

Wisconsin County Surveyors Association, Inc.

Minutes of the WCSA Annual Membership Meeting

January 28, 2022

Kalahari Resort—Wisconsin Dells, WI



Board of Directors Attending (*Virtually)

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 (*Virtually)

Glen Schaefer*	Retired	Matt Johnson	Douglas County
Dan Frick	Dane County	Brett Becker	Calumet County
Dan Pleoger	Sawyer County	Jason Towne	Burnett County
Drew Kottke	WisDOT	Steve Grady	Seiler Instruments
Brenda Hemstead	Retired	Dick Leistekow	Dodge County
Bob Meyer	Taylor County	Jeremy Hildebrand	Sheboygan County
Pete Kuen	Fond du Lac County	Scott Schmidt	Washington County
James Anderson	Forest County	Aaron Austin	Lafayette County
Lucas Meier	Washburn County	Mick Heberlein	WisDOT
Jeff De Muth	Private	Dave Decker	Marathon County
Tony Dallman	Lincoln County	Jason Bolz	Manitowoc County
Dave Tlusty	JET Enterprises	Cody Brommerich	Jackson County
Brad Buechel	Calumet County	Brian Gross	Oconto County
David Yurk	Shawano County	David Vogel*	SCO
Terry Van Hout	Outagamie County	Mike Romportl	Oneida County (Retiring)
Ron Jaspersen	Buffalo County	Gary Dechant	Juneau & Monroe County
Dustin LaBlonde	Pepin County	Richard Kleinmann	WSRS 2022 Co-Chair
Fran Bleskacek	St. Croix County Hwy	Ted Dumke	WisDOT
Ron Larson	Christopher Badtke	Jim Reiter	Bret Davies

This list depicts Zoom meeting participants as of the time 10:30 am and thus may not constitute an exhaustive record of meeting participants/observers.

President Ryan Duckart called the meeting to order at 10:28 a.m.

Introductions were made with no additions to the agenda. Big **THANK YOU** to Mike Romportl & Dave Tlusty for their many years of outstanding service to the surveying profession!

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the January 2021 minutes as presented

Secretary's Report: Prepared minutes for the four quarterly meetings and one annual meeting; created, updated and distributed the Membership Dues Map throughout the year; sent David Vogel updates to the online SCO county surveyor directory; purchased awards and maintained content on the WCSA website including uploading agendas, minutes, publications, and forms; and sent a variety of emails to the membership on various correspondence throughout the year

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report - January 29, 2021

10/31/2022	Dividend	\$0.41
11/30/2022	Dividend	\$0.38
12/31/2022	Dividend	\$0.40

Total dividends received in 2022 **\$4.08**

2022 Dividends – Savings Account

1/31/2022	Dividend	\$0.48
2/28/2022	Dividend	\$0.43
3/31/2022	Dividend	\$0.48
4/30/2022	Dividend	\$0.47
5/31/2022	Dividend	\$0.48
6/30/2022	Dividend	\$1.16
7/31/2022	Dividend	\$1.20
8/31/2022	Dividend	\$1.20
9/30/2022	Dividend	\$1.17
10/31/2022	Dividend	\$1.45
11/30/2022	Dividend	\$1.40
12/31/2022	Dividend	\$1.93

Total dividends received in 2022 **\$11.85**

Deposits 2022

Total postage stamps used in 2022 **10**

(Book of 20 purchased on 3/17/2021. 2 stamps remaining)

Total postage stamps used in 2023 **3**

(The last 2 stamps remaining from 3/17/2021 were used. A book of 20 were purchased on 1/6/2023 with one being used.)

Expenditures 2023

<u>3025</u>	1/3/2023	Tom Leslie (Secretarial Services – 1 st Qtr.)	\$700.00
<u>3026</u>	1/6/2023	Wisconsin Towns Association (Dues)	\$175.00
<u>3027</u>	1/6/2023	Menomonie Post Master (Stamps)	\$12.00
<u>3028</u>	1/9/2023	National Assoc. of Co. Surveyors (Dues)	\$100.00

Total expenditures in 2023 **\$987.00**

Deposits 2023

1/11/2023	Dues Payments	\$250.00
1/18/2023	Dues Payments	\$200.00

Total deposits in 2023 **\$450.00**

Membership for 2022: 56 Regular, 12 Affiliate, 2 Sustaining

On December 17, 2022, I electronically filed our annual report with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions. Shortly after filing the report, I received confirmation that it was accepted. The report is required to be filed each year by December 31st. The filing fee in 2022 increased from \$10 to \$25.

Report Respectfully Submitted,



Tom Carlson, Dunn Co. Surveyor
WCSA Treasurer

Also discussed were three (3) invoices received for annual memberships to WSLs, Wisconsin Towns Association and National Association of County Surveyors. If ok'd to pay, they will become part of the annual budget with no need to request the Board to approve every year

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented

WLIC Report: Cody Brommerich reported that the last meeting was held on December 14, 2022. Discussion included:

- Close to a dozen counties will be doing Lidar in 2022 as there is plenty of Federal funding available
- Greatest number of documents recorded since 2007, which increases the funds going to each County
- Introduction of new USGS Mapping Liaison Mitch Bergeson was introduced
- Discussed the Minnesota/Wisconsin State line issue (Thank you Bryan!)
- Next meeting is Annual Conference February 23-25, 2022
- Latest proposal for Lidar will complete QL2/QL1 coverage for the State

Correspondence: Gary Dechant discussed a surveyor that retired recently after 60 years in business. His maps were not turned in very often, usually depending on the client to file or record. Gary now has a big chunk of his surveys, so if you work in Jackson, Columbia, Sauk, Wood, Crawford, Portage, Lincoln, Dunn and Richland, Gary has a box for you!

Wade Pettit has graciously agreed to host the upcoming March 2022 meeting at his place. He will give a tour of his maple syrup business, including a new evaporator (only one in Wisconsin? Midwest?) More info will be forthcoming once closer to the meeting date. It will be dependent on the weather. This invitation is open to ALL that want to attend – here and online!

Education Segment

GPS on Benchmarks Discussion-County Surveyor’s Perspective — Mick Heberlein, WisDOT

Mick gave an update on the latest numbers, maps and general information (also sent out to members via email). With the deadline extension, NGS has determined that this campaign will go into overtime. Think about if you want to pursue some of the following during the OT session:

- Get more local unpublished survey stations into the NGS database

Date	Number of stations on list	Number of stations Completed	Percent of NGS Priority Marks Completed	Approximate % of 3553 Horizontal WI-HMP Stations
9/8/2020	2968	674	22.7%	19.0%
11/30/2020	3162	806	25.5%	22.7%
1/11/2021	3284	891	27.1%	25.1%
2/11/21	3395	949	28.0%	26.7%
3/1/21	3622	1054	29.1%	30.0%
4/1/21	3718	1107	29.8%	31.2%
4/28/21	4033	1272	31.5%	35.8%
5/24/21	4205	1397	33.2%	39.3%
6/29/21	4455	1565	35.1%	44.0%
7/30/21	4582	1646	35.9%	46.3%
8/23/21	5281	2134	40.4%	60.1%
9/20/21	5545	2448	44.1%	68.9%
11/1/21	5720	2689	47.0%	75.7%
11/29/21	5774	2846	49.3%	80.1%
12/7/21	5780	2861	49.5%	80.5%
1/4/22	5790	2931	50.6%	82.5%

Notes

- Not all WI-HMP stations are currently on the BM PRIORITY MARK LIST
- The vast majority of observations are on WI-HMP horizontal stations, but not all.
- NGS adds additional stations to the BM PRIORITY MARK LIST after certain stations are observed
- BM PRIORITY MARK LIST Spreadsheet typically updated once a month
- Collect multiple observations on vertical bm to further enhance the future 2022 geoid model and add horizontal station coordinates for future use
- Observe horizontal stations in completed hexagons that have not yet been observed
- All shared observations by WisDOT and Partners
- Includes non-WI-HMP stations

Date	Total Shared Observations	Date	10 KM Hexagons Completed	% Completed
September 8, 2020	66	September 8, 2020	447	24.4%
December 3, 2020	157	November 30, 2020	571	31.2%
January 4, 2021	345	January 4, 2021	584	31.9%
February 1, 2021	430	February 1, 2021	609	33.2%
March 1, 2021	606	March 1, 2021	718	39.2%
April 1, 2021	755	April 1, 2021	760	41.5%
May 1, 2021	971	May 3, 2021	897	49.0%
June 1, 2021	1143	June 3, 2021	978	53.5%
July 6, 2021	1443	July 2, 2021	1083	59.1%
August 4, 2021	1752	August 3, 2021	1300	70.9%
September 1, 2021	2299	September 2, 2021	1510	82.3%
October 1, 2021	2708	October 4, 2021	1618	88.3%
November 1, 2021	3000	November 1, 2021	1688	92.5%
December 1, 2021	3370	December 1, 2021	1737	95.2%
January 1, 2022	3645	January 4, 2022	1755	95.7%

Date	HARN Stations Completed	% Completed
March 1, 2021	49	61.3%
April 1, 2021	53	66.3%
May 3, 2021	59	73.8%
June 3, 2021	60	75.0%
July 6, 2021	69	86.3%
August 2, 2021	71	88.8%
September, 2, 2021	74	92.5%
October 1, 2012	76	95.0%
November 1, 2021	76	95.0%
December 1, 2021	78	97.5%
January 1, 2022	78	97.5%

Old Business

- 1) Status of County Surveyor Offices: Mike Romportl will be retiring from Oneida County. Dave Tlusty will be retiring from Langlade County. Dave stated the County will probably not refill the position. WCSA will draft a letter to the Langlade County Board Chairman in support of a full-time County Surveyor, although it appears he has his mind already made up
- 2) Website: We are currently linked through the WSLs website. Updates will be made soon after the Institute. Any suggestions for website content should be forwarded to Tom Leslie and he will get it on there. SCO will be updated as soon as possible. Tom will contact Dave Vogel and get it all corrected and updated. Terry Van Hout asked who is this website set up for? Brenda Hemstead stated that a lot of this stuff was on the old website. Could we possibly get some of that content switched over? Tom L will check and work on that. Tom Carlson will also look for some stuff in his records and forward to Tom L

New Business

- 1) 2021 WCSA BOD Report (report is below)

Wisconsin County Surveyors Association (WCSA) Presidents Council Meeting Report – November 17, 2021:

COUNTY SURVEYOR STATUS: The current status of County Surveyors in Wisconsin is as follows: There are 61 County Surveyors in Wisconsin – 36 serving on a full-time basis, 28 serving on a part-time basis. 8 counties choose to function without a County Surveyor. Four Counties still elect their County Surveyor Iowa, Portage, Sauk and Vilas.

MEETINGS: In addition to an annual membership meeting held virtually in January, the WCSA board of directors met 4 times this year, a hybrid meeting twice in Neillsville and a hybrid meeting twice in Wisconsin Rapids. While these quarterly meetings technically constitute a Board of Directors meeting, we have anywhere between 20 and 35 people attend. There were educational segments with representatives from The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (Mick Heberlein), The State Cartographer's Office (Dave Vogel) and the National Geodetic Survey (Jacob Heck) in attendance. We are seeing not only surveyors, but many others from the land information community (GIS Mappers, property listers, vendors, etc.) taking part in our meetings.

GPS on Benchmarks: This year there was a big emphasis on the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) GPS on Benchmarks project within our organization. Several County Surveyors along with a handful of private entities have been working diligently to collect as many observations as possible on horizontal and vertical control stations across the state. These observations need to be a minimum of 4 hours long and each monument is required to have 2 observations since 2014 and need to be completed by December 31st to be included in the 2022 Geoid model. Currently, there are about 15,000 NGS benchmarks in Wisconsin and about 47% of the marks have been observed. NGS plans to update the reference epochs for the Geoid model every 5 years so observations will need to be done continuously on these monuments (at least once in a 10-year span) and any new monuments that were not completed this year to be included in the updates.

PLSS Forum: The Wisconsin PLSS Forum is titled "*The PLSS: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*" that was scheduled for April 28, 2020 in Marinette, Wisconsin was postponed due to Covid-19. There are plans to give it a try again in Marinette in April of 2022, but no dates have been set.

STATE BOUNDARY CONCERN: This was not addressed again this past year. I will again blame Covid-19. There were some similar discussions at one of our Board of Directors meetings about county boundaries that fall within the shorelines of rivers. The exact location of Wisconsin's western state boundary is uncertain. It lies within the shorelines of the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, but neither Wisconsin nor Minnesota can accurately point to an exact location of that line. Locating this line is important for four main reasons:

EMERGENCIES - Emergencies frequently take place on rivers. 911 dispatchers need to know immediately which municipal emergency response unit(s) to dispatch to those emergencies. Seconds count in emergency situations and uncertainty can cause unnecessary delays and possibly result in loss of life.

REGULATIONS - Boating, fishing and hunting regulations require adherence and enforcement. Both citizens and those responsible for administrating regulations have a genuine need to know an exact location for the State line to enforce applicable laws.

CONSTRUCTION - Bridge projects take place to connect states. An accurate state line location is necessary to determine how many federal dollars each state would receive for these projects and to apply prevailing wage rates.

OFFICIAL RECORDS - Should a tragedy take place on the river, a death certificate would need to be filed. Knowing the location of the state line will determine which Coroner would be called to investigate the death and file the death certificate.

Our attempt to remedy the situation is to create a boundary line agreement for a line that is workable for both states. We are in the early stages of this effort and we realize there is much work to be done to accomplish a final line.

WCSA Summary: 2021 was a better year than 2020 but I feel we still have some work to do to get past the effects of Covid-19. It was nice to be able to have in-person meetings (for those who were able to attend) but there are still some things that need to be worked out to improve the virtual side of having hybrid meetings like we did.

- 2) **Electronic Filing of Survey Maps:** Is there a recommended practice for accepting submittals of surveys? Database information is being gathered. It was mentioned that the quality of scans for surveys seems to be degrading since electronic filing was initiated. John Casucci recently created a spreadsheet) after collecting information from state ROD offices on their current position on electronic recording of CSMs and what other capabilities they offer (online maps, tie sheet information, what office handles this information, etc. Not all counties replied, but from the information he gathered, it shows most counties do not have the ability to do electronic recording and still prefer paper copies. There is some concern on the future of going 100% electronic. What will be done with old surveys once they are scanned? These are historical items and should be preserved forever. Hopefully RODs will get together and come up with a solution (this is being done now, and more counties will be accepting CSMs and plats electronically). This needs to be done the proper and best way and that may take some time. Terry Van Hout stated Brown County has the ability and preference of receiving all maps in a pdf form via email for the last few years. It is foreseeable that they

could have a subdivision plat never hit paper from start to finish. Important to note that some type of proof checking should be used on the submitted surveys, making sure the scanned/pdf files are clear and legible before accepting into the main survey file for online viewing or County review. He also mentioned maps coming in with hatching, light lines, small text that also makes getting a clear and legible scan/pdf much harder to achieve. The ROD is an important part of this process. When accepting maps for recording, they can reject a submittal if it is not legible. If needed, there are 5 businesses in the US that licensed and approved for electronic signatures, notarization and recording See Chapter 137 of State Statutes on Electronic Transactions and Records (does not address seals); and also see §16.61(7) on original & electronic records. This is a definitely a transitional period, but there is no doubt this will become a standard process for the surveying profession in the near future

- 3) Award(s): Brenda Hemstead was presented the “2021 Friend of Wisconsin Land Surveying Award” by President Duckart. Brenda served as Secretary for WCSA for many years while working for State Cartographers Office.

I wish to nominate Brenda Hemstead for the Friend of Surveying Award

During her stint as the WCSA Secretary, she was the heart and soul of WCSA. She helped to grow the WCSA from a 'mom and pop' organization with an agenda focused on a narrow set of items to a state-wide resource for the geospatial community. Her ability to organize and facilitate meetings meeting cannot be understated. The result is that attendees enjoyed a content rich and productive meeting.

Even before her time as WCSA Secretary, she put important information relevant to WCSA and Wisconsin geospatial professionals on the Wisconsin State Cartographers Office (SCO) website. Some of these materials include: Control Finder, directory of Wisconsin County Surveyors, geospatial news, jobs, meetings and a lot of other material.

Since her retirement, I miss the interaction that we had at meetings and conversations. With suggestions that I made, she either accepted them and made the changes right away or told me that I was crazy. I am sure that I am not alone in missing her and her institutional knowledge related to land surveying and the SCO.

Brenda began her career at the SCO in 1979 (remember, she was 8 years old at the time) as a typist. Throughout her 40-year SCO career, she was able to use her dedication, perseverance and tenacity to grow and evolve to become a tremendous asset for the WCSA and Wisconsin geospatial community. She retired from the SCO in April of 2020.

I cannot say it better than State Cartographer, Howard Veregin, did on the SCO website. Brenda continues to be a bright spot in the history of the SCO and the geospatial community in the state. She has done much to bring together the state's surveying and GIS communities in ways that are the envy of other states.

With that, I would like to nominate my friend, Brenda Hemstead, for the WCSA Friend of Wisconsin Surveying award.

CONGRATULATIONS BRENDA!

WCSA President Duckart and Brenda Hemstead

- 4) Election of Directors: President Duckart read the list of candidates nominated for the Board of Directors for 2022: (President Ryan Duckart is in 2nd year of two year term) Vice President – Laurence Johns, Vernon

County; Director – Joe Nelsen, Trempealeau County; Director – Rob Merry, SEWRPC; Director – Wade Pettit, Clark County; Secretary – Tom Leslie, Brown County; and Treasurer – Tom Carlson, Dunn County. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of candidates as presented. Congratulations!**

Other Business

- 1) 2022 WCSA meeting dates: March 18 AT Wade Pettit's syrup production facility; May 6 in Wisconsin Rapids; August 5 in Neillsville and November 4 in Wisconsin Rapids. Information email will be sent to members within a week of next meeting
- 2) Virtual coverage of the WCSA meetings will be provided as deemed necessary. WSLS and NWTC will help with getting these set up (equipment, technical expertise) if needed
- 3) BEST OF LUCK to Bryan Meyer as he begins his WSLS presidency!

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