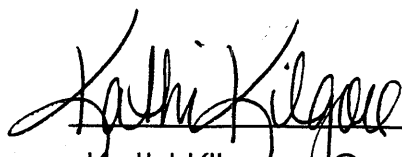


Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Land Use

Date: April 24, 1997 Meeting Type: Hearing/Briefing
Location: Room 328 NW

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. Michael Powers, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Ainsworth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Carol Owens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Peter Bock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Steinbrink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u> </u>



Kathi Kilgore, Committee Clerk

Assembly

April 24, 1997

Record of Committee Action

Assembly Rural Affairs/Land Use

Joint Public Informational Briefing on changes to the Rural Economic Development Program and Development Zone Program

Present: (13) Representatives Ainsworth, Kedzie, Musser, Nass, Owens, Powers, Hasenohl, Schneider, Gronemus, Springer, Dueholm, Bock, and Steinbrink.

Absent: (0) None.

Appearances for the Budget Changes

- Tom Taylor, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Commerce
- John Behling, Legislative Liaison for the Department of Commerce
- Mark Liedl, Marketing Administrator for the Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
- Mike Krutza, Dairy 20/20 & Farm Credit Services
- Steve McKeon, President of the Roth Kase Cheese Plant
- John Umhoefer, WI Cheese Makers Association
- Linda Hodorf, Dairy Farmer

Appearances against the Budget Changes

- None

Appearances for Information Only

- Ron Shanovich, Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Registrations for the Budget Changes

- John Manske, WI Federation of Cooperatives

Registrations against the Budget Changes

- None

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/24/97

Bill No. _____

Or Subject BUDGET - LAND USE

ARDEEN T. SANDSUES
(Name)

4705 STORE ASSETS
(Street Address or Route Number)

MONROE A, WY
(City & Zip Code)

MYSELF
(Representing)

Speaking in favor: OF LAND USE

Speaking against: METHOD IN BILL

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/24/97

Bill No. _____

Or Subject WILAND COUNCIL

WILAND INFO. BOARD.
 Ben Newman & Doug King
(Name)

175. Fairchild St.
(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison WI. 53703
(City & Zip Code)

Mike Chavira Executive Director
(Representing)

WI. LAND INFORMATION BOARD

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: April 24 1997

Bill No. W L I P

Or Subject: W L I P

(Name) Mary Brickle

(Street Address or Route Number) 120 S. Mary St

(City & Zip Code) Fond du Lac WI 54935

(Representing) Fond du Lac County & W L I P

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

11

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4-24-97

Bill No. _____

Or Subject: Budget & Land

(Name) Hugh Harper

(Street Address or Route Number) 218 1/2 1142

(City & Zip Code) PO Box Toward

(Representing) W L I P & Jackson Co.

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: _____

Bill No. _____

Or Subject: Recru Land In Reformation

(Name) Damon Anderson
Board

(Street Address or Route Number) 121 E. Main St.

(City & Zip Code) Port Washington 53074

(Representing) Ozaukee County

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/24

Bill No. WI Land Information
Or Subject WI Land Information

(Name) Fred Kalden

(Street Address or Route Number) 2445 Durwin Rd.

(City & Zip Code) Madison, WI 53704

(Representing) WI Land Information Assoc.

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/24/97

Bill No.
Or Subject LAND USE / LAND INFORMATION

(Name) MICHAEL Romportl

(Street Address or Route Number) PO Box 400

(City & Zip Code) RHINELANDER WI 54501

(Representing) ONEIDA COUNTY

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/24/97

Bill No. Gov Budget
Or Subject Proposal to

(Name) Jane Licht

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City & Zip Code) 2964 Hwy RR3 Westland

(Representing) WRDA / WCLA

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/24/97

Bill No. _____

Or Subject LAND REFORMATION BOARD

(Name) FRANCIS THOUSAND

(Street Address or Route Number) 5113 SPANLEM AVE

(City & ZIP Code) MADISON WI 53714

(Representing) WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.
Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 24 APRIL 1997

Bill No. _____

Or Subject Budget bill - Land Use

(Name) Robert H. Dimat LS & CST

(Street Address or Route Number) 3023 Crescent Rd.

(City & ZIP Code) Plainfield, WI 53501-9425

(Representing) CITIZENS (SELF)

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.
Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702
RLS & Son/Heister

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/24/97

Bill No. Budget B. 11

Or Subject Wisconsin Land Subs. Program

(Name) DAVID MYER

(Street Address or Route Number) 6322 Pilgrim Rd.

(City & ZIP Code) Madison 53711

(Representing) WLFIF

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.
Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: April 24 1997

Bill No. _____

Of _____

Subject: 5th Anniversary

(Name) _____

(Street Address or Route Number) 2501 Milwaukee Ave

(City & Zip Code) WV 53413

(Representing) WVIA

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Alister G

WVIA

(Burd)

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/24/97

Bill No. LRB 1304/11

Of WISCONSIN LAND

Subject: Information Board
LOUISE PRINCIPLE

(Name) _____

(Street Address or Route Number) 51st Street

(City & Zip Code) _____

(Representing) Lenosha County Register
of Deeds

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: APRIL 24, 1997

Bill No. LAND INFORMATIONAL

Of BOARD

Subject: REPEAL
NORMAN O. ANDERSON

(Name) _____

(Street Address or Route Number) 25 W. MAIN ST.

(City & Zip Code) _____

(Representing) WIS. SOCIETY OF LAND SPRING

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

{ Specialty Cheese Makers }
80 members
150 suppliers

Support RED changes
* CAP, Paperwork

Commerce gave focus to 2010

Linda Hedorf (sp?)

dairy farmer - Fond du Lac

- 16 farms provided w/ grants
- worked w/ people on expansion
now milking 500 cows
- most stressful process-planning
and decision making



Creation of the

STEVE

Family Fresh Pack - cheese converter Belleville
* Klondike - Maple-leaf
* Prima Casa - Silver-Lewis
* Decatur Dairy -
*

From Bulk to Package Cheese

Started 1995

- began using "trim" for pizza cheese
- then cheese spread

"Sugar Brook Brand"

- also business w/ NJ Firm Advant
Ground Foods - spreads
55 day product

ⓑ - 750,000 lbs creme cheese / year

Need to Rethink "Dairy Industry"

Specialty Cheese



Compliments ADD Program -
"new use"

Budget 200 →

← Add Back \$200K ADD →

Mike Krutza (?) s/p - { Farm Credit Services }
* { RED Board }
{ ZOD Board }

→ Supports changes - toward individuals

→ Changes to make "farmer friendly"
→ supports applications

→ \$160,000 toward dairy farming - RED
200,000

← Minimum Wage (Sec 405) who
does that apply to? →

Tom Taylor

BED

- ✓ \$478,500 - Transfer - Increase
where does PR come from (\$100K)?
- ✓ - Agricultural business set aside - 25%
- ✓ - increase may award - 25 to \$100K
- ✓ - raise POP share from 4,000 - to 6,000
- ✓ - reduce early planning grants

Leverage \$20M/yr

Previously served → AMS Springer

Development Zones (18) 8 zones in 1989

② Mil, Eau, Men, Rac, James, Beloit
Juneau-Adams-Mary
Linc Lang Flort & ? Co

Income Tax Credits to Businesses (etc)

Consolidate 9 existing credits →

W-2
Empowerment
zones

\$6,500 credit for creating new job

\$4,000 for "non-target" group member

50% of remediation costs

28. → 33 Million (Allocation)

How much
in credits?

Wages & Benefits examination
* Dept of Commerce

average - exceeds \$12/hr (?)

→ Extend by 2 years 7+ up to 5 years

Does this change the allocation? w/ extension

Credits

- InvestTax 2.5% mach & equip
- Location 2.5% ~~relocated~~
- Env. Remed 7.5%
- Research 5%
- Childcare 1,200 for each depend of target worker
- Jobs credit 20% of first 13K in wages during 2 yrs other than (W-2 - 25%)

Consolidate into a single credit

- Job creation & Retention
- env. remediation

Previously

- Contact DUID - obtain verification -
back to company - confirm eligibility

Current Proposal

ex) Master lock →

Rep. Powers:

WLIA letter dated 4/8/97
suggested Sec'y Bugher & myself
have not been responsive to
the requests of the WLIA. I
would like an opportunity to
respond.

Thanks,

Kathy Huer

1921 - Counties, Towns, Cities, & Villages
* Land Council

Kathy

- Eliminate Conflicts
- Training + Tech Assistance
- Citizen Participation
- Land Information System

Russ

Budget

→ Merger - WI Land Information Board

→ ① Provide most efficient use of resources

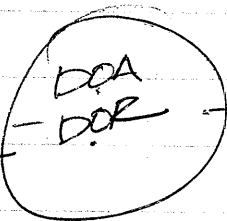
② * Has agency support

□ more staff (?)

□ better communication

□ Plenty of tension

Location



does this have anything to do with where Mark Bugher works?

Rep.
Powers

How many
more testifiers
do we have?

Mark

Quad graphics ^{building} started as
a cooperative canning company
(Cal Can) which eventually
failed & the building was sold.

Doug King -

① Why duplicate Board?

- interagency MOU

② Why lose policy making function?

③ Why to DCA?

- priorities, data collection

④ why not give ~~outdoor~~ positions
to

① Grant process was not changed
(- appropriations the same)

~~W L I B~~

→ Will priorities change →

* → Change Council - Can Only recommend
& DOA accepts or rejects →



W L I B Francis Thousand H W
→ County Control -

"The W L I B has
Very Sensative in working w/ Counties"

- Land Use Issues -
- Information Issues -

< Hugh Harper >

Kilgore, Kathi

From: Boardman, Kristina

Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 1997 1:14 PM

To: Kilgore, Kathi

Subject: hearing update

Kathi:

Just to keep you updated as to who is speaking at the hearing:

Mark Bugher will not be attending since it has since been decided that he and Kathleen Heuer would have about the same to say. Therefore, Ms. Heuer will be speaking along with Russ Rasmussen from DOA.

Also, the fiscal bureau analyst speaking on the Land Information Board is Jere Bauer.

One more thing:

Any preferences on how we do seating? Are you planning on sitting at the table next to Mike? It makes no difference, just let me know. Chuck Coleman got a little hyper regarding seating assignments - I guess I am still playing by his rules.

Talk to you later.

- Kristina

Rural Affairs/Land Use - Joint Budget Briefing

Portions of the budget to be discussed, and speakers confirmed to offer testimony:

- 1) Budgetary changes to the Rural Economic Development Board/Program
 - John Behling, Legislative Liaison - Dept. of Commerce
 - Mark Liedl, Marketing Division Administrator - DATCP
 - Ron Shanovich, Analyst - Fiscal Bureau

 - 2) Budgetary changes to the Development Zone Program, and the effects these tax credits may have on land use
 - John Behling, Legislative Liaison - Dept. of Commerce
 - Ron Shanovich, Analyst - Fiscal Bureau

 - 3) Abolition of the Land Information Board and the Creation of the Land Council
 - ~~Mark Bugher, Secretary - Dept. of Administration~~
 - Kathleen Heuer, Deputy Secretary - Department of Revenue
 - Analyst - Fiscal Bureau *Jere Bauer*
- Russ Rasmussen*
DOA
-

Other testimony which may be expected:

Rural Economic Development Program:

5 individuals contacted by John Behling

Land Information Board/Land Council:

WI Land Information Association (David Moyer, Roxanne Brown)

WI Society of Land Surveyors (Norm Anderson)

Kilgore, Kathi

From: Boardman, Kristina

Sent: Friday, April 18, 1997 9:14 AM

To: Kilgore, Kathi

Subject: RE: Rural Affairs/Land Use Briefing

Kathi:

I have sent down an extra packet for you. You should hopefully get it in a few minutes. Also, just to let you know, those that have confirmed with me to provide testimony include:

Fiscal Bureau (Ron Shanovich, and someone else on Land Use)
Dept. of Commerce - maybe Tom Taylor (Deputy Secretary)
Kathy Heuer - DOR
Mark Bugher - DOA

I haven't heard back from DATCP, but I am pretty sure someone will be able to make it.

Also, one thing that I noticed yesterday...on the notice, I listed that we would be receiving testimony on the Rural Economic Development Board, but this really includes changes to the Rural Economic Development *Program*. If anyone asks you about this, you can relay the information. I am going to call John Behling (Commerce) and make sure he is clear on this.

Talk to you later -
Kristina



State of Wisconsin
Tommy G. Thompson, Governor

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Alan T. Tracy, Secretary

2811 Agriculture Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53704-6777

PO Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708-8911

Testimony Before the Assembly Rural and Land Use Committees

By

Mark B. Liedl
Administrator, Division of Marketing
Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

April 24, 1997

Chairpersons Ainsworth and Powers and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this morning in support of the proposed changes in the Rural Economic Development Program (RED) at the Department of Commerce.

At the Wisconsin Farm Center, in the Marketing Division of DATCP, we work directly with farmers: farmers who are looking for ways to make their operations more profitable, for themselves, their families, and their community. We work with farmers who are considering expansion and farmers who want to upgrade their operations. And we work with beginning farmers who are searching for ways to make the most of the opportunities available in a rapidly changing agricultural economy.

Our experience shows that those who devote time and resources to planning have the best chance of success. Often, even small investments in an idea can result in big returns. That's why we are so supportive of RED's Rural Early Planning Grant program which provides up to \$1500 for a prefeasibility study by an outside professional. Results of a study can help farmers make informed and tested decisions about their farm business. The Wisconsin Farm Center has referred several farmers to RED for prefeasibility study grants. Once feasibility is determined, farmers may be eligible for additional RED grants or loans to get the project off the ground.

Agriculture is the backbone of rural economic development in Wisconsin, and a critical element of our state's strong and growing economy. We are pleased that RED has already funded a number of grants and loans for farmers to help keep our industry strong and growing. We also applaud the Department for streamlining the application process, doing outreach and encouraging applications directly from farmers.

The Department of Commerce is proposing an increase of RED funding to \$750,000 annually, a measure which we strongly support. Expanded funding will allow more farmers to take advantage of this very important program.

In closing, I would point out that the RED program complements the Agricultural Development and Diversification (ADD) program which is housed in the Marketing Division at DATCP. The ADD program, which the Governor and the legislature created in 1988, provides funding for new and diversified agricultural practices. Wisconsin's growing aquaculture industry is an example of a "new use" that was jump-started by the ADD program.

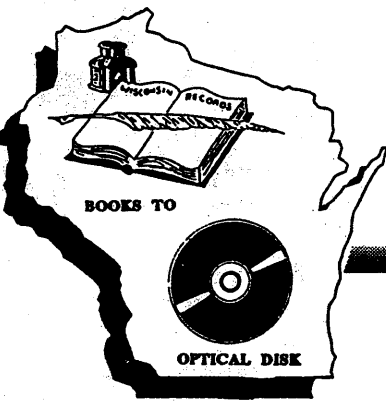
Each year, we receive six to eight times the number of applications for ADD grants than we have the funds to distribute. Since 1989, we have distributed \$1.5 million in grants compared to more than \$20 million that has been requested by applicants. The Governor's budget proposed a \$200,000 annual increase in funding for the ADD program. At this point, however, that additional funding is not in the budget the legislature is considering. The ADD program complements and, in fact, strengthens the RED program. It provides a distinct, yet, equally important tool for Wisconsin farmers to create new and stronger profit centers on the family farm.

Needless to say, the Department supports an amendment to the budget to add back the Governor's request for additional ADD funding so we can expand our efforts to help Wisconsin farmers and build an even stronger partnership with the Department of Commerce and the RED program to create more opportunity for Wisconsin farmers and rural communities.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

WISCONSIN REGISTER OF DEEDS

Association



April 24, 1997

Rural Affairs and Land Use Committee Members
State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Representatives Ainsworth, Kedzie, Musser, Nass, Owens, Powers, Hasenohrl, Schnieder, Gronemus, Springer, Dueholm, Bock, and Steinbrink:

Members of the Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association strongly disagree with the abolishment of the Wisconsin Land Information Board as proposed in the Governor's budget. The proposal is clearly a way for the Department of Administration to take over a very popular and successful locally-based program. We believe that a council of mainly state agency heads whose primary charge is to recommend ways of solving land use issues does not make a grass roots program for improving land information systems at the local level.

Over the last five years that the Wisconsin Land Information Board has awarded grants to counties and municipalities, learning curves and land information modernization have made dramatic progress in all areas of the state. I know from the experience of working in the trenches, being the one to actually implement a new indexing and imaging system, and being involved in the planning of our geographic information system, there is no way for state government bureaucrats to wave a magic wand and make it happen all across Wisconsin. There is no substitute for hard work and determination at the local level--the place where most land information is gathered, stored, and available for public access.

The Wisconsin Land Information Program--which is the WLIP plus the technical staff of three people, provides guidance, expertise, and distributes grant money to make land records modernization happen in counties and municipalities who are ready to tackle the challenge. The WLIP already has made great strides in developing a land information clearing house; having a Land Council take over would only slow down progress. The WLIP already effectively encourages communication and cooperation among governmental units involved with land information.

From a land information point of view, land use planning is only one of many attributes of a multi-purpose land information system. Trying to have the tail wag the dog has never been a good idea, especially when the tail belongs to a different animal. The process of modernizing

"FEW THINGS MUST LAST AS LONG AS COUNTY RECORDS"

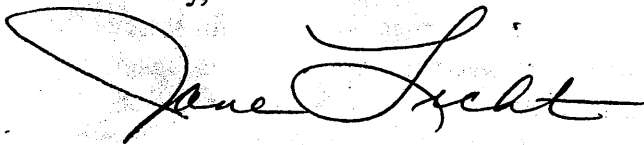
land information supports many government and private sector interests. But it is neutral when it comes to land use policy issues. Getting tangled in thorny, controversial land use policy issues can only be detrimental to land information system modernization--a discipline which is embraced by folks who may otherwise be antagonists, such as land developers and land use planners, Realtors and environmentalists.

The WLIP is not funded by state income tax dollars. It is totally funded by user fees. A surcharge was placed on the first page of every document recorded in the office of the register of deeds. The title insurance company officers, attorneys, Wisconsin Realtors, surveyors, utility representatives and others who have to take the heat for the increased fees did not complain about it because they understood the potential benefits of improved public access to better land information.

I suspect that there are officials within the DOA who covet the independence of the WLIP and the program revenue. I suspect that there are officials within the DOA of the old mindset that local governments can't do it and so big brother state government should step in and do it. But these state agency folks should remember that the state did not do so well with the KIDS state-wide computer program (it's still not working properly), and the first state UCC computer program was a total disaster. I also suspect that because there is no longer enough grant money to satisfy all the counties and municipalities ready to implement modern land information systems and thus, complaints are being voiced, that the DOA views the program as being vulnerable.

If the DOA is committed to the Land Use Council, then I think it is appropriate for Mr. Bugher to promote it. But not at the expense of the Wisconsin Land Information Program. This is the position our Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association took at the Spring Seminar in March of this year. Thanks for your time and consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Licht". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Jane Licht, Dane County Register of Deeds
WRDA President (608)267-8814

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Brown County

305 E. WALNUT STREET
P.O. BOX 23600
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN 54305-3600

PHONE (414) 448-4470 FAX (414) 448-4449

CATHY WILLIQUETTE

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Please Deliver to:

Representative John Ainsworth
Fax: 608-282-3606

From:

Cathy Williquette, Register of Deeds
Fax: 414-448-4449
Phone: 414-448-4469

Pages: 2

MESSAGE:

As a county register of deeds and member of the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) I am very concerned about the proposal in LRB 1304/1 to eliminate the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB) and redirect the land information funds.

The Department of Administration's proposal would eliminate the WLIB and the focus would be changed entirely. Instead of promoting improved technology and establishing multipurpose land information systems, the focus is narrowed to one issue: land use. Instead of the WLIB distributing grants to counties and municipalities, the DOA, in following the proposed Land Use Council mission, would redirect the funding to that of building a land use information at the state level.

?

Page 2

Land use is only one of many important features of a land information system. One danger in building a system only for land use is that the higher resolution and accuracy needed for many county and municipal government functions is generally lost. Another danger is that the important WLIB goal of improving public access to information, such as in the office of the register of deeds, would also be lost.

In general, my constituents prefer receiving good county service over increased bureaucracy at the state level. In fact, very few of my customers complained about the surcharge on recording fees because they understood and supported where the funds were going. Their money should not be diverted.



APR 23 1997

LAND INFORMATION

Burnett County Government Center / 7410 Co. Rd. K #120 / Siren, WI 54872
(715) 349-2599 Fax: (715) 349-2102

April 21, 1997

To: Assembly Joint Committee Hearings of Rural Affairs/Land Use

Co-chairs: Mike Powers
John Ainsworth

From: Kathleen E. Swingle, Burnett County Surveyor/Land Information Supervisor

Re: Hearing on April 24 regarding the WLIB and WLC merger

I have been involved in the land information modernization process since I began working for Burnett County 10 years ago. I have witnessed the birth of a grass roots organization which has become a major power in all issues related to land information. The organization I speak of is the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA). This group fostered the legislation that produced the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB) which lead to the nationally acclaimed Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP).

This successful program has been targeted for a dramatic change. From the beginning, it has been a county based program because the most current and accurate information is housed at this level for use by local officials. This current and accurate information is filtered up to the state agencies and/or federal agencies. The goal has been to eliminate duplication of efforts, costs and to have the best information available at all levels.

The "dramatic change" proposes to dissolve the highly successful WLIB and create the Wisconsin Land Council (WLC) which will be part of the Department of Administration. This action effectively extinguishes the bottom-up or most current and accurate information approach to all and threatens to replace it with a top-down bureaucratic approach.

Another consideration is the WLC is somewhat planning oriented. Planning is very important for the State of Wisconsin and I fully support this type of activity. My objection lies with the likely exclusion of other important land information components and a lack of understanding by policy makers of how everything works together.

The WLIB has served as a policy setting body. The people actually doing the very complex work of creating land information systems communicate with this board. The WLIB coordinates the many facets of geographic information and makes certain the data being generated is compatible

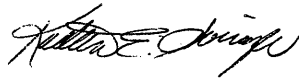
from county to county, county government to state government etc. So, even though each county is building its' information system independent from mandated programs and is building the system best suited to that particular county; the focus is always on the state as a whole. An important part of this operation is the communication between the WLIB and the counties (the people actually doing much of the building, megabyte by megabyte) and the resulting compatibility.

By placing this program under the auspices of a state agency, decisions would be removed from the professionals who intimately understand how the whole system works. This could be a very costly mistake. There is danger that the program would be viewed as a "state program" thus discouraging incentives for working together. What is even more dangerous is putting the program in the hands of people who may not have the technical background and experience to guide it properly. I have enclosed a cartoon to try to illustrate what I mean...you can have the right idea, generally speaking, but if you don't have complete understanding, it won't work!

There are many other important aspects to this issue I have not covered in this letter. If you need further information, I will be pleased to provide it to you. I cannot stress enough, the importance of this issue. This is an issue that will affect every taxpayer in the state, involves millions of dollars and should not be taken lightly.

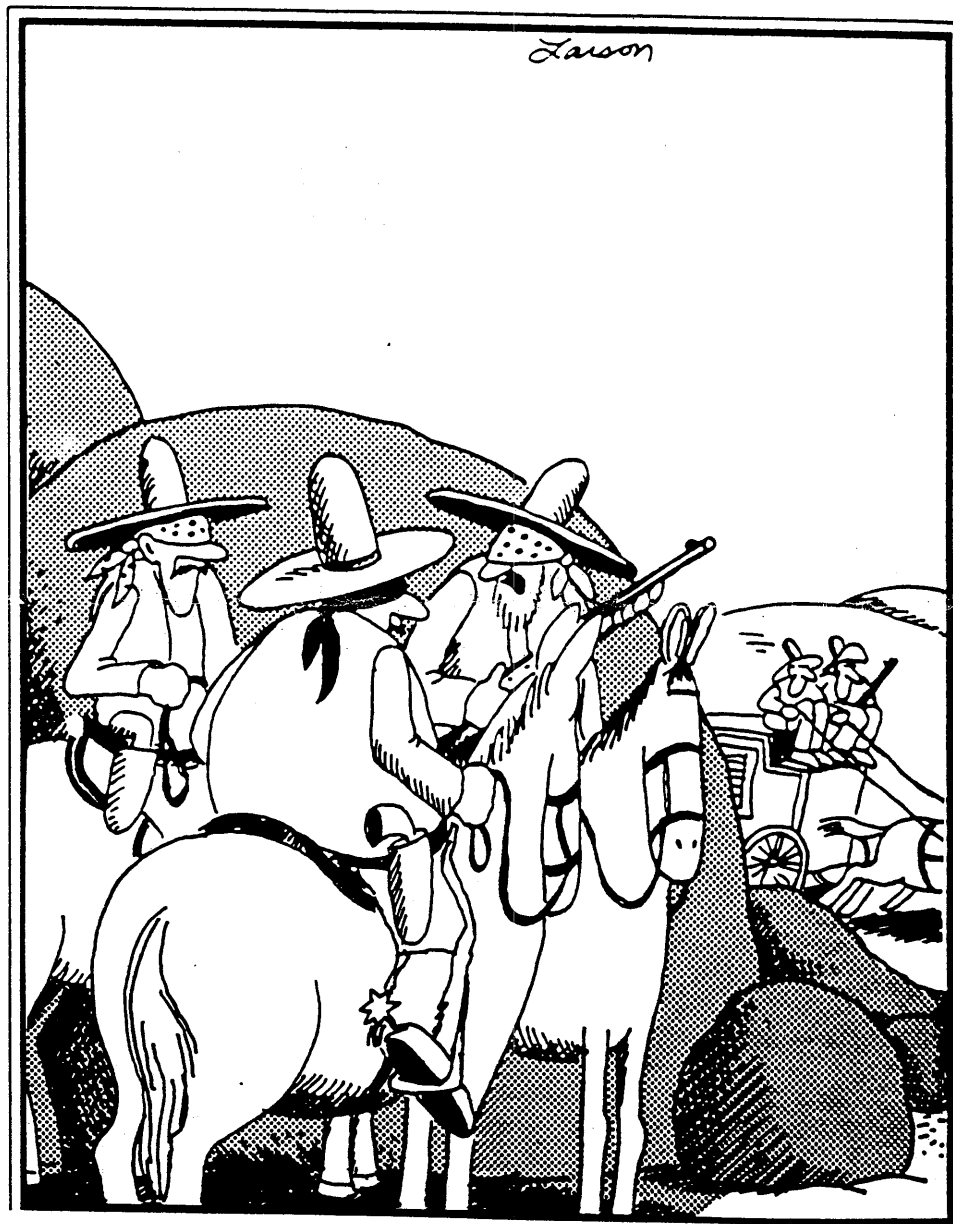
Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. Swingle
Burnett County Surveyor/Land Information Supervisor

cc: Bob Dueholm



**“Dang! This can’t be right . . . I can HEAR the stage, but
I can’t see a blamed thing!”**

**“You can have the right idea, generally speaking, but if you don’t have complete
understanding, it won’t work!”**

APR 23 1997

SHAWANO COUNTY
LAND INFORMATION OFFICE

APRIL 21, 1997

To: John Ainsworth
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

From: Ronald C. Ostrowski, County Conservationist/Land Information
Office Coordinator

Ronald C Ostrowski

Re: Budget Legislation Related to the Creation of the Wisconsin
Land Council and the Elimination of the Wisconsin Land
Information Board.

(Sections 55, 97, and non-statutory section 9101; Sections 44,
51, 133-142, 669, 672, 673, 682-684, 774, 775, 1156, 1164,
2164, 2175-2178, 2489)

The Shawano County Land Information Office urges that the
Wisconsin Land Information Program and Board remain intact. The
current proposal would transfer its duties to the Wisconsin Land
Council (WLC).

Shawano County has been in the process of modernizing its land
records since 1991 under the WLIP. Through the financial support
of the WLIB and technical help from its members and the WLIA, we
have planned and built a base which can be used for land use
planning, emergency services, property records management, natural
resource management, land survey information, parcel mapping,
zoning and public access to land records. We are currently in the
process of building all of the above.

Shawano County certainly supports comprehensive land use planning.
Since the fall of 1994, the County's Planning & Development Dept.
has been working with towns and smaller municipalities in
"clusters" to develop land use plans. The County and towns have
contracted for technical assistance with East Central Wisconsin
Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC). ECWRPC agreed from the
onset to use the County's GIS base (county-wide digital orthophoto

base map with associated planimetrics) for any GIS and mapping work needed for the planning process. The ECWRPC staff have repeatedly remarked upon how advanced the County's system is due to the WLIP and WLIB as compared to their own.

To date we have been working with 16 towns, 3 villages and the city to develop land use plans. Three of the towns have officially adopted their plans and the others are in progress.

Our land records modernization program is in full swing. As mentioned, we have established our base using digital orthophotos with planimetrics (road centerlines, hydrography, and PLSS lines). We are currently having the soils digitized county wide to support the planning effort. Also in progress is the complete remonumentation and coordination (using GPS) of our PLSS corners. This will serve to perpetuate the PLSS base and assist our parcel mapping effort. Roads are now being annotated and addressing will be added to support the automated dispatch system for E911. The Register of Deeds is now installing a document imaging system to eventually automate all of its records. A County computer network is now in place which will make the GIS base and all associated land records available to all offices and public access terminals which are now in the development stage.

I could continue to expound, but as you can see we are developing our land records modernization program to support a multitude of geographic and land associated processes and needs. In order for us to continue, the Wisconsin Land Information Program must continue as a stand alone state program led by the Wisconsin Land Information Board.

Statement
In Opposition to
Abolition of the Land Information Board and
Movement of the Wisconsin Land Information Program to the
Department of Administration

By
D. David Moyer, Ph.D
President of the Wisconsin Land Information Association

to the
Assembly Committee Hearings of the
COMMITTEE ON RURAL AFFAIRS and COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

Capitol Room 328 NW

9:00 am

April 24, 1997

Statement

I am David Moyer, currently serving as President of the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA). We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the abolition of the WLIB and creation of the Wisconsin Land Council (WLC), as proposed in the Governor's Budget Bill. I provided you with details in a letter two weeks ago. (I believe copies of that letter have been made available to members of the Committees.) Today I simply want to emphasize the main points in our position and be available to respond to any questions.

The WLIA is a 500 member association of professionals working in a variety of land information jobs. Our members include a variety of local government officials, including registers of deeds, county treasurers, county conservationists, land information officers, tax listers, assessors, zoning officials, and planners.

WLIA encouraged the formation of the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) 6 years ago and we have been supporting the program through a variety of volunteer efforts since that time.

The success of the WLIP is due in large part to the fact that it is a grass-roots system, developed from the bottom up. That is, the foundation of the WLIP is at the local government level, where land information is produced, and then used to develop and maintain the land information that is so important to many parts of our economy and society. You will note in Figure 1 of the attached GeoInfo Systems article that **all 72 counties in Wisconsin are participating and benefiting from the WLIP.**

The land information provided by the WLIP serves a wide variety of users and applications, including but not limited to: land transfer, land value assessment, E-911, emergency vehicle routing, school bus routing, flood plain determination, ground water pollution monitoring and control, public health studies, precision farming for the application of fertilizers and pesticides, soil conservation, forestry management, shoreline preservation, environmental studies, farmland preservation, zoning, and land use planning.

The WLIP, guided by the three person Wisconsin Land Information Board staff, has been an outstanding success. The WLIP has provided the plans, technical assistance, and financial incentives for counties and municipalities throughout Wisconsin to modernize their land record systems. These modernization efforts are providing a wide variety of land information for a wide variety of users, both in the public and private sector, that I noted above. And the WLIP is an important reason for the success of the land modernization program in Wisconsin. This is apparent from Figure 7 in the attached GeoInfo Systems article, in which well over 90 percent of Wisconsin counties indicated the importance of the WLIP in helping to initiate and accelerate their land records modernization effort.

While the WLIP includes information to support land use planning, these data are but a small part of the extent of the information contained in the typical county land information system (LIS). For example, the administrative rules for the WLIP include 8 foundational elements (5 data layers and 3 institutional categories). These include:

- Geographic reference frameworks
- Parcel mapping administration (including unique parcel identification numbers)
- Wetlands mapping
- Soils mapping
- Zoning mapping
- Institutional arrangements
- Communications, education, and training
- Public access arrangements

The WLIA recognizes the importance of land use information to support land use planning efforts in the State. Indeed, we believe that the WLIP is the ideal vehicle to provide such information for use by local governments, and we are supportive of adding land use as one of the foundational layers in the WLIP. However, we are adamantly opposed to making land use planning the primary focus of the WLIP, thereby ignoring the vast majority of land information that is also critical to the future of this State. The over-emphasis of land use planning and ignoring many other equally important land information categories is the result we will see if this budget bill passes as introduced.

We recommend that the proposal to abolish the WLIP be removed from the budget bill. This proposal, which is policy-making, not budgetary in nature, could then be considered in a more open, through manner in the regular legislative process. We are certain that if this is done, you will once again provide the support needed to keep the effective WLIP operating as an independent program. (Note that the WLIP has been already been re-affirmed twice in the last two years, including removal of sunset conditions).

We believe that it is important to maintain the functional integrity of the WLIP, (that is, outside of the direct control of any State agency, including the Department of Administration), maintain the segregated funding system that supports the development and maintenance of the WLIP, maintain the dedicated, efficient staff that administers the program, and preserve the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB) that provides an independent policy mechanism to guide the Program, utilizing the expertise of the Governor-appointed Board and the numerous advisory members that represent local, state, and federal agencies, along with the private sector.

In my work I have the opportunity to work with local and state land information programs across the United States. I am pleased to say that the Wisconsin Land Information Program is widely recognized as the premier land information program in the country. States such as Minnesota, Colorado, California, Ohio, Florida, and Arkansas have emulated the Wisconsin program. The adoption of many

aspects of the Wisconsin program by others is recognition of our success and the sincerest form of flattery. With your continued support, we look forward to maintaining Wisconsin's leadership position and continuing to serve the wide variety of needs of all users of land information in the State.

In summary, the WLIA urges you to:

- * **Maintain the functional integrity of the WLIP**, including the specific legislative charges and the strong connection between the land information community and the WLIP that serves as the policy body,
- * **Maintain the segregated funding of the Program** (and not give DOA complete control of the funds and discretion on their use),
- * **Maintain the dedicated staff** that provides support for the WLIP, and
- * **Preserve the ground up nature of the WLIP**, with representation of the WLIA on the WLIP and making use of the wide range of support from advisory members from local, federal, and private sectors.

Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on this most important legislative proposal. Please contact us if we can provide further information or assistance.