



Wisconsin County Surveyors Association, Inc.

Minutes of the WCSA Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, February 23, 2024

Chili Corners Club – Chili, WI



Board of Directors Attending

Ryan Duckart	Brown County	Rob Merry	SEWRPC
Bryan Meyer	LaCrosse County	Tom Carlson	Dunn County
Tom Leslie	Brown County	Laurence Johns	Vernon County

WCSA Members/Others Attending (*Virtual)

Dave Decker	Marathon County	Tom Trzinski	Portage County
Cody Brommerich	Jackson County	Sam Monihan	Eau Claire County
Dale Raisleger	Brown County	Dean Roth	Eau Claire County
Dan Frick	Dane County	Tony Dallman	Vernon County
Steve Grady	Seiler Instruments	Justin Meyer	Taylor County

President Ryan Duckart called the meeting to order at 10:00 am

- No additions to the agenda

Secretary’s Report (Tom Leslie):

- Prepared minutes for the last meeting; distributed any informational emails, literature, links, etc. to Board and membership; updated the WCSA website as needed; sent dues reminder email; help with PLSS Forum

Treasurer’s Report (Tom Carlson):

- See Treasurer’s Report attached to the end of the minutes for more detailed information

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

WLIC Report (Cody Brommerich):

- Nothing new to report – next meeting is next week

Correspondence:

- Bryan Meyer reported that DSPS has revised their online licensing and renewal process. No email reminder will be sent to those who need to renew – Tom L will send out informational email to the membership
- WCSA was contacted by Martin Goettl from UW-Eau Claire about our thoughts on the school possibly offering a 4-year survey related program. UW-SP never contacted anyone about this, but UW-EC did. Dean Roth teaches a few survey related classes for UW_EC and is familiar with those involved. Is this something that would garner enough interest, especially when some surrounding states are thinking of moving to a 2-year program? More discussion is needed. WSLs Education Committee is also working on this

Education Segment:

Wade Pettit – Clark County Surveyor – Visit his maple syrup operations after meeting

Old Business:

- 1) Status of County Surveyor Offices:

- Sauk County, now an appointed position, will be done sometime in November 2024 after the general elections are held – There is enough work for full-time
- Portage County is petitioning the County Board to move from an elected to appointed position. A Board meeting has been set for Jan. 2025 to get approval (will be done before April 2025 general elections)

2) 2024 PLSS Forum:

- Dan Frick went through the current agenda one line at a time to discuss what's happening to the Board. An agenda should be finalized soon. Copies will be distributed by SCO as well as WCSA to as many people as possible, especially Marinette Town Board members, the ones who could finally get a CS here. The whole event should cost no more than \$1000 if done right
- Plans are to have old & new surveying equipment available for participants to check out. The outside presentation will not be used this year as it was deemed as too confusing to most non-surveyors, so there will be a short discussion on the whole process, just not a full demonstration
- Hotel is ready - Best Western Riverfront Hotel is the venue. Lunch will be offered (sponsored by WSL)
- Perhaps a local speaker could be found? Marinette was chosen as the place to hold this Forum as Marinette County (and some surrounding counties) do not have a County Surveyor and that's the main purpose of this Forum – to make the locals aware that a County Surveyor is something they need
- We will be ready for the normal questions/comments: “We have coordinates, so why still use a monument?” or “My phone has an app...” – we know where that is going
- A stack of the cell phone “White Paper” will be available to hand out to everyone
- Dean R will help with the Jeopardy Game at the end of the day – end of day works better as then everyone can use what they learned that day to answer the “answers”. All the information will be entered into Dean's laptop for easy reference
- SCO website has a lot of info on the Forum available – can send people there to retrieve information
- Emails will be forthcoming soon. WLIA has a meeting coming up soon, so we need to get information to them for distribution at that Annual meeting – a lot of people will be in attendance

New Business:

1) Discussion on State Line/Boundary Issues

- Laurence J & Bryan M have a meeting set up at the next WLIA meeting in Green Bay for the counties that have water boundaries to discuss water related issues. We are considered a “Special Interest Group” by WLIA
- Edge mapping is the buzz word lately, so maybe that can help generate some needed interest in the Wisconsin/Minnesota State Boundary issue relating to the Mississippi River. This should not be as difficult as it currently is – get the latest Army COE thalweg maps and go with that as the boundary or possibly use the hydrographic info that can be found online to determine the “main channel”, get a Boundary Line Agreement recorded and done – nice and easy!

2) Surveyor's Certificate Statute Discussion

- Dave D sent an email discussing current requirements per §236.34 for CSM descriptions - can a CSM be rejected for using a metes & bounds description if one is not required? Here's a link to the Statute – how do you read it? [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/236.34\(1m\)\(d\)2](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/236.34(1m)(d)2).

3) New Datum question

- With the new Datum coming out sometime in 2025, Cody B spoke with Michael Denis from NGS and the following is some of that discussion:

- What do we do with the current coordinates (survey grade)? Currently it takes WDOT approximately 6-7 months to get information online – will this be the case for the new Datum as well? If confident, can we do this ourselves and get info into our County system?
- Are Counties required to use the new datum? Can they opt out?
- If the new datum is close to current, do we still move? Can we set our own tolerances?
- Most likely this will not be a county wide shift – one end of the county may be a foot or more different than the other end of the county
- Is geodetic manipulation allowed?
- Don't forget it's now the International foot
- The transformation tool conversion will NOT be survey grade

4) Future Meeting Dates

- Meetings dates are wavering from the normal 1st Friday of March, May, August & November. Everyone is busy and the dates are being moved around to accommodate the Board members (as well as regular attendees), so it's more out of necessity than anything. It was decided to try to stick to the 1st Friday if possible. Fridays do seem to work the best for most people
- Did Renee Powers retire already?? She is going to really be missed!
- Tom Leslie will start gathering the data and will share the results with the group – could take a bit to accumulate all the data, but it is needed information. Will report at the next Board meeting in April

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 11:47 am

***** NEXT MEETING *****

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024 @ 10 AM

River Block Building (Wood County) in Wisconsin Rapids, WI