



Wisconsin County Surveyors Association, Inc.

Minutes of the WCSA Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, August 11, 2023

Clark County Courthouse - Neillsville, WI



Board of Directors Attending

Ryan Duckart	Brown County	Rob Merry	SEWRPC
Bryan Meyer	LaCrosse County	Wade Pettit	Clark County
Joe Nelsen	Trempealeau County	Tom Leslie	Brown County
Tom Carlson	Dunn County		

WCSA Members/Others Attending (*Virtual)

Dave Decker	Marathon County	Jim Morrow	Jefferson County
Mick Heberlein*	WisDOT	Brian Gross	Oconto County
Dale Raisleger	Brown County	Terry Lueschow	Seiler Instruments
Steve Grady	Seiler Instruments	Tony Dallman	Vernon County
Kevin Boyer	Wood County	Gary Dechant	Juneau & Monroe County
Justin Meyer	Taylor County	Laurence Johns	Vernon County
Cody Brommerich	Jackson County	Dave Tlusty	JET Enterprises
Brad Heuer	Rock County		

President Ryan Duckart called the meeting to order at 10:15 am

- No additions to the agenda
- THANK YOU to Wade Pettit for the refreshments
- THANK YOU to Howard Herrild for the use of the Owl
- Welcome to Chris Gregory, new County Surveyor for Sawyer County

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the May 4, 2023 minutes as presented

Secretary's Report (Tom Leslie):

- Prepared minutes for the last annual meeting; distributed any informational emails, literature, links, Mick's report, etc. to Board and membership; continue to work with David Vogel on getting the online SCO county surveyor directory updated (retirements); updated the WCSA website as needed; sent dues reminder email
- County Surveyor List on SCO website and our database are now updated – thanks David!!

Treasurer's Report (Tom Carlson):

- See Treasurer's Report attached to the end of the minutes for more detailed information
- Income from dues has been steady the last 5 years, so no need to increase dues at this time

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Secretary & Treasurer Reports as presented

WLIC Report (Cody Brommerich):

- No report at this time as the group has not met since last report

Correspondence:

- 45/90 Monument emails have been going around lately between Glen Schaefer and Dave Decker. Can we get this on the GPS & Benchmark network, perhaps some observations and an OPUS solution on the location? Bringing this up to get some opinions of the group. Kevin mentioned that the monument is not really that stable so it may not be a suitable point to use. It's just a concrete slab floating on a sand base. It's not close to a road so accessibility is not great. Would Burma Shave signs help get there?? WISDOT is not going to use the monument. New datum would move the 45/90 location anyway. Perhaps a sign stating "For Recreational Use Only" or attach a copy of Brian's White paper?? Funny guys 😊
- Laurence Johns subdivision from 1906 email. Are all three shown subdivisions really 3 separate subdivisions on one plat? Confusing to say the least. There are 3 names given on the document. It is listed separately by the ROD. The document does state "PLATTS" lending to thoughts that they are separate. Creating 3 searchable subdivisions would hopefully alleviate some of the confusion. Sent to Renee Powers and she replied she has never seen something like this before
- Follow up from last meeting: Any direction from WSLs on the donations for the Spring Green Monument? Nothing from the last WSLs Board meeting. Bob Welch is working with the Town to create and record a Resolution on this, committing the Town to the project and that the monument will remain in perpetuity. The guard rail is thought to cost around \$20k, with donations needed around \$12k. There is a Town meeting scheduled for August. Discussions also included:
 - This pair of monuments were used to set the Wisconsin River Base Line and the related triangulation network
 - There is another pair of Triangulation monuments in Langlade County. Accessible but not in harm's way. Dave Tlusty was instrumental in helping save these monuments
 - Mick, Brian G and Bryan M all contributed pictures from the monument area (nice!). Perhaps if we get more pictures, we could do a "Surveyors at Spring Green" calendar
 - Possible donation from WCSA? County Surveyors protect PLSS monuments, and this is not a PLSS monument – WSLs has way more money than our organization
 - These monuments were used back in the 60s and 70s for gaining control
 - WSLs will hold all donations until the Town officially commits to this preservation
 - **Motion was made, seconded and approved to have WCSA donate \$1000 to the preservation of Spring Green Monument**
 - Mick H discussed the significance of this pair of monuments. There were approx. 12 pairs of these monuments around the State, with only two pairs remaining today. These pairs are a rare relic and are worth saving. Hats off to the Town for seeing the value of these monuments. This is more for historical value than 45/90 monument





Education Segment:

GPS on Benchmarks latest update — Mick Heberlein, WisDOT

- See Mick's latest email report attached to the end of these minutes and located on WCSA website. He also mentioned having reobservations of some points, hitting the aluminum disc on bridges, and perhaps adding points in areas where there are not a lot of points already. Brian G from Oconto is currently adding a few new points. Send in by Sept. 30 or it will not be included in the new datum. Contact Mick if you need more information

Old Business:

1) Status of County Surveyor Offices:

- As mentioned earlier in the meeting, Chris Gregory is the new County Surveyor for Sawyer County, replacing Dan Pleoger, who was CS/RPL/LIO all wrapped up in one position. Chris will be CS, and his GIS position is now LIO
- Ryan Duckart contacted Iowa County. They no longer elect their County Surveyor (since 2016). They now contract out for the services. GIS/Planning is the reviewer of plats. This leaves three counties that still elect their County Surveyor (Vilas, Sauk and Portage)
- Oneida County has shown no interest in obtaining a County Surveyor

2) 2023 PLSS Forum:

- Dan Frick gave an update via email. He has reached out Marinette RPL and Brian Gross at Oconto County to get some information (See email attached at end of minutes for more details)
- Concerns on funding. SCO had received \$500 grants in the past, but that is no longer available. Perhaps WCSA could fund all or part of it?
- Discussed late email from Dan on progress of forum. Appears that Spring 2024 is a more realistic date than Sept 2023. A list of related publications and participants/organizations that were involved in previous Forums over the last 7 years is given at the end of the minutes (Exhibit "A")
- What is our goal? What is the target audience?

- Could we partner with WLIA/WLIO? They have more clout/leverage and could help support (joint partnership?) Perhaps in conjunction with their Spring conferences? Or should this be kept separate, stand alone event?
- Use Welch Group event planner? Is there an associated cost? Bring this up at next WSLs Board meeting?
- WSLs has always sponsored the meals. Will they continue?
- Full day event or half day? Presentations, speakers?
- Dan needs help. Laurence Johns & Kevin Boyer volunteered to be on PLSS Forum work group
- Group meeting is needed sooner than later to get everyone together in one place, start discussions and get things moving forward. Perhaps a virtual meeting?
- Brenda Hemstead (SCO) did everything for the forums over the years. Does someone want to step up and “champion” this event?

3) GPS/Onyx Issues:

- Cell Phone app White Paper final version (8) is now out and being distributed to everyone who will take one. It is also online on numerous websites. Thank you Bryan!

4) Wisconsin Counties Association Annual Conference

- WCSA has obtained a booth for this conference on Sept. 18 & 19 (Mon & Tues) in Wisconsin Dells. Dave Tlusty, Laurence Johns and Kevin Boyer have volunteered to help staff the booth. Brian M will be presenting on “What does a County Surveyor Do?”. This is our first time at this event – hopefully all goes well and we continue to support the event for many years to come
- Ryan has brought the old WCSA booth sign – can we still use it? How old is this?? It is falling apart but maybe someone can get it updated. Jim Morrow’s wife may be able to help re-felt the sign. Can we reprint the paper sign portion? Members do have various plotters that may help as well. Laurence & Jim will take everything and see what they can do to “refresh” the display. Tom L will check the old files to see if the display sign is saved somewhere
- Any give-aways/promotional items at the booth? Candy, candy, candy. Dave T will also bring some corner marker white posts for prizes. Tom Carlson can reimburse for any supplies (keep receipts please) \$200 has been previously approved for any expenditures

New Business:

1) Private Burial Sites

- Vernon County has approved an ordinance allowing these sites on private property. Are other counties doing this? State Statutes allow this, check out Chapter 157
- Would this require a survey or at least coordinates to properly locate the site as well as a recorded document in the ROD? Keep the public (and title companies) informed
- State Historical Society has information online relating to this as well
- This is becoming more popular with social media leading the way in spreading the news
- Tom Carlson supplied a presentation on this very topic – presentation attached at end of the minutes

2) Property Corners being removed

- Brian Gross was contacted by a local person concerning a neighbor pulling pipe and/or lathe. The person has proof (pictures? confession?) Local authorities can be contacted but they are not usually interested in this type of complaint. This is not a County Surveyor concern - more of a civil court case
- Many members have run into this over the years – interesting stories
- Perhaps increasing the penalty from a measly \$250 to something that would hurt a bit more?
- Person had a survey done a few years back in Marathon County. The Town ditched the road, and took out a few of his pipe on the south side of the road. Town ordinance, which is repassed every two years, allows them the right to go to 33 ft offset from the actual centerline, although State Statute 82.035 allows the Town to go further than road r/w, BUT they are liable for any damages

- Person took the Town to small claims court yesterday but did not hear what was decided – more info at next meeting. If no settlement, it may go to civil court. Person is not happy that he had to have the two missing pipe replaced at his cost (\$500) as well as the Town taking the fill from the ditch area. Sounds like a reasonable request (Taking without compensation)

3) Internet device/Cell phone coverage

- Brian Gross stated that the old-fashioned flip phone always seemed to work well in almost all areas. Since required to update, 4G/5G coverage is lacking and not all parts of the county have any reception
- External antennae might be an option, or perhaps a booster (bridge device?) These are not cheap
- Setting up in a nice open area also helps

4) CSM Question

- Interesting issue in La Crosse County introduced by Bryan M
- Two CSMs were recorded in the same area, one had the 2nd page of the other CSM. What can/should be done?
- ROD reached out to the surveyor for clarification. Pages were mixed up when the envelope was emptied for recording. ROD has made comments on the documents
- Perhaps the ROD should be checking for the “page ? of ?” to make sure they match before recording?

5) Miscellaneous WSLs news

- Bryan M pointed out that there are 2 people in attendance today that are running for a 2024 WSLs office: Ryan Duckart and Jim Morrow for President-Elect. Deadline for nomination submittals to WSLs is Nov. 1
- John Matonich is stepping down as WSLs Treasurer. Aaron Ballast will be running for the open position
- Three people will be running for two Director at Large positions
- Nice to have WCSA well represented as WSLs President: Terry Van Hout, Kevin Boyer, Ed Harvey and Bryan Meyer have all been WSLs Presidents within the last 5 years

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 12:54 pm

EXHIBIT “A”

PUBLICATIONS

2019 PLSS Forum "This Land is Your Land" Final Report

2018 PLSS Forum "Meet Me At The Corner" Final Report

2017 PLSS Forum "A Day With Your County Surveyor" Final Report

2016 PLSS Forum "Parcel Mapping & the PLSS in Wisconsin" Final Report

2015 PLSS Forum "Aligning County Surveying and Parcel Mapping Efforts"
Final Report

Position Statement & Cover Letter

Wisconsin Counties Association Magazine – August 2016 Issue: *The PLSS –
A Dependable Land Ownership Foundation*

Wisconsin Counties Association Magazine – September 2016 Issue: *The
PLSS – An Essential Network Worthy of Protection*

Wisconsin Counties Association Magazine – October 2016 Issue: *The PLSS –
Reestablishing the Land Ownership Network for Future Needs*

PARTICIPANTS/ORGANIZATIONS

State Cartographer's Office

Howard Veregin, State Cartographer
David Vogel, GIS Data Engineer

Wisconsin County Surveyors Association

Bryan Meyer, Past President & La Crosse County Surveyor

Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors

Jeff DeMuth, Professional Land Surveyor
Steve Geiger, Polk County Surveyor

Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association

Amy Dillenburg, Shawano County Register of Deeds
Cheryl Berken, Brown County Register of Deeds

Wisconsin Real Property Listers Association

Brannick Beatse, Monroe County Real Property Lister

Wisconsin Land Information Officers Network

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Mick Heberlein, Surveyor

Wisconsin Land Information Association

Jeremiah Erickson, GIS Specialist/LIO – Monroe County

Additional Member:

Chris Colney, GIS Coordinator/LIO – Lafayette County