



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
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To: WIGICC Working Group
Ted Koch, Chair and Members

From: Curtis Pulford, State Geographic Information Officer, WIDOA

Re: The WI Geographic Information Coordination Council (WIGICC)

Cc: Oskar Anderson, Division of Enterprise Technology, WIDOA
Harald (Jordy) Jordahl, Division of Intergovernmental Relations, WIDOA
Mike Friis, Resource Policy Team Leader, WIDOA

The Department of Administration (DOA) has a long history facilitating coordination activities for Wisconsin's geographic information system (GIS) stakeholders. It is within this sphere of support that DOA initiated and obtained the two grant funding efforts leading to a Proposal for a Wisconsin Geographic Information Coordination Council.

In DOA's Divisions of Enterprise Technology and Intergovernmental Relations we are acutely aware of, and actively involved in working towards, the benefits obtained from effective utilization of GIS technologies.

It is the goal of DOA to deliver GIS services to benefit Wisconsin's GIS stakeholder community. We strongly support the idea of bringing people together to identify priorities, to seek opportunities to work together and better coordinate activities.

We would like to offer encouragement and support for the proposed Interim Council. Contained in the Proposal are two key concepts which DOA strongly believes will lead to future successes:

- An Informal Start-up (Interim Council) – This will provide the Council an opportunity to gain experience as it finds its role of examining issues from this new perspective.
- A Planned/Scheduled Reevaluation (after two years) – This will present the Council an opportunity to be responsive and not static if its initial structure is found to be ineffective.

While we support the concepts and intent as described in the Proposal, we must also caution against overreaching the stated intentions. The Council must focus on collaborative and coordination efforts, not governance. If there is a push to create a governance type body, from the start we will have problems of accountability and authority. This group will work best with broad participation – state, local, federal, tribal, and private.

We want to make sure that DOA and other state agencies can work effectively with this group and better leverage all of our efforts

DOA looks forward to working with the State Cartographers Office and all the stakeholders in the development of the Council.