MINUTES – ILLINOIS GIS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Tuesday, July 7, 2026

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM CDT. Those in attendance were: Keith Darby, Mike Kamin, Lauren Lee, Steven Spradling, Renee Buker, Adam Aull, Josh Carlson, Hunter Ray, Mark Yacucci, and guest Meagan Briganti.

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

2.0 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Josh Carlson to approve the June minutes. The motion was seconded by Mike Kamin and is unanimously approved.

3.0 REPORTS

3.1 President's Report

President Darby –

- Thank you to the Program Committee for all their work preparing the Chicago regional meeting, the presentations were great.
- iMAUG will be meeting in Wheaton on August 12 – please contact him if you would like to present or attend.
- The Esri User Conference is coming up soon – those board members attending, please share what you learned at the next board meeting.
- We will be doing our next strategic planning update at the August board meeting.

3.2 Executive Director Report

President Darby reviewed the Executive Director report from Megan Galeher –

- Dues were invoiced November 17th, and renewals through June were attached. There are 576 members paid at this point, up from 521 at the same time last year.
- 2025 Form 990 was distributed to the board for review and will be sent to the CPA to finalize.
- Q2 financial statements will be available for the August board meeting.
- 2026 Annual Conference will be October 18-20 at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria.
  - Call for content is now open, 3 abstracts submitted so far. Deadline is August 7, this may be extended.
  - Hotel room block is now open for reservations as well, deadline for booking is September 28.
  - CM Services staff will begin attending program committee meetings in July.
  - Upcoming discussions/decisions include keynote speaker selection, social event selection, poster and map competition details, finalizing web pages and agenda, determining Esri involvement, and discussing any potential conference additions.
- Megan is holding on sending out RFPs for the 2027 annual conference pending further discussion and exploration of other options by the Program Committee. Please keep her

informed on the progress of this.

3.3 Committee Updates

3.3.1 Education Committee

Chair—Adam Aull— The student scholarship rubric has been reviewed and will be judged using a weighted score. So far there are two undergrad and two postgrad applicants. The committee is still finalizing some items for the mentorship program, with a formal announcement of the program at the annual conference. The committee also discussed the idea of offering one year of free ILGISA membership to newly graduated student members, as an encouragement to continue involvement in the organization. More discussion and investigation is needed to determine what recent grads want and what the costs might be to ILGISA. Mike pointed out that ILGISA already offers membership at the student rate for the first year after graduation.

3.3.2 Finance Committee

Chair—Steven Spradling — No updates. Financial totals from the regional meeting in Chicago should be coming soon.

3.3.3 Governance Committee

Chair—Mike Kamin— The committee is finishing up their review of the bylaws and procedures. They are now beginning preparations for this year's board member elections.

3.3.4 Professional Development Committee

Chair—Josh Carlson— Plans are underway for a Virtual Workshop series, to begin in late August. Each session in the series will be 1 hour long and cover a different developer topic. The committee is working on registration details, and more information will be made available after the Esri User Conference. Dan is still working on plans for a webinar covering GIS accessibility. The committee has also started planning for the ILGISA annual conference. They will be bringing back the GeoLounge area this year, providing an area for networking, discussion topics, and continued conversation after presentations in other rooms. The committee is also planning a mid-career panel for the conference.

3.3.5 Program Committee

Chairs—Mike Kamin and Steven Spradling – The regional meeting in Chicago went well, presentations were excellent. Good feedback was received from those who stayed for post-meeting events as well, including the CMAP roof tour, Climate Action Museum tour, and the social at Little Toasted. Attendees appreciated the convenient location, and the cost to host here is very reasonable. Some feedback for improvements next year include rethinking seating arrangements so that no one has their back to the speakers; adjustments/testing with the microphones; and another snack option in the morning besides donuts, for those avoiding sugar/gluten.

Planning is well underway for the annual conference. Megan Galeher will begin attending committee meetings this month. The call for content is open. The committee is considering organizing one room specifically for different panel discussions.

Guest Meagan Briganti asked if 15-minute presentations could be an option for the annual conference. A shorter length may make this less intimidating for potential presenters. The committee will consider this. Meagan also asked about compensation that has been historically offered to keynote speakers at the conference, as she had ideas of potential speakers from Open Street Map. Mike said that hotel accommodations are provided for keynotes, and some other funds may be available. Meagan was invited to attend the next Program Committee meeting to discuss ideas further.

3.3.6 Outreach Committee

Chair—Lauren Lee— ILGISA articles of incorporation were added to the website. Lauren also announced that there have been 300 new followers of ILGISA in LinkedIn in the past year. The monthly email brief continues to be sent out, and will now only go to active members. The committee continues its work on contacting lapsed members. Ian Stearns suggested that the committee create a formal list of benefits to members including metrics; the committee is working on this further.

3.4 Action Items

3.4.1 Creating a Digital Conference Agenda

A motion was made by Adam Aull to create a digital conference agenda for the 2026 annual conference. The motion was seconded by Steven Spradling.

Discussion – Josh Carlson voiced a need for an electronic, mobile-friendly way to access the conference agenda. PDF and Excel spreadsheet versions of the agenda were available last year but are difficult to navigate on mobile devices. Ready-to-use apps are available but generally expensive. Josh proposes using a tool called Quarto to convert agenda information into a mobile-friendly agenda site that would allow users to search, browse presentations by day and time, filter by topics, and link to full presentation abstracts. The output could be hosted at a very low cost and linked from a subdomain on the ILGISA site. Mike mentioned that MAGIC used a Dashboard for their online agenda. Josh considered Esri software but was hesitant to rely on software that could have downtime or updates that affect formatting or functionality during the conference. He emphasized that he would volunteer to create the agenda this year, but would create detailed instructions for others to also be able to maintain and adjust the pages as needed. Hunter volunteered to be a backup for maintaining the agenda. Josh had suggested only hosting the agenda for about a month – a few weeks before the conference and shortly after. Others suggested, given the low cost for hosting this data, that there would be benefit in keeping this agenda up longer, for conference attendees to refer back later.

The motion is unanimously approved.

3.5 Other Business

Mark Yacucci reported that the NSGIC Geospatial Maturity Assessment was released. Illinois's overall grade was B. The state got particularly high scores on elevation data and NG911, lower scores on parcels and transportation data. State coordination has a lower score due to Illinois not having an official, funded GIO position. Mark will be attending the Esri User Conference – come see him at the

NSGIC or URISA information tables in the Expo area.

Josh provided a one-year update of visitor patterns to the ILGISA Forum. The chart he provided of monthly pageviews of the Forum showed a bump in use after last year's annual conference, a slowdown in use from December to March, then a significantly growing use from April to June. The Outreach Committee has been active in posting and encouraging discussion, and Lauren has been including promotion of the Forum in member emails. Items for further investigation include identifying "super users" on the Forum and examining how many new users are joining each month.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steven Spradling and seconded by Lauren Lee. With no further business, President Darby adjourned the meeting at 11:07 AM CDT.