

Report From Agency

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS Chapter Adm 47

Comments on General Issues

Most commenters stated that they were pleased with the open and coordinated process that the Department carried out during the revision. Of particular interest, shareholders reiterated a desire to formalize an advisory role to the Department.

A. Legislative Council Clearinghouse Comments:

Include the entire rule prefix in all rule sections.

Agency Response to Clearinghouse Comments:

All suggested changes have been included in the rule.

B. Public Hearing Comments

1. An individual County Land Information Officer raised issue with the continued use of “strategic initiative grants” as a method to further state-wide land information goals and priorities as that may limit that county’s grant opportunities.
2. Additionally representatives from the Wisconsin Land Information Offices Network and Wisconsin Land Information Association asked to further expand the language in Adm 47.04 Grants that discusses the consultation the Department may seek in the administration of the Wisconsin Land Information Program. Representatives of these groups wished to specifically include the issue of establishing grant priorities.

Agency Response to Public Hearing Comments:

In response to these comments the department believes it must balance the needs of individual county land information program and the requirements of a sustainable state-wide land information program. To address these concerns, the department has further clarified the language in Adm 47.04 Grants, to more explicitly provide the program’s constituency and partners with an opportunity to provide input into the granting process. That section now reads:

“Adm 47.04 Grants. Subject to availability of funds, the department shall determine annual grant amounts for eligible projects under s. Adm 47.03, by October 15, of each year. A grant may not exceed \$100,000. The department may award more than one grant to a county board. Any funds not granted in any given year shall remain available for general distribution to eligible local units of government, at the discretion of the

department in future grant cycles. In carrying out its duties under this section, including setting priorities for grant funding, the department may seek advice and assistance from state agencies, local governmental units, and other experts involved in collecting and managing land information. The department may provide the following grant categories:”

C. *Written Comments:*

1. Letter from Edgar Harvey, Jr., Land Information Officer, Sheboygan County Highway Department, supports the majority of proposed rule amendments and recommends Adm 47.04(4), be struck from the code, eliminating all future strategic initiative grants.

Agency Response:

In order to maintain a viable state-wide system of land information, to respond to emerging issues and fill the needs of people at all level of government it is important that the Department be able to direct funding through strategic initiatives for the purpose of meeting those needs. Additionally in making those decisions, the Department has, in Adm 47.04, described a process to seek advice and assistance from state agencies, local governmental units, and other experts involved in collecting and managing land information in the setting grant priorities.

2. Letter from Diann Danielsen, Chair of Land Information Officers Network (same as public hearing comment above).

Agency Response:

See response to Public Hearing comments above.

3. Letter from Jason Gruenberg, Past Chair of Wisconsin Land Information Officers Network and Land Information Officer for Wood County, Wisconsin. (same as public hearing comment above)

Agency Response:

See response to Public Hearing comments above.