

## **MINUTES – ILLINOIS GIS ASSOCIATION**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Tuesday, May 12, 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, Burt McAlpine, and Dan Bartlett.

President Darby requested an additional item be added to the agenda for reviewing and updating the strategic plans (3.3.7).

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

#### **2.0 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

*A motion was made by Steven Spradling to approve the April minutes. The motion was seconded by Lauren Lee and is unanimously approved.*

#### **3.0 REPORTS**

##### **3.1 President's Report**

President Darby –

- Thank you to the Program Committee for their work on the Springfield regional meeting. There was a good turnout, and the presentations and panel were excellent.
- The Chicago regional meeting is coming up next, plan on attending if you can.
- IMAUG met recently; highlights included updates on new features in Experience Builder and a demo by the Harper College drone program.
- The strategic plan for ILGISA will be reviewed today.

##### **3.2 Executive Director Report**

President Darby reviewed the Executive Director report from Megan Galeher –

- Dues were invoiced November 17<sup>th</sup>, and renewals through April were attached. There are 552 members paid at this point, up from 499 at the same time last year.
- ILGISA Q1 financials were distributed earlier. Dues revenue is up compared to last year, but sponsorship income and regional meeting income is down. Megan hypothesized that sponsorship may be down due to the annual conference being held downstate, and that regional meeting income is down since the Chicago meeting registration hadn't opened yet.
- 2026 Annual Conference will be October 18-20 at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria. Call for content will be open soon, to be coordinated with the Program Committee.
- 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 two spring pop-up events at ISU and WIU went well. The committee is now looking at reviewing the rubric for scoring applications for the Student Scholarship Award. Michael Minn, Ana Mendoza, and Brad Brewer are taking the lead on reviewing and coming up with recommendations to bring back to the next committee meeting for discussion.

#### **3.3.2 Finance Committee**

Chair—Steven Spradling — No updates

#### **3.3.3 Governance Committee**

Chair—Mike Kamin— The committee has almost completed their review of the bylaws for potential changes or updates. Proposed changes will be brought to the board soon for approval. The committee is also discussing a grading rubric for the new Excellence in Education Award.

#### **3.3.4 Professional Development Committee**

Chair—Josh Carlson— The webinars last month by Esri and the state demographer were successful; planning continues for webinar topics for the rest of the year. The committee is looking at possibly holding a virtual workshop later this summer, possibly late July or in August. They would also like to explore incorporating some student presentations into the webinar series, possibly when fall semester starts.

#### **3.3.5 Program Committee**

Chairs—Mike Kamin and Steven Spradling – The regional meeting in Springfield was a success; the presentations were excellent, and the location at IDOT was also great. The committee is looking at using the same location for the downstate regional meeting again in the future.

Calls for content are out for the Chicago regional meeting at CMAP. The Climate Action Museum and a nearby pub will be open after the meeting for attendees.

Potential locations are still being explored for the 2027 annual conference. Considerations include overall cost for the venue (which had been increasing at the previous venue) and available space for vendor displays (which was limited and had no room for expansion).

#### **3.3.6 Outreach Committee**

Chair—Lauren Lee— Gold Sponsor spotlight posts will be coming soon. A monthly wrap-up email debuted recently; future editions will only be sent to active ILGISA members. Outreach committee members were challenged to post in the forum to facilitate more interaction. Lapsed ILGISA members are starting to be contacted; the committee will coordinate with the Education Committee on contacting lapsed student members. The committee is also continuing to explore options for swag for the annual conference.

### **3.3.7 Strategic Plan Update**

President Darby – Led a review of the strategic plan goals and initiatives for this year to update documentation last reviewed at the January board meeting. See attached Strategic Plan Status Update document. The next review will be in August.

### **3.4 Action Items**

No action items this month.

### **3.5 Other Business**

Mark Yacucci was not in attendance this month, so Mike Kamin presented on his behalf. Updated LiDAR data is coming soon from the USGS. The statewide parcel layer project with IDOT is still ongoing. ADA digital accessibility deadlines have been extended to 2027 for populations over 50,000 and 2028 for populations under 50,000. MAGIC is already looking at potential locations for its 2028 conference, possibly in St. Louis.

### **4.0 ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Burt McAlpine and seconded by Steven Spradling. With no further business, President Darby adjourned the meeting at 10:47 AM CDT.*



## ILGISA 2025 - 2027 Strategic Plan Status Update as of 5/12/2026

### Goal 1: Advance educational opportunities and the sharing of ideas

**Measures:** Send evaluations after each event, and maintain an overall approval rate of over 75%.

STATUS	INITIATIVE	DATE	COMMITTEE	COMMENTS
Ongoing	Host full-day or half-day short courses or workshops on specific topics of interest.	4FY26	Professional Development	Considering several topics including coding and expression statements from various programming languages. Also, planning to host a virtual workshop later this year.
Ongoing	Continue hosting monthly webinar programs on relevant topics in GIS.	Ongoing	Professional Development	Webinar topics are continuing to be scheduled throughout 2026.
Ongoing	Create video shorts/snippets of “how-to” do certain GIS tasks.	1FY26	Professional Development	Currently researching presentation platforms.
Ongoing	Develop a mentorship/job shadow program for students and/or young professionals in the industry.	3FY25	Education	The main portion of the program has been developed. Working on how to present the information on the ILGISA website.
Ongoing	Host a minimum of 2 full-day Regional Meetings across the state of Illinois.	1FY25 & Ongoing	Program	The Springfield Regional Meeting was completed in April. The Chicago Regional Meeting is scheduled for June 26th.
Ongoing	Host an Annual Conference with 5 concurrent tracks.	4FY25 & Ongoing	Program	Working on facilitating the 2026 conference in East Peoria.

### Goal 2: Increase awareness of GIS in Illinois

**Measures:** Send a membership survey annually with a question asking about ILGISA’s efforts to increase GIS awareness.

STATUS	INITIATIVE	DATE	COMMITTEE	COMMENTS
Ongoing	Post on ILGISA’s social media pages a minimum of 3x per month.	1FY25 & Ongoing	Outreach	Continuing to post various topics on LinkedIn including job opportunities and future ILGISA events.
Ongoing	Formalize connections/relationships with educational institutions. (For example, participate in career fairs/days at various universities)	3FY25	Education	Two student popups were held this past spring. Continuing to contact education institutions on future student events.

Ongoing	Establish Midwest GIS event calendar on ILGISA.org website.	Ongoing	Outreach	Currently posting upcoming GIS events from various organizations on the ILGISA website.
Ongoing	Evaluate New ILGISA Awards. (Academic & Organization)	3FY25	Governance	Currently reviewing the logistics and rollout of the ILGISA Excellence in Education Award. Also considering an ILGISA Outstanding Organization Award in 2027.
<b>Goal 3: Grow Membership</b>				
<b>Measures:</b> Increase membership numbers by 5% annually. Track member retention rate, and ensure it is on an upward trajectory.				
STATUS	INITIATIVE	DATE	COMMITTEE	COMMENTS
Ongoing	Identify and understand underrepresented segments of the industry.	2FY25 & Ongoing	Outreach	This was started in 2025. The Outreach Committee is still researching this initiative.
Ongoing	Re-evaluate organizational membership structure.	1FY26	Governance	The Governance Committee will review this initiative starting in June.
Ongoing	Convert Existing Student Members to Active Members.	2FY26 & Ongoing	Education & Outreach	Working with faculty members on the best method of contacting current and former students.
Ongoing	Convert Lapsed Members Back to Active Members.	1FY26 & Ongoing	Outreach & Professional Development	This initiative has started in May and is anticipated to continue throughout the spring and summer seasons.
<b>Goal 4: Facilitate Networking</b>				
<b>Measures:</b> Send a membership survey annually with a question asking about ILGISA's networking opportunities.				
STATUS	INITIATIVE	DATE	COMMITTEE	COMMENTS
Ongoing	Partner with vendor members to host pop-up events throughout the state at various universities or other venues with a primary focus on networking.	3FY25	Education	Successfully held two locations at Western Illinois and Illinois State. Planning to host events in the fall at Wheaton College, Harper College, DePaul, and Northern Illinois.
Complete	Create an online digital forum for members to interact between in-person events.	3FY25	Outreach	Fully implemented last year.

Ongoing	Add more 'formal' networking opportunities at the Annual Conference and Regional Meetings.	4FY25 & Ongoing	Program	The Program Committee will be looking at additional networking opportunities at future regional meetings and at the upcoming 2026 annual conference.
Ongoing	Add Special Interest Groups (SIG's) during the Annual Conference and/or Regional Meetings.	4FY25 & Ongoing	Program	The Program Committee will be developing a panel session track for the 2026 annual conference.
<b>Goal 5: Stabilize Financial Standing</b>				
<b>Measures:</b> Grow reserve account (Goal: \$50,000) by 4FY27.				
<b>STATUS</b>	<b>INITIATIVE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Ongoing	Explore alternate revenue streams. (Example: webinar sponsors, swag sponsors, etc.)	4FY25	Finance	The Finance Committee is continuing to research alternate revenue streams from various GIS organizations that can be implemented for ILGISA.
Ongoing	Evaluate investments.	4FY25	Finance	The Finance Committee will need to thoroughly review all operational expenses before pursuing any investment opportunities.