at the Annual Conference and the newly elected board members will be presented at the Awards Luncheon.

Those individuals who were not elected to the board will be called upon for committee work and other service to the WLIA. Here is the list of nominees:

DIRECTORS:

CHRIS VANDERHEYDEN
SMART DATA STRATEGIES
PO BOX 10565
GREEN BAY WI 54307

JAY SHAMBEAU
CLARK COUNTY ZONING
517 COURT ST RM 204A
NEILLSVILLE WI 54456

CRISTINA PEARSON
IOWA COUNTY GIS
222 N IOWA ST
DODGEVILLE WI 53533

MELISSA KRAMER
ECWRPC
132 MAIN STREET
MENASHA, WI  54952

JODI HELGESON
ADAMS COUNTY ROD
PO BOX 219
FRIENDSHIP WI 53934

MARK HARRIS
CITY OF MEQUON GIS
11333 N CEDARBURG RD
MEQUON WI 53092-1930

FRED HALFEN
AYRES ASSOCIATES
2445 DARWIN RD
MADISON WI 53704

MARGE GEISSLER
CHIPPEWA COUNTY ROD
711 N BRIDGE ST
CHIPPEWA FALLS WI 54729

BRET DAVIES
JUNEAU COUNTYGIS/LIS
220 E STATE ST
MAUSTON WI 53948

BRETT BUDROW
PLANNING/GIS
1101 CARMICHAEL RD
HUDSON WI 54016

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AWARDS
Nominations for the various awards were received by the Committee, except of course, for the President’s Award which is known only by the President and our Executive Services Manager who prepares the awards. All of the following awards will be presented at the Awards Luncheon:

- President’s Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- Outstanding Contributions Award
- Friend of Land Records Award
- Allen H. Miller Sustained Service Award
- Local Government Achievement Award
Net Worth Report  
as of 12/31/03

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<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>19,919.59</td>
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I. The meeting was called to order at 10:35 am

II. Secretary/Treasurer Report
   a. Motion to approve October 4, 2002 General Membership meeting minutes (Teuteberg, Braithwaite) motion carried.
   b. Motion: to approve the Annual end of year, 2002 financial report that included net worth report of $26,320.33 (Pabich, Faella) motion carried.

III. Administrative Services Report

IV. Committee Reports
   a. Membership
      Don Dittmar reported that membership is down and it’s more than just budget cuts. He requested help in recruiting more members. This committee report placed on file.

   b. Education
      Mark Teuteberg and Mark Walter coordinated two excellent regional meetings in 2003 in Racine and Wausau. See page 3 of the annual report for details. This report placed on file.

   c. Communications
      1. Website – did a complete over haul and thank you to Ron Voigt for being webmaster. Send all updates to Ken first to compile and to then send to Ron. Address: www.wlia.org.
      2. Display – exhibited at WLIA Legislative Day as well as URISA, WSLS, WCA conventions this past year very successfully.
      3. Newsletter – thank you Roxy for being Editor. Newsletter has been excellent this past year. Report placed on file.

   d. Technical
      Tom Faella reported that the three task forces have accomplished a great deal.

      1. Information Policy Task Force
         The information policy handbook was produced as a resource and distributed today. Motion: to approve this handbook as a resource guide (Novinska, Faella) motion carried. Send any comments to Damon Anderson. This handbook will be posted on the WLIA web site.

      2. Real Estate Definition
         Borrowed from the Register of Deeds handbook and their list of definitions. Would like to post this on the web site to review and will adopt as a standard.
3. GIS Certification Task Force. The task force created and distributed a survey asking for feedback on the concept of a certification program for GIS. They received 168 responses to the survey. 2 groups – 57% in favor and a small group vehemently opposed. The certification would be voluntary. URISA has a pilot program that will be presented in October.

e. Legislative
1. Jim Johnston reported that with the change in Governorship we hope to have a more productive legislative process. Budget coming out next week. WLIA members have made contact with over 20 senators and 45 representatives but there are more calls that need to be made. Would like to include more information on our association brochure to help educate legislators.
2. Ron Hermes, our lobbyist, reported that we will pursue legislation to extend the sunset and get it out of the budget debate. Welch and Montgomery will sponsor this bill and will attempt to get it passed by September 1, 2003. WLIA has sent in a list of suggested names for the vacant positions on the WLIB. Governor will appoint those representatives. Thank you to all that have contacted their legislators.

V. Bylaws – Marilyn Mueller reported that proposed changes include: calling the quarterly meetings regional meetings and changing the terminology of the appointment of the secretary treasurer by taking the term limit out since the association has contracted this service out to Conners/Barrett & Co., LLC. **Motion** to approve the changes (Pabich, Faella) motion carried.

VI. Old Business
a. Homeland Security Resolution – Ted presented a resolution created by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) – to build a national spatial data network in order to effectively respond to disasters. NSGIC is looking for support from as many organizations across the country to support this. WLIB has agreed to support this. They currently have groups from 30 states in support. **Motion**: to offer WLIA's support of this resolution (Brown, Moyer) motion carried.

VII. New Business – Requested a workshop and more information on PLSS Data including the WLIA Standard.

VIII. Adjourn – **Motion**: to adjourn (Brown, Walter) motion carried.
Wisconsin Land Information Association
General Membership Meeting
June 20, 2003
Manitowoc, WI

I. Call to Order

II. Secretary/Treasurer Reports
   a. Motion: to approve the general member meeting minutes from February 14, 2003
      (Anderson, Koutnik) motion carried.

III. Committee Reports
   a. Technical
      1. Info Policy Task Force – guide is on the web site. Will start on data sharing issues
         related to homeland security.
      2. GIS certification task force – will have a workshop at the 2004 Annual meeting.
      3. Coordinate System task force – would like to develop this task force - it will be a
         quick project.
      4. Discussion of an addressing task force. Looking for a chair & members.
   b. Communication
      1. Committee is updating the WLIA website with the latest bylaws and the
         administrative manual.
      2. WLIA is buying a new display to exhibit at the WI Counties convention this
         September as well as other shows.
      3. Newsletter deadlines are July 31st, 2003 and November 21st, 2003. Articles are
         welcome.
   c. Membership
      1. Committee is working on a new membership brochure.
      2. The board voted to separate the membership dues from the conference fees next
         year.
   d. Education
      1. Reminder that there is a remote sensing workshop on July 24th in Wisconsin
         Rapids.
      2. 2004 Regional meeting locations were approved: June 23 – 25 at the Lake of the
         Torches Hotel in Lac du Flambeau and October 20 – 22, 2004 at Lake Lawn
         Lodge in Delevan.
   e. 2004 Annual Conference
      1. Dates are March 3 – 5, 2004 at the Kalahari Resort in WI Dells – note the new
         format of a Wed - Fri.
      2. Pre-conference workshops ideas are welcome. Theme is "Making a Splash with
         GIS".
   f. Legislative
      1. Budget bill passed – thanks to all of you who contacted your legislator, they
         listened. WCA publishes the Wheeler Report – a publication to keep you updated
         on legislative issues – contact the WCA to subscribe.

IV. New Business
   a. Poster contest winner was the 911 Emergency Response Map for the Jackson Township in
      Burnett County.

V. Adjournment
   Motion: to adjourn (Dittmar, Bails) motion carried.
Wisconsin Land Information Association
General Membership Meeting
October 16, 2004
Spring Green, WI

I. Call to Order

II. Secretary/Treasurer Reports
   a. Motion: to approve the general membership meeting minutes from June 20, 2003 (Bails, Lohman) motion carried.

III. Committee Reports
   a. Technical
      1. There is an article in the newsletter on the task forces activity. It includes
         a. GIS Certification task force: Mike Koutnik; chair. They will have session at
            the Annual Conference.
         b. Data Sharing task force: Damon Anderson; chair. They are working on issues
            of privacy and data access.
         c. County Coordinate System is a new task force: Ted Koch; chair.
         d. Addressing & Centerlines Task Force: Aaron Weier; chair; They are updating
            the standards on the WLIA web site.
   b. Communication
      1. Committee continues to update the WLIA website.
      2. WLIA has a new display used to exhibit at the WI Counties convention in
         September and is available for other shows. Thanks to those who donated Plat
         books and maps.
      3. Next WLIA newsletter deadline is November 21st, 2003. Articles are welcome.
   c. Membership
      1. Committee continues to work on a new membership brochure.
      2. Membership is at 489 with 421 individuals, 46 business members and 8 non-
         profit members.
   d. Education
      1. Committee reported that there is a good turnout today with 90 in attendance at
         both the workshop and Friday sessions.
      2. 2004 Regional meeting locations were announced: June 23 – 25 at the Lake of
         the Torches Hotel in Lac du Flambeau and October 20 – 22, 2004 at Lake Lawn
         Lodge in Delevan.
      3. Committee is accepting workshop ideas for the Annual Conference.
      4. Jon Schwichtenberg is working on obtaining CEU’s for WLIA education.
   e. 2004 Annual Conference
      1. Dates are March 3 – 5, 2004 at the Kalahari Resort in WI Dells – note the new
         format of a Wed – Fri to help reduce costs.
      2. Keynote speaker is Hank Garie from GeoSpatial One-Stop. Abstracts are still being
         accepted but please submit them ASAP. Scavenger hunt planned for fun.
   f. Legislative
      1. Jay Shambeau is the new chair of the committee. Ron Hermes continues to monitor
         legislative activity. Jeff, Alissa and Ron to meet with Pat Farely with DOA.

IV. Adjournment
   Motion: to adjourn (Dittmar, Bails) motion carried.