

1 December 17, 2008

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3 **CHARTER (Final v1.0)**

4
5 **Providing for the Establishment of the**
6 **Wisconsin Geographic Information Coordination Council**

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9 WHEREAS, accessible and usable geographic information and technology would facilitate effective
10 service delivery, improve operational efficiencies, and expand organizational capacity to address
11 priorities; and

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13 WHEREAS, geographic information and technology can be used strategically as a decision making
14 tool in such areas as, but not limited to: government administration, economic development,
15 emergency management and response, asset management, transportation, resource and
16 environmental management, environmental impact assessment, land use planning, transportation,
17 taxation and revenue, marketing, and logistics; and

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19 WHEREAS, increasingly complex decisions, overlapping responsibilities, and limited financial
20 resources demand the statewide coordination of investments, practices and policies in all areas,
21 including geographic information and technology to enhance the sharing and stewardship of
22 geographic information, to minimize duplication of effort and public expenditures, and to increase
23 the competitiveness of the state; and

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25 WHEREAS, there is a need to prioritize and schedule the development of publicly-funded
26 geographic information programs, to define roles and responsibilities of geographic information
27 stewardship, and to provide policy guidelines for geographic data access and distribution; and

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29 WHEREAS, increased and continued cooperation among government agencies and the statewide
30 geospatial community is desirable and critical for data sharing initiatives; and

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32 WHEREAS, the statewide strategic plan *Wisconsin Location Matters (Jan, 2007)*, prepared under the
33 guidance of the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA), underscores the value of
34 statewide collaboration and cooperation, and identifies a statewide geographic information
35 coordination council as its top priority; and

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37 WHEREAS, a statewide geographic information coordination council would provide a means for
38 the State Geographic Information Officer to engage the geospatial community across Wisconsin;
39 and

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41 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) has a long history facilitating
42 coordination activities for Wisconsin's geospatial community, and offers its encouragement and
43 support for the creation of an interim Wisconsin Geographic Information Coordination Council, as
44 indicated in a letter of support from the State Geographic Information Officer (March 10, 2008);
45 and

47 WHEREAS, an officially designated organization can most strongly represent Wisconsin's interests
48 in communications and discussion with Federal agencies regarding geographic information, spatial
49 data exchanges, spatial data standards and other important issues; and
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51 WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Geographic Information Coordination Council is a sustainable,
52 stakeholder-governed, statewide organization that provides leadership and direction for the
53 cooperative development and use of geographic information and technologies; and
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55 WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Geographic Information Coordination Council facilitates the delivery
56 of public services, encourages economic development, and helps protect the public and the
57 environment by improving the quality, accessibility, utility, and value of geographic information and
58 technologies; and
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60 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Geographic Information Coordination Council, hereinafter referred to
61 as WIGICC or the Council, shall be established and shall provide a model for coordination that is
62 inclusive, representative, and participatory; and
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64 WHEREAS, WIGICC will provide the means to engage a variety of "communities," through a
65 Stakeholder Network, bringing their needs and solutions into a common forum and environment of
66 understanding and giving them a voice in geospatial initiatives within the state.
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69 1. And therefore be it further resolved that:
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- 71 a. The Council shall formulate and ratify its By-Laws and Charter for its own operation
72 and elections and for the formation of committees and working groups; and
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- 74 b. The Council shall receive administrative staff support from the Wisconsin State
75 Cartographer's Office, and receive technical and website administration support
76 from the Wisconsin Geographic Information Office.
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- 78 c. The Council shall establish and recommend policies, practices, standards, guidelines
79 and strategies that emphasize coordination, cooperation, and collaboration among
80 the geospatial community, federal agencies, tribes and other states leveraging
81 geographic information and technology; and
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- 83 d. Policies, practices, guidelines, standards, and conventions developed by WIGICC
84 shall be widely distributed throughout Wisconsin for discussion and shall be
85 recommended for implementation through the Wisconsin Geographic Information
86 Office and other organizations as appropriate, and
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- 88 e. The Council shall report its accomplishments and recommendations for its
89 continuance to the Wisconsin State Cartographer and to the Wisconsin Geographic
90 Information Officer no later than June 30, 2010, and
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- 92 f. WIGICC Bylaws will define the structure and will guide the activities of the Council.
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94 2. The Wisconsin Geographic Information Coordination Council shall coordinate its activities
95 with those of any existing or future local, state, federal and tribal agency geographic
96 information coordinating office(s).

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100 **Definitions:**

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102 For the purposes of this Charter, the following definitions shall apply:

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104 1. “Geographic Information System” and “GIS” both mean a system for capturing, storing,
105 analyzing and managing data and associated attributes that are spatially referenced to the
106 earth.
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108 2. “Geospatial” means information and/or data that identify geographic location and
109 characteristics of natural or constructed features and boundaries on the earth. This
110 information may be derived from, among other things, remote sensing, mapping, and
111 surveying technologies.

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