

Notes: PLSS Preservation Committee

Attendees: (18) Kory Thurnau(MNIT); Curt Carlson(MNIT); Ryan Stovern(St Louis Co.); Emilia Holstine(Fond du Lac); Jared Baloun(Jackson Co.); Ben Madsen(Private Surveyor); Chris Mavis(Hennepin Co.); Preston Dowell(St. Louis Co.); Christy Christensen (McCleod Co); Doug Hansen (Mille Lacs Co.); Brian Praske(Carver Co.); Pat Veraguth(Douglas Co.); Mary Jean Becker(Kooching Co.); Phil Raines(MSPS); Sally Wakefield(MNIT); Sarah Green (Pope Co.); Alison Slaats(MNIT); Jennifer Tworzyanski (ADM)

Overview of County Project Progress

- \$4,548,336 in project expenses to date
- \$3,852,800 in reimbursement requests processed
- Average percentage complete as reported by the counties was 52%
- Percentage complete based on total expenses to date was 50%
- Projects are reported as on schedule
- Kory has not heard of any blown budgets to date
- Cook County still has not been able to move forward with their grant project
 - o Kory will be meeting with them again in August to discuss paths forward
- June progress report is due August 1, 2025
- Many counties are filing corner certificates
- Kory will be continuing to review certs and conduct random site visits

PLSS Legislative Subcommittee Report

- Current subcommittee discussions with County Recorders and other County Officers about raising the [State Deed Tax \(SDT\) and Mortgage Registry Tax \(MRT\)](#)
- Deed Tax is based on the price paid for Minnesota real property. (Current rate is 0.0033)
- Mortgage Registry Tax is based on the amount of debt being secured by Minnesota real property. (Current Rate is 0.0023)
 - o **Currently 97% goes to the State General Fund and 3% stays with the County**
- Proposal is a 0.0001 increase to permanently funding 381.125
 - o no reduction to the county 3% is proposed
 - o \$'s generated by the increase would be available to counties through the PLSS Monument Grant Program

How will future funds be distributed?

1. The GIO will work with the [GAC PLSS Preservation Committee](#) to develop grant criteria and funding priorities according to [Minn. Stat. 381.125](#)

- Discussion included:
 - Committee has mixed opinions about providing funding to all counties
 - What if a county is 100% (or mostly) remonumented already
 - Already has a county surveyor and staff
 - Giving funding to all counties will likely delay statewide remonumentation effort
 - Funds can only be used to restore or maintain the PLSS according to 381.125
 - Co Surveyor position (part-time or full) would support this work
 - Provide consistent direction and maintenance of the PLSS
 - Available for consultation; maybe particularly in areas that have not been restored yet
 - A sustainable amount to all counties may help them plan for future PLSS Remon Projects
 - Develop a general plan structure (silhouette) **NOT** fine details (guts)

Next Meeting August 18, 2025

- **General Criteria & Priority Plan Development**
- **How will the GIO distribute annual PLSS aid to counties?**
 - What needs to be adjusted?
 - Lessons learned from last RFP
 - Priority ranking adjustments
 - Grant Administration Lessons learned
 - Streamline
 - Workplans
 - Reporting
 - Reimbursements
 - How would annual funding impact grant administration?
 - Kory will map out grant timeline scenarios
 - RFP
 - Applications & Review
 - Award (agreements)
 - Execute/ complete (counties)
 - Close/complete (state)