

MINUTES – ILLINOIS GIS ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM CST. Those in attendance were: Keith Darby, Mike Kamin, Lauren Lee, Steven Spradling, Renee Boker, Adam Aull, Josh Carlson, Hunter Ray, Dan Bartlett, and Mark Yacucci.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Kamin, seconded by Adam Aull, and is unanimously approved.

2.0 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mike Kamin to approve the November minutes. The motion was seconded by Adam Aull and is unanimously approved.

3.0 REPORTS

3.1 President's Report

President Darby –

- Reminder: January's board meeting will include a review of each committee's progress towards the ILGISA strategic planning priorities and goals.
- President Darby asked if any committees needed more members. Josh indicated that the professional development committee has had a lot of interest but a smaller number of members that consistently attend and participate, so more core members could be helpful. Other committees seem well attended thus far.
- President Darby also thanked the Outreach Committee for their work updating the website and promoting GIS Day events in November. Keith and Mike attended the NIU Career Day on GIS Day, and Dan and Josh reported that Cook County and Aurora also held events. Josh attended a "post GIS Day" event by a cloud data management company called Snowflake, which could be of interest to the GIS community.

3.2 Executive Director Report

President Darby reviewed Attachment C from Megan Galeher –

- Dues were invoiced November 17th, and initial tracking numbers were attached.
- 2026 budget was sent to the board for review and approval.
- New CM contract was approved and signed.
- Training was conducted for new directors and the treasurer.
- Survey results links were provided for 2025 Annual Conference feedback from both attendees and exhibitors.
- 2026 Annual Conference will be October 18-20 at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria.
- Should start considering properties for the 2027 Annual Conference.

3.3 Committee Updates

3.3.1 Education Committee

Chair—Adam Aull— The student scholarship award form is up and running. The committee was informed that \$1500 was budgeted for the scholarship this year, and it was recommended that this be split into two awards, one for undergraduates and one for post-graduates. The Outreach Committee will begin promoting the application form. Progress is being made in planning pop-up events on campuses for the spring semester. Brad Brewer is taking the lead on planning an event at ISU, with one or two other locations in the works. Committee members will be working on making contacts with institutions they are connected with, exploring potential dates for events, and reporting back at the next meeting in January.

3.3.2 Finance Committee

Chair—Steven Spradling — The committee met on November 5. Steven outlined some of the adjustments the committee made to the proposed budget. The income for the annual conference was adjusted down, due to the location being in central Illinois in 2026 (historically lower attendance), and income for regional meetings was also adjusted down, based on 2 planned meetings in 2026 versus the 3 that were held in 2025. Expenses were also adjusted to move the board retreat to a 3-year cycle, increase the student scholarship amount, reduce regional meeting costs (from 3 to 2), increase funds for conference promotion and MAGIC sponsorship, and add a line item for a hardship fund. The final copy of the budget was attached for discussion during the action item later in the meeting.

3.3.3 Governance Committee

Chair—Mike Kamin— First meeting will be this week. The committee will be meeting on a more regular, monthly basis this year to discuss by-law changes.

3.3.4 Professional Development Committee

Chair—Josh Carlson— The committee brainstormed ideas at their last meeting. They would like to start experimenting with some shorter demo features, and Megan Galeher provided access to the ILGISA YouTube account for this work. They hope to create sharable items for the Outreach committee to use and perhaps curate playlists of videos of interest to the organization. Burt McAlpine will be co-presenting the December ILGISA webinar on JULIE. The committee is also looking into the logistics of running a virtual workshop in 2026.

3.3.5 Program Committee

Chairs—Mike Kamin and Steven Spradling – The committee met on the 18th. The 2026 regional meeting at CMAP is confirmed, and the regional meeting at IDOT is just about confirmed. For the IDOT regional meeting, the committee is looking into organizing a hotel block and possibly an informal restaurant get-together the night before, for those coming from out-of-town. They hope to begin advertising the regional meetings soon. The homework for the committee is to review the conference feedback surveys in-depth. Overall feedback was very positive, especially for panel presentations. Several board members who participated in the panels emphasized that the two-way discussion between panel members and the audience was very beneficial. Other specific things the committee plans to implement based on feedback so far are creating maps for the conference space to facilitate navigation, and to expand capacity at the bowling social (which was a success at the last Peoria conference).

3.3.6 Outreach Committee

Chair—Lauren Lee— The committee met November 20. Keith provided the committee with some draft updates for the certification information on the ILGISA website, and Josh and the Professional Development committee are assisting with the Educational Resources section. If any of the board members notice other areas of the website that need updates, please let Lauren know. The committee plans to start New Board Member spotlight posts for LinkedIn in January. The ILGISA job board did not have any new posts to share in November, but Dan reported that Cook County had just posted a position that the committee could share this month. The committee is also brainstorming ideas for discussion topics for the ILGISA forum. Per the strategic plan goals, the committee will be reaching out to lapsed members in 2026, after the renewal grace period has ended.

3.4 Action Items

3.4.1 2026 ILGISA Budget Approval

A motion was made by Mike Kamin to approve the 2026 ILGISA Budget. The motion was seconded by Adam Aull.

Discussion – Treasurer Steven Spradling reported that after sending out the draft to the board, the only feedback received was positive feedback on the proposal to increase the scholarship amount to \$1500. Dan noticed that the amount budgeted for income and expenses for the annual conference fluctuated quite a bit between years held in the Chicago area versus downstate. Steven and Mike confirmed that historically, yes, the Chicago area conferences have more attendees than the conferences held in central Illinois.

The motion is unanimously approved.

3.5 Other Business

Mark Yacucci recommended adjusting the subcategories under Other Business on the agenda that he reports on for the board – the Illinois State Plane Coordinate System Committee and IPEMA Partnership subcategories can be removed, and Statewide Updates can be changed to Statewide and National Updates, to include updates from NSGIC. Mark reported that NSGIC is requesting that the Department of Commerce consider expanding BEAD funds to also be used for geospatial data projects. In February NSGIC will be going Washington to advocate for USGS and NOAA funding. The Illinois Geospatial Data Clearinghouse is continuing work on LiDAR and aerial imagery data. Work with IDOT on statewide parcel data has stalled, waiting on contracts to be signed. The state has recently uploaded most of the statewide address data to the National Address Database. Mark and Mike also mentioned that registration for the MAGIC conference in Omaha is now open. There may be grants available for financial assistance to attend.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Bartlett and seconded by Steven Spradling. With no further business, President Darby adjourned the meeting at 10:53 AM CST.