



Wisconsin County Surveyors Association, Inc.

Minutes of the WCSA Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, March 23, 2023

Wade Pettitt's Syrup Production Facilities – Chili, WI



Board of Directors Attending

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

WCSA Members/Others Attending

Cody Steines	Clark County	Gregg Batzer	Dunn County
Dan Frick	Dane County	Troy Stowell	Dunn County
Dan Pleoger	Sawyer County	Corey Hughes	St. Croix County
Dale Raisleger	Brown County	Tim Brueggeman	Jackson County
Brad Heuer	Rock County	Gary Dechant	Juneau & Monroe County
Justin Meyer	Taylor County	Laurence Johns	Vernon County
Jason Bolz	Manitowoc County	Cody Brommerich	Jackson County
Dave Tlusty	JET Enterprises	Bob Meyer	Taylor County

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

- Introductions were made with one addition to the agenda: Annual Institute review & topic for WCSA presentation spot at next year's Institute
- THANK YOU to Wade for the tour of his syrup production facility

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the November 4, 2022 minutes as presented

Secretary's Report (Tom Leslie):

- Prepared minutes for the last annual meeting; distributed any informational emails, literature, links, etc to Board and membership; continue to update online SCO county surveyor directory as needed; updated the WCSA website as needed; sent dues reminder emails

Treasurer's Report (Tom Carlson):

- See Treasurer's Report attached to the end of the minutes for more detailed information
- Online dues paid through WSLs website are slow in getting to WCSA – Tom L has same issue with NE Chapter – keep requesting but no reply other than Secretary is working on it – hopefully soon

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

WLIC Report (Cody Brommerich):

Cody reported on the last WLIC meeting February 22 in Wisconsin Dells. The topics included:

- **WLIP grants and program status**

- Lidar status and hydrography updates
- Senate Bill 2 update
- Project Updates

NOTE: WLIP grants will most likely be reduced quite a bit in 2024 – let your County know for budget purposes!

For full meeting minutes, click link: https://doa.wi.gov/DIR/WLIC_Minutes_2023-02-22.pdf

Correspondence:

- Bryan Meyer stated he attended the Minnesota Society of Professional Surveyors “Institute” and sat in on their County Surveyors meeting. One topic was concerned with removing the current minimum age limit of 25 years old to get your professional surveying license, as they, like everywhere, are having a numbers issue, especially younger people, so a change might encourage 25 and younger people to try surveying. NCS was to meet the next day but 15+ inches of heavy snow put the kibosh on that meeting
- Tom Carlson forwarded an email from NACS concerning an important amendment to NACo’s American Counties Platform. Email is attached to end of the minutes for further information. What does this mean? Feds are not bound by this news. This is a good thing in that it does get PLSS more to the forefront of people’s minds – a step in the right direction

Education Segment:

GPS on Benchmarks latest update — Mick Heberlein, WisDOT

- No Education Segment this meeting. See Mick’s latest email report via recent email and on WCSA website

Old Business:

1) Status of County Surveyor Offices:

- Bob Meyer, Taylor County is retiring in May 2023. County Surveyor will be joined together with GIS and the office will be moving in with the RPL
- Dan Pleoger, Sawyer County is retiring April 28, 2023. H thinks the County will look at what other Counties are doing. He’ll keep us in the loop with any news
- Winnebago County needs to be pushed to acquire/hire a County Surveyor. Should WCSA take charge of the “push”? More discussion needed
- Langlade County has determined they need a CS and GIS person – similar to the Taylor County plans?
- Institute comments relayed by Bryan Meyer: Private sector is not happy with the unavailability of some County Surveyors (part time issue?). Also, a recent DEI survey revealed that up to 50% of PLS will retire within the next 10 years, with 33% of those retiring within 5 years

2) 2023 PLSS Forum:

- Dan Frick has contacted the committee. Dan met yesterday with Dave Vogel and Howard Veregin from SCO to discuss their thoughts on SCO’s involvement moving forward with PLSS Forum. SCO still wants to be involved, but that will take rebuilding the membership. SCO will design the brochure/flyer and run the sign-up (they have the funding if needed). Dan has all the information from the last planned forum. He will contact those on the list, see who is still working and not retired, and rebuild from there
- WCSA should take more of a role in this as well. Perhaps deciding where the Forum should be held, likely in an area that needs our help. Having a strong local Chapter helps
- No word on possible funding from WSLs
- Perhaps asking the WSLs Young Surveyors Network to help? With their involvement, some of those attending might get interested in the whole County Surveyor thing. It certainly can’t hurt to give them the exposure and see what happens – remember the 50% retiring?

3) GPS/Onyx Issues:

- Bryan Meyer presented version 4 of a “White Paper” dealing with cell phone apps being used for property corner location. He contacted NSPS on the issue, but they basically blew him off and were not interested. He is bringing this to WCSA for our “blessing” before going to WSLs for their approval. Once approved, the paper will be distributed to everyone, everywhere. A link will be added to our website
- Group discussion focused on the source data being used by the apps more than the phones themselves. Apps get their information (GPS, etc) from wherever they can – good or bad. Most definitely not survey grade data
- *A motion was made, seconded, and approved to give the WCSA Board the ability to amend the White Paper as deemed necessary*

New Business:

1) GPS on Benchmark update:

- See Mick’s latest email at the end of the minutes or go to the link on WCSA website

2) WCSA at the Institute:

- Evaluation forms from the last Institute had these suggestions for topics:
 - ✓ PLSS perpetuation of corners
 - ✓ Accessing public websites for information
 - ✓ Lost or obliterated corners
 - ✓ Online research/ in-person research
- Institute Committee meeting is tomorrow – Bryan will ask them to hold us a presentation spot, just not at same time as WSLs Board meeting (or Steve Sorenson)
- Laurence Johns said he would present again if needed

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 11:35 pm



Wisconsin County Surveyors Assoc. Inc.

Treasurer's Report - March 23, 2023

Current Balances (Westconsin Credit Union)

Balances as of March 20, 2023

Checking.....	\$4,304.42
Savings.....	\$5,679.81

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
<u>3029</u>	1/25/2023	WSLS Foundation (Bucky's Challenge)	\$250.00

Total expenditures in 2023 **\$1237.00**

Deposits 2023

1/11/2023	Dues Payments	\$250.00
1/18/2023	Dues Payments	\$200.00
1/20/2023	Dues Payments	\$100.00
2/6/2023	Dues Payments	\$100.00
2/14/2023	Dues Payments	\$100.00
2/23/2023	Dues Payments	\$100.00

Total deposits in 2023 **\$850.00**

2023 Dividends – Checking Account

1/31/2023	Dividend	\$0.37
2/28/2023	Dividend	\$0.32

Total dividends received in 2023 **\$0.69**

2023 Dividends – Savings Account

1/31/2023	Dividend	\$1.93
2/28/2023	Dividend	\$1.74

Total dividends received in 2023 **\$3.67**

Total postage stamps used in 2023

3

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

On February 18, 2023, I filed the 2022 WCSA taxes electronically with the IRS by completing a Form 990-N postcard online. The next day I received confirmation from the IRS that my submission was accepted.

Report Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Carlson".

Tom Carlson, Dunn Co. Surveyor
WCSA Treasurer

County Surveyors

I am in the midst of checking every GPS on BM Observation that was submitted by anyone on any NGS station within the state of Wisconsin, not just Wisconsin Height Modernization stations.

Through this work, I am creating a county-by-county list of stations that WisDOT feels could use another observation before the current September 30, 2023, deadline. My deadline for having the entire list completed is March 31st. After that, WisDOT will begin to determine a plan to get one more additional GPS on BM observation for stations where we would like another observation to 'solidify' the resulting OPUS Observation(s).

If you have submitted GPS on BM observations in the past, I will be in contact with you to see if you are interested in doing 2023 reobservations. There are no expectations on WisDOT's part that you will be 'required' to do more observations. Most counties that I have completed have less than a dozen additional observations with about 5-10 being the norm. I have already been in contact with counties that have many stations on their list to discuss and thankfully, they have indicated that it will not be a problem to get all the reobservations done by the end of September.

Stations that made the reobservation list fit into the following criteria:

- Stations with a single GPS on BM observation where the OPUS share result is greater than 1.5 cm horizontal or 4.5 cm ellipsoid height different than published.
- Stations with multiple GPS on BM observations where the OPUS share results have a difference of 1.5 cm horizontal or 4.5 cm ellipsoid height or greater between observations.
- Vertical benchmark stations with only one OPUS Share observation.
- We are not asking for more than 3 total observations on any station except in extreme circumstances.

Stations for reobservation will be given a priority value generally based on the following:

- **Priority 1** Stations- Stations with a horizontal discrepancy as described above of 1.8 cm or an ellipsoid height discrepancy of 6.0 cm or greater.
- **Priority C** stations- Vertical benchmarks observed by a county where there is a need for another observation.
 - Currently only one observation
 - Multiple observations with discrepancies of greater than 1.5 cm horizontal or 4.5 cm ellipsoidal height.
 - Generally, WisDOT does not have the resources to get additional reobservations on vertical benchmarks done by the county.
- **Priority 2** Stations- Stations with a horizontal discrepancy as described above of 1.5 to 1.7 cm or an ellipsoid height discrepancy of 4.5 to 6.0 cm or greater.

I plan to speak on this topic at the May WCSA Meeting, but if WisDOT wants to begin the process of who will be able to obtain the desired reobservations before then.

Thank you very much for your continued effort and support of the statewide GPS on BM efforts. Your willingness to contribute to this effort is really appreciated.

As always, please contact me with any questions,
Mick