

Notes: PLSS Preservation Committee

Date: 10/27/2025

9:50 am – 11:12 am

Attendees: (12) Kory Thurnau (MNIT); Jared Baloun (Jackson Co.); Ben Madsen (Private Surveyor); Chris Mavis (Hennepin Co.); Christy Christensen (McCleod Co); Brian Praske (Carver Co.); Mary Jean Becker (Koochiching Co.); Alison Slaats (MNIT); Jenniefer Tworzyanski (ADM), Patrick Veraguth (Douglas Co.), David Sieberg (Blue Earth Co.), Philip Raines (MSPS Lobbyist)

Legislative & Outreach Updates

- **Philip Raines** noted limited legislative activity due to upcoming elections. A shift in House majority is expected.
- **Ann Johnson Stewart** is expected to bring the PLSS proposal to the Revisor's Office but is currently focused on higher education funding.
- **Pat Veraguth** plans to cancel the next legislative committee meeting due to lack of new agenda items.
- **Chris Mavis** shared concerns from Hennepin County about potential conflicts with the Environmental Fund and other groups targeting recorder funds.

PLSS Point Data Standard

- The **PLSS Point Data Standard** has been reviewed by the GAC Standards Committee and will be released for public comment.
- The standard focuses on **surveyed corners** and aims to support counties without existing PLSS databases.
- **Alison Slaats** clarified that GAC standards are more like **transfer standards**, not mandates for counties to store data in a specific format.
- **Jared B. and Christy Christensen** suggested requiring grant recipients to submit data in the standard format.
- Discussion emphasized balancing **data standardization** with **corner restoration priorities**.
- Counties like **Douglas, Grant, and St. Louis** are at various stages of implementing the standard.
- Concerns were raised about the effort required to convert existing datasets, especially in larger counties.

Grant Project Updates

- **Quarterly reports** are due November 14.
- **Cook County** is finalizing a contract with a surveyor; extension granted through June 2027.
- **Wadena County** completed more work than expected and will use leftover funds for 24 additional corners.
- **Roseau County** is submitting a modified plan due to unexpected issues.
- **Pat Veraguth** may discuss timeline/ work in Grant County depending on remaining funds.

Funding Strategy & Budgeting Discussion

- Kory presented a **tiered funding model** based on county need:
 - **\$120,000** for counties with <60% certified corners.
 - **\$80,000** for 60–85% certified.
 - **\$50,000** for >85% certified (maintenance grants).
- Based on 2024 RFP data, the **average cost per corner** is estimated at **\$1,500**.
- Estimated **total statewide restoration cost**: ~\$226 million.
 - This is based on apply the \$1500/ corner average
 - Other estimates are more in line with the \$350 million total cost
- Discussion included:
 - Adjusting for wilderness areas and other areas with significant public lands in primarily northern counties.
 - Ensuring fairness and alignment with statute requirements.
 - Potential for annual updates and reallocation based on participation.

Key Takeaways

- The committee supports a **simple, transparent, and equitable funding model**.
- Emphasis on **starting somewhere** and adjusting as more data and funding become available.

- Recognition that **progress will be incremental**, but consistent funding and participation will drive long-term success.
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Action Items

- Kory to follow up on:
 - Public comment period timeline for the PLSS standard.
 - Min. 60 day to Max. 90 day Public Review Period
 - [GAC Standards Committee](#)
 - [Process for GAC Standard Approval](#)
- Committee members encouraged to review shared spreadsheets and provide feedback.
- Counties to submit quarterly reports by **November 14**.
- **Next Committee Meeting December 15, 2025 at 10 a.m.**