

Dear friends of the Wisconsin land information community,

Attached is a brief “position paper” outlining the importance of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) in Wisconsin. The position paper was drafted by the “PLSS Working Group” – an ad hoc group formed after the March 2016 Forum on PLSS and Parcel Mapping held at UW-Eau Claire.

The purpose of the position paper is to state succinctly a set of fundamental principles related to PLSS as the foundation for a modern, accurate, digital land information system in Wisconsin. These principles were drafted and adopted by the working group through discussion and deliberation. As a position paper, the document outlines the group’s professional judgements on this subject.

The position paper provides needed language and a consistent message to help educate others about the role and value of PLSS in the state. The paper is intentionally open-ended so that different users can focus on issues of particular importance to them, and to allow the message to be tailored to specific audiences, such as the general public or a county board member.

Please take a look at the position paper and let us know what you think. We plan to use the document for education and outreach across many levels, and we hope this process evolves into a grassroots effort by encouraging people like you to join in.

All comments and suggestions may be sent to Brenda Hemstead (hemstead@wisc.edu or 608/263-4371) at the State Cartographer’s Office.

Sincerely,

The PLSS Working Group:

Howard Veregin, State Cartographer
Brenda Hemstead, Data Services-State Cartographer’s Office
Jodi Helgeson, Adams County Register of Deeds
Bryan Meyer, La Crosse County Surveyor
Jeff DeMuth, Professional Land Surveyor
Steve Geiger, Polk County Surveyor
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