Wisconsin Land Information Association

2004 Annual Association Report

WLIA Guiding Principles:
• Professional Perspective
• Open Technical Forum
• Free Exchange of Ideas
• Statewide Foundational Elements
• Land Information Network
• Equitable Benefits
• Independent Voluntary Association

“Tackling Data Integration”
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# Wisconsin Land Information Association
## 2004 Annual Report

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

February, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. President’s Report</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Committee Reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Membership</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Communications</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Technical</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Legislative</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Nominations</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Treasurer Report</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Secretary’s Report</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Membership Meeting Minutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March, 2004</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June, 2004</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October, 2004</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As yet another year has come to a close and I am beginning to wrap things up and reflect upon the last year.

First, I would like to thank all of you that have helped me through the last year. It seemed like every phone call I made started out with “Could you help me?” I sincerely appreciate all of your help and efforts to make WLIA the best it can possibly be. Thank you.

Second, I would like to take this time to review some of the highlights of the past year. We kicked off with our annual conference in the Wisconsin Dells, the organization experience record attendance with over 521 exhibitors, presenters and attendees. Conference reviews led us to book the Kalahari Resort again for our conference in 2006!

Much of the year was spent again discussing the program with various Department of Administration officials. We saw the departure of our trusted lobbyist in May, leading to the hiring of Peter Kammer of Essie Consulting Group in January 2005. I am hopeful that this year will bring positive changes to DOA and the program including the hiring of a new state Geographic Information Officer. Through our efforts we believe that county base budgets will also be increased from 35K to 50K in the Governor’s budget. We are also encouraged that the program’s sunset will finally be eliminated!

In addition to the numerous hours working with DOA, the Board was able to accomplish several other important items including:

- Created a new membership brochure
- Establishment of a WLIA Scholarship fund
- Reduced printing costs by changing to electronic transmission of correspondence and meeting notices
- Created a Homeland Security Task Force

Finally, this next year efforts will continue to work with the Department of Administration. Also, keep your eyes open to a new and improved WLIA web site.

I’m very confident in abilities of the new President, Ken Pabich. Remember to support him as you have supported me!

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: 2004 began with the Association having membership of 528, an increase of 43 members from the previous year’s 485 members. This increase was mainly within the individual and student membership categories. Through a time of continued budget tightening measures by governmental units, this gain in membership numbers reflects the great efforts of the organization, in expanding our membership bounds. We have been focusing on efforts to contact individuals in the IT community and encourage their participation in the Association, along with attempting to increase level of membership from municipalities and commercial users of Land Records. An ongoing goal for the next year would be to exhibit at more of the county, town and local organization meetings to promote our organization to these areas. In the past years, it was felt that several individuals were not able to attend the conference, therefore not becoming a member for the year, because the membership fees were combined together with the conference fees. In effort to encourage an increase in membership, the Board of Directors at its March 2003 meeting opted to separate membership dues from the conference registration. This action took effect for the 2004 Annual Conference. We feel that this action helped to contribute to the membership gain over the past year.

An initiative to update the membership brochure was started in 2003 and finished throughout the year in 2004. The new membership brochure was designed to be more professional and represent our current membership makeup. The brochure was also designed to allow for flexibility in publishing the document with an insert for fees so when the fees change the brochure does not need to be re-published.

In an effort to recognize students and to get more involvement in our organization from students, who are potentially our future members, the Committee undertook an effort to create a scholarship fund. This effort is ongoing and should be finished prior to the start of the Fall 2005 school year. The committee is looking to get information for the association members for potential donations to the fund at the 2005 Annual Conference.

Membership Categories:

- **Individual Members:** 446 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:** 25 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, helping to set up workshops for the Annual Conference, as well as endorsing several cooperative workshops.

2005 Annual Conference:
We have also added a new workshop that that is a professional development workshop to the WLIA 2005 Annual Conference that offers continuing education credits. Eight specialized half day workshops have also been arranged; GIS: An Essential Tool in Every Emergency Operation Center, Exploring GIS Tools for Land Use Modeling, Mapping Field Trips and Scenic Routes with GPS & Wisconsin View, On the Road to Enterprise GIS in Waukesha County, Overview of ArcGIS 9, Utilizing Autodesk Map 3D 2005 for GIS, Introduction to Geoprocessing Using Models and Scripts and CAD and GIS Integration in ArcGIS 9.

2004 Regional Meeting Highlights:
Using GIS in Natural Resource Management
June 24th -25th 2004, Lac du Flambeau, WI
In the morning of the first day we heard the Status and Overview of Initial Mapping: NW10 and SSURGO Digitizing, Soils and their ability to Attenuate Contaminants and Basic Geologic information for land-use planning and resource management: The Evolution and Application of Geospatial Information at the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. In the afternoon the sessions progressed to the Gypsy Moth Program and the Wisconsin Elk Program. The next day we covered Development of Lakes Classification Map and Its Use in the Zoning Office, Estimated Effects of the Vilas County Lake Classification and City of Antigo-Actual Flood Levels with GPS and GIS.

Sheriffs & Deputy Sheriffs Annual Conference
July 20-21 2004, Cable WI
Jon Schwitchenburg and Jeff DuMez from the Education Committee, as well as guest speaker Michelle Arneson from the Green Bay Police Department, presented to this group at their annual meeting. The topics included: What is GIS?, Using GIS for crime analysis, and the use of GIS for emergency response delineations based on response time mapping.

FEMA Flood Hazard Mapping Program; Things You Should Know to Help Your County Participate
July 27th, Wisconsin Rapids
A number of counties are planning aerial photography flights in 2005. The workshop helped counties and regional planning commissions to ensure that the aerial photography can best support flood remapping efforts in their county. The workshop also provided information on how bridge and culvert data collected during safety inspections or structure inventories to enhance the floodplain mapping efforts.

continued on page 4…
GIS and Emergency Partnerships
September 15th, Lake Delton
In the morning session included Wildland Urban Interface that dealt with the significance of wildfires in forests and the people around them. The next presentation was on Experiences in 911 Data Development, Status of the Wireless 911 legislation, “If Only I Would Have Asked” Questions for your E-911 Vender, and a National Speaker John R. Melcher “GIS The New Public Safety Backbone… If we Can’t Find You, We Can’t Save You”. After all of the presentations we had a “Brain Storm” session to complete the day.

Innovative Uses for GIS
October 21st & 22nd, Delavan
This two day regional meeting allowed the membership to see how Land Information is being used by other private GIS users. We started off with McKeoug Land Company- GIS and the Challenges of Acquiring Data, Aurora Health Care- Using Geographic Information Systems in an integrated health Care Delivery System, Walgreens – GIS and Real Estate Information Packet, Wisconsin Public Service – “Geospatial Information Means the World to Us” and American Transmission Company – GIS and it’s Impact on the Success of Transmission Planning.
MISSION STATEMENT: The Committee shall promote interaction and cooperation among the Association, other professional associations and organizations, and the public.

WLIA Web site

In 2004, we continued to redesign and update the website. The association is currently considering optimizing our web presence with a secure site for members. Once again, we would like to thank the efforts of Ron Voigt, the WLIA webmaster, on all of the changes. Many counties have added the WLIA link to their website.

Display Board

The agreement with the state cartographers office continues to provide us with fresh materials for our display board. The association was represented at the Wisconsin Counties Association, UW Madison GIS Day, WWTC GIS Day and at the Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors Institute. We also presented sessions at Wisconsin Counties Association, UW Madison GIS Day, UW Milwaukee GIS Day and WWTC GIS Day.

Newsletter

The newsletter continues to be a vital link to our association members. Articles are encouraged outlining various GIS activities by our members. To initiate cost savings, the newsletter will become electronic in 2005 which will allow members to store the newsletter in a more efficient manner and print if they desire.

The Communications Committee encourages members to promote WLIA at their own member organizations.
Mission Statement: The Committee shall establish task forces to study land information issues and provide a forum for examining information ideas.

Two task forces were active in 2004. GIS Certification completed its tasks and the Wisconsin Coordinate System task force continues into 2005. A new task force on homeland security has just started.

Homeland Security: Chair - Chris Diller - Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs


Mission Statement: The events of September 11, 2001 brought to the forefront the importance of land information and GIS. The activities related to search and rescue and later recovery and cleanup were supported by the sharing of information between many agencies and multiple jurisdictions. GIS helped decision makers act decisively and with confidence, but also provided thousands of maps to volunteers helping with the cleanup. As a result GIS emerged as one of the most, if not the most, versatile analytical resource available to decision makers during the response. In addition GIS analysis and high volume map production would not have been possible without the help of many agencies contributing critical data. However, many deficiencies were encountered during these trying times such as poor redundancy, poor metadata and problems related to data coordination and integration.

This task force will identify the need and the scope of a statewide homeland security geospatial strategy. If deemed necessary the task force will make recommendations on the steps needed to implement such a strategy.

Status: The Task Force held a conference call on February 4, 2005 and has scheduled a meeting for February 23, 2005 Bay Lakes Regional Planning Commission. The task force is in the process of refining its mission, scope and objectives.

Wisconsin Coordinate System Task Force: Chair Ted Koch


continued on page 7…
Mission Statement: The WLIA’s WCS Task Force was formed by the State Cartographer’s Office in early 2004. The intent in forming the TF is to explore concerns raised by a number of GIS users over apparent errors and inconsistencies in data conversions to and from the Wisconsin County Coordinate System (WCCS). The SCO asked a variety of individuals representing the governmental, academic, and private sectors to serve on the Task Force. The membership determined the task force mission.

1. Analyze and document the mathematical foundation, history, and rationale for WCCS creation.
2. Investigate, analyze, and document various software system implementations of data conversions to and from the WCCS.
3. Document the scope of use of the WCCS.
4. Investigate the issues with and feasibility of redesigning the mathematical foundation of the WCCS.
5. Register the WCCS (and other coordinate systems) with a recognized international standards setting organization.
6. Thoroughly document task force proceedings, research, findings, and conclusions, and share these with the state’s geospatial data user community. (e.g., develop comprehensive, user-focused documentation, similar in scope and purpose to the existing WI Coordinate Systems (1995) Handbook produced by the St. Cartographer’s Office).
7. Through a variety of outreach strategies, educate GIS users on WCCS issues. (e.g., if the TF recommends a redesign effort, thoroughly document the process, and educate the user community on the need for such action).
8. Evaluate, make recommendations regarding statutory changes to coordinate systems legislation.
9. Present task force documentation, conclusions, and recommendations to the WLIA Board of Directors.

Status: The Task Force has documented task force proceedings, research, findings, and conclusions. The Task Force has presented recommendations to the WLIA Board of Directors and is conducting outreach to get feedback from the state’s geospatial data user community.

GIS Certification: Chair - Mike Koutnik

Members: Cristina Pearson, Dave Flack, JoAnn Park, Tim Olsen, Jeff Maxted, Dianna 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 32 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 a less formal than with the WLIA membership.

Status: The task force conducted a total of three educational sessions over the span of two consecutive annual conferences. They also consulted with both URISA staff and other persons involved with the URISA certification process. The task force concluded that there was no need at this time for WLIA to take on an active role in the certification process. It was recommended that the WLIA gather digital copies of past event notices and annual conference brochures. These documents will help those filling out their certification applications. These documents are now available on the WLIA web site, in the “Archive.”
The State of WI 2003-2005 biennial budget preserved the completion of the soils initiative and extended the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) sunset deadline until September 2005. The biennial budget also included $2 million for comprehensive planning and program revenue lapses to the general fund.

President Alissa Bails assigned a sub-group of the Legislative Committee and WLIA Board to work with DOA division administrators on the important issues facing the WLIA, including:

- Permanent repeal of the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) sunset
- Maintain funding to WLIP and increase County base budgets
- Support of Wisconsin Land Information System (WLIS) and input into future County development
- Secure additional funding alternatives to augment current funding sources

Several meetings were held with DOA staff, Ron Hermes (WLIA Lobbyist), Alissa Bails, Jeff Bluske and Jay Shambeau prior to the 2004 WLIA Annual Conference. These meetings were productive and DOA requested that the WLIA Board submit a proposal for the continuation of the WLIP.

Ron Hermes left Tenuta-Hermes Corporation, which left WLIA without a lobbyist for part of 2004. Fred Halfen joined the WLIA Board and Legislative Committee and he continued communication with DOA during the absence of a lobbyist. Numerous meetings and input from WLIA members were included in the proposal which was submitted to the DOA.

Utilizing some concepts from the WLIA proposal, the Wisconsin Land Information Board and Wisconsin Land Council submitted a joint proposal to Governor Doyle and the Legislature. This proposal made many recommendations:

- Repeal the September 1, 2005 sunset of the Wisconsin Land Information Program
- Maintain current recording fee structure
- Revise program budget to increase base budget to $50,000, continue to fund comprehensive planning grants and annual amount to DOA for WLIP administration
- Sunset both the Wisconsin Land Information Board and Wisconsin Land Council effective September 1, 2005
- Establish a Geographic Information Officer within DOA
- Expand the role of the State Cartographer

The meetings with DOA are being continued as the State of WI 2005-2007 biennial budget is now being debated. Recently Alissa Bails, Ken Pabich, Ted Koch, Jay Shambeau, Fred Halfen and Peter Kammer, new WLIA lobbyist, met with DOA division administrators to voice the concerns of the WLIA community.

Although personnel changes within the WLIA and DOA have occurred in 2004, the willingness by both entities to work together for the betterment of the Wisconsin Land Information Program remains the unified ultimate goal.
The Nominations Committee is chaired by the Past President and charged with seeking nominations to the WLIA Board. The Committee then develops a slate of candidates for the WLIA Board of Directors. A main component of this charge is submitting a candidate for the office for President Elect. The Committee fulfilled that charge and submitted the slate of candidates to the WLIA Board in January 2005.

This Committee did use and future committees should continue to use the following criteria or policy to screen the nominations for office:

1. The candidate must be willing to serve for the required two year term. The President Elect must commit to three years.

2. Any nomination must include a biography in the form of a personal profile which will accompany the ballot mailing to the membership prior to the annual conference.

3. The committee shall evaluate nominations based on their profiles and:
   a. Outgoing board members are asked if they would run for one re-election but not for a third term. This promotes continuity and institutional memory.
   b. The nominees should represent a cross section of our states geography, interests, professions and those of state and local government.
   c. The nominees should represent diversity while promoting participation from the membership.
   d. If willing to serve has your place of work agreed to allow you to participate.

4. The nominee must be member of WLIA and in good standing.

5. The President Elect shall have been a WLIA Board Member with past conference participation.

Board members should attend all regional memberships meetings, the board planning meeting and annual state meeting. Board member will also be asked to serve on the various standing committees and or any special task force. See our bylaws on line for more details.

The WLIA is proud of its members and community and welcomes the opportunity to praise those who have helped us achieve our goals. With that the Committee also seeks nominations for an individual, organization, local government, tribal council or consortium for an award from one of the following four categories:

1. **Outstanding Contribution Award** is given to an individual or organization that is a WLIA member and has made a substantial contribution to our activities or the WI Land Information Program.

2. **Friends of Land Records Award** is given to an individual or organization that is not a WLIA member and has contributed to the success or advancement of land record modernization in Wisconsin.

3. **Allen H. Miller Sustained Service Award** is given to an individual or organization that demonstrates sustained service to WLIA and the WLIP, through continued exemplary contributions.

*continued on page 10…*
4. **Local Government Achievement Award** is given to the local, municipal, town, county, tribal government or consortium that has used WLIP funding to further land record modernization in such a way as to exemplify the goals of the WLIP in one or all of these areas: Innovative and efficient use of resources, local data with statewide accessibility and cooperative and creative agreements.

The Committee is please to report that we had 23 nominations to fill the 8 board vacancies, with one of the current Board members, Fred Halfren, agreeing to be the candidate for President Elect. The ballots are always counted during the annual conference and announced along with the awards.

The nominees listed on the ballot are: Kristen Anderson, A.J. Wortley, Jerry Sullivan, Doug Avoles, Marge Geissler, Scott Galetka, David Hart, Douglas Miskowiak, Jeff DuMez, Brian McGee, Jon Schwichtenberg, Kristen Kraemer Badtke, and Eric Spangenberg.

Those individuals who are not elected to the new Board will be called upon for committee service to gain additional association diversity.
WISCONSIN LAND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION
Treasurer Report
2004 ANNUAL REPORT

Ann Barrett, Executive Services Manager

Net Worth Report
as of 12/31/04

Checking Account Balance  $15,091.42
Money Market Account Balance  22,534.17
Total:  37,625.59
Wisconsin Land Information Association
Town Meeting
March 4, 2004
Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells

I. Call to Order: the meeting was called to order at 12:45 pm

II. President’s Report
President Bluske gave the president’s report as outlined in the 2003 WLIA Annual Report. He highlighted the fact that the success of the Land Information Program is based on the great partnerships created at all levels of government with private sector and all of our sister organizations. He also outlined the fact our enhanced mapping will be used to include hazard awareness, mitigation, wireless 911, homeland security and economic prosperity.

III. Secretary Report
a. The minutes of the 2/14/03 town meeting in Milwaukee were approved.
b. The General Membership Meeting minutes in Spring Green on 10/16/03 were approved.

IV. Committee Reports
a. The following 2003 Annual committee reports were presented and placed on file: Membership, Education, Communications, Technical, Legislative, and Nominations.
b. Jon Schwitchtenberg gave a special education report on continuing education for WLIA members. He also discussed the new GIS certification. The association could offer certificates of attendance to members for their participation at the annual conference and regional meetings.
c. Diann Danielson reported on the status of the Information Policy Task Force Committee status and recommended the committee be continued to advance its goals.

V. Administrative Services Report
The dates for the 2004 regional meetings and the 2005 annual conference date were announced.

VI. Other Business
Bluske then opened the floor for a general town hall discussion of anything needing attention.

a. Questions and concerns centered around the status of the Land Information Program and the WLIB. Bluske, Bails and Shambeau have set up a meeting with Pat Farley in the Dept of Administration to go over proposed cutbacks to staff and the effects it will have on the program. The WLIA Board along with its lobbyist feel positive the program will be protected.
b. Other discussion asked for more details on GIS certification. It was noted URISA has a program with all the details required for certification based on accumulating points for certain past activity and participation as a presenter or moderator; and even the time spent on a Board related to GIS such as the WLIA, LION, WRPLA, Register of Deeds, etc.
c. The members also talked about reformatting the conference to allow more time with the vendors, in the morning as well as the evening. They also discussed changing the dates to run from Tuesday to Thursday so they could still back to work on Friday. Ken Pabich will be conference chair at the 2005 Conference in Green Bay. It was also noted to remind the speakers about no commercials by vendor speakers. Members also wondered if there was anyway to enhance the poster contest as there were so many good entries.

VII. Adjournment
In adjournment Bluske indicated everyone’s continued participation can be carried forward through by everyone joining a committee or through participation on a task force. He then thanked everyone who helped this past year.
Wisconsin Land Information Association
General Membership Meeting
June 24, 2004
Lake of the Torches Resort, Lac du Flambeau

I. Call to Order

II. Secretary/Treasurer Report
   a. Motion: to approve the October 16, 2003 General Membership meeting minutes (Moyer, Bluske)
   motion carried.

III. Committee Reports
   a. 2005 Conference
      1. Dates are February 22 –24, 2005 at the KI Convention Center/Regency Suites in Green
         Bay. Ken working on keynote speaker – looking for a Packer Player who could be
         motivational. Pre-conference announcement flyer going out in July, Call for Papers
         coming out in August. Online presentation submission will again be available. Planning
         to have a reception on Tuesday at Lambeau Field.
   b. Legislative
      1. Ron Hermes resigned from Tenuta/Hermes so we are in search of a new lobbyist. The
         committee will have a plan by October.
      2. Discussed the WLIA Proposal to DOA. Will discuss further at the July 23rd meeting.
   c. Education
      1. July 27th, 2004 technical session to be held at the Mead Hotel in WI Rapids. Al and Fred
         have developed an agenda which focuses on how to write contracts. Flyer to be distributed
         on Friday.
      2. E-911 workshop scheduled for the fall.
      3. October regional meeting topics to be determined.
      4. Jon Schwichtenberg, Jeff DuMez & Michelle Arneson will present at the WI
         Sheriffs/Deputy Sheriff’s Assn Meeting in July.
   d. Communications
      1. Jodi reported that we will list all committees and their members on the website.
      2. Job Board on web site; we will put in newsletter again as a reminder.
      3. GIS Day – November 17th, 2004 – would like WLIA to do something such as a fact sheet,
         promo item of some kind to promote.
      4. Newsletter looking good – reminder that the deadlines are July 31st and November 30th.
      5. We will exhibit and be on the agenda of the WI Counties Assn conference in September.
   e. Technical
      1. Information Policy task force is “reborn” – see Diann’s article in the newsletter.
   f. Membership
      1. The membership brochure has been revamped by the committee and is going to a graphic
         designer for polishing.
      2. The committee would like to conduct a membership drive. They are trying to obtain
         mailing lists of appropriate related organizations to determine the quantity of brochures
         we want to print. We will do target mailings for upcoming seminars and encourage
         membership.
      3. Brian is looking into contacting UW Geography clubs for involvement and interest in a
         scholarship program.
      4. WLIA is considering the distribution of a scholarship. WSLS will share their scholarship
         information with us. Jon volunteered to develop a proposal with criteria on a scholarship
         program.

IV. Other Business
   a. The Conners/Barrett & Co., LLC management contract was reviewed with a cost of living increase.
      The board voted to accept the Conners/Barrett & Co., LLC cost of living increase with the addition
      of an hours recap to the monthly invoice

V. Adjournment
   a. Motion: To adjourn (Helgeson, Lulloff) motion carried.
Wisconsin Land Information Association  
General Membership Meeting  
October 22, 2004  
Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan

I. Call to Order

II. Secretary/Treasurer Report
   a. Motion to approve the June 25, 2004 general membership meeting minutes (Pabich, Erdman) motion carried.
   b. September net worth report of $41,343.09. Net worth up over last year at this time due to two extra workshops and the lack of a lobbyist cost.

III. Committee Reports
   a. Legislative
      1. The committee is to go through the process of finding a new lobbyist by the end of the year.
      2. The board is following up with Laura Arbuckle, the new administrator of DOA, on our proposal.
   b. Education
      1. Regional meeting registration numbers were 60 for the workshop and 65 for Friday’s session.
      2. Committee is working on workshops for the Annual Conference
      3. Thank you to all those who fill out evaluations at these meetings. They are very helpful.
   c. Communications
      1. WLIA was represented at the WCA conference in September and it was well received.
      2. WLIA will again participate in GIS Day in Madison and will consider participating in the Milwaukee GIS day next year by getting on the agenda and sponsoring the day.
      3. We will again participate in the WSLS convention in January.
   d. Technical
      1. Homeland Security task force to be created.
      2. Coordinate System task force: Motion: that WLIA support the recommendation of the task force on the WI County Coordinate System (Budrow, Pabich) motion carried.
      3. There was a request for the technical committee to review the standards on the web site.
   e. Membership
      1. The membership brochure will be ready for the GIS Days on November 17th.
      2. WLIA is working on creating a scholarship fund. Will send information to schools in the spring for scholarships for the fall semester.
      3. 2005 membership dues renewals notice will be mailed in December and due before the conference to receive the member conference rate or by March 15, 2005.
   f. 2005 Conference
      1. Ken reminded all that the conference has a different pattern this year of Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday. The dates are Feb. 22 –24, 2005 in Green Bay. The Preliminary Program will be out in December.

IV. Adjournment
   1. Motion: To adjourn (Pabich, Johnston) motion carried.
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