

# WISCONSIN LAND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

## 2017 CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### INCOMING PRESIDENT

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#### Emily Champagne

GIS Supervisor, Milwaukee  
Metropolitan Sewerage District

### PAST-PRESIDENT

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#### Martin Goettl

Geospatial Technology Facilitator,  
University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*(returning directors for 2017-2018)*

#### Tammy Castonia

GIS/LIS Coordinator,  
Village of Little Chute

#### Christine Koeller

GIS Faculty Associate,  
University of Wisconsin–  
Stevens Point

#### James Landwehr

LIS Analyst, Waukesha County

#### Peter Strand

GIS Administrator,  
Eau Claire County

#### Tony Van Der Wielen

GIS Manager,  
Legislative Technology  
Services Bureau

## PERSONAL PROFILES

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

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The president-elect takes office at the end of the annual meeting for a one-year term as president with the term expiring at the end of the annual meeting the following year. The president-elect may be delegated by the president to perform duties of the president in the event of the president's absence and may have other duties as the president or Board may assign. The president-elect also performs as chair of the conference committee for the annual meeting the following year.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Board of Directors is composed of twelve (12) directors and three officers. They supervise, manage and direct the affairs of the association. They determine policies or changes within the limits of the bylaws, actively support WLIA's mission, serve as co-chair(s) on standing committees, and have discretion in the disbursement of funds. They also may adopt rules and regulations for conduct of business.

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order in the profiles and in random order on the ballot.



WISCONSIN  
LAND INFORMATION  
ASSOCIATION

## CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT ELECT



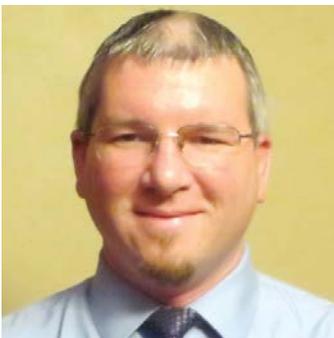
**Eric Damkot GISP**  
**Washington County IS Manager/LIO**

I am a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Green Bay where I studied biology and environmental science. My first introduction to GIS came as an undergraduate when I worked on a project entering data that was later used to map and study species distributions. My knowledge and interest in GIS continued to grow through my involvement in several Sea Grant funded projects. In 1998 I joined the Washington County team and quickly learned the importance of the PLSS and the nuances of parcel mapping. I was named Land Information Officer in 2002 and have had some role in nearly every aspect of land information modernization at the county. In 2015 I was offered an opportunity to take an expanded role at the county. I continue to oversee the GIS in addition to the newly acquired responsibility of Information Services Manager.

I have been a WLIA member since 1999. The educational opportunities and the connections made through the association played an instrumental role in my career development. This was especially true in my early years, but continues to this day. I was first elected to the WLIA Board of Directors in 2014 and served as your Legislative Committee chair for the past two years. Other experience includes two terms representing the county sector on the WIGICC and one term on the LION Board of Directors.

Thank you for previously voting for me to serve on your Board of Directors. I am humbled to be nominated for President Elect and, if elected, look forward to the challenge this opportunity would present. I welcome the chance to be part of a team that values open communication and collaboration and is a strong advocate for land information initiatives and professionals.

## CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTORS



**Adam Dorn**  
**GIS Administrator, City of Oshkosh**

Since I graduated with a BA in Geography and Anthropology from UW Oshkosh I have had a variety of GIS jobs in Wisconsin. I worked for North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Juneau County, Fond du Lac (City and County) and now as the GIS Administrator for the City of Oshkosh. Working in this variety of organizations has exposed me to a wide variety of geospatial disciplines and perspectives. For each of us, our primary responsibility is to our organization. However, because of the nature of our work, especially in Wisconsin, we have the opportunity to accomplish more through collaboration and networking.

WLIA has encouraged my professional development in GIS and land records since the first meeting I attended in 2003. In some ways this has been straight forward, like learning a new technique for a project or meeting someone from a different community working on similar goals. However, there are many ways which have surprised me. For example, when I got called into the office in the middle of the night to help with a search for a missing child. The first thing I did was pull up a presentation from WLIA about a search for a missing child to review the lessons learned. For me WLIA is a great mixture of professional development, networking, and seeking to find better ways to collaborate and share our collective efforts with a broader audience.

I have contributed to these efforts in a number of ways, such as participating on the membership and conference committees and presenting at conferences. In the last few years, I helped to organize the Municipal GIS Users Group (a WLIA Special Interest Group). We have had two meetings so far in Green Bay and Marshfield. I would like to serve on the WLIA Board to continue the great work which has been done by present and past board members and to encourage new faces in the geospatial community.



**Jeremiah Erickson**  
**GIS Specialist for Monroe County**

Jeremy is currently the GIS Specialist for Monroe County and has served as their LIO since 2010. The GIS Specialist functions as Monroe County's GIS coordinator and E911 Rural Addressing Coordinator. Jeremy the incoming president of LION has previously served as an LIO-at-large member of the LION board (2014-2015). He was a two-time president of the WRPLA (2008-2009 and 2014-2015) and has also served as their District VP (2010-2011) as well as other various committee chair positions.

His past work experience in the land information industry includes a decade as Monroe County's Real Property Coordinator, three years as a Land Records Technician for Iowa County, as well as time spent as a Stereoplotter Operator & CAD Technician for Ayres Associates in Madison.

He originally hails from rural Neillsville, WI in Clark County, holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and is married with two daughters ages 9 & 6 and currently resides in Sparta WI. In his free time he enjoys listening to music and listening to or watching the Badgers, Packers and Brewers.

"I have aspired to serve on the WLIA Board since attending my first meeting in New Richmond in 2001. I am finally in a position to be able to give back my time to this great organization that has intellectually driven me. It would be an honor to serve you." -Jeremy

Jeremy has been a member of the WLIA since 2001.



**Tyson Fettes**  
**Register of Deeds, Racine County**

Tyson Fettes is the Register of Deeds at Racine County, Wis. Tyson has a long standing passion for public service, having held his first elected position at age 21 as a member of Burlington Town Board.

Tyson's role as Register of Deeds is atypical – as well as the Register of Deeds office, he also oversees the County's day to day GIS and property listing functions. Having served in the position since 2011, Tyson has made it his mission to bring a lean government approach to his office, to its relationships with internal and external partners, and to its public services.

As a result, Racine County's land information systems and processes have undergone a total transformation. An entirely new and unique approach to GIS has empowered the County beyond what they ever thought was possible, while enabling communication between the business-critical systems for tax, register of deeds, and GIS has added substantial value to the County's information.

Led by Tyson, Racine's land records transformation culminated in an Esri SAG Award in 2016.

Tyson believes his ability to generate "big picture" ideas will add value to the WLIA board, and looks forward to sharing his experience of using technology to create efficiencies and streamline processes. He also brings legislative capabilities, having worked on several pieces of legislation as part of the Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association.

He is humbled to be nominated and excited to serve the land information community in our state.

Tyson is married to Heather and they have a daughter, Kora.



**Jim Lacy, GISP**

**Associate State Cartographer, State Cartographer's Office (SCO)**

**M.S. in Cartography/GIS, UW-Madison**

**B.S. in Geography and Information/Computing Science, UW-Green Bay**

Four years ago you gave me the opportunity to serve on the WLIA Board of Directors; I'm back again to ask for a third, and I expect final, term on the Board. I've worked hard to have an impact on WLIA over the last four years. Perhaps most visible was my effort to completely overhaul the WLIA Website a few years ago. Behind the scenes, I've put considerable energy into improving our online registration system, increasing the regularity of communications to members, improving our social media presence. I also took the lead on recording presentations at our conferences, and making them available online via YouTube. In the recent months, I lobbied the Board to implement an "introductory" membership rate to attract new members to the organization.

That said, I have more I want to accomplish. As the Chair of the membership committee during the past year, I've observed a number of critical problems we need to resolve with our membership tracking database. I also want to continue working with the Membership and Education committees to make sure the training needs of our existing members are being met. In addition, I want to continue our efforts to expand and grow our membership by reaching out to folks who have never been a member of WLIA, or who have let their membership expire.

I sincerely hope my past contributions to WLIA have been valuable, and that you will give me the opportunity for two more years on the Board.



**Mitch Moline**

**WisDOT GIS Architect**

Mitch is currently the WisDOT GIS Architect working toward Geospatial Integration across departmental business areas. Mitch performs GIS Coordination for the department and provides GIS Consulting on IT Projects efforts to deliver Enterprise GIS solutions.

As a current WLIA Board Member, Mitch wishes to continue his work with the Technical Committee, Legislative and Educational committees, working towards WLIA's mission to integrate land information systems across the state. Mitch is also a SAGIC member and wishes to continue to facilitate coordination of on-going efforts between SAGIC and WLIA to identify and prioritize geospatial needs, opportunities, and initiatives in support of the sharing of geospatial data and data services.

Mitch has been involved with WLIA since 1994 and has worked for multiple state agencies, including Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM), Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), where he performed various GIS administration, project leadership, development, and analytical tasks since graduation from UW-La Crosse (BS Geography/Earth Science) in 1993.



**Zach Nienow, GISP**

**Geospatial Project Manager, Ayres Associates**

Zach Nienow, GISP, is a geospatial project manager with Ayres Associates in Madison. Zach graduated from the UW-Madison Geography Department in 2004 with a degree in GIS/Cartography. With over 12 years of experience in geospatial sciences, Zach designs and leads lidar, orthoimagery, and digital mapping projects from development to delivery. He serves a diverse range of clients including many utilities, counties, and municipalities in Wisconsin. Zach helped lead the Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC) for members and partners in 2015-16, and he has worked with more than 20 counties in Wisconsin to complete countywide lidar projects.

Zach has been a member of WLIA since 2012. Since September 2016, he has served on the WLIA Board of Directors as vice-chair of the legislative committee.

I have enjoyed getting to know many of you over the last five years. The best part of my job has been working alongside Wisconsin's dedicated land information professionals like you to achieve common goals. Thank you for the opportunity to run for the Board of Directors for the upcoming term, and I look forward to serving you.



**Carmen Novak**  
**GIS Technician, Bayfield County**

Carmen has served on the Wisconsin Land Information Association Board of Directors since 2015 and has been an active member of the organization since 2012. She has accomplished a great deal as Chair of the Communications Committee by updating content on the website, distributing important news, and encouraging communication and interaction among members. She has also served on the Education, Outreach, Nomination, and Annual Conference committees, working hard to promote Wisconsin land information systems, help plan for WLIA events, and accomplish organization goals.

A graduate of Central Michigan University with a B.S. degree in Geography: Environmental and Land Use Planning, Carmen began working in northern Wisconsin where she has been employed as the GIS Technician for Bayfield County since 2013. Prior to that, she also worked as the GIS Land Project Assistant for Bayfield County and as a Planning and Development Intern for the City of Ashland. Through working for Bayfield County in the Land Records Department, she has gained valuable experience maintaining county GIS datasets, developing web applications, and completing projects that support the modernization and advancement of land records. Carmen also upholds an understanding of the different viewpoints involved with land information; this has been a key component in working with government and the public.

As part of the Board of Directors, she would assist in accomplishing the organization's goals and promote improved communication and education efforts among the committees and members. Additionally, she would support outreach to new members and special interest groups. WLIA is a great representation of the land information profession and an excellent way to be involved with shaping the future of this field; it is a great opportunity to be re-nominated for the WLIA Board of Directors.



**Gale A Shea, GISP**  
**Wisconsin Mapping Sales Representative, Seiler Instrument**

It is an honor to be nominated for the WLIA Board of Directors and I look forward to a chance to serve. Our vital organization will continue its important work over the next two years and I hope to be able to contribute and give back in a leadership role.

A graduate of the UW-Madison Geography program, I have been employed in the geospatial field since the mid-1980s. A self-proclaimed "geo-geek", I've worked professionally with GIS since my college days in both the public and private sector. I am currently a Wisconsin Mapping Sales Representative for Seiler Instrument. This position affords me the opportunity to provide industry-leading GPS field mapping solutions to hundreds of hard-working GIS colleagues here in Wisconsin.

My GIS experience snapshot:

- B.S. from UW-Madison in Geography with GIS Emphasis
- Cartographic/GIS Technician, USDA-NRCS
- GIS Analyst / Water Resources Team Lead, WI-DNR
- Program Lead, Historical Topographic Maps Project, USGS
- GIS Mapping Rep, Seiler Instrument

My involvement in varying capacities with the WLIA has spanned these same (many) years. Beginning with the early days of the WLIP as a UW student, and continuing over time with my various professional roles under employer's having ongoing WLIA memberships. I remain as passionate as ever about GIS and the geospatial sciences and helping to further the mission of the WLIA wherever possible. If elected I look forward to working alongside so many dedicated land information professionals fostering our important vision.



### **Colter Sikora, GISP**

#### **Broadband Mapping Coordinator, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC)**

WLIA serves its members and Wisconsin best by gathering disparate geospatial talents and resources. My move back to Wisconsin is thanks in no small part to WLIA members welcoming me as I was looking for geospatial work here in 2013. Since then, I have participated in WLIA as a committee member, poster contest participant and judge, presenter, and moderator. As a candidate for the Board of Directors, my interests are in reaching out to new membership and having an open mind for our members as we work to improve Wisconsin's geospatial capabilities.

In my work with the PSC, I lead in pooling and processing internet coverage data to make tools used by citizens and broadband stakeholders across Wisconsin, including the Wisconsin Broadband Map website. I also administer our agency's mapping software and web GIS presence. These efforts, along with my duties in the State Agency Geospatial Information Committee (SAGIC), expose me to mapping issues statewide. Most notably, I helped define the specifications of Wisconsin's first formal statewide parcel and address collection project (LinkWISCONSIN EBM Parcel Mapping), and serve as SAGIC's Secretary.

While GIS Analyst with St. Charles County in Missouri, I received plentiful opportunities to understand the business areas that county governments work with. In this role, I drafted maps and developed mapping applications for the public and county departments. This included fulfilling the unique needs of the county Assessor and Sheriff's departments. I partook in our county's GIS users group, allowing me to hear about mapping needs and successes from local governments to foster collaboration. Internship experiences at National Geographic magazine and Rusk County also give me a broad perspective on quality cartography and rural government in Wisconsin, respectively.

My foundation in the mapping sphere comes through my education at UW-Madison, where I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Cartography/GIS and Physical Geography in 2010. I utilize the Wisconsin Idea by volunteer mapping for multiple entities in Wisconsin, including Historic Milwaukee, Inc. Even much of my leisure time is spent fishing, photographing, and driving the state. My education, interest in service, and zeal for exploring my home state drive my passion for mapping. It is with this enthusiasm that I hope to serve WLIA and the wider Wisconsin geospatial community.



### **Suzi Smith, GIS Specialist**

#### **Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians**

Suzi is currently tasked with managing and mapping geographic and land information, through her work for the Bad River Natural Resources Department. Through spatial analyses, data storage and maintenance, and queries, she assists resource specialists, technicians, Tribal Council, and the Tribal community with natural resource and land conservation projects.

She has worked for the Tribe since June 2015, and has thoroughly enjoyed familiarizing herself with the Tribal membership, administration, and political processes. Indian land tenure, as it relates to Tribal sovereignty and cultural preservation is an interest of hers that has grown out of her limited experience working in Indian Country.

Working for the Bad River Natural Resource Department is Suzi's first professional position since graduating from University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in May of 2015. There, she double majored in Environmental Biology, and Geography with an emphasis on GIS. She is originally from Washburn, Wisconsin, also on Lake Superior, and is grateful to be able to live and work in such a remarkable area.

I am flattered to have been nominated to the WLIA Board, and look forward to continuing to share and gather experiences with land offices from across the state. I hope to continue to learn how to build professional relationships and collaborate with others, as well as learn more how the Board itself operates. As a new member of WLIA, a young professional, and a Tribal employee, I would also bring a unique perspective and set of values to the Board that may not already be represented. Thank you.

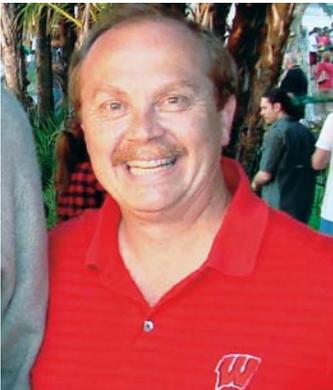


**Jennifer Tovar, GISP**  
**GIS Coordinator, Town of Greenville**

Jennifer has been employed as the GIS Coordinator at the Town of Greenville, Wis. since 2008. Since that time she has built an enterprise GIS from the ground up and has integrated ArcGIS Online which allows her coworkers the ability to access and edit their data and maps. For the ArcGIS Online efforts, the Town of Greenville received a SAG award at the 2014 Esri International User Conference. This year, she will be integrating Server for ArcGIS at the Town. Her duties include the coordination GIS efforts for six different departments including sanitary and water, stormwater, building, administration, parks and forestry, and fire and rescue. Jennifer's GIS experience has involved work in mining, geology, anthropology, trail and cemetery mapping, in addition to her work with a municipality.

Jennifer is a 2006 graduate from UW–Oshkosh with a B.S. in Geography. She has been a member of WLIA since 2006 when she was a student volunteer and an active member since 2007. Having gained valuable information by networking with various WLIA members, and having grown professionally from attending WLIA conferences, Jennifer enjoys giving back to the organization by getting involved on various committees and would like to continue to serve on the board of directors for another term.

"I have served on the WLIA Board of Directors for the past 2 years; serving as the Chair of the Outreach Committee for the last year. Chairing this committee has allowed me to reach out to external organizations to further the mission of the Association. This, and serving on the Membership Committee to attract new members for the Association, has been a very rewarding experience. The past two years have given me a greater appreciation of WLIA as an organization, as well as, interacting with those volunteers who are committed to making WLIA the best that it can be."



**Patrick Walker, GISP**  
**GIS Supervisor, City of West Allis**

Pat Walker, GISP, is the GIS Supervisor for the City of West Allis, Wis. where he has worked for almost 24 years. Beginning my employment with the City in the Engineering Department which is where the City's GIS System was just beginning to evolve, gave me a realization of the many benefits that a fully mature GIS system could provide to all Departments within the City. In 2000, West Allis decided to go "City Wide" with their GIS system in order to provide the spatial answers and analytical capabilities that are possible with their existing Engineering Utility based GIS to all departments. This created the opportunity for me to transition to our IT Dept. and begin working with every department and expanding our capabilities to help and assist our staff to answer their questions using our growing GIS System. This was also the opportunity for the City to reel in the many silos of data that had been created by each Dept., normalize and modernize the datasets, develop workflows and provide enhanced decision making capabilities, store their data in a SQL Server enterprise database, and create efficient Interactive GIS WebMaps that consume their data and provide access to this data across the organization. In 2007, we migrated all of our GIS data in house from Intergraph to ESRI format and have welcomed the benefits of this transition and the huge user community it provided.

Using my Engineering Degree and my previous 15 years of employment in a private Design / Build firm has helped me in my GIS position, along with Continuing Education night school classes on Oracle and SQL Server from both the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and Marquette University. Additional Microsoft certification training for Windows Server systems, and having our GIS Department embedded in our IT Dept. has provided the necessary tools needed to purchase, setup, install and configure my own GIS Servers.

Being a member of the WLIA for 12 years, I have done multiple presentations at our conferences, and have learned from other presenters that have shown their solutions to our common issues.

As a GeoMentor working with the West Allis West Milwaukee (WAWM) School District, and sharing the City's GIS capability, we have been able to provide the necessary spatial decisions to guide them in the creation of new Elementary, Intermediate, and High School boundaries using their existing student population data. Sharing solutions and process methods with numerous municipalities that have come to our City to see our GIS efforts is a collaboration that we would share with any community.

I feel privileged to be nominated for a WLIA Board of Directors position as I am passionate about GIS and would be honored to accept your vote to help fulfill the WLIA's mission statement.