MINUTES – ILLINOIS GIS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Tuesday, September 8, 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, Dan Bartlett, Megan Galeher, Mark Yacucci, and guests Meagan Briganti and Crystalyn DelaCruz.

Josh sent the minutes from the Professional Development committee meeting after the initial agenda was sent to the board; those minutes will be added to the final agenda posted on the ILGISA site.

A motion to approve the agenda, with the addition of the Professional Development committee meeting minutes, was made by Burt McAlpine, seconded by Mike Kamin, and is unanimously approved.

2.0 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mike Kamin to approve the August minutes. The motion was seconded by Lauren Lee and is unanimously approved.

3.0 REPORTS

3.1 President's Report

President Darby –

- Reminder that the transition to the new ILGISA board year is coming soon. If anyone is interested in serving as secretary, treasurer, or the chair of a committee, please let President-Elect Lee know. Current committee chairs, please continue to work on transition documents for the new committee chairs.

3.2 Executive Director Report

Megan Galeher reported that membership numbers continue to trend ahead of last year. ILGISA is currently at 615 members, which is 67 members ahead of the same time last year. Budget preparations will begin in mid to late October, once more of the numbers are in from the annual conference.

3.3 Committee Updates

3.3.1 Education Committee

Chair—Adam Aull— The committee is meeting later this month, after the scholarship applications have been reviewed. This year's recipients should be identified by mid September. Adam will provide the recipients' names to Megan for inclusion in the awards Power Point at the annual conference, and so that the scholarship payments can be sent out. Dan mentioned that he is now serving as an adjunct faculty member at Harper College and asked about student membership details he can pass along to his students. Harper is a university member, so students can email Megan for

membership at no extra cost to them.

3.3.2 Finance Committee

Chair—Steven Spradling — The committee will be meeting September 10 to discuss Megan's responses to questions from the last committee meeting.

3.3.3 Governance Committee

Chair—Mike Kamin— The committee met last week to finalize items to bring to the board for approval. More discussion during the action items presented later in the meeting.

3.3.4 Professional Development Committee

Chair—Josh Carlson— The August webinar on web accessibility was well-attended. A recording is available for those who missed it. The virtual workshop series began the same day as the webinar. Two of the three sessions have taken place, with the third session scheduled for tomorrow. No webinar for September planned at this point; the committee is focusing on plans for the annual conference, particularly for the GeoLounge and workshop content.

3.3.5 Program Committee

Chairs—Mike Kamin and Steven Spradling – Megan reported first on the annual conference. Approximately 60 submissions were received in the call for content; the agenda is just about finalized, and acceptance emails will be going out this week. There are still a few 90-minute workshop slots open. 90 people are registered for the conference so far, down from 135 at this time last year. 18 sponsors are confirmed so far, all listed on the ILGISA site. Horner & Shifrin is sponsoring the digital agenda. Bureau County has confirmed that they will be able to let ILGISA borrow laptops and projectors again for the conference. Maggie Cawley from Open Street Map is confirmed for the keynote speaker; once her bio and photo are received, this will be announced to the ILGISA membership. Lucy Stanfield is working on coordinating a field trip Sunday afternoon before the conference to a local farm using GIS, GPS, and drone technology. More details to come on this. Megan put the call for moderators on the conference registration form this year, and so far there are 16 volunteers. For the annual business meeting, Megan will need updated slides from each committee chair outlining the work that has been done this year. Only one raffle prize has been received from an exhibitor so far. If anyone knows of local businesses who might donate a prize, please let Megan know.

Mike reported that he and Steven did a walk through of the casino in Aurora as a potential location for next year's conference. They felt that the event and sponsor space was good for the size ILGISA needs, and the ballroom area can be broken out into various layouts depending on room needs. Rooms have 75" TVs in lieu of projectors. The location is right off of I-88. At this point, there is availability for a number of Sunday through Tuesday options next October; the committee is looking to avoid scheduling next year's conference at the same time as the IPSTA conference, if possible. More information to come as formal proposals are received.

Looking ahead to next year's regional meetings, the committee is hoping to hold meetings at the IDOT and CMAP locations again. More details to come.

3.3.6 Outreach Committee

Chair—Lauren Lee— ILGISA Board meeting agendas are now being posted on the website. Gold sponsors will be featured in spotlight posts on the LinkedIn page soon. Swag for the conference has been selected and will be ordered soon. The committee will next focus on voting for the annual conference Web App Contest.

3.3.7 Strategic Plan Update

President Darby led a review of the strategic plan initiatives; see attached for progress on each goal.

3.4 Action Items

3.4.1 Approve Ballot for Elections

A motion was made by Mike Kamin to approve the 2026 ballot for elections. The motion was seconded by Dan Bartlett.

Discussion -- Mike presented the list of candidates for the ILGISA Board of Directors and for President-Elect, as reviewed by the Governance Committee, and the candidates were discussed.

The motion is unanimously approved.

3.4.2 Approve ILGISA Awards

A motion was made by Steven Spradling to approve the 2026 ILGISA Award recipients. The motion was seconded by Josh Carlson.

Discussion -- Mike presented the list of award recipients proposed by the Governance Committee, and proposed recipients were discussed.

The motion is unanimously approved.

3.4.3 Approve Bylaws Ballot Initiatives

A motion was made by Burt McAlpine to approve the 2026 ILGISA bylaws ballot initiatives. The motion was seconded by Steven Spradling.

Discussion -- Mike presented the list of bylaws ballot initiatives proposed by the Governance Committee. All are minor changes, will be voted on individually, and need a 2/3 majority vote by the members to be approved.

The motion is unanimously approved.

3.5 Other Business

Mark Yacucci reported that issues with data miners were making the state data clearinghouse site slow; those issues appear to be resolved now. LiDAR data is continuing to be released. The statewide parcel project is progressing; Mark will be presenting an update on the project at the annual conference. Mark will also be attending NSGIC in early November.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Burt McAlpine and seconded by Mike Kamin. With no further business, President Darby adjourned the meeting at 11:24 AM CDT.

ILGISA 2025 - 2027 Strategic Plan
Status Update as of 9/8/2026

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	A virtual workshop is currently underway by covering topics in Python, Arcade, the ArcGIS Python API, and IDEs.
Ongoing	Continue hosting monthly webinar programs on relevant topics in GIS.	Ongoing	Professional Development	Webinars are being scheduled for 2026 and 2027.
Ongoing	Create video shorts/snippets of "how-to" do certain GIS tasks.	1FY26	Professional Development	Need to review content and who is willing to present.
Ongoing	Develop a mentorship/job shadow program for students and/or young professionals in the industry.	3FY25	Education	Continuing to discuss 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	Held two regional meetings in Springfield and Chicago. Planning for 2027 is underway.
Ongoing	Host an Annual Conference with 5 concurrent tracks.	4FY25 & Ongoing	Program	Finalizing the agenda and logistics for the 2026 annual 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 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	Continuing to post upcoming GIS events from various organizations on the ILGISA website.

Ongoing	Evaluate New ILGISA Awards. (Academic & Organization)	3FY25	Governance	A subcommitee will be created to review the ILGISA Excellence in Education Award. Also considering the ILGISA Outstanding Organization Award for 2027.
Goal 3: Grow Membership **Measures:** Increase membership numbers by 5% annually. Track member retention rate, and ensure it is on an upward trajectory.				
STATUS	**INITIATIVE**	**DATE**	**COMMITTEE**	**COMMENTS**
Complete	Identify and understand underrepresented segments of the industry.	2FY25 & Ongoing	Outreach	The Outreach Committee has information regarding this initiative and plans to develop and distribute a survey to specific industries next year.
Ongoing	Re-evaluate organizational membership structure.	1FY26	Governance	The Governance Committee will review in 2027.
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	Successfully completed the initiative this year. Will work on the logisitics for next year.
Goal 4: Facilitate Networking **Measures:** 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	Succesfully held two locations at Western Illinois and Illinois State. Planning on 2-3 events this upcoming fall.
Complete	Create an online digital forum for members to interact between in-person events.	3FY25	Outreach	Fully implemented in 2025.
Ongoing	Add more 'formal' networking opportunities at the Annual Conference and Regional Meetings.	4FY25 & Ongoing	Program	The GeoLounge will be implemented at the 2026 annual conference. Will also look at other networking events for next year.

Ongoing	Add Special Interest Groups (SIG's) during the Annual Conference and/or Regional Meetings.	4FY25 & Ongoing	Program	The Program Committee is finalizing a panel session track for the 2026 annual conference.
Goal 5: Stabilize Financial Standing **Measures:** Grow reserve account (Goal: $50,000) by 4FY27.				
STATUS	**INITIATIVE**	**DATE**	**COMMITTEE**	**COMMENTS**
Ongoing	Explore alternate revenue streams. (Example: webinar sponsors, swag sponsors, etc.)	4FY25	Finance	Researched new sponsorship opportunities for the annual conference and at future ILGISA events.
Ongoing	Evaluate investments.	4FY25	Finance	The Finance Committee is reviewing the quarterly financial statements and will provide recommendations as needed.