

Notes: PLSS Preservation Committee

Date: 08/18/2025

10 am – 11:30 am

Attendees: (14) 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); Brian Praske(Carver Co.); Mary Jean Becker(Koochiching Co.); Alison Slaats(MNIT); Pete Jenkins (MnDOT Retired), David Zieglmeier (Anoka Co.)

○ Overview of County Project Progress

- \$5.3 Million in project expenses to date (as reported by the counties)
- Processed \$4.7 Million in reimbursements (51.6%)
 - i. Not all counties have requested reimbursements for expenses incurred
- On average the completion percentage is 64.7% (as reported by the counties)
- May have a surveyor to help complete Cook Co project

○ How will future funds be distributed?

• General Criteria & Priority Plan Development

- Review [2024 PLSS Monument Grant RFP](#)
- Reviewed prior RFP and highlighted lessons learned and recommended changes
- Some changes would be needed dependent on funding and or Office of Grants Management (OGM) policy changes
 - **Group suggestions included:**
 - Require a submitted county PLSS plan during application for funding and for Type I
 - Adding a link to MnDOT's Digging/ excavation guide
 - Have counties give a detail of their "cost per corner"
 - Lowest and highest corner cost
 - Project average "cost per corner"
 - This could help with pass/ fail of project evaluation

• How will the GIO distribute annual PLSS aid to counties?

- What needs to be adjusted?

- Lessons learned from last RFP
- We did not get much time to dedicate to this discussion yet, but some lingered longer and gave some thoughts and ideas:
 - Activity/ development activity
 - Population density consideration
 - “rolling prioritization”; if awarded one year then that county is lower the following
 - Quantify Deed and Mortgage filings; would this distribute funds or work in more rural, non-metro counties

Next

- Next Meeting 09/15/2025

Topic will be “Distribution Model”

- See comments above
- Zone Distribution?
- Max Award Based on PLSS Status (tiered award)?
 - Counties with PLSS Certified Status of 85-100% are eligible for a \$50k grants
 - 25 counties x \$50k= \$1,250,000
 - Counties with PLSS Certified Status of 50-85% are eligible for \$80k grants
 - 22 counties x \$80k=\$1,760,000
 - Counties with PLSS Certified Status below 50% are eligible for \$125k grants
 - 40 counties x \$125k=\$5,000,000
- 87 Counties Total= \$8 Million +/-
- Consider Mavis Weighted Ranking
 - Corner cert ranks
 - Include 100% of coord certs
 - Include 25% of none coord certs (this percentage was a random pick)
 - A formula example: $1000/((D2/1000000)*((E2+(F2*0.25))/G2))$
 - Sort and rank those lowest to highest (1-62)
 - Total Rev Ranking
 - Calc the median total rev of the submitter list (in this case \$37,069,678)

- For each county calc how far under or over their rev is compared to the median (like Traverse's is \$23M under the median and Carlton is \$33M over)
 - Example: D2-37069678
 - Sort and rank those lowest to highest
- Average the two ranks for a final score and sort lowest to highest