

President's Council

Lincoln County Service Center
801 N. Sales St. – Room 156
Merrill, WI 54452

October 16, 2009

10:00am

Call to order

Marge Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:05am

Attendees

WRDA – Rose Ottum (Trempealeau), President and Lisa Walker, (Columbia) ROD
WRPLA – Marge Johnson (Lincoln), President and Ann Burton (Sauk), President-Elect
WI State Cartographer's Office – Jim Lacy, Assoc. State Cartographer
WLTA – No representative present
WSLS – Frank Thousand, Executive Director, Jim Wallen (Brown), President, and Jim Rein, President-Elect
WCSA – Bruce Bowden, President
WLIA – Kelly Felton (Sauk), President Elect
LION – Terry Dietzel, (Fond du Lac)
WDOT – Glen Schaefer, Geodetic Engineer

Other Guests present: Brian Braithwaite (Washington), Chair WRPLA Legislative Committee, Bruce Bowden, WI County Surveyor Assn.

Introductions

Everyone present introduced themselves, the organization they represented and their position with that organization.

WRDA (Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association)

Register of Deeds Clean-up Bill

The proposed changes outlined in AB 292/SB 206 are fairly insignificant and pose no financial impact to our customers and constituents. Basically, SB 206 provides needed "clean-up" language relating to real estate documents along with some minor changes to correct out dated statutory language.

Margin requirements

Current statute dictates margin requirements for all four sides of the first page of each document and the top margin of subsequent pages. This bill clarifies the side and bottom margins of each additional page of a document are at least 0.25 inches which is the current requirement for the first page.

Conveyances of Mineral Rights

Directs the register of deeds to record all conveyances of mineral interest in the index maintained in 59.43(9) which is the official index for all other conveyance documents. This measure would eliminate the requirement to maintain a separate index.

Conveyances – Failure to Conform

This bill provides that any document recorded electronically is properly indexed in a public index maintained by the register of deeds and shall be considered recorded even if the electronic document does not satisfy all of the requirements set forth in the statutes for recording. A similar provision in s. 59.43 applies to paper documents.

Authority to reject entire group of related documents

This bill gives the register of deeds the authority to reject batches of related documents that are sent electronically. This is current practice today with documents sent by mail or submitted in person. This practice keeps related documents, all of which need to be recorded together, together. Without clear statutory authority to reject documents, the register is liable and the best interests of the submitter are in jeopardy.

Declaration of Trust and Amendments

Ties the fee to purchase a copy of a declaration of trust and amendment of a declaration of trust to the fees set in s. 59.43(2)(b) (\$2.00 first page & \$1.00 for each additional; \$1.00 for ROD certificate) which governs all other real estate copies in the register of deeds office.

Social Security Redaction/Flat Fee

Working with Senator Erpenbach to draft legislation to require the removal or redaction of social security numbers from documents that are posted on-line. Since the measure will require some counties to purchase software in order to accomplish this task this bill is being tied to a movement changing the fee to record a real estate document in the Register of Deeds office from a per page fee to a "flat fee". The current per page fee is \$11 for the first page plus \$2 for each additional page. The proposed "flat fee" would be \$30 - \$25 for recording and \$5 for redaction per document. Still in LRB, exact wording is not yet known.

WRDA is watching the following legislation. There may be bills in the future that affect the Register of Deeds Records.

AB349 relating to limiting the search ability of a governmental Internet listing of property taxes assessed. The WRDA believes that the current law is correct, which allows counties to determine what land information is accessible through the internet

AB 340

An Act to create 758.20 of the statutes; relating to: restricting access to and limiting information contained in the Consolidated Court Automation Programs and providing a penalty.

WRPLA (Wisconsin Real Property Listers Association)

Marge Johnson turned the meeting over to Brian Braithwaite, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on 70.09 which is the statute that governs the Property Lister's duties.

Wisconsin Cartographers Office

WROC project – Homeland Security grant for aerial photos
42 counties signed on
Jim Lacy will archive Pres Council minutes from 1996

WLS (Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors)

AB271 discussed
Support for ROD bill on flat fee for recording

WCSA (Wisconsin County Surveyor Association)

Supports WLS

LION (Land Information Officer Network)

Updating of Land Information Plan every 5 years – due June 2010
Plans submitted to DOA
Instructions sent out 10/15/09
Fees are down so projects are down

WDOT (Wisconsin Department of Transportation)

Glen Schaefer discussed Height Modernization Program

Next meeting maybe a teleconference in spring if group feels the necessity.

Motion by Brian Braithwaite second by Bruce Bowden to adjourn.