

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: January 14, 2016

TO: Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Chair, Board of Supervisors

FROM: James Tarantino, Economic Development Director, Department of Administrative Services

SUBJECT: Land Information Council Creation and Appointment of Members

REQUEST

That the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors create an advisory Land Information Council and appoints its membership.

BACKGROUND

In 1988, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) began a land records modernization study for Milwaukee County. At that time, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors requested that SEWRPC convene a task force to analysis the feasibility and cost effectiveness of the County developing an automated mapping and land information system. That resolution specifically requested the task force “to analyze the potential for 1) the County to utilize the City’s automated mapping (Intergraph) system, 2) the merging of the County and City’s needs into one system, and 3) the potential for creating a system that could also be shared and partially funded by utilities such as Wisconsin Energy Corporation, the Wisconsin Gas Company, Wisconsin Bell and other private businesses.” (File #88-379)

The SEWRPC study was a success in the sense that Milwaukee County has managed a land records modernization program that meets the needs of its constituents and is recognized throughout the State as a leading implementer of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The GIS became known as the Milwaukee County Automated Mapping and Land Information System (MCAMLIS), and the Task Force that was formed to guide the initial study has continued operating in an advisory capacity and has taken the MCAMLIS name. The Land Information Office that currently operates under the Department of Administrative Services in the Economic Development Division has managed Milwaukee County’s GIS, which has become synonymous with the MCAMLIS task force.

Since the formation of MCAMLIS, awareness of the importance and potential application of GIS has grown in the public sector. In May 2010, the State of Wisconsin enacted SB-507 (2009 Wisconsin Act 314) which requires that counties with a land information office also establish a land information council. The Statute reads –

“59.72 (3m) LAND INFORMATION COUNCIL.

(a) If the board has established a land information office under sub. (3), the board shall have a land information council consisting of not less than 8 members. The council shall consist of the register of deeds, the treasurer, and, if one has been appointed, the real property lister or their designees and the following members appointed by the board for terms prescribed by the board:

1. A member of the board.
2. A representative of the land information office.
3. A realtor or a member of the Realtors Association employed within the county.
4. A public safety or emergency communications representative employed within the county.
- 4m. The county surveyor or a professional land surveyor employed within the county.
5. Any other members of the board or public that the board designates. (am) Notwithstanding par. (a), if no person is willing to serve under par. (a) 3., 4., or 4m., the board may create or maintain the council without the member designated under par. (a) 3., 4., or 4m.
(b) The land information council shall review the priorities, needs, policies, and expenditures of a land information office established by the board under sub. (3) and advise the county on matters affecting the land information office.” [[Wis. Stat. § 59.72 \(3m\)](#)]

Milwaukee County’s Land Information Office is also required to submit a countywide plan for land records modernization to the State Department of Administration under Wis. Stat. § 16.967(3)(e). The intent of the Land Information Office is to submit this plan with a demonstration of compliance with the Land Information Council statutory requirement, and as such is requesting that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors create and appoint a Land Information Council (LIC). The statute was written to apply to all counties in the State and as such has allowed for some flexibility in the appointment of the LIC members. In that Milwaukee County does not have a real property currently under employment, and that the current MCAMLIS task force includes a robust selection of members additional to the statutory requirement, that member position is not included in this recommendation. The Land Information Office recommends the following members to serve on the initial LIC –

MEMBER	APPOINTEE
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors	Sup. Jason Haas
Land Information Office	Kevin Bruhn
County Treasurer	David Cullen
Office of Emergency Management	Christine Westrich
County Surveyor	Robert Merry (existing MCAMLIS member)
Milwaukee County Register of Deeds	John LaFave (existing MCAMLIS member)
City of Milwaukee Chief Information Officer	Nancy Olson (existing MCAMLIS member)
Metropolitan Milwaukee Sewerage District GIS	Emily Champagne (existing MCAMLIS member)
Intergovernmental Coordinating Council	Doug Seymour (existing MCAMLIS member)
Department of Administrative Services	Greg High (existing MCAMLIS member)
We Energies	Dawn Neuy – Manager, EDAM Support, (existing MCAMLIS member)

Importantly, this list of appointees includes substantially similar membership to the current MCAMLIS task force which will ensure continuity of services and promoting positive intergovernmental relations. It is advised that the initial appointees of the LIC serve two year terms and are enabled to assign designees to attend LIC meetings and act on their behalf.

This Board action which would create the LIC and its membership would also effectively replace the current MCAMLIS task force. The Land Information Office will make every effort to simplify and manage this transition process.

RECOMMENDATION

In order to achieve compliance with Wis. Stat. § 59.72 (3m), it is recommended that Milwaukee County create a Land Information Council and appoint its inaugural members as listed above.

James Tarantino
Economic Development Director, Department of Administrative Services

cc: Chris Abele, County Executive
Sup. Jason Haas, Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Committee
Intergovernmental Relations Committee Members
Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director
Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator
Kevin Bruhn, GIS Manager
David Cullen, County Treasurer
Christine Westrich, Director, Office of Emergency Management
John LaFave, Register of Deeds
Greg High, Director, Architecture and Engineering