

SHARON A. MARTIN REGISTER OF DEEDS

432 E. Washington St, Room 2084, West Bend, WI 53095-7986
Phone: 262-306-2225 Fax: 262-335-4884
sharon.martin@co.washington.wi.us

President's Council

Cabela's, One Cabela Way, Richfield WI 53076
Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 10:00 am - Room: Superior Room (upstairs),

Call to order

Sharon Martin called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

Attendees

WRDA – Sharon Martin, President (Washington); Rose Ottumwa, 1st vice (Trempealeau)
WRPLA –Jeremiah Erickson, President (Monroe); Brian Braithwaite, Past President (Washington)
State Cartographer's Office (SCO)– Jim Lacy
WSLS – Frank Thousand, Exec Director; John Casucci, President
WLIA – Jodi Helgeson, President (Adams); Kristin Pearson, President-Elect (Ozaukee)
LION - Terry Diesel (Fond du Lac)
WDOT –Ray Kumapayi

Excused: (WLTA) Sara Lindgren, President; Mike Turney, President-Elect; (WRPLA)Marge Johnson, President-Elect (Lincoln); SCO – Ted Koch; WSLS –Jim Wallen, Pres-Elect; Bret Davis, LION Chair (Juneau); (WDOT) Nathan Czech, Geodetic Surveyor

Introductions

The attendees took turns introducing themselves, who they worked for and the organizations they represented as well as their interest in the meeting.

Background/History

Sharon Martin gave a brief overview and suggested everyone review the history on how the meeting came about, based on the April 2007 minutes. Ms. Martin also suggested the purpose of the Council was to have open communication between groups, keeping the meetings informal and roundtable discussions. No major decisions will be made; only information shared between like organizations. The basis is also to seek out support for legislative issues.

Ms. Martin also suggested some type of historical centralized gathering place be found to keep record of past meetings, making sure the intent of the past records is used informally. Jim Lacy from SCO's office offered to keep the records digitally. Frank Thousand will pass on past information he has kept throughout the years he has been attending Council meetings.

Next Meeting Date

Discussion was held regarding how often and when meetings should be held. Most of the current members are only on the committee for two years (President and President-Elect); everyone felt once a year was sufficient and would hold future meetings in fall because position tended to change in Summer/Fall. It would also provide one last effort if there was pending issues before the next legislative session started in January.

WRPLA will host the next meeting in October 2009 and will notify the rest of the members of a date and location.

Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors (WSLS) (Frank Thousand & John Casucci)

WSLS is having issues with the Wisconsin Historical Society on the notice of Catalog Burial Mounds and Cemeteries. When documents are presented for record, they are vague and many times include bad legals, a 40-acre or no legal description at all. Ms. Helgeson has a personal interest and has worked with Leslie Eisenberg at Wisconsin Burial Sites Preservation office for a while and suggested WSLS contact them.

WSLS is also working on the following issues:

1. Certified Survey Maps – filed or recorded, electronically recorded guidelines, etc
2. Navigable streams and can it divide parcels – AG Opinion says yes but recent Supreme Court decision says no. WSLS would like language in the statutes that actually define what a navigable stream is.
3. Assessor's Plats – owners pay for legal descriptions and boundary disputes to be cleaned up. WSLS looking for suggestions on size of "Private Assessor's Plats" (8 ½ x 11 or 14 or larger), require no more than four lots, filed or recorded.
4. WSLS can provide speakers to any groups – topics include plat maps (Subdivision or Condo), mapping procedures, surveying, etc.
5. Another Supreme Court decision is pending, state the Wisconsin State Bar wants to restrict how the word legal can be used. Property records as well as all statute references include the wording "legal description". Also included is the definition of who can practice law or give legal advice as well as draft property conveyances. The petition number is 07-09.
6. Railroad monumentation has been a hot topic because many areas are turning abandoned railroads into hiking or biking trails, even though at any given point, the railroad can take the property back and turn it into a train rail again. WSLS can help make suggestions on how to monument these trails.

Wisconsin Real Property Listers Association (WRPLA) Jeremiah Erickson & Brian Braithwaite

WRPLA has been working on updating 70.09, which defines a Real Property Lister's duties. They are planning to re-introduce the bill known as SB444 in the last legislative cycle, this coming January. Hearings were held during the last legislative cycle with no public opposition; past resistance was from the WLTA regarding what records are adequate to change the tax rolls and if they need to be recorded in the Register of Deeds office in order to be considered .

WRPLA is also trying to work on establishing consistent guidelines statewide for procedures in their offices but the main problem they run in to is the fact the people holding the position of Real Property Lister are scattered throughout county offices, including Parks & Planning, GIS, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Zoning, stand alone, etc.

WRPLA has recently updated their website and can be found at www.wrpla.org They have also continued to work with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) on the electronic transfer return. Issues they are trying to resolve include the official parcel numbers and comments entered by the Real Property Listers not being viewable by the assessors.

Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office – Jim Lacy

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently completed their NAIP (National Agriculture Imagery Program) flights for Wisconsin. This will result in statewide, 1-meter resolution, color orthophotos. The data are currently available from the USDA Geospatial Data Gateway, and will be available for free from WisconsinView.org near the end of the year. The 2010 Wisconsin Regional Orthophotography Consortium (WROC) is gaining steam. The 2010 projects will be mostly paid for by counties, have a higher resolution than the federal NAIP imagery, and be flown during the spring. The SAGIC (State Agency Geographic Information Coordination) Team is talking about ways to pool together state agency and federal funding to assist with these projects. Contact Jim for more information.

The Wisconsin Geographic Information Coordination Council (WIGICC) recently met for the first time. That group is in their two-year "trial period." It is designed to bring together groups to discuss statewide geospatial issues, and recommend solutions and actions. It is currently a volunteer organization, but the group hopes to become recognized through executive order or legislation after two years. Jim discussed a WIGICC "Network" meeting to be held on October 28th in Appleton, and distributed some handouts.

The SCO is helping the Department of Administration (DOA) to revive the former Wisconsin Land Information Program survey using a new tool called the "GIS Inventory" developed by the National States Geographic

Information Council (NSGIC). The survey has been updated with new questions, in addition to questions that mirror the old survey. It largely consists of questions about policy, data sharing, and framework data layers. Currently, counties must complete the survey in order to be eligible for WLIP funds. So far, all 72 counties have participated. Check with your Land Information Officer for more details, or contact the SCO.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation – Ray Kumapavi

WDOT presented an update on the Height Modernization Program, Wisconsin Continuous operation Reference Stations (WISCORS) (see attachment B). When the project originally started, grants were applied for and received. Grant funding keeps getting less and less. The goal is to have 100 sites up operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, broadcasting GPS corrections in real time. See <https://wiscors.wi.gov/>

Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association (WRDA) – Sharon Martin & Rose Ottum

The Electronic Recording Council Wisconsin (ERCWi) is proposing statutory charges to update language, providing direction for submitters and Registers. The Wisconsin Real Estate Transfer Return implemented by DOR is fully operational in all 72 counties and also allows submitters to send conveyance documents electronically. The eRETR will be mandatory by July 2009.

A total of 41+ counties have their records on-line but the remaining counties are struggling due to low or no funding in the retained fees accounts. Work with the GIS/LIO/RODs to spend money appropriately; the modernizations programs, especially the \$1 internet accounts should be spent on getting records on-line.

WRDA has worked very hard to get as much information on their website as possible. See www.wrdaonline.org. Things work smoothly with the WRDA and it's members because we have worked towards standardizing as many things as possible.

Land Information Officer's Network (LION) – Terry Dietzel

The LIOs are made up of many different people across the state, including, County Planner, Registers, Treasurers, Zoning, Parks & Planning so it's hard to standardize everything. The LIOs are responsible to apply for grant money and monitor the funds.

LION is leading the way to standardize the recording fee to a flat fee throughout WI. County Resolutions have been passed throughout the state, supporting the flat fee to generate more funds back to the County. It was also discussed that retained fees have been drained to support GIS/LIO offices, including salaries. With the slower economy and real estate sales, revenue is way down due to lack of documents being recorded by the Register of Deeds.

Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) – Jodi Helgeson & Cristina Pearson

WLIA is monitoring the Flair Act – the federal government wanted to sell land but didn't know how much or the exact location of what they owned. The Feds are trying to look for revenue to inventory State, Federal and County lands with possible cost sharing.

The Annual WLIA conference is February 18-20 at Kalahari. Fall regional is Oct 16-17 at Heidel House – focus is "Return on Investment, how do different agencies benefit"?

Examples of the work WLIA has done include mapping assistance for wild fires, flooding, tornados, etc.

Wisconsin Land Title Association (WLTA)

No one present from WLTA.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Adjourned the meeting at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Martin, Washington County Register of Deeds (WRDA)