

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

Preston Dowell

MN GAC Parcel and Land Records Committee Chair



Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- 1970's version/experience
- Current version/experience
- Comparison
- Lessons Learned

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation



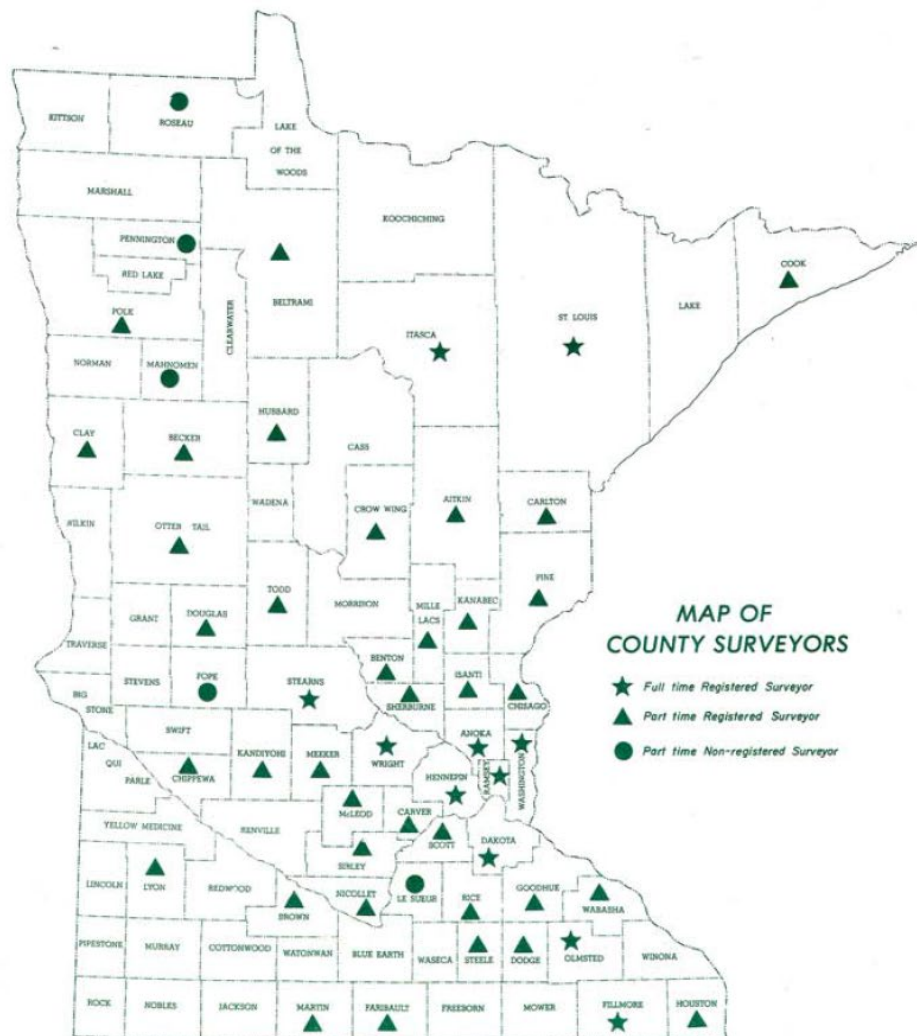


GIVE ME A SHOT ON THE HYDRANT!!

The County Surveyor's Committee has begun voluntarily on an ambitious program to implement remonumentation programs in many counties.

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- January 15-17, 1975
 - MLSA Retracement Workshop
 - 99 Surveyors attended a workshop by Walter Robillard
 - “The real purpose of the corner retracement workshop, however, was to lend direction, to stimulate thought, to start discussion and to encourage study about proper corner retracement procedures.”



1975 PUBLIC LAND SURVEY REPORT

The following report of the status of public land survey monuments in Minnesota was accomplished by the filling out of a questionnaire sent out by the MLSA Committee on Remonumentation to county surveyors or county engineers where there was no county surveyor. Other MLSA members filled in the remaining gaps. The information in this report is based on the data supplied by these volunteers and is general in nature. A more exact and detailed study would require time and funding beyond the means of the committee.

1975 PUBLIC LAND SURVEY REPORT

COUNTY	LAND ACRES	COUNTY SURVEYOR STATUS	YEARS PUBLIC LAND SURVEY BEGUN AND COMPLETED		CERTIFICATES OF GOV'T CORNERS	TOTAL GOV'T CORNERS	EXISTING MONUMENTS	MON. POSIT- ION WITH SOME RECORD	MON. POSIT- ION WITH NO RECORD	FULL AND PARTIAL TOWNSHIPS	SECTIONS
Pope	426,102	P-N	1856	1867	1028	5200	1040	0	4160	20	715
Ramsey	101,032	0	1847	1853	0	735	660	25	50	6	174
Red Lake	274,619	0	1871	1891	52	1600	26	400	1174	16	442
Redwood	557,475	0	1857	1867	26	2734	200	100	2434	27	902
Renville	621,130	0	1854	1866	8	3120	950	1000	1170	31	997
Rice	319,163	P-R	1853	1854	1300	2000	1300	0	700	16	516
Rock	307,716	0	1859	1871	179	1579	179	0	1400	16	480
Roseau	1,073,345	P-N	1872	1905	0	6480	0	0	6480	55	1709
St. Louis	4,043,532	F-R	1856	1906	800	25,000	11,250	7500	6250	202	6794
Scott	225,901	F-R	1854	1855	50	1235	741	247	247	15	426
Sherburne	280,525	P-R	1848	1855	876	1450	870	160	420	18	477
Sibley	372,901	P-R	1854	1856	200	2000	200	400	1400	18	600
Stearns	864,522	F-R	1851	1859	1700	5500	1815	1210	2475	50	1436
Steele	273,455	P-R	1853	1854	391	1409	268	436	705	12	432
Stevens	355,336	0	1858	1870	0	1874	50	124	1700	16	576
Swift	475,593	0	1856	1870	42	2461	100	461	1900	21	755
Todd	604,287	P-R	1857	1863	90	3181	64	572	2545	28	1006
Traverse	363,463	0	1859	1871	106	1659	206	203	1250	20	584
Wabasha	344,324	P-R	1853	1855	30	1671	167	417	1087	18	549
Wadena	341,127	0	1858	1871	87	3000	30	0	2970	16	544
Waseca	268,159	0	1853	1854	40	1360	136	200	1024	12	432
Washington	254,869	F-R	1847	1848	390	1600	880	320	400	18	445
Watsonwan	277,052	0	1854	1858	50	1418	400	400	618	12	432
Wilkin	476,389	0	1858	1870	11	2417	167	200	2050	24	749
Winona	406,320	0	1853	1855	800	2100	840	0	1260	22	663
Wright	424,388	F-R	1853	1856	508	2415	851	1464	100	25	748
Yellow Med.	481,687	0	1857	1871	68	2400	332	262	1806	24	778
STATE TOTALS					35,330	310,481	70,881	84,280	55,320	2,579	83,511
					11%	100%	23%	27%	50%		

(Researched by Ron Murphy, L.S.)

Minnesota Land Surveyors

Dis-



Closures

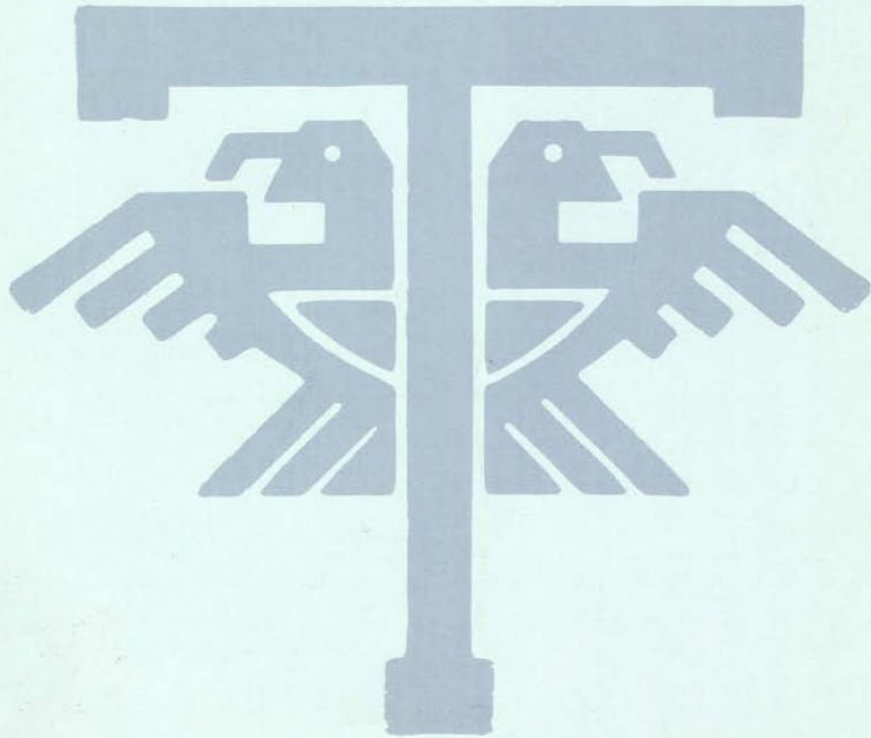
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VOL. 14 NO. 1

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

FEBRUARY 1976

24th ANNUAL MEETING



FEBRUARY 26,27,28,1976

During the 1975 convention a challenge came from the floor for a State-wide remonumentation program. The County Surveyors Committee tackled this project and are close to finalizing recommendations to the State Legislature - probably during the 1977 session. The actual survey work will be done by the County, but a State Survey Authority is necessary to oversee the counties' programs to assure good standards of performance.



MARCH 1976

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

COUNTY SURVEYOR

Bernard Larson, Chairman

The work load of this committee will again require the effort of the two sub-committees. The chairman of the committee will coordinate the efforts of the sub-committee.

1. Paul Johnson, Vice-Chairman
2. Don Busker
3. Byron Dahle
4. John Oliver
5. Harold Wagner

This sub-committee is charged with preparing a presentation to demonstrate the need for half-section mappings, the perpetuation of Government land corners and other County surveyor obligations. The purpose of this presentation is to inform County officials and the public of the definite need for a County Surveyor program.

1. Martin Menk, Vice-Chairman
2. Frank Cardarelle
3. Ron Murphy
4. Gene Jacobson
5. Dick Danielson
6. Del Rude

This sub-committee is charged with continuing their effort to implement a State financed remonumentation program including the administrative needs to make the program effective.



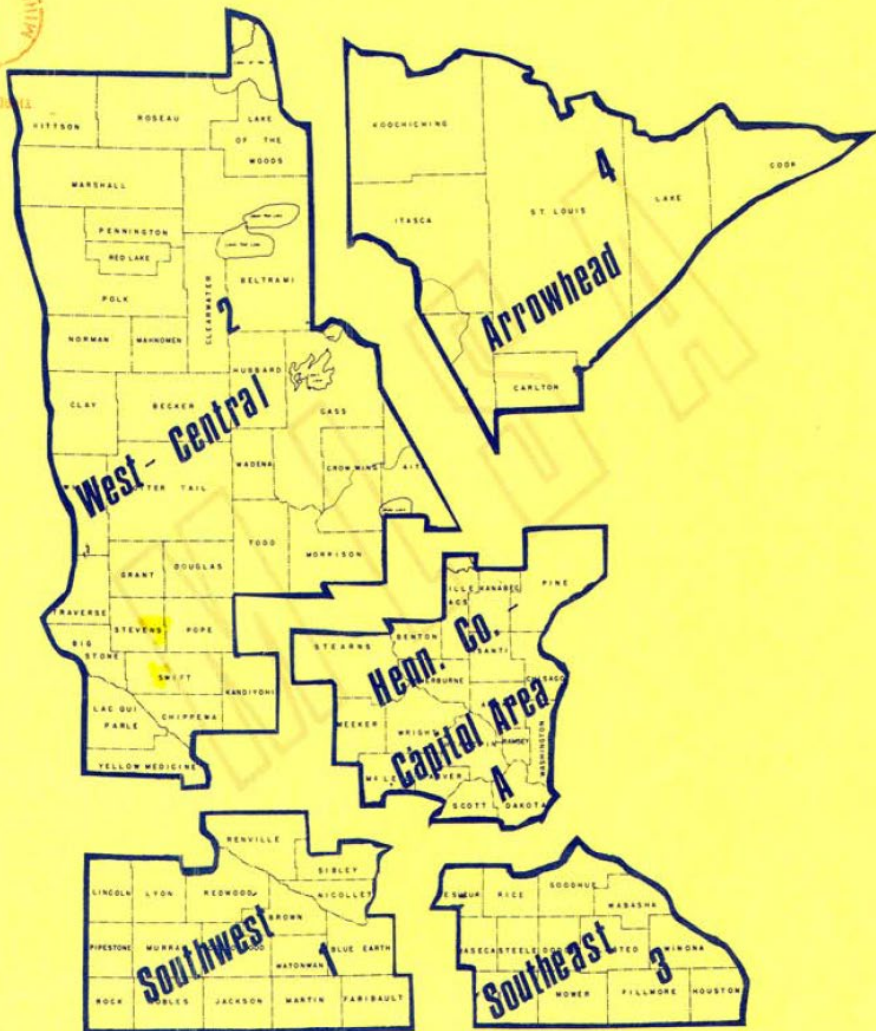
25TH



Of particular importance, during this past year, has been the effort to create a way to implement a state-wide re-monumentation program. A way to demonstrate this need to the public and to the public officials will be accomplished through a film entitled "The Minnesota Surveyor" along with a more detailed slide presentation combined with a pre-taped narrative. A proposed bill has been prepared that would create a "State Land Survey Authority" together with the necessary funding to make this much needed project a reality.



DIS-CLOSURES



MAY 1977

The proposed statewide remonumentation bill has been resubmitted to the state legislature. In order to get action we must have support from as many legislators as possible.

This note is to urge you to contact as many legislators as possible within the next two weeks and encourage those people to support this bill.

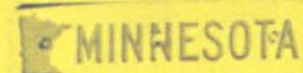
The bill is H.F. 965 and S.F. 820. Use this number when referring to the bill.

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation





DIS-CLOSURES



DESCRIBED OR EXISTING?

HIGHWAY R/W

still at third base when the session ended. The Tax Committee apparently was convinced to hold our bill over for interim study. A proposal with money attached to it develops an entirely new concept and must be thoroughly analyzed by this committee before consideration at a full legislative hearing. M.L.S.A. also fell somewhat short in obtaining organized support from outside sources. In order to obtain a favorable disposition of our bill, justification for and support of remonumentation must be provided to the study committee during the next few months.

Legislative Update

M.L.S.A. 1977 Legislative Review

definition will be added to the State Board's housekeeping bill for 1978.

The statewide remonumentation proposal spearheaded by Martin Menk made the most progress. Most land surveyors did not expect to get to first base with this proposal. Through the efforts of concerned Minnesota land surveyors, this bill advanced to third base almost before the game began. Unfortunately, we were

M.L.S.A. is coming of age in its legislative awareness and involvement. We do, however, have a long way to go before maturity. The M.L.S.A. Board and committees will be asking for much more assistance to attain our agreed upon goals in the very near future. Be prepared to give of your time and expertise for the professional enhancement of land surveying and protection of property and boundaries of the citizens of Minnesota.

*Submitted by Bernard Larson, President,
M.L.S.A.*

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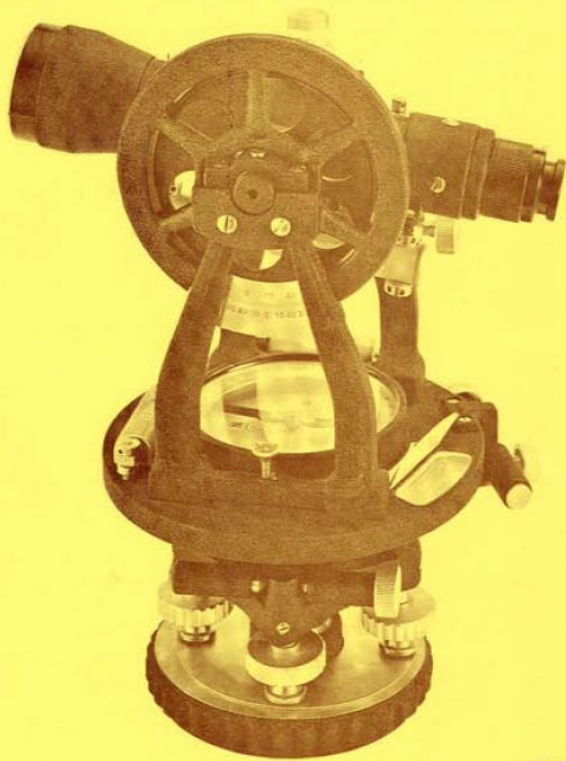
- Program coordinated by a single government agency
- Created a State Land Surveyors Board
- Board can create rules to provide uniform remonumentation
- Board has enforcement capabilities
- State Surveyor and employees
- Work done by counties, overseen by State Surveyor
- Created account based on deed taxes levied

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- Central repository for corner records
- State Plane Coordinates
- Mapping
- Regulations to establish uniform professional land surveying methods related to the act
- Field checking program
- Trespass authority



DIS-CLOSURES



THE SURVEYOR AND THE COURT



NOVEMBER 1977

The County Surveyors Committee had to revise our remonumentation bill due to opposition by some legislators. The original intent was to have a statewide program under the supervision of a State Surveyor. With our revised bill, if it passes, it will be under the County jurisdiction. The Committee is now trying to obtain as many legislators as possible to support the proposed bill.



DIS-CLOSURES



NOVEMBER, 1978

A.C.S.M. Delegate's Report:

Remonumentation Committee sent a letter to membership asking Chapter support. Chapter One, MLSA, will hold a legislative meeting on July 26, 1978. The Association of Minnesota Counties was contacted for their support by Martin Menk. A.M.C.'s Committee will meet with our Remonumentation Committee. Martin Menk received a copy of an outline of the Legislature's Research Committee's report on the proposed bill.

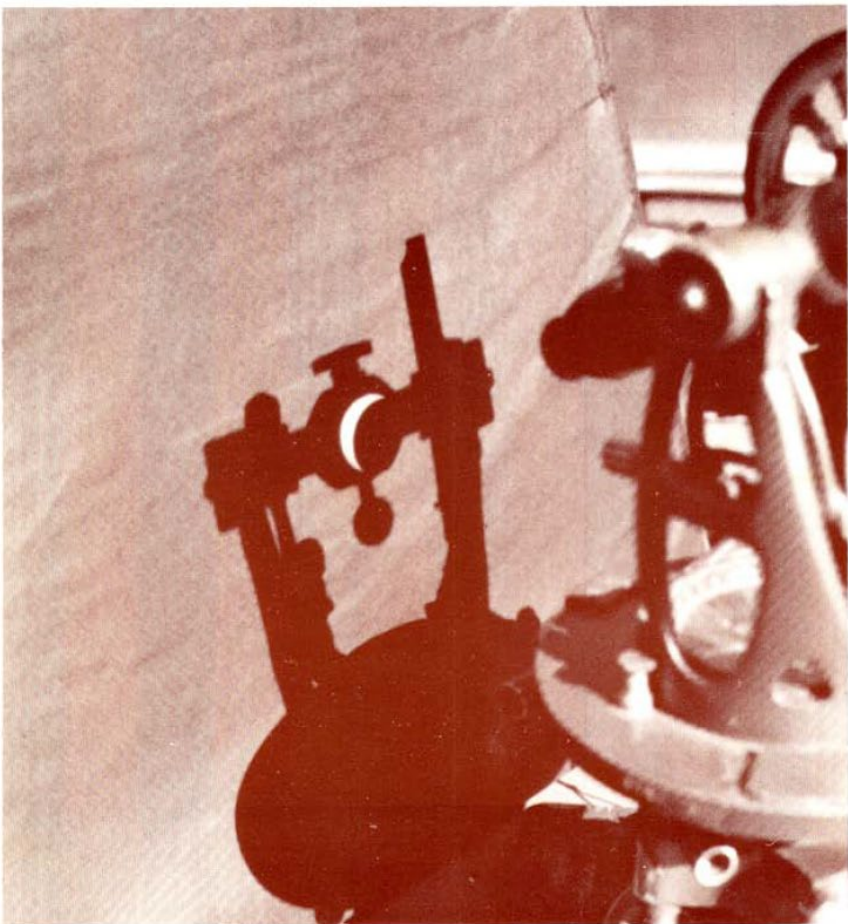
MLSA Remonumentation Bill needs MLSA's help and support. Martin Menk reported that the Chapters have not given the legislative meetings any support so far except his own Chapter. The Remonumentation Committee is still waiting for the House of Representatives research report. MLSA Board of Directors would like the bill to be pursued for the 1979 Legislature but support is needed.

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- 1978 Report
- Talks about the missing PLSS monument issue, how it was being dealt with , consequences of missing PLSS and approaches to address it.
- Predicted much of what happened after the legislation was not adopted as law
- Land Data Systems - “Only after the PLS corners are re-established with geodetic control can the system be utilized for other purposes...It is in this area that the greatest benefits from re-established PLS corner monuments can be derived.”



DIS-CLOSURES



MAY 1979

1978-1979 WINNER A.C.S.M. "EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM" AWARD

Remonumentation Bill has been submitted to the State Senate by Senator Olhoff and carries file no. 355.



DIS-CLOSURES



ENERGY SOLUTION

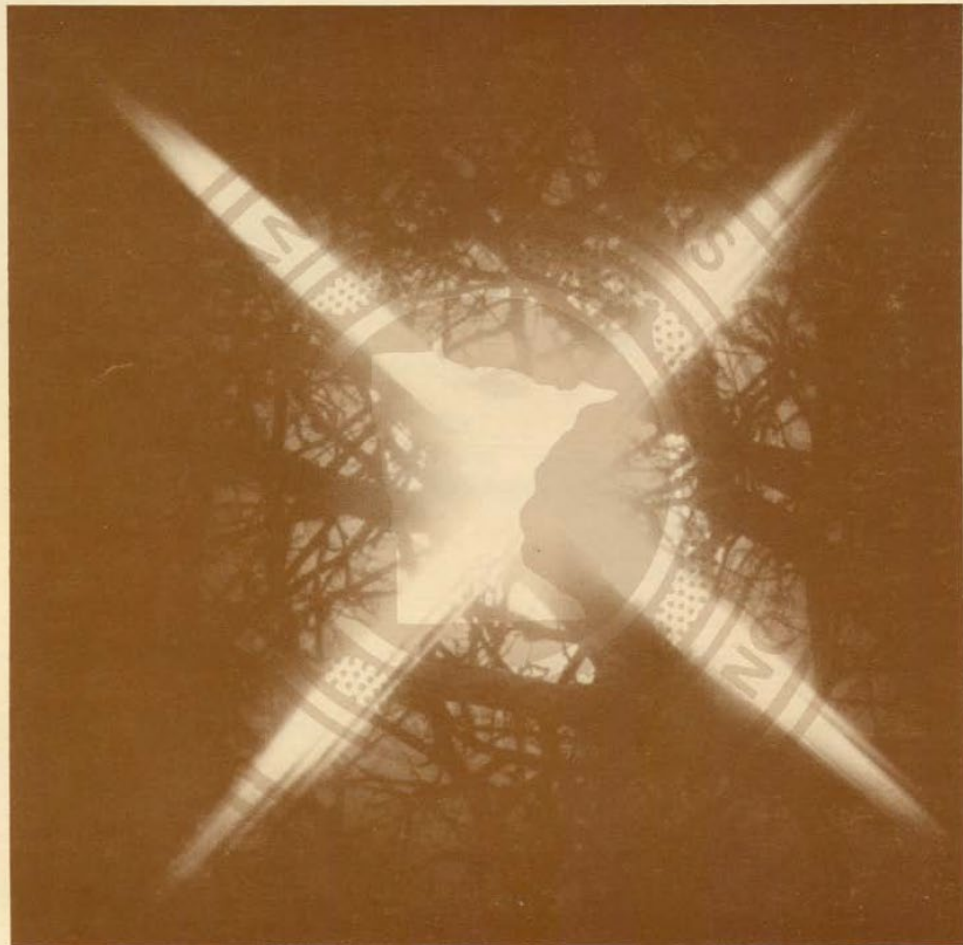
AUGUST 1979

1978-1979 WINNER A.C.S.M. "EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM" AWARD

Discussion ensued relating to administration of State Fair booth and type of handout to be passed out to the public during the Fair. The Arrowhead Chapter was chosen to spearhead this effort and to derive a new 3-color brochure to be handed out relating to remonumentation along with our existing association brochure.



DIS-CLOSURES



MOONLIGHTING

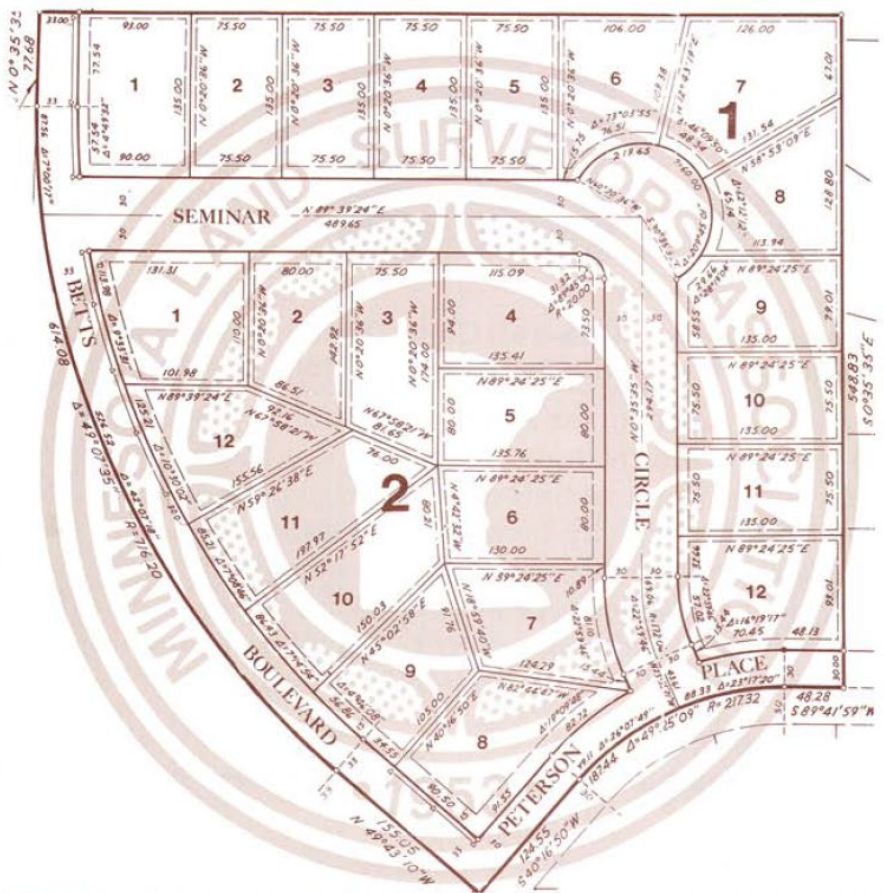
MAY 1980

1978-1979 WINNER A.C.S.M. "EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM" AWARD

It was reported that the remonumentation bill is essentially dead for the session. House of Representatives will try to get some sort of a pilot program started in order to establish the costs involved in a total remonumentation program. The Statute of Limitations bill is again essentially dead for this session.



DIS-CLOSURES



CONVENTION "ADDITION"

FEBRUARY 1981

LET'S BUILD A FIRE

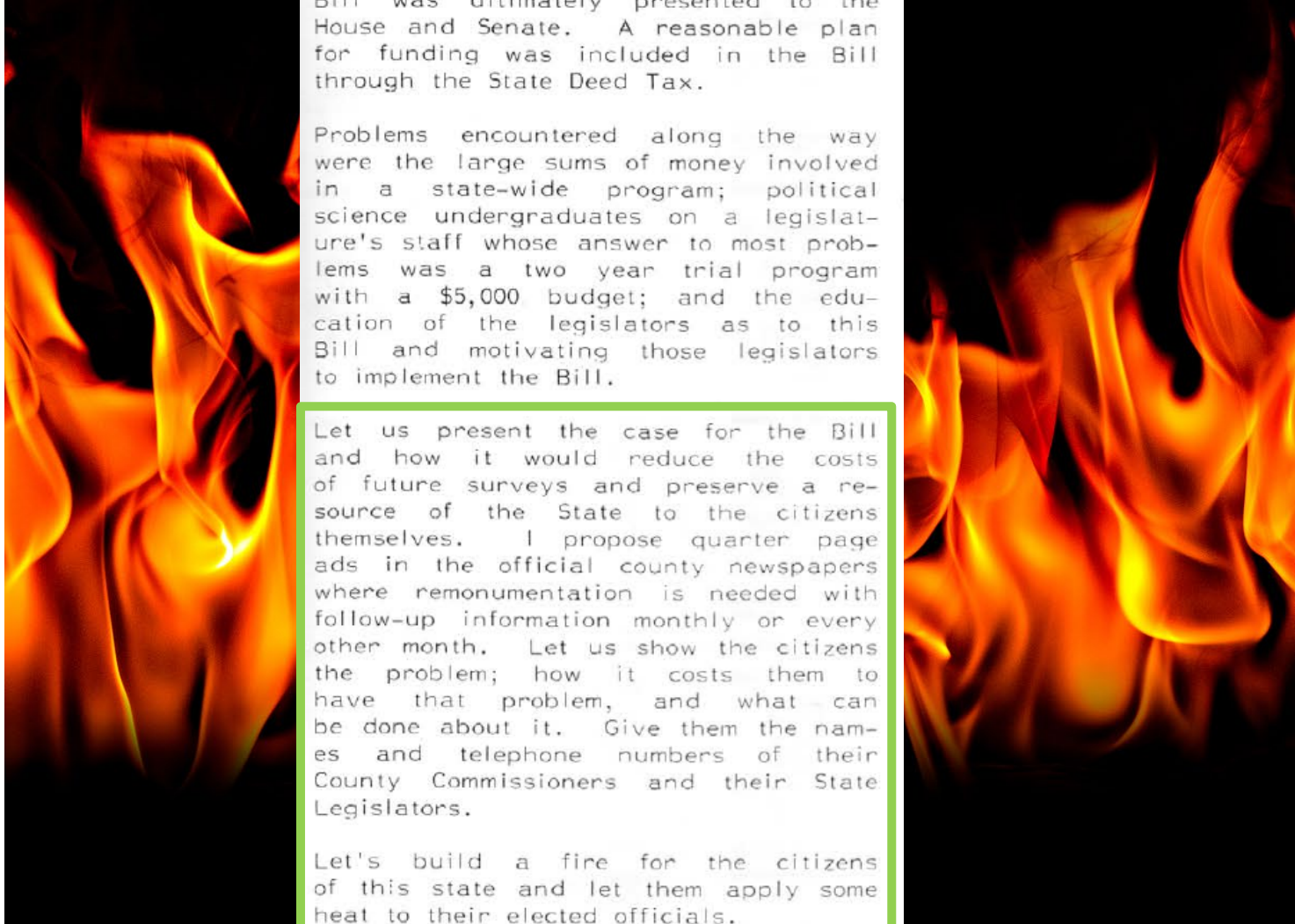
BY RONALD P. MURPHY, R.L.S.

About five years ago, M.L.S.A. began work on a Remonumentation Bill to serve the need for preservation and re-establishment of the Public Land Survey. A great deal of work was done by many M.L.S.A. members and supporters and a Remonumentation Bill was ultimately presented to the House and Senate. A reasonable plan for funding was included in the Bill through the State Deed Tax.

Problems encountered along the way were the large sums of money involved in a state-wide program; political science undergraduates on a legislature's staff whose answer to most problems was a two year trial program with a \$5,000 budget; and the education of the legislators as to this Bill and motivating those legislators to implement the Bill.

Let us present the case for the Bill and how it would reduce the costs of future surveys and preserve a resource of the State to the citizens themselves. I propose quarter page ads in the official county newspapers where remonumentation is needed with follow-up information monthly or every other month. Let us show the citizens the problem; how it costs them to have that problem, and what can be done about it. Give them the names and telephone numbers of their County Commissioners and their State Legislators.

Let's build a fire for the citizens of this state and let them apply some heat to their elected officials.





DIS-CLOSURES



MLSA



1981
CHAPTER
LINES

AUGUST 1981

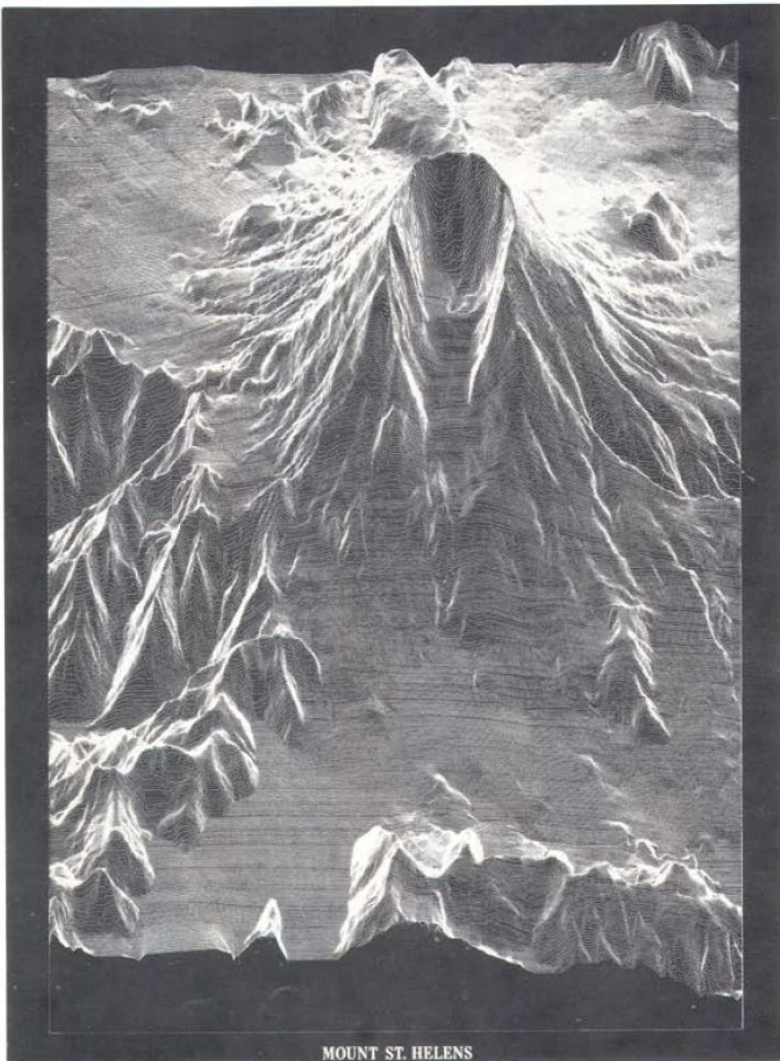
1978-1979 WINNER A.C.S.M. "EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM" AWARD

In my letter in the May issue of Dis-Closures, I made mention of submitting a proposal for a research project on remonumentation to the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources. The proposal was submitted and hearings attended to attempt to secure funding of a research project. Because there were many more requests for funding than could be covered by the funds available, our request was rejected for funding in this biennium. I am suggesting that we stay in contact with the LCMR and attempt to gain reconsideration of this effort two years from now and hopefully get a project funded.

Jim next reported that at the request of the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, he, Dickman Knutson and Tom Taylor testified at a hearing for approval of a grant for a pilot re-monumentation project. The proposal was not granted, Jim felt, due to confusion as to the intended goals.



DIS-CLOSURES



MOUNT ST. HELENS

NOVEMBER, 1981

A MODEST PROPOSAL

by R. P. MURPHY, L.S.

The remonumentation program put forward by MLSA has struck a firm, five year snag: the state legislature. Those long hours we spent gathering data and making presentations seem somehow lost today. Our efforts to have the state fund maintenance of the public land survey system it delegated to the individual counties has been rejected by the legislature where it hasn't just been ignored.

What we've done so far isn't working; what more can we do? Let's strike. LET'S WHAT??? Put the tranquilizers back in your desk. There's strikes and strikes.

Why can't we organize a half day sometime when the legislature is in session where registered land surveyors from all over Minnesota come down to the capitol and demonstrate for

remonumentation on the capitol grounds. If just the registered surveyors demonstrate, there is no terrible economic burden on the firms, especially if its just for a day. The demonstration would be brought to the attention of the press, and we could have signs stating what area the surveyor is from and who his legislators are, calling attention to the lack of help the legislature has offered. One hundred land surveyors with theodolites, transits and EDM's set up around the capitol would be an impressive sight indeed.

If we could clearly show the waste and expense caused by the lack of monumentation in the state, we could further our cause and put pressure on the legislature to provide some funding for this program.

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation



by Roger Brand, L.S.

The County Surveyors in Minnesota are now organized and have formed the Minnesota Association of County Surveyors called 'MACS' as of June 24, 1983. The purposes and goals of this Association are a part of the Constitution and By-Laws and are as follows:

PURPOSES AND GOALS

1. To promote public awareness of the County Surveyor's Office and the public land survey system.
2. To promote uniformity in keeping records current of all surveys, plats, and field notes.
3. To promote a County Surveyor's office in every Minnesota County, either elected or appointed.
4. To provide standards for re-monumentation and maintenance of the Public Land

Survey Systems in order to protect and preserve the property rights of the public.

5. To provide the citizens of the counties a source of advice on surveying and mapping.
6. To keep County Surveyors abreast of pending legislation affecting surveyors and to propose legislation if necessary.
7. To promote a medium for the exchange of information between County Surveyor's offices.
8. To promote effective operation of the County Surveyor's offices.
9. To keep abreast of the developments in a cadastral system.

One of the primary goals as I see it, would be to help promote Statewide Remonumentation through the Remonumentation bill as it was re-introduced in the

State Legislature in March 1983 by State Representative Virgil Johnson, Caledonia, Houston County. Virgil Johnson was a County Commissioner for many years before being elected as a State Representative in 1982. He liked and supported the original bill while a County Commissioner and felt that the State, in the rural areas especially, needed this bill to commence remonumentation programs. In prior years, while MLSA promoted and pushed for passage of the remonumentation bill, surveyors were accused of special interests and this made support of the bill difficult. MACS as a group of County officials seeking what is best for the counties they represent should not be faced with this type of accusation and can therefore promote and support the bill which we plan to do.

Continued on page 37

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- MACS was unable to garner support for remonumentation legislation
- Focus efforts on establishing county surveyors in areas that do not have them
 - 1975 - 11 full time, 37 part time, 39 none
 - 2022 - 27 full time, 38 part time, 22 none
- Updating 381.12 and other statutory updates
- Not much new legislation

CHAINING PIN CHARLIE



4/21/76

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- 2017 MACS compiled an inventory of PLSS corners in Minnesota

COUNTY	Population (2010)	Area (Sq. Miles) Wikipedia	Density (people per square mile)	Number of computed Townships	Appointed, #Elected or *Contracted Surveyor	Number of Town- ships	Number of PLS Corners	Number of Certified PLS Corners	Percent age
Stearns	150,642	1,345	112.0	37	Scott Marlin	38.0	5100	4890	96%
Steele	36,576	430	85.1	12	#John Hosfield	12.0	1390	1184	85%
Stevens	9,726	562	17.3	16	Brad Nyberg	16.0	2021	320	16%
Swift	9,783	744	13.1	21		21.0	2524	533	21%
Todd	24,895	942	26.4	26	Mark Jahner	28.0	3352	1637	49%
Traverse	3,558	574	6.2	16		19.0	1823	244	13%
Wabasha	21,676	525	41.3	15	Marcus Johnson	17.0	1730	1569	91%
Wadena	13,843	535	25.9	15	George Coulombe	16.0	1993	617	31%
Waseca	19,136	423	45.2	12	Mike Eichers	12.0	1440	150	10%
Washington	238,136	392	607.5	11	Michael Welling	11.0	1525	1109	73%
Watonwan	11,211	435	25.8	12	Ben Madsen	12.0	1368	1176	86%
Wilkin	6,576	751	8.8	21		21.0	2561	2029	79%
Winona	51,461	626	82.2	17	Brian Wodele	17.0	2009	1716	85%
Wright	124,700	661	188.7	18	Steven Jobe	18.0	2550	2550	100%
Yellow Medicine	10,438	758	13.8	21		21.0	2468	812	33%
Total Count	87	87			69	87.0	87	87	
Total	5,304,497	79626		2,212		2348.9	307230	148488	48.33%

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

1970's

23% of PLSS monuments had known position

50% of PLSS monuments had known position or records of unknown value

28 Counties are 25% or less complete

48 Counties are 50% or less complete

Current

48% of PLSS monuments have known positions (Certified)

No corresponding estimate, no longer the standard of care, but I would argue that the 48% certified is comparable

16 Counties are 25% or less complete

41 Counties are 50% or less complete

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

1970's - St. Louis County:

75% of PLSS monuments had known position or records of unknown value

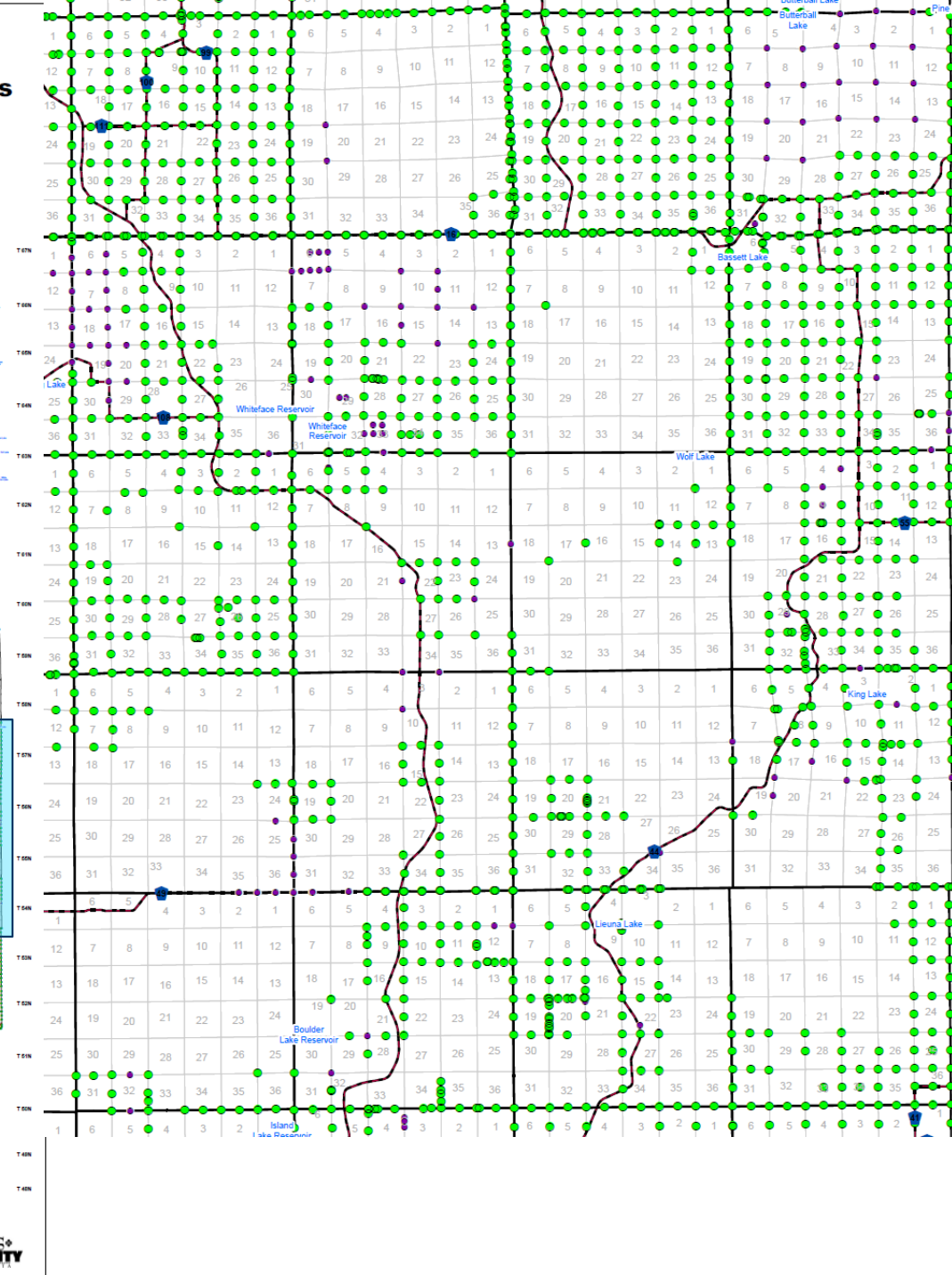
(This was an inflated estimate. Currently 15% of SLC corners are in the BWCA or Voyageurs)

50% of PLSS monuments had known position

Current

65% of PLSS monuments had known position or records of unknown value (Estimate Only)

49% of PLSS monuments have known positions (Certified)

[illegible]

T 53N

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- 2017 The Geospatial Advisory Council started to explore the need to align geospatial boundary data

Working with Stakeholders to Update and Align Boundary Data in Minnesota

Project Summary

Overview

MnGeo is leading an effort to define a stakeholder-supported process with the intent to update and align Minnesota's statewide geospatial boundary datasets, informed by authoritative data. These statewide datasets include the foundational Public Land Survey System (PLSS) boundaries and other data layers, many with boundaries concurrent with the PLSS. Aside from the City, Township and Unorganized Territory (CTU) dataset maintained by MnDOT, no state entity has the responsibility to develop or maintain statewide boundary data. Consequently, existing data layers were developed at different times, by different agencies, for different purposes, and with differences in resolution, and accuracy. As a result, other government and tribal entities are developing improved data to more accurately represent an area of interest or project. MnGeo recognizes an opportunity to partner with authoritative data producers on a process to continuously acquire and integrate more current, accurate and authoritative data into the body of statewide boundary layers.

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- A couple surveyors volunteer to be on the Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) to ensure that surveyors voices are heard when it comes to alignment of the PLSS.
- PLSS cannot be “aligned” to other data
- Other data is adjusted and aligned to the PLSS

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- 2019 MACS applies to the LCCMR to complete a pilot remonumentation project
 - Received support from the GAC
 - Part of LCCMR justification was that it would improve foundational geospatial data
- https://www.lccmr.mn.gov/projects/2019/work_plans_june/2019_03m.pdf
- I. PROJECT STATEMENT: The Minnesota Association of County Surveyors (MACS) has compiled the number of Public Land Survey (PLS) corners and the number of certified PLS corners in each county. Minnesota has over 300,000 corners in the state and less than half of them have been remonumented and certified. Many of those certified corners do not have GPS coordinates. MACS goal is to reset all these corners and certify them with GPS coordinates for a state wide PLS layer. This proposal is for a Pilot Project. Grant County and the MACS PLS Committee are working on a pilot project in Grant County to remonument an entire township. There are 137 PLS Corners in Lawrence Township (T130N R44W) which is in the NW corner of Grant County.

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- Every year, the GAC goes through process to prioritize projects
 - Solicit input from geospatial community and identify who/how to get it done
- In 2017 “Updated and aligned boundary data” was not on the list
- In 2018 “Updated and aligned boundary data” was number 8 of 14
- In 2019, 2020 “Updated and aligned boundary data” was number 2 of 14
- In 2021, 2022 “Updated and aligned boundary data” was 2 of 15
- In 2021,2022 “Remonumentation of all section corners in the State” is number 13/15

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- Updated and aligned boundary data REQUIRES accurate geodetic location of section corners
- Surveyors on the GAC have been advocating updates to the PLSS will support foundational geospatial data
- Parcel and Land Records Committee on the GAC is identified as the best fit for trying to push these initiative forward
- Surveyors on the GAC serve on this committee and start to develop a legislative proposal

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- Remonumentation Subcommittee 1st meeting October 4, 2021
 - Started research on how other states have enabled remonumentation legislation
 - 12 States had program
 - Reviewed numerous states program and decided to mirror Michigan
 - Statutes clearly laid out governance
 - Created commission to oversee fund and grant program
 - Counties required to submit a County Plan for remonumentation
- Initial goal was to have legislation ready for 2023-2024 Biennium

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- Identified PLSS stakeholders and build a website
- <https://mnplss-umn.hub.arcgis.com/>
- Created messaging around the importance of remonumentation

Preserving The Public Land Survey System

Ensuring that Minnesota's Public Land Survey System (PLSS) Monuments are available for everyone

Public Land Survey System Monuments are essential for all property descriptions, location of infrastructure, and are the basis for accurate digital geospatial data.

The original Public Land Survey in Minnesota was completed in the early 1900's. After that time, the maintenance of the system was left to local landowners and governmental units. Unfortunately, many of the monuments were quickly destroyed.

A statewide restoration and preservation program of the PLSS will benefit every Minnesotan.

These benefits include:

- **Creates secure land records for future generations** - the combination of PLSS records publicly available and the physical monuments in the ground mean that future land and economic development will be assisted with easily-attainable land records that can be verified in the field.
- **Surveys are more accurate** - Future surveys are more accurate and cost effective with certified PLSS monuments.
- **GIS data is more accurate** - Governmental and private entities can rely on certified PLSS locations making digital data more accurate. Decisions based on that data are more informed.

Learn why this is important to you

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- Developed a business case (more detailed report on the needs, benefits and plan for remonumentation)
- Developed a 1 page summary
- Developed a short PowerPoint that can be modified for individual interest groups when looking for support.
- Started getting support from multiple entities

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- Started getting support from multiple entities
- AMC Legislative Priority
- Letters of Support
 - <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1Bms-2Yd7J1k7Oy5BDM2t3cWLKMsPoRPF>



Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- Decided to develop proposed legislation for 2022 session
 - Wanted to set a deadline to keep momentum
 - Projected surplus
 - Realized it would be a multiyear effort, so why not start now?

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- Finalized proposed legislation
 - Created a commission to oversee a grant program coordinated by MnGEO
 - Grant would be given to counties based on criteria including:
 - County Plan for remonumentation
 - Corner certificates with geodetic positions to be recorded/filed
 - Monument maintenance plan
 - Oversight by a County Surveyor or other Licensed Surveyor appointed by the County Board
 - Voluntary
 - Funded through the general fund at \$10 million per year

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- Submitted to Senator Ann Johnson Stewart
 - Senator Stewart is an engineer and former teacher at UMN
 - Sees the need for surveyors and the importance of remonumentation
- She submitted the proposed legislation to the Revisor and the fun begins!

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- Revisor says “Why so complicated? Make it a simple grant program.”
 - Easier to digest and understand
 - Legislators are reluctant to start new commissions
- Presented to committee and decided to go this route
 - Modified to ensure:
 - Participation of the GAC
 - MN Licensed Surveyors must be involved in the grant program development
 - Remonumentation in accordance with MN Statute 381.12

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- Senator Johnson Stewart introduces the bill On March 16 (SF 4037)
 - Referred to State Government Finance and Policy and Elections Committee
 - Senator Bakk added as author on March 23
 - Remonumentation Committee starts push to get supporters to contact their legislators
- Representative Anderson introduces the bill On March 21 (HF 4037)
 - Referred to State Government Finance and Elections Committee

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- Important Dates:
 - March 25: Committees to act favorably on bills in the house of origin
 - April 1: Committees to act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, that met the first deadline in the other house.
- So we have 1 week to get this heard to keep it moving
 - Its pretty late in the session, so chances are slim

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- House committee scheduled the bill for a hearing on April 1
 - So you're saying there's a chance!
- 7:00 AM March 28, Remonumentation Committee starts to line up people to testify
- By 11:30 AM the bill is pulled from the agenda

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- So what happened?
- House Committee chair was informed that Senate would not hear the bill
- Senator Kiffmeyer (Chair of Senate Committee) liked the bill, but thought it was too big to fund this year. Thought odds of funding next year would be improved if a commission was created to address/advise on the problem of restoring the PLSS Monuments. Is willing to add commission to the omnibus bill.
 - So back to the drawing board

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- As of April 27, 2022, this is the language in the senate omnibus bill SF 3975. Similar language in HF 4831

Sec. 56. PUBLIC LAND SURVEY MONUMENT RESTORATION.

The chief geospatial information officer must submit a report by January 1, 2023, to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees in the house of representatives and the senate with jurisdiction over local government detailing the status of the monuments that mark public land survey corners, the work needed by each county to restore missing or mislocated monuments so that all public land survey corners are documented and marked with monuments, and the estimated costs for each county to complete the work. The report must describe the state's interest in the restoration of missing or mislocated monuments; propose a schedule for state funding, if warranted, for grants to counties to complete the work; whether the county has used or plans to use taxing authority in Minnesota Statutes, section 381.12, subdivision 2, to defray the expenses for the work; identify federal money that may be available for this work; or propose another manner of funding the work.

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- Much of this information is already compiled
 - Business Case
 - PLSS Inventory
 - PLSS website
 - 1978 Report

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

1970's

Start in 1974

1975 Compiled Corner inventory

1976 Committee to address remonumentation

1977 Initial bill introduced with "State Authority"

1977 Bill held over for study

1977 Bill revised to "County Authority"

1977 Create a promo film and exhibit at state fair

1978 Report developed by legislature

1978 Bill resubmitted, support solicited

1980 Bill dead in session, possibility of pilot program

Recession

Current

Start in 2017

2017 Compiled Corner Inventory

2017 GAC Boundary Alignment, surveyor involvement

2019 Grant County Pilot Project

2021 Exhibit at State Fair

2021 Remonumentation becomes GAC Priority, Committee started

2021 Solicit support from other organizations

2022 Introduce legislation

2022 Modified to require a report to justify legislation

2022 Develop promotional video

2022 Inflation/Recession/War???

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- Lessons learned
 - Can never be too prepared, but don't get stuck preparing
 - Build a wide base of supporters
 - Understand why your supporters support it, it may be for different reasons than yours
 - Make friends with your elected officials
 - Get it to the Revisor ASAP, even if it has warts
 - Get the bill introduced early
 - Talk it up! Sell it early, sell it often, but take off your surveyors hat!
 - Stay focused

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

- 2023 Legislation
 - \$10 Million per year for 4 years
 - More palatable to current congresspeople
 - \$1 Million per year for counties to hire technical staff (4 year timeline)
 - All other elements remain the same
 - Grant Program for Remonunmentation overseen by Chief Geospatial Information Officer and GAC
 - Work with Surveyors to develop program
 - Prioritize areas of need

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 381.12, subdivision 2, is amended to read: Subd. 2. Expense, tax levy. The county board of any county may levy a tax upon all the taxable property in the county for the purpose of defraying the expense incurred, or to be incurred, less any amount received from the public system monument grant program under section 381.125, for: (1) the preservation and restoration of monuments under this section; (2) the preservation or establishment of control monuments for mapping activities; (3) the modernization of county land records through the use of parcel-based land management systems; or (4) the establishment of geographic (GIS), land (LIS), management (MIS) information systems.

Sec. 2. [381.125] PUBLIC LAND SURVEY SYSTEM MONUMENT GRANT

PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. Grant program. The chief geospatial information officer, through the Geospatial Advisory Council established under section 16E.30, subdivision 8, shall work with the stakeholders licensed as land surveyors under section 326.02, to develop a process for accepting applications from counties for funding for the perpetuation of monuments established by the United States in the public lands survey to mark public land survey corners, as provided in section 381.12, subdivision 2, clause (1). Grants may also be used to update records and data regarding monuments. The chief geospatial information officer must establish criteria for prioritizing applicants when resources available for grants are not sufficient to award grants to all applicants. The criteria must favor providing grants to counties that demonstrate financial need for assistance.

Subd. 2. Report. By October 1, in each odd-numbered year, the chief information officer must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees in the senate and the house of representatives with jurisdiction over state government and local government. The report must include the following: (1) a summary of the chief information officer activities regarding administration of this grant program for the previous fiscal year, including the amount of money requested and disbursed by county; (2) an assessment of the progress toward completion of necessary monument restoration and certification by county; and (3) a forecast of the amount needed to complete monument recertification in all counties.

Subd. 3. Nonstate match. No nonstate match is required for grants made under this program.

Sec. 3. APPROPRIATION.

(a) \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 is appropriated from the general fund to the chief information officer for the grant program under section 381.125. Up to four percent of this appropriation may be used by the chief geospatial information officer for administration of this program. The base for this appropriation in fiscal years 2025 through 2027 is \$10,000,000. The base for this appropriation in fiscal year 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter is \$0.

(b) \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 is appropriated from the general fund to the chief information officer for grants to counties to employ county technical staff to aid surveyors marking public land survey corners. The base for this appropriation in fiscal years 2025 through 2027 is \$1,000,000. The base for this appropriation in fiscal year 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter is \$0.

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

What can you do?

- Contact your local Senators and Representatives
 - Request meetings and a committee member will be happy to come meet with you and your congressperson
 - Legislators respond more favorably to local constituents
- Help with outreach
 - Hopefully doing zoom style educational sessions this fall
 - Meet me at the Corner
- Reach out to other organizations and solicit Letters of Support
- Template Letter of Support can be found on
 - <https://mnplss-umn.hub.arcgis.com/>



LET'S BUILD A FIRE

BY RONALD P. MURPHY, R.L.S.

About five years ago, M.L.S.A. began work on a Remonumentation Bill to serve the need for preservation and re-establishment of the Public Land Survey. A great deal of work was done by many M.L.S.A. members and supporters and a Remonumentation Bill was ultimately presented to the House and Senate. A reasonable plan for funding was included in the Bill through the State Deed Tax.

Problems encountered along the way were the large sums of money involved in a state-wide program; political science undergraduates on a legislature's staff whose answer to most problems was a two year trial program with a \$5,000 budget; and the education of the legislators as to this Bill and motivating those legislators to implement the Bill.

Let us present the case for the Bill and how it would reduce the costs of future surveys and preserve a resource of the State to the citizens themselves. I propose quarter page ads in the official county newspapers where remonumentation is needed with follow-up information monthly or every other month. Let us show the citizens the problem; how it costs them to have that problem, and what can be done about it. Give them the names and telephone numbers of their County Commissioners and their State Legislators.

Let's build a fire for the citizens of this state and let them apply some heat to their elected officials.

Evolution of the MN PLSS Remonumentation Legislation

