

Notes: PLSS Preservation Committee

Date: 09/15/2025

10 am – 11:06 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); Mary Jean Becker(Koochiching Co.); Pat Veraguth (Douglas County); Pete Jenkins (MnDOT Retired), David Zieglmeier (Anoka Co.); Phil Raines (MSPS/ Prevailing Wisdom)

○ 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)
- Cook Co's grant agreement was extended to June 2027 and they are finalizing a contract with a new surveyor

○ PLSS Legislative Subcommittee Update

- Phil has met with [Minnesota Inter-County Association](#) Engineers Committee- positive support
- Phil will be meeting with the MN Realtors Association Tuesday- unknown/possible resistance
- Several willing authors for legislation
- Pat also doing some outreach to garner support as well

○ How will future funds be distributed?

- Some discussion about fund distribution and spending where there is more economic activity/ development
 - Highlighted that the GAC Priority/ Goal is: "Remonumentation of all original federal Section Corners - Remonumentation of all original Minnesota section corners set by the national General Land Office."
 - This is not happening in rural MN without state funding distribution

● ~~Zone Distribution?~~

Not discussed at length; most interest/ discussion was about Tiered Award below:

- **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 +/-

Dowell modified tiered proposal based on needed funding to complete PLSS restoration:

Rank all counties based on funding needed (1 being highest and 87 being lowest)

Counties 1-40 – Each county is eligible for 1.575% of total funding available

Counties 41-62 – Each county is eligible for 1.000% of total funding available

Counties 63-87 – Each County is eligible for 0.600% of total funding available

*All counties are eligible for a minimum of 1 grant per year. If not all funding is expended, Counties will be eligible for 1 additional grant, award based on ranking, until all monies are expended.

Example, if funding is equivalent to \$8,000,000

Counties 1-40 – Each county is eligible for \$126,000

Counties 41-62 – Each county is eligible for \$80,000

Counties 63-87 – Each County is eligible for \$48,000

? Funding Need = (# of PLSS Corners needing restorations) X (State Average Cost \$/Corner) ?

- [Consider Mavis Weighted Ranking](#)

Raced through this ranking strategy at the end of the meeting.
No strong opinions given one way or another

Action Items

- **Next Meeting 010/27/2025 @ 1000**

- Kory will draft a few spreadsheet examples of tiered award schemes
- MMATC event a GIS LIS October 1

<https://www.mngislis.org/event/meet-me-at-the-corner-2025>