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July 14, 2015

WIGICC Stakeholders and Other Interested Parties

Dear WIGICC Stakeholders,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our intent to dissolve WIGICC as it exists currently.

WIGICC is a statewide council of volunteer members, who are elected from a diverse group of networked GIS professionals in the state. We represent non-profit organizations, city government, county government, regional planning commissions, state government, federal government, education, private business and tribal government. Our council assists in efforts for planning, development and legislation relating to Geospatial issues.

With the creation of the Wisconsin Land Information Council (WLIC) by the Department of Administration, we feel there would no longer be a need for WIGICC as it exists currently. The idea of the WLIC came from a process initiated by WIGICC for completing a statewide Geospatial Strategy Plan and was elevated to the group creating it, through efforts with the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) (specifically Greg Moore, former WIGICC Chair and future WCA Chair) and WIGICC members. The group was then spear headed by the Wisconsin Land Information Association legislative lobbyist and many other organizations members.

We feel that the new council would be taking on many aspects of the current WIGICC, including fulfilling the coordination aspects of WIGICC in relation to the Wisconsin Land Information Program, which is a very large portion of the coordination needs in the state. WIGICC does currently serve many other aspects, including:

1. Multiple active working groups
 - a. Economic Development Working Group
 - b. Elevation Data Working Group
 - c. Education K-12 Initiative Working Group
2. Representation of Geospatial Professionals in the state

We feel that the other aspects are vital to the health of Wisconsin's Geospatial Community. With the WLIA being the organization selected to nominate the geospatial professional for the new WLIC, we feel that if WIGICC is dissolved, the 4 items listed above should be transferred to WLIA in the following ways:

1. All three working groups will become encapsulated into WLIA Technical Committee Task Forces.
2. A Special Interest Group for Geospatial Professionals will be created under WLIA. This group will meet at all WLIA conference events and at any other time deemed necessary by the membership. The intent would be that this group would be able to be a voice for Geospatial Professionals in the state through WLIA.

This is all conceptual and we are looking for comments on this action by our stakeholders and the public in general. We are holding open this comment period from now through August 10, 2015 and based on this concept and any comments received will be acting on this at our August 20, 2015 council meeting. You may email comments to myself (jon.schwichtenberg@graef-usa.com) or Howard Veregin (howard.veregin@wisc.edu).

July 14, 2015

On behalf of our council I would like to thank all of you for your efforts and support for our tenure as a council. Please feel free to contact me (Jon Schwichtenberg) at 414-266-9278, if you would like to discuss the content of this letter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Schwichtenberg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon Schwichtenberg, GISP
WIGICC Chair