

Wisconsin County Surveyors Association, Inc.

Minutes of the WCSA May 6, 2022, BOD Meeting
 Wisconsin Rapids, WI – Wood County Courthouse



Board of Directors Attending

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

WCSA Members/Others Attending (*online)

Kevin Boyer	Wood County	Joe Nelsen	Trempealeau County
Gregg Batzer	Dunn County	Terry Lueschow	Seiler Instruments
Corey Hughes	La Crosse County	David Decker	Marathon County
David Vogel	SCO	Glen Schaefer*	Retired
Mick Heberlein*	WDOT	Catlon Phelps*	Barron County
Dave Addison*	Dodge County	Cody Brommerich*	Jackson County
Brad Heuer*	Rock County		

President Ryan Duckart called the Board meeting to order at 10:09 am

Thank you to Kevin Boyer for hosting the meeting and providing the refreshments

Introductions were made by members in attendance (“What is your favorite summer activity?”)

Additions to the Agenda: Discuss “Sale or exchange of lands between parcels” (Item #4)

Motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the Minutes from the March 18, 2022 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 reminder emails. Updated/revised the WSLs website. Minutes and agendas will be added to the website for downloading via a link sent in any future Meeting reminder emails. That way everyone needs to visit the website and see what’s there – or what’s missing. As always, let me know if you want to see something added (or removed). Nothing else to report at this time

Treasurer’s Report: Tom Carlson gave the following report:

Wisconsin County Surveyors Assoc. Inc.
 Treasurer’s Report - May 6, 2022

Current Balances (Westconsin Credit Union)

Balances as of May 3, 2022

Checking.....	\$5486.70
Savings.....	\$5666.15

Expenditures 2022

<u>3013</u>	1/3/2022	Tom Leslie (Secretarial Services – 1 st Qtr.)	\$700.00
<u>3014</u>	1/18/2022	WSLS Foundation (Bucky’s Challenge)	\$250.00
<u>3015</u>	1/31/2022	Wisconsin Towns Association (Dues)	\$175.00
<u>3016</u>	1/31/2022	National Assoc. of Co. Surveyors (Dues)	\$100.00
<u>3017</u>	1/31/2022	WSLS Sustaining Membership Dues (Void)	\$360.00

<u>3018</u>	2/7/2022	Championship Awards (Brenda's award) (Void)	\$94.39
<u>3019</u>	3/18/2022	Cody Steines (BOD Mtg. refreshments)	\$23.59
<u>3020</u>	4/1/2022	Tom Leslie (Secretarial Services – 2 nd Qtr.)	\$700.00
<u>3021</u>	4/19/2022	Championship Awards (Brenda's award)	\$94.39

Total Expenditures 2022 **\$2042.98**

Deposits 2022

1/13/2022	Dues Payments	\$750.00
1/14/2022	Dues Payments	\$600.00
1/20/2022	Dues Payments	\$1,200.00
2/3/2022	Dues Payments	\$400.00
2/16/2022	Dues Payments	\$200.00
3/3/2022	Dues Payments	\$350.00
3/11/2022	Dues Payments	\$100.00
3/24/2022	Dues Payments	\$150.00
4/2/2022	Dues Payments	\$150.00
5/3/2022	Dues Payments	\$50.00

Total Deposits in 2022 **\$3,950.00**

2022 Dividends – Checking Account

1/31/2022	Dividend	\$0.18
2/28/2022	Dividend	\$0.21
3/31/2022	Dividend	\$0.25
4/30/2022	Dividend	\$0.23

Total Dividends received in 2022 **\$0.87**

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

Total Dividends received in 2022 **\$1.86**

Total postage stamps used in 2022 **8**
 (Book of 20 purchased on 3/17/2021)
 (4 stamps left)

Dues collected for 2022 through May 3, 2022 **\$3850.00**

Report Respectfully Submitted,



Tom Carlson, Dunn Co. Surveyor
 Treasurer

37 of 72 Counties are current members (52%)

- Discussed possible payment option using WSLs website, similar to what the Chapters are allowed to do right now. It's very convenient for the members. Tom C. will contact WSLs (Joe Tews & Frank Thousand) and discuss the possibility

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

WLIC Report:

- No report at this time (no meetings held lately)

Correspondence:

- Email from Glen Schaefer regarding Ligado and the launch of the network in late September in Virginia
- Cheryl Berken sent an email regarding news on the latest Condominium bill. It has been signed and takes affect 7 months after publication. An easement bill was also signed which , in part, relates to the duration and expiration of easements and access easements before 1960 – anyone involved/work with easements should be aware of these changes
- Bryan Meyer reported on a local surveyor/company that was using another surveyor’s map, modifying/removing things, basically carving up the map for their own client. The original map surveyor was concerned on what to do. Bryan spoke with WSLs committee chair Bob Beilfuss and also Renee Powers for their opinions, but ultimately the surveyor spoke with the offending company and things were worked out in a civil manner. Sometimes you just need to talk to the people before getting others involved. The surveyor was grateful for the time Bryan spent on this. Positive results for all and a great discussion for the Board

Education Segment

David Vogel from State Cartographer’s Office: “County Coordinates on PLSS Finder”

- Discussion included:
 - Do we show coordinates or not? It’s been a debate for a while now and a carry-over from our last WCSA meeting
 - Survey Control Finder pop-up modification options: Amend names to “Search Easting” and “Search Northing”
 - Adding additional pop-ups, which is not really what SCO wants to do or color coding the accuracy of the shown coordinates: one color for “Survey Grade”, one for “Sub-meter” and one for “Approximate/unknown”
 - Coordinates could be truncated at the decimal point (rounded off?). Not good enough for surveying, but still gives the public data they want to see and use. SCO would most likely go with truncating and not rounding off for sub-meter and below
 - Disclaimer maybe added to all three proposed classes (splash screen)
 - Maybe add a “±” to coordinates to make it appear less “accurate”
 - When working with remonumentation, if contracted out, is there any QA/QC done by the County Surveyor? What if there is no County Surveyor? (usually accepted “as is”)
 - Ultimately, it’s up to the individual surveyor on the data included with any submissions to SCO
 - Could SCO design a sort of template for what information/data should be included with any submissions – a standard or criteria for needed data?
 - Any way to get more funding from WLIP for actual maintenance, since most money appears to be going for orthos and lidar? This would really help Counties in their remonumentation and maintenance efforts, Excellent idea but not easy to get done. DOA would probably be involved as well. Perhaps WLIC could help?? WCSA has a member on the Board
 - Make any construction projects incur the cost of any remonumentation needed for destroyed corners within their project, that way not using up what little County Surveyor budget that exists
 - When there’s opportunity for money, take as much as you can
 - Thank you David and SCO for all that you do!

Old Business

1) Status of County Surveyor Offices

- Brown County is still searching for a County Surveyor. Hopefully by next meeting
- St. Croix County – Brian Holling is now retired

2) WCSA Website

- Added the large “Meeting Approaching” banner at the beginning of the website

- Perhaps the newest agenda can be placed at the top of the list instead of the bottom

3) PLSS Workgroup

- Plans for setting a corner within a school hallway as one of our WCSA Board meeting was discussed. Bryan Meyer will contact the school and find out if possible. It could be made into a great PR event for both WCSA and Berntsen
- Bryan also discussed getting Berntsen involved, perhaps making a special disc similar to (but not the same) as the one at the Capital?
- **A motion was made, seconded and approved to** have WCSA donate up to \$500 (monument and plaque) whether or not Berntsen would also be interested. We could always use SurfCap 😊
- Install w/o students and Present with students?

New Business

1) OPUS Share Update (Mick Heberlein)

- As of May 1, there have been almost 4,000 observations of over 3,000 locations
- WDOT will revisit approximately 60 locations identified as needing a recheck (mainly horizontal) w/ one more observation, along with several vertical marks with one observation and turn it into a horizontal mark for further densification
- Asking Counties to re-observe local height mod marks and any important local marks. One more OPUS Share observation can only help and make things that much better (points marked in red on the OPUS website)
- Any new monuments submitted through OPUS Share will be limited to 500 characters for the description (use a lot of abbreviations to get it all in). Make sure to include 3 local ties. Contact Mick or Laurence if you have any questions or concerns
- Thank you all for your amazing efforts!

2) Panel Discussion

- WRDA Summer Conference, June 5-8, 2022 in Pewaukee. They would like a variety of State surveyors to participate. This was all brought on by John Cassuci. Every county requires something different, and would like to discuss the differences and any possible solutions to the variations from County to County. The panel will be held on June 7 and is scheduled for 90 minutes. John Cassuci, Bryan Meyer and Jim Sehloff are already on Board – looking for one more from NW area

3) State Boundary Concern

- Ryan Duckart & Bryan Meyer have discussed possibly getting this pushed more to the forefront as it's 70th Anniversary of WSLs and Bryan is President, so the time is right to push this forward, or at least get some more conversation. Perhaps get BLM involved? They have stated that they did not survey State boundaries so probably not. How about NSPS?
- Reviewed the updated flyer (Thank you Dave). The date has been pushed to 2026 and is also on WCSA website for viewing. Check it out!
- Reached out to WSLs Lobbyist Bob Welch (sent flyer and powerpoint). Bob said he would make some inquiries and make some recommendations to his constituents. He believes the Legislature would be very interested in getting this resolved
- Federal Government cannot sell any islands until PLSS has been established on the islands
- There is no way to establish where the thread of the Mississippi was back in 1848. A Boundary Line Agreement between Wisconsin and Minnesota certainly seems to be the best way to get this done

4) Sale or Exchange between Parcels (David Decker)

- What type of Land Division Ordinances are counties using? There are numerous ways that Counties handle this – and sometimes to the dismay of those trying to accomplish these exchanges.
- 236.45 exempts the sale or exchange of lands between parties. Some counties require a CSM, some a Plat of Survey (with review and cost), some allow up to certain parameters, while some do nothing.

In talking with Renee Powers, she said that counties can do whatever they deem necessary, but if challenged in court, the counties would probably lose

- It comes down to following your particular ordinances, whatever they are, regardless of 236.45 until you are directed otherwise

Adjournment: A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 12:48 pm

Next up: Summer Membership Meeting



Friday, August 5, 2022 at 10am



Wisconsin Rapids – Rock River Bldg (Wood County)

