

Wisconsin County Surveyors Association, Inc.

Minutes of the WCSA May 7, 2021, BOD Meeting
 Wisconsin Rapids, WI – River Block Building



Board of Directors Attending

Ryan Duckart	Brown County	Joe Nelsen	Trempealeau County
Tom Leslie	Brown County	Bryan Meyer	La Crosse County
Ron Merry	SEWRPC	Tom Carlson	Dunn County

WCSA Members/Others Attending

Steve Geiger	Polk County	Brian Gross	Oconto County
Cody Brommerich	Jackson County	Terry Lueschow	Seiler Instruments
Tim Brueggeman	Jackson County	Kevin Boyer	Wood County
Tony Dallmann	Lincoln County	Steve Grady	Seiler Instruments
Dave Addison	Dodge County	Mark Netterlund	Barron County
Mick Heberlien	WisDOT	Glen Schaefer	Retired
Dave Vogel	SCO	Jason Bolz	Manitowoc County
Jason Houle	Leica Geosystems	Paul Bernard	Lincoln County
Dean Roth	Eau Claire County		

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

Thank you to Kevin Boyer for hosting the meeting thru Wood County and Thank you to Howard Herrild from NWTC for the use of equipment and help with virtual meetings over the past year

Introductions were made with two additions to the agenda: 1/16th corners and related maintenance of said corners & Center of State update

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Minutes from the May 5, 2021 Board meeting

Secretary’s Report: Tom Leslie reported on preparing the last Board minutes; emailing updated paid dues list & related paid map to members, including Membership renewal form. He also forwarded several informational emails submitted by members. Nothing else to report at this time

Treasurer’s Report: Tom Carlson stated there are 55 current members as of 5-7-21. He also gave the following report:

Wisconsin County Surveyors Assoc. Inc.

Treasurer’s Report – May 7 2021

Current Balances (Westconsin Credit Union) Balances as of May 5, 2021

Checking.....	\$4786.00
Savings.....	\$5654.81

Expenditures 2021 since March Report

3006 3/8/2021 Wisconsin Towns Assoc. (Dues)	\$175.00
3007 3/8/2021 National Assoc. of Co. Surveyors (Dues)	\$100.00
3008 3/10/2021 WSLs Foundation (Donation)	\$250.00
3009 3/17/2021 Menomonie Postmaster (Stamps)	\$11.00
3010 4/1/2021 Tom Leslie (Secretarial Services - 2nd qtr.)	\$700.00

Dues collected for 2021 through May 5, 2021: \$4600.00

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

Correspondence:

- Bryan Meyer reported on the NSPS "Virtual Day on the Hill" on April 20-21, 2021. Discussion included infrastructure funding, appropriation of funds for surveying related issue. It was mentioned that we are not just asking for money, but we also want to know how our group can help in anyway

WLIC Report:

- No report at this time

Education Segment

Miscellaneous WISDOT Updates – Mick Heberlein, WisDOT

- Latest misc updates, including GPS on Benchmark:
 - Shaun Meyer was hired by WisDOT to work out of the Superior Region
 - WisDOT SW Region is looking for a surveyor
 - Support for GPS on Benchmark, from both WisDOT partners and within WisDot, has been better than anticipated
 - Eric Shew, NWTC student, has been hired to help WisDOT collect observations and help with maintenance
 - NSPS will not budge on the deadline of Dec. 31, 2021 for submission of points
 - Although not figured into the budget, consultants may be hired to help out
 - Wisconsin is in the Top 5 States in terms of progress of GPS on Benchmarks, with Minnesota leading the way
 - Close to ½ of the hexagons in the State are filled
 - Does WisDOT require any surveying on a job or is it all farmed out? Perhaps getting the consultants to observe points would help? Mick will check – WisDOT is trying to work that into the contracts and get the consultants to help out since they are already out in the field
 - Most regions are doing well, but with lost staff and budget cuts, it has been difficult

Old Business

1) Status of County Surveyor Offices

- Paul Nordwig is the new Outagamie County Surveyor, replacing Dave Yurk, who will remain the Shawano County Surveyor
- Barron County has 2 interviews w/ good candidates
- Dave Addison mentioned that Dodge County has not had a County Surveyor for almost 2 years, and they work with MSA when needed. There are no PLS on staff. The County removed the title of County Surveyor a few years back, but recently working on trying to get it back, either part-time or full-time. WCSA can help if needed

2) WLIC County Surveyor Representative

- Cody Brommerich has been approved as the new County Surveyor on the WLIC Board
CONGRATULATIONS CODY!

3) PLSS Workgroup Update

- As you know, the 2020 and 2021 PLSS Forum were cancelled
- Brenda really pushed to hold the 2021 Forum but to no avail. Dave Vogel (her replacement) will be involved with the 2022. Not sure if still going to be in Marinette County. They were all set up to go in 2020, so maybe there would be less work to get things going again. They have everything worked out, now it's just getting to the "Let's go"! Perhaps a conference call with those involved is needed to see where everyone stands on renewing this for 2022

4) SWCSA Website

- WCSA will go with having WLSL hosting our website
- Needs to be filled with content and updated regularly: Meeting schedule, agendas, minutes, links, membership status
- Dues can be collected through the WLSL if we want
- See if we can get our website link on the front page of WLSL for better visibility
- **A motion was made, seconded and approved** to have Tom Leslie as the WCSA Webmaster
- Kevin Boyer and Joe Tew will help Tom L in the website process

New Business

1) WCSA Presenter(s) at the 2022 WLSL Institute

- Great opportunity to present in front of other groups who may not have seen or know us
- Laurence Johns is on board to help with presenting. Corey mentioned Joe Nelsen 😊
- Perhaps go with a Group Panel – that way we can get submissions from those people who will attending and discuss what they want to hear
- Bryan Meyer will be presenting at the upcoming WRPLA Annual ASM in September 2021

2) True Coordinate Change – Single County Dataset

- Dave Vogel discussed how SCO is working on a Statewide PLSS database, including section polygons, with the goal of regular updating & maintenance. No more wholesale updates every year
- Website will also include new corners/record, updates to existing corner records- with x-y coordinate comparison so ANY change will be marked as an update
- Should coordinates be more consistent? (thousandth, ten thousandth) More consistency means less records that are tagged as “changed”. This varies from County to County so may take some time to get the needed consistency.
- Do we really need it to go out 4 places when almost everyone uses hundredths? This may give a slightly different bearing, but if people would stick to a standard, then there should be less errors and wasted time chasing down something that is inconsequential to begin with
- AE-7 requires going out to hundredths
- Coordinates on TPPs (GB Office) are given in thousandths. When comparing coordinates, do not look for “x = x”, but more look for being within a tolerance (0.02 seems popular)
- Look at tie sheets and not just grab coords and go
- The main goal is to get this standardized (and not so many errors which really aren’t errors). This is also about monuments, not just coordinates

3) 1/16th Corners

- If a 1/16th Corner is set by either County Surveyor or local surveyor, while not a government corner, should they still be maintained by County Surveyor or depend on local surveyors to maintain? What about control points? Brown County does maintain control points which are used in the Private Claims area of the County. And there are 1/16th corners within the Oneida Indian Reservations (along with other non-standard government corners like William’s Grant Subdivision)

4) Center of State

- 45/90 Corner – Howard Veregin from SCO asked if this is truly the middle of the State. There are several Governor proclamations stating that “Pittsville IS the exact center of the State”
- Maybe 45/90 should be observed and then entered into the system as an NGS points?

1. **LOTS OF LAKES**

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, our state has 15,074 lakes. Not counting the Great Lakes, the largest of them is Lake Winnebago, which covers 206 square miles. By contrast, Minnesota’s DNR says that state has 11,842 lakes, although it only counts lakes larger than 10 acres. By that same definition, Wisconsin has only 5,898 lakes.

- 2. **LOOKING UP**

The highest natural point in the state is Timms Hill, which you'll find in the appropriately named Town of Hill in Price County (about a two-hour drive northeast of Eau Claire). According to the State Cartographer's Office, Timms Hill is 1,951.5 feet tall. If you're curious, the highest point in Eau Claire County is an unnamed 1,340-foot-tall hill in rural Fairchild.

- **3. BIGGER WITH WATER**

Wisconsin's land area is 54,158 square miles, the U.S. Census Bureau says. (And you thought they only counted people!) That makes Wisconsin the 25th largest state in the union. When you count all our waterways, however, Wisconsin moves up the list to 23rd biggest at 65,496 square miles.

- **4. RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE**

Want to get to the heart of the Badger State? Check out the small city of Pittsville near Marshfield. You'll find the exact geographic center of Wisconsin just west of town on an island in the Yellow River. Back in the 1950s, Gov. Walter J. Kohler Jr. officially proclaimed Pittsville the center of the state.

- **5. RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE (PART II)**

Imagine cutting our planet into four sections with two long slices: one along the equator and one along the Prime Meridian/International Date Line. Now, take the one-quarter of the globe that includes North America. Smack-dab in the middle of this quadrant of the Earth's surface is a geographic marker in a soybean field near the unincorporated community of Poniatowski, Wisconsin, in Marathon County. If you're a lover of geographic oddities, punch 45 degrees north, 90 degrees west into your GPS, or simply drive east on Highway 29 until you see the sign.

Adjournment: A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 12:28pm

***** Next Meeting is Friday, August 6, 2021 in Neillsville, WI *****