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MEMBER — WESTERN FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

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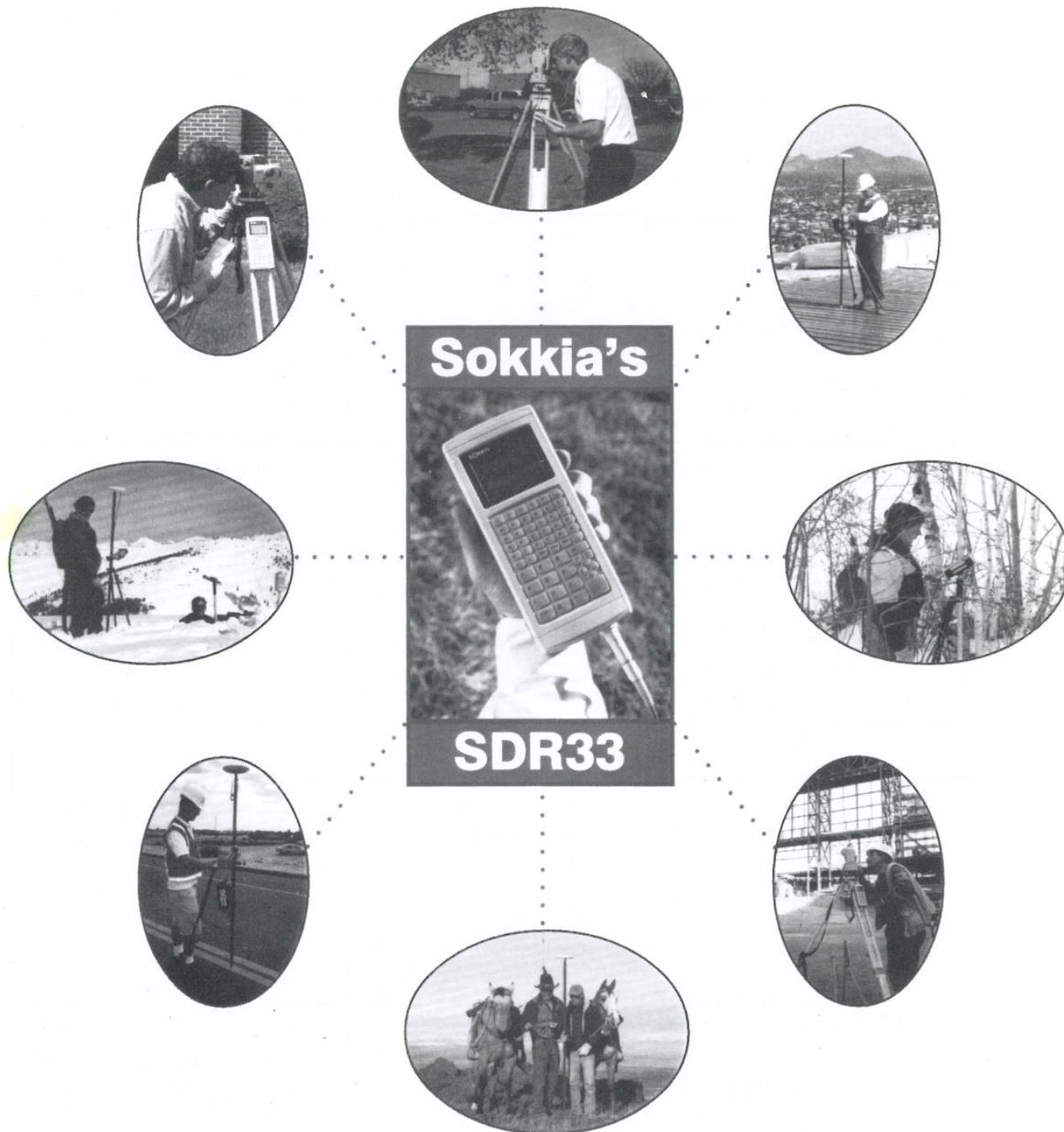
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VOLUME 12, NO. 1

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2000 PLSW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS OF WYOMING

AFFILIATE — AMERICAN CONGRESS ON SURVEYING AND MAPPING
MEMBER — WESTERN FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS



NAME _____ DATE _____

(Please indicate preferred mailing address)

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☐ PE/LS _____

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CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

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CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE _____ FAX _____ E-MAIL _____

EMPLOYER: _____ YOUR TITLE: _____

States other than Wyoming in which you are registered: _____

Additional information or comments (optional): _____

CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP APPLIED FOR: (check one only and please submit dues with application, prorated for the remainder of the calendar year)

☐ **MEMBER**, ANNUAL DUES \$75 (Persons duly registered, PLS or PE&PLS in Wyoming.)

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIPS

☐ **Associate Member**, annual dues \$50. (Persons employed under the direction of a PLS and working toward PLS registration in Wyoming.)

☐ **Special Member**, annual dues \$50. (Not meeting above qualifications but with a particular interest in, or association with, the profession of land surveying.)

☐ **Special Member**, Student, annual dues \$15. (Pursuing a post secondary academic course of study, and currently enrolled.)

☐ **Sustaining Member**, annual dues \$100. (Persons, institutions or corporations desiring to assist PLSW financially.)

I AGREE TO OBSERVE THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS OF WYOMING AND THE CHAPTER THEREOF TO WHICH I WILL BELONG AND TO SUPPORT SAID ORGANIZATIONS IN THEIR ENDEAVORS.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

SPONSOR'S SIGNATURE
(For Affiliate Member applicants only.)

NOTE: All portions of the state have chapters. Chapter dues or assessments may vary in amount. Applications are considered by the board of Directors at quarterly meetings. Send completed application to PLSW, c/o Herbert W. Stoughton, Sec./Treas., 2821 Carey Ave., Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001.

THE FORUM FOR WOMEN IN SURVEYING

American Congress on Surveying and Mapping/National Society of Professional Surveyors

The Forum has been active this year defining its general goals and creating specific directives to address its long- and short-term objectives.

At the Grand Rapids meeting last fall, Forum members from BLM offered to sponsor and coordinate a panel session in Little Rock that would feature Elizabeth Cannon and a Canadian mentorship program for women in geomatics. Frank Hissong and Domenica Van Koten worked with Forum member Larry Hothem from USGS to organize the event. Additional participation will be from Cheryl Spencer, who is with the Forest Service. Frank Hissong prepared a discussion document, which he circulated along with pertinent articles he had read on the subjects of recruitment and retention for women and other traditionally underrepresented groups in the science and technology industries.

ACSM student chapters were given a high priority by Forum members at their meetings in Portland and Grand Rapids last year. To that end, Ed McKay has worked with Art McLaughlin to set up a panel discussion among student chapters to be held in Little Rock. It is hoped that throughout the coming year, student chapters may become thoroughly organized within ACSM, particularly by means of e-mail correspondence with one or two ACSM coordinators.

Another outcome of the Grand Rapids meeting was the decision to address a recent POB questionnaire regarding the recruitment of women into surveying and mapping. Joanne Schweik of the newsletter *Progress and Perspectives* is preparing a report and an article about responses to the questionnaire.

To encourage high school girls to pursue a geomatics career, the Forum has strongly recommended that its members participate in the NSPS TrigStar program. Some states have established a well organized regional approach to this contest, while others allow surveyors to pursue the program individually.

A major support network for women in engineering and science may be found through the Internet. Herb Stoughton, an active member of the Forum, called our attention to the MentorNet, which is found at *mentornet.net* and should not be confused with the Mentomet Company, which is found at *mentornet.com*. Instead, the *mentornet.net* pairs women who are studying engineering or science at a participating university with professional scientists and engineers in the industry. The Forum is encouraging women in surveying to apply their service to this initiative.

Following the Grand Rapids meeting, the Forum was asked to look into the possibility of updating and reprinting a cooperative education brochure produced by Forum members in the past two decades. The feasibility of preparing web pages to offer similar information is being investigated, and the matter is scheduled to be addressed in Little Rock.

Finally, it was decided that correspondence should be undertaken with the diversity committee of ASCE and with members of SWE, so that the Forum is aligning its own activity with that of similar organizations for women and traditionally under-represented people in engineering.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy J. Woodbury Straight, LS, 1999 Chair

Lowering the stakes at the South Pole

'For certain, I will never forget where I was on New Year's Day, January 1, 2000,' Larry Hothem recently e-mailed Eos from Antarctica. Hothem, who heads up the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) geodetic team that is deployed annually to the McMurdo Station-South Pole region, that morning was piling a stake into the ice above the most recent and most accurate location of the mean South Pole (the Earth's mean axis of rotation).

At midnight, a makeshift band played, and several hundred scientists, construction workers, and support staff who normally devote their time to important research efforts and keeping the station operating smoothly sipped champagne in the -26°C temperature. At 4:30 a.m. local time, the revelers already had been awake for more than 22 hours as Hothem pounded in the marker and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) aired the event live.

Some people refer to the ceremony as "moving the pole." But scientists do not actually move that point, or even shift earlier markers that form a line of progression from year to year.

Because the Antarctic ice sheet budes as an immense glacier toward the Weddell Sea located 1,400 km away from the South Pole, the geographic location of the South Pole Global Positioning System (GPS) continuously operating reference station and other facilities at the South Pole changes about 10 meters per year (2.7 centimeters daily). Scientists are simply playing catch up with their latest geodetic measurements.

"At this rate the current South Pole marker will drop into the sea in about 140,000 years," Hothem and Gordon Shupe, also with USGS, note.

"There is no particular scientific significance to the annual survey to establish the position for a new marker," they add. "On the other hand, placement of the annual marker allows visitors and people working at the Pole the opportunity to stand next to where the Pole was located on January 1 of each year and to walk around the Earth's mean axis of rotation."

USGS has measured changes using GPS satellite signals since 1991. From 1975 until 1991, the agency operated a continuous Doppler satellite measurement and positioning system. Earlier measurements were conducted using astronomical measurements.

For further information on GPS sites in Antarctica, visit the Web site: http://www.scarggi.org.au/geodesy/perm_ob/gps/gps.htm.



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EDITORIAL POTPOURRI

• **NEW MEMBERS** - At the December BOD meeting, the following new members were approved:

Tim Hixon	Fort Collins, CO	Sustaining
Greg Zelanzy	Jackson, WY	Member
Howard Starr	Jackson, WY	Member
Art Schubert	Glenrock, WY	Member
Terry Janssen	Buffalo, WY	Member
John Hale	Jackson, WY	Member
James Archer	Cheyenne, WY	Member
Randall Stelzner	Riverton, WY	Member
Russell Schamel	Wheatland, WY	Member
Merwin Kehl	Billings, MT	Member
Daniel Kennedy	Wheatland, WY	Member
Gregory Gronski	Rock Springs, WY	Member
Gary Davis	Devils Tower, WY	Member

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS

• **PLSW BOARD MEETINGS** - The Board meetings for 2000 are as follows:

20 May 00	Rock Springs
26 AUG 00	Thermopolis
11 NOV 00	Casper

All members are welcome. Contact your Director for the time and place.

• **Lines & Points FAX** - Our fax numbers are 307-235-5604 or 307-235-8184.

• **Lines & Points E-MAIL** - Contact dond@trib.com or johnhh@trib.com.

• **1999 SOS COMPETITION** - The winners of the 1999 SOS Competition were as follows:

First Place:	Paul Reid	\$100.00
Second Place:	Rick Hudson	\$ 50.00
Third Place:	Herb Stoughton	\$ 25.00

The next competition will be in November in Casper.

• **ALLEN MACE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE** - The total ticket sales were \$888.00 and an anonymous donor brought the net proceeds to \$900.00. Rick Estes of Sheridan was the winner of the Brunton prize.

PLSW Key Rings are for sale.

Send \$5 to:
P.O. Box 904, Casper, WY 82602

Front Cover Artwork by Rav Blaha - Casper WY

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PLSW (Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming) is a statewide organization of Registered Land Surveyors licensed to practice in the Equality State of Wyoming. PLSW is dedicated to improving the technical, legal, and business aspects of surveying in the State of Wyoming. PLSW is affiliated with the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping and the Western Federation of Professional Land Surveyors.

Editorial Staff: John Hibsman, Steve Strang, Don Davis.

Lines and Points subscription \$50/year

Advertising Information

Camera ready advertisements with payment should be mailed to *Lines & Points*, PLSW, Box 904, Casper, WY 82602

Advertising rates are as follows:

	Year	Issue
Full page	\$300	\$80
Half page	\$175	\$50
Quarter page	\$100	\$30
Business card	\$ 30	\$10
Classified	40¢ per word/issue	
Employment	Free	

Special Rates for PLSW Chapters

Deadline for next issue — 15 JUNE 2000

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There are three things that I would like us as a profession to focus upon. The past, the present, and the future.

As many of you may know this year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of PLSW. PLSW had its first meeting on April 26, 1980. We have had 17 people lead us as president in the past 20 years. I would like to thank each of these persons, and each of us recognize them for their leadership, dedication and sacrifices.

Our past leaders have been:

Martin Pederson	1980 + 1981	John Steil	1982
Maynard Johnson	1983	John Dolinar	1984
Joe Mantos	1985	Paul Reid	1986
Herb Stoughton	1987	Stan Abel	1988
Scott Pierson	1989	Bryce Rumph	1990
Becky Braman	1991 + 1992	Robert St. Clair	1993
Chris Hamilton	1994	Jim Claflin	1995
Pete Hutchison	1996	John Lee	1997
Rick Hudson	1998 + 1999		

I wish on behalf of the membership of PLSW to thank each one of you for your dedication to this organization in order to bring us to where we are today.

There are several of you here in our organization that are in the process of becoming licensed. With all the changes that have been implemented in the last five years the path of licensure is not clear cut nor easy to obtain. Each one of you is a trailblazer, one who is defining the path for those who will follow. Right now you have to work very hard to meet the education requirements. The education programs are available, but certainly not convenient. The right and responsibility of licensure is not going to fall out of the sky and land square on your lap. You will have to make significant sacrifices to achieve your goal. It is up to each one of you individually to do this by yourself, but the rewards are there. Herb has stated that the demand for college educated surveyors is unlike anything seen before. There are starting salaries of up to \$50,000.

Hopefully future surveyors will be able to follow your lead and not have to kick, scratch, and fight their way through the system as you are today.

What does the future hold for us? As the vice president one of my responsibilities has been to give complementary memberships to new registrants. In the past two years there has been only two Wyoming residents become registered. Unfortunately we have lost more members in death than we have gained, and significantly more when considering retirees. We need more young people in our profession.

My oldest son is eight. I have taken him out on a few projects and I take great pride when he says "Remember when we helped build that?" When we drive by these projects. We need to get the youngsters interested in surveying at a young age. The Trig-Star program is a start, but unfortunately most students really don't care about it and are only there because they are forced to by their teachers. Even then, we must continue to try to make inroads with this program to reach out to youngsters and introduce them to our profession.

Salesmen can tell you that a "cold sale", one where the people are not interested in what you have, is very difficult when compared to being invited to present yourself and your product. We need to present our profession to youngsters before high

school so that the Trig-Star program is not a "cold sale". I would encourage each of you to take some time to invite your sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, grandchildren or neighbor kids to see what surveying is. Maybe that interest will hold on when they begin to make career choices.

I urge each of you to contemplate our profession's future and what you can do to ensure a future of quality professionals. The future is in our own hands; what it will be is up to us as to how it turns out.

Jeff Jones, PLSW President



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(Continued from Page 20)

or in a few cases, corroded black iron pipe. All of these are in need of remonumentation with a monument at least of the quality currently used by the Bureau of Land Management

Many years ago when Bert King was Commissioner of Public Lands, the State, at my behest, made available BLM type monuments for Professional Land Surveyors to perpetuate property corners of the lands of the state. The surveyor would set the monument replacing the less than satisfactory predecessor and file a Corner Record with the County Clerk. This was a win-win situation for the state as it had its lands more permanently monumented with only the cost of the monument. Our group set over 500 of these providing the Commissioner with a copy of the statutorily required Corner Record. It was administered by the State Forester but without good accounting. However a new commissioner claimed lack of funds and the program died.

The state could well consider reviving this program. My suggestion is that the state could authorize Professional Land Surveyors to replace deteriorating property corners marking state lands with a BLM type monument, a two inch galvanized steel pipe with properly inscribed brass cap. These are available from Survey Supply Service Company in Casper and cost about \$30 each.

The surveyor could then voucher the state once a year for the cost only of the monument affirming the expenditure by a copy of the Corner Record prepared and filed. This would not be a great accounting chore as I would suspect that at best, only about twenty-five surveyor groups would participate,

Further, if the state would furnish yellow slips such as the BLM uses witnessing the monuments that it sets, many surveyors would be pleased to post these as appropriate.

If the foregoing has merit, I would be pleased to work further

with it and feel sure that the Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming group would likewise assist.

Thank you.

Very Sincerely Yours,

SURVEYOR SCHERBEL, LTD., Paul N. Scherbel, President

BLM NEWS

This letter is to inform you of official cadastral surveys in Wyoming that have been accepted on March 27, 1998, were officially filed and are now available in the Survey Records Office, Wyoming State Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 1848, 5353 Yellowstone Rd., Cheyenne, WY 82003.

The accepted surveys are listed below by township, range, type of survey, meridian, and acceptance date.

Sixth Principal Meridian, Wyoming

Township and Range	Type of Survey	Meridian	Accepted
T. 43N., R. 109W.	Dep. Res.	6 P.M.	3/23/1999
T. 29N., R. 87W.	Dep. Res.	6 P.M.	8/17/1999
T. 56N., R. 70W.	Dep. Res.	6 P.M.	8/17/1999
T. 50N., R. 82W.	Dep. Res.	6 P.M.	8/17/1999
T. 40N., R. 93W.	Dep. Res.	6 P.M.	8/17/1999
T. 57N., R. 96W.	Dep. Res.	6 P.M.	8/17/1999
Tps. 22 & 23 N., Rs. 119 & 120 W.			
T. 48N., R. 76W.	Dep. Res.	6 P.M.	8/17/1999
T. 12N., R. 110W.	Dep. Res.	6 P.M.	12/13/1999
T. 47N., R. 65W.	Dep. Res.	6 P.M.	12/13/1999
T. 38N., R. 115W.	Dep. Res.	6 P.M.	12/13/1999
T. 54 N., R. 69W.	Cor. Dep. Res.	6 P.M.	12/13/1999
T. 47N., R. 87W.	Dep. Res.	6 P.M.	12/13/1999

As other surveys are completed, I will advise you of their acceptance. Please publish this letter in the next issue of *Lines and Points*.

Sincerely, John P. Lee, Chief, Cadastral Survey Group

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Letters

7 February 2000

Mr. Herbert W. Stoughton, Secretary
Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming
2821 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001
Re: SOS Contest
Dear Herb,

It was noted in the minutes of the last Board of Directors meeting that it was suggested that second and third place prizes be awarded in the foregoing contest. As this sound like a good idea to me, enclosed is a check to help with the cost. Also it is noted that the previous stock delivered to PLSW is not quite making the \$100 per year as planned. The enclosed amount should remedy that deficiency.

My thought is that with this check you ought to invest in some more of the same stock that is in the fund as probably there would be no broker fee.

Sorry that I didn't make it to Cheyenne but just returned from my ship's reunion and then am off to Utah for that state conference.

It is my plan to be at the Rock Springs meeting in May.

Very Sincerely yours,
Paul N. Scherbel

17 February 2000

Mr. Paul N. Scherbel, P.L.S.
P.O. Box 4296
Big Piney - Marbleton, Wyoming
Dear Paul:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 7 February 2000 and the accompanying check for two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Your donation supporting the PLSW Board of Directors' (BOD) authorization to award second and third place SOS awards is greatly appreciated.

At the November 1999 BOD meeting, the BOD reviewed the draft 2000 PLSW budget. When examining the SOS line item, they made a motion to expand the program and authorize funding to award second and third place finishers. The motion was unanimously approved. I would like to further comment that when the motion was discussed, all attendees agreed that your SOS initiative was an excellent opportunity to have a "friendly" competition and exhibition of the various formats and presentations of information employed by land surveyors. Although the returns from your original investment has been slightly less than the one hundred dollar award, *no one* has commented on the shortfall. This would indicate to me a tacit acceptance of the program.

The 1999 competition had several entries. Under separate cover I have sent you a report on the competition.

Again, thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Herbert W. Stoughton

Reprinted from the Casper Star-Tribune, 28 January 2000
SUPPORT CANDIDATES WHO WILL SUPPORT YOU

Editor:

Congratulations are in order for the organizers of the Public Land Access forum which was held in Casper on Jan. 15. John Jolley, Dean Sersland, Gerry Gay, Barbara Dobos and the rest certainly deserve a round of applause from anyone who is concerned about the issue of public access to public lands. The forum was designed so that elected officials could attend and listen to comments from the public, which is what I did. Now I want to make a few comments of my own.

As usual, there was a fair amount of politician bashing that went on. Which is fine with me. I can see why the citizens are frustrated and disgusted and I don't begrudge them a chance to vent.

All I ask is that everyone keep in mind that this is all a political issue. If you don't want to do politics then you aren't going to be part of the solution. There is bad politics and there is good politics but the one thing there ain't is no politics!

The 2000 legislative session is upon us. And after that the 2000 election season will slowly pick up steam. If you want public access to public land then you should support politicians who believe as you do. Watch the legislative goings on, research the voting records of your legislators and stop voting for candidates who frequently vote against you.

All five members of the elected State Land Board were invited to address the 600 citizens who attended the forum. Not a one showed up. I find it hard to believe that all five had legitimate conflicts on a Saturday in January. I suggest every one of you reading this letter who cares about access call your statewide elected Land Board and ask them why they did not bother to attend.

In conclusion I would like to share with you my idea for direct action on this issue. One of the biggest problems connected with state land is that nobody knows for sure where it is. I propose we start taking back our state land by finding out where it is!

We need to organize and begin the process of marking the corners and boundaries of state land so that we can be confident of our location while in the great out of doors. As we do so many more people will become knowledgeable as to just where they can legally recreate while at the same time respecting the private property rights that all of us cherish.

There is no time to lose. Every year we delay in political and direct action makes the access situation that much worse. Start paying attention now and don't let up until after the November 2000 elections. Let's go!

Sen. Keith Goodenough, D-Casper

9 February 2000

Senator Keith Goodenough
Box 1852
Casper, Wyoming 82602
Dear Senator Goodenough:

Your letter to the editor of the Casper *Star-Tribune* published on 28 January 2000 and especially the next to the last paragraph concerning marking corners and boundaries of state land was of great interest to me.

As you know probably a majority of the lands of the public



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DRAFT

Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, 12 November 1999

- 3 February 2000
- 1 The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming.
 - a. Location: Cheyenne, Wyoming, at the *Holiday Inn*.
 - b. Date & Time: Thursday, 3 February 2000 at 17:30 hrs. M.S.T.
 - c. Presiding Officer: Mr. Jeffrey B. Jones, P.L.S., President.
 - 2 Agenda: The final agenda is appended [Appendix A].
 - 3 B.O.D. Minutes: Motion was made by K. Jones/Hudson to approve the corrected minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 12 November 1999 at Casper. Approved.
 - 4 Treasurer's Report: The financial reports presented at the 2000 Annual Meeting were unchanged.
 - 5 President's Report: No report.
 - 6 Committee Reports:
 - a. Audit-Finance Committee - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 - b. Bylaws Committee - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 - c. Convention Committee - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 - d. Education Committee - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 - e. History Committee - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 - f. Legislative Committee - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 - g. *Lines & Points* - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 - h. Manual of Professional Practice - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 - i. Membership Committee - motion was made by Pedersen. /Davis to accept the following applications for various membership categories: Associate Member: Gary N. Grigsby and Aaron M. Grosch; and Sustaining Member: *Spectra Precision*, Paul Hahn. Motion carried.
 - j. Nominations & Elections Committee - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 - k. P.L.S.W. Handbook: - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 1. Professional Awards Committee: - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 - m. Public Relations Committee: - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 - n. S.O.S. Committee - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 - o. Scholarship Committee - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 - p. Standards, Ethic & Professional Practice Committee - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 - q. Trig-Star Committee - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 7. Delegate Reports:

- a. ACSM-NSPS Board of Governors - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 - b. West Fed - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 8. Old Business:
 - a. *Big Sky 2000* Conference: - report was submitted at the 2000 Annual Meeting.
 - b. Investments: Motion made by K. Jones/Davis to invest funds in the following percentages:
 - i. Cash - 20%.
 - ii. Stocks and Funds - 70 % of the remaining 80 %.
 - iii. Bonds - 30% of the remaining 80%.
 Motion was carried by an 8 to 1 vote.
 9. New Business: None.
 10. Announcements:
 - a. The schedule for the 2000 PLSW Board of Directors' meetings is:
 - i. 3 February 2000; Cheyenne, Wyoming - *Holiday Inn*.
 - ii. 20 May 2000; Rock Springs, Wyoming.*
 - iii. 26 August 2000; Thermopolis, Wyoming.*
 - iv. 11 November 2000; Casper, Wyoming.
 *Note: These two sites may be interchanged in order to attend a special history of surveying exhibit being held in Thermopolis.
 11. Adjournment: Motion was made by Davis/Pedersen to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 18:00 hrs., M.S.T.
- Respectfully submitted,
Herbert W. Stoughton, Secretary/Treasurer



Larry Perry receiving Certificate of Appreciation from President Rick Hudson

-WFPS BOARD

(Continued from Page 18)

There were three submittals for the Request of Proposal and Resume for the Executive Secretary Position of WFPS.

Martin Martin, Bud Campbell and Jerry Tippin are to follow up on the proposals and will have a detailed report and recommendation at the next meeting.

State Reports were given with the following highlights:

The Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference is scheduled for Anchorage, February 22 through 25, 2000. The Alaska society also has a CD with their adopted standards of practice, with references to state and federal statutes. It is available to member for \$20.00. Non members can also obtain a copy for around \$25. This may be an item for the PLSW Standards of Practice committee may want to pick up.

1999 was a banner year for Arizona Professional Land Surveyors Association. They are only 20 shy of the magic 600 marked in membership. Arizona's 19th annual conference is scheduled to be held March 30th to April 1st at Little America in Flagstaff, Arizona.

The Hawaii Association of Land Surveyors is having its annual conference on February 2, 3, & 4, 2000 at the Radisson Prince Kuhio Hotel in Waikiki. Guess I'll have to miss that one with NWS in Cheyenne being in conflict. Pat Cummins the Hawaii delegate goes on to state that the economy is still on the downside, with not much happening to get it going again. Tourism being one of the biggest industries in Hawaii, the recent lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club to stop the State from spending funds for promoting tourism was an additional blow to an already bad economy. Pat looks forward to an upward turn in 2000.

The Idaho Society of Professional Land Surveyors has moved its office to Boise and has retained Loyce Smith as Executive Director. Loyce is a retired professional land surveyor and is doing a great job and has the Gem State Surveyor publication back on track. The Continuing Professional Development requirement for surveyors went into effect starting July 1, 1999. Membership is holding at 194 members and this year's convention will be in Big Sky.

Montana held its Board of Directors meeting December 8, 1999 by teleconference. On Friday December 3, 1999

The Montana association held a continuing education seminar via the MetNet at nine sites with 116 registrants. Knud Hermansen was the presenter.

The Nevada Association of Land Surveyors reports the University of Nevada Las Vegas is offering distance learning on

the PLSS for 30 hours with Dennis Mouland. Authorship bill is being proposed into Nevada legislation that would require the author a legal description to sign the document. Nevada is having its Annual 2000 conference with California and it's Annual 2001 conference with ACSMAWPS/CLSA. Its 2002 conference is being planned to be held in Elko with California, Idaho and Utah surveyors associations.

Oregon society has been discussing the ACSM/NSPS idea of instituting all-encompassing dues that would make state members ACSM/NSPS members. The percentage of Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon members who are also ACSM/NSPS members is small. When discussed, a joint dues structure of \$30.00 had some interest. When the fee rose to \$70.00 interest fell off rather rapidly. The Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying has adopted rules that require all future persons who take the Fundamentals of Land Surveying examination beginning in 2003 to have an ABET degree in Land Surveying (no exceptions). The December annual meeting and conference in Eugene, Oregon had over 500 attendees. It appears the requirement for continuing professional development had made a significant impact on attendance. PLSO is now in a one-year reserve in operating budget. PLSO currently has 698 members, which are approximately 30% to 35% of the land surveyors in Oregon.

The annual Land Surveyors' Association of Washington conference will be held in Ocean Shores, Washington, February 16th thru 19th, 2000. The debate on continuing professional competency continues. It has long been felt that some form of requirement was needed. Since adoption of legislation in Oregon and Idaho, it has become more of an issue, especially since a number of LSAW members are holding registrations in one or both of those states. The board of registration does not appear to be overly excited over the concept of administrating the program so the LSAW may elect to take it on.

The next two meetings of WFPS will be in Las Vegas, Nevada on May 5, 2000 and October 7, 2000 in Reno, Nevada.

Action list items were reviewed for the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.



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WFPS Board of Directors Meeting

On January 22, 2000, 1 attended the Board of Directors meeting of the Western Federation of Professional Surveyors in Phoenix, Arizona. This report summarizes the subjects and issues discussed.

Chairman Bud Campbell called the meeting to order @ 8:55 a.m. A quorum was established with 18 delegates in attendance. Guests were Sam Best, current NSPS Director and Gregg Tuttle the Land Surveyor member of the Arizona Board of Registration.

Chairman Bud Campbell opened the meeting with the introduction of Mr. Sam Best and allowed him to report on the activities of ACSM/NSPS. Sam gave a rather lengthy verbal report and in summary stated that there are changes going on in ACSM/NSPS and if the organization is to survive it will be because of the surveyors in the organization. He cautioned that ACSM/NSPS is not out of the woods yet. He also wanted to make sure that on behalf of ACSM/NSPS, they were very thankful for the WFPS donation of \$10,000.

Gregg Tuttle the Land Surveyor member of the Arizona Board of Registration and a member of a NCEES exam committee reported on the NCEES LSIT exam and the status of the NCEES Model Law. Later by Email Gregg reported that the Western zone of NCEES will be meeting May 18th thru 20th, 2000 in Grand Junction, Colorado. He also attached the NCEES Model Law in its final form and I have a copy of that for those who would like to review it. The model law appears to have done away with many of the objections of some WFPS delegates. The model law was streamlined under the heading of Practice of Surveying or Land surveying to include both topographical type surveys and boundary surveys. The rational was that the committee generally supported the philosophy of the three tier approach to licensure as outlined by the task force, but the committee, along with members of Member Boards, had concerns regarding the dual title of Land Surveyor and Geomatics Professional. As a result, the definition of land surveying was reorganized to include the "Geomatics Practice" under subsections (a) through (d) and the "Land Surveyor Practice" under (e) through (h), all included in one definition and a more simplified dual title of Professional Surveyor or Land Surveyor. While the argument can still be made regarding the practice of geomatics not being "land surveying," it can easily be argued that the configuration of the earth's surface, geodetic surveying, non-boundary control, and photogrammetry are clearly related to surveying. As a result of the discussions, the consensus of the committee was that the more general title for (a) through (b) was satisfactory. The purpose of reorganizing the order of the items in the definitions was so that a waiver clause could be inserted into Section 14, Examinations, to enable each jurisdiction to have the option to "elect to waive" the jurisdictional-based examinations for the geomatics-related practice described in (a) through (d).

Chairman Bud Campbell submitted a written report on his activities since the last WFPS meeting. To date WFPS has contributed \$10,000 to ACSM along with \$500 matching funds of \$2,500 for Nevada, Washington, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico members. Bud received an invitation to the Land Surveyors Association of Washington's Annual Conference in February. Bud said since he will be vacationing stateside anyway, he would attend the conference without any added travel

expenditure to WFPS.

Secretary Steve Parrish reported on his activities. Steve also provided a rather lengthy copy of an email he received from Curt Sumner, Executive Director of ACSM. Curt itemized what ACSM has done recently to streamline ACSM and some of the changes that have been made since last summer.

Treasurer Jerry Tippin provided a written Profit & Loss statement along with a balance sheet for the WFPS fiscal year to date. Currently WFPS has \$113,436.62 cash-on hand including three C.D.'s of which C.D. 42 in the amount of \$21,437.73 is restricted for the scholarship fund. There is approximately \$27,000 in the checking account and \$6,000 in the Money Market. Based on the action of the Board at the last meeting regarding ACSM, he has not reinvested the funds at this time and is awaiting direction of the Board. In order to insure the continued growth of the scholarship fund, all scholarship payments since 1991 have been made from the general operating account and have not been from the funds in CD#2. Approximately \$3,600 has been paid out in scholarships. To date \$12,500 has been donated to ACSM.

Conference Committee Chairman Chuck Pearson submitted a written report on the 2001 conference to be held in conjunction with CLSA, NALS and ACSM. The original memorandum of understanding from ACSM has been reviewed and with comments has been returned to ACSM. One focus of the MOU has been to assure that the out of pocket expense for paid conference planners is at a minimal level thus returning more profits to the participants. Site visits have taken place with three locations being evaluated.

Education Committee chairman Dennis Findorff gave a report on his progress concerning compilation of educational requirements for licensure and continuing professional development.

Scholarship committee chairman George Strother reported advertisements and blank scholarship applications were sent to Oregon Institute of Technology, University of Alaska, Anchorage, California State University - Fresno, Metro State College - Denver, New Mexico State University, and California State Polytechnic University - Pomona. Several applications were received, with five from OIT and one each from UAA and Metro State College. The applications were reviewed and independently rated by him and yours truly. Agreeing on the top four applicants the committee recommended scholarships of \$1,000 each to Gregg Neitsch a senior at Oregon Institute of Technology and Brandee Shoemaker, a junior, also at Oregon Institute of Technology. Also George provided a copy of Michael Zierserl's letter to the scholarship committee of WFPS. He stated thanks for selecting him to be a scholarship recipient for the 1999-2000 academic year. He further stated the recognition is an honor in itself, and the money has helped him to afford tuition and school expenses without applying for further financial aid. He looks forward to graduating in May of 2000 and most excited about entering the work force for an Anchorage surveying firm that undertakes diversified projects including hydrographic and cadastral surveys. He plans on taking his LSIT exam in April and then accrue experience until able to qualify for the LS exam.

The registration requirements for land surveyor's report by Dorothy Calageri was turned over to the Education committee.

Update of the WFPS Board of Directors handbook is being updated by Jim Dorsey and Dorothy Calgeri.

(Continued on page 19)

DRAFT
Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming, Inc.
2000 Annual Meeting Minutes

1. The Annual Meeting of the Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming.
 - a. Location: Cheyenne; Holiday Inn.
 - b. Date & Time: Thursday, 3 February 2000, at 13:05 hrs., M.S.T.
 - c. Presiding Officer: Mr. Rick L. Hudson, P.L.S., President.
2. Agenda: The proposed agenda was modified and accepted. The final agenda is appended to the official minutes [Appendix A].
3. Introductions:
 - a. President Hudson introduced the 1999-2000 PLSW officers.
 - b. President Hudson introduced PLSW Honorary Members Joseph W. Popp and Wesley W. Reed.
 - c. President Hudson introduced Robert M. Stollard from the Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado.
4. In Memoriam: President Hudson asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mark Edward Quillinan (Associate Member); Dell Cazier (Special Member); Robert Jack Smith (Honorary Member); and Joseph I. Dracup (ACSM Honorary Member) [Appendix B].
5. Last Call for Sealed Ballots: Mr. Robert L. St. Claire, Chairman of the Tellers Committee, was unable to attend the meeting. Tellers Committee member Troy T. Fields announced the final call for ballots.
6. Minutes:

a. Secretary/Treasurer Stoughton presented the minutes of the 1999 Annual Meeting; motion for approval by Becky J. Braman/Perry. Motion carried.

b. Secretary/Treasurer Stoughton announced that the approved minutes for the Board of Directors' meetings of January, May, and August 1999 and the draft minutes of the November 1999 meeting were included in the Annual Meeting documents given to each person attending the meeting. No action required.

7. President's Report: President Hudson stated that the health of the land surveying profession was better because of the activities of PLSW. He requested that the attendees attend, support, and enjoy the 80th WES Annual Meeting.

8. 2000 Secretary/Treasurer's Reports:

- a. Secretary/Treasurer Stoughton requested information about the 2000 Chapter officers.

b. Secretary/Treasurer Stoughton presented the financial statements for 1999. The consolidated finances for calendar year 1999 reported were [Appendix C]:

1. MFS Intermediate Income Trust	
(S. O. S. Award funds)	\$95.19
2. MFS Intermediate Income Trust	
(automatically reinvested)	52.03
3. Hilltop Bank Savings Account	103.99
4. Hilltop Bank Checking Account Interest	441.94
5. Hilltop Bank Certificate of Deposit	440.30
6. Other sources (dues,	
Fall Technical Session, etc.)	23,925.46
Total:	25,058.91

c. The financial statement for the 1999 Fall Technical Session was distributed [Appendix D].

d. The statement of the financial activities in the checking account was distributed [Appendix E].

e. Statement of Disbursement as budgeted was distributed [Appendix F].

Motion to accept the financial reports by Perry/Lloyd Baker. Motion carried.

9. 2000 PLSW Budget: Secretary/Treasurer Stoughton presented the proposed 2000 budget. No changes were made. Motion to approve the 2000 budget by Hamilton/Perry. Motion carried [Appendix G].

10. Committee Reports: [Appendix H]
(Continued on Page 8)

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-2000 MINUTES

(Continued from Page 7)

- a. Audit - Finance: Peter J. Hutchison.
- b. By-Laws: John I. Dolinar.
- c. Convention: Stanton J. Abell, Jr., and Herbert W. Stoughton.
- d. Education: Joel T. Ebner.
- e. History: Herbert W. Stoughton
- f. Legislative: John A. Steil.
- g. Manual of Professional Practice: Donald W. Oakley.
- h. Membership: Stanton J. Abell, Jr., and Herbert W. Stoughton.
- i. News Letter Lines & Points: Don A. Davis, John H. Hibsman, Jr., and Steven J. Strang.
- j. Nominations & Elections: Peter J. Hutchison, John P. Lee, and Chris D. Hamilton.
- k. PLSW Handbook: Herbert W. Stoughton.
- l. Professional Awards: Rick L. Hudson.
- m. Public Relations: Larry T. Perry.
- n. S. O. S. [Corner Record Honorarium]: Jeffrey B. Jones.
- o. Scholarship: Martin A. Pedersen.
- p. Standards, Ethics & Professional Practice: Paul R. Campbell.
- q. Trig-Star: Joel T. Ebner.
- 11. Special Committees: [Appendix 1]
 - a. Allen Mace Memorial Scholarship Raffle: Chris D. Hamilton.
 - b. Big Sky 2000 Conference: Kevin D. Jones.
 - c. Corner Record & Cross Index Plat: Rick L. Hudson.
 - d. WEB Page: Richard W. Greenwood and Skylar V. Wflson.
- 12. Delegate Reports:
 - a. ACSM National Society of Professional Surveyors Governor: Becky J. Braman and William D. Braman.
 - b. Western Federation of Professional Surveyors: Paul A. Reid [Appendix J].

- 13. Old Business:
 - a. PLSW Investment Policy: A motion to adopt- the policy [Appendix K] was made by Becky J. Braman/Lee. A discussion followed pertaining to Section 13 concerning disbursement of the funds in the event PLSW ceases to exist. A motion was made to amend the original motion and wait for comment from ACSM NSPS Foundation by Pedersen/Greer. Motion defeated. A motion was made to amend the original motion and delete Section 13 for the time being by Oakley/Perry. Becky J. Braman accepted this motion as a friendly motion. The motion was read stating that the PLSW Investment Policy Sections 1 through 12 be accepted. Motion carried.
 - b. Retired/Deceased Surveyors Directory: Martin A. Pedersen. It was announced that the draft document had been submitted to the PLSW chapters for review. Only two chapters have responded. No action required.
 - c. Ad-Hoc Committee regarding SBRPEPLS requesting guidance concerning GIS being a branch of land surveying: Richard Greenwood. A motion was made to submit [Appendix L] the report to the SBRPEPLS Kevin Jones/Becky Braman. Motion carried.
 - 14. Presidential Citations:
 - a. Joel T. Ebner for his efforts in arranging the 1999 Fall Technical Session.
 - b. Larry T. Perry for his efforts as chairman of the PLSW Public Relations Committee and the updating the brochure on the practice of surveying.
 - c. Michael Londe for his efforts as coordinator of the 1999 HARN densification project.
 - 15. Election Results: Troy Fields, acting chairman of the Tellers Committee, announced the election results.
 - a. President: Jeffrey B. Jones.
 - b. Vice President: S. Dennis Dawson.
 - c. Secretary/Treasurer: Herbert W. Stoughton.
 - 16. Installation of Officers and Directors: Becky J. Braman, ACSM NSPS Area 7 Director, installed the officers and directors for 2000.
 - 17. President's Inaugural Address: President Jones spoke for a few moments employing the theme "The Past, the Present, and the Future. "This address will be published in Lines & Points.
 - 18. New Business:
 - a. National Surveyors Week, February 20 - 26, 2000. A proclamation was received from ACSM NSPS President Richard J. Barr announcing National Surveyors Week [Appendix M].
 - b. Surface Transportation Board Railroad Consolidation: Stoughton submitted a draft letter concerning the problems surveyors are encountering with the consolidation of railroads into mega corporations [Appendix N].
 - 19. Announcements:
 - a. The first Board of Directors Meeting for 2000 will be conducted immediately after the Annual Meeting.
 - b. Secretary/Treasurer Stoughton announced that a census form was mailed with the annual dues notices. These forms are to be returned so that the PLSW directory can be updated. E-mail addresses are being incorporated in the PLSW 2000 Directory.
 - 20. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 17:02 hrs., M.S.T.
- Respectfully submitted,
Herbert W. Stoughton, Secretary/Treasurer

GIS Being a Branch of Land Surveying

12 August 1999

No other PLSW members have contacted me with regard to participating on the ad hoc GIS Advisory Committee to the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors (SBRPEPLS). The following are my personal observations and opinions. My opinions may serve to spark a wider discussion of the subject.

As background for my opinions, I should explain that my company provides GIS consulting services to local government (primarily county government) in Wyoming and Idaho. We specialize in parcel based GIS mapping.

At this time, I do not think it advisable for the SBRPEPLS to pass a rule requiring a PLS to supervise the development of cadastral data for GIS, nor to issue a statement of interpretation similar to what California has done. I do not feel that the practice of developing digital cadastral data is narrow enough, nor well enough defined, to be regulated by a board of professional registration.

I have developed county wide parcel maps from cogo'd land records tied to GPS control. But on the other end of the spectrum,

REPRINTED MAP
SOURCES OF SNAKE RIVER

SNAKE RIVER EXPEDITION -
JAMES STEVENSON, DIRECTOR

The Northwest Chapter has reprinted, from an old (perhaps first printing) lithograph found in a cabin west of Cody, the map of the Hayden - Stevenson expedition and survey of Jackson Hole, Yellowstone National Park and surrounding vicinity. The map shows the campsites of the expedition, from July 12th, 1872, at Fort Hall, Idaho Territory, up the Snake River, into Yellowstone, and returning to Fort Hall on October 11th.

The reprint measures approximately 28 inches by 29 inches overall, black printing on white background, and is printed on heavy photographic paper.

The map is representative of the cartographic style of the time and uses shading to depict mountain ranges, water lining on lakes and artistic profiles of various ranges including the Tetons.

A 39-page excerpt from "Great Surveys of the American West", by Richard A. Bartlett, published by University of Oklahoma Press, is to be included with the map (reprint permission pending) and details the progress of the expedition.

THE CHAPTER IS OFFERING PRINTS TO PLSW MEMBERS AT THE INTRODUCTORY PRICE OF \$40 PER PRINT, POSTPAID.

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PLSW, NORTHWEST CHAPTER
R. L. Hudson, Secretary / Treasurer
P.O. Box 784
Thermopolis, Wyoming 82443

I have developed county wide parcel maps from data that was digitized from tax assessment maps and the geo-references to the GCBD. Obviously, the latter bears no more resemblance to Land Surveying that the preparation of manually drafted tax maps. But even in the first example, which involved approximately 11,000 parcels of real property, I could not possibly have approached the project like it was a "real survey. " I did not personally visit any of the corners and my research was limited to finding the current deed of record. Although I was proud of both projects, I would not represent either as a Land Survey. More importantly, I would not want to be held to current Professional Land Surveying standards for my work on either project. They are not land surveys and there currently are no appropriate cadastral standards.

In 1994, I was eagerly anticipating release of the Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) draft Cadastral Standards. But, when I finally got the draft document I was amazed to see that it did not address accuracy or data capture techniques, or really much of anything that we Land Surveyors do. To this day, FGDC does not recognize individual privately owned parcels as a NSDI component. So Federal GIS standards that address the Land Surveyor's view of real property do not exist and I do not see any on the horizon.

Lacking accepted standards, how would the SBRPEPLS evaluate an alleged violation if they pass a rule requiring PLS registration for GIS cadastral data development? It will be interesting to see how California handles their first enforcement actions.

I encourage all Professional Land Surveyors to actively participate in the development of Geographic Information Systems. But, I am worried about the consequences of requiring and regulating that participation.

Richard W. Greenwood, PLS, Greenwood Mapping, Inc.
P.O. Box 461, Wilson, Wyoming 83014

Fall Technical Session
Recapitulation

Income			
Members: (63)	\$6,300.00		
Associate Members: (19)	950.00		
Nonmembers: (16)	2,800.00		
One-day attendees (2)	100.00		
Late Fee: (2)	20.00		
Rebate:	0.00	(no requests)	
Total:	\$10,170.00	as of 6 January 2000	
Expenses			
Date	To Whom	Check No.	Amount
10/06	Joel T. Ebner (seed money for incidental expenses)	987	\$300.00
10/15	Postal Service - stamps		151.80
10/18	Postal Service - stamps		19.80
10/18	Powder River Office Supply - mailing labels		12.86
10/21	Smith's - stamps		13.20
11/10	Powder River Office Supply - name badges		18.95
11/10	J-Mart - Wyoming Wildlife magazine		2.10
11/11	Joel Ebner - PLSW lapel pin		8.00
11/16	Conservation Department - Wyoming Wildlife subscription		10.00
	Total:		\$ 236.71
11/15	Repayment of unspent seed money (Joel T. Ebner)		63.29
11/05	PCA Engineering, Inc. (tuition over payment)	993	50.00
11/05	Arrow Printing and Graphics, Inc.	994	709.06
11/13	Jorgensen Engineering & Surveying (tuition over payment)	998	87.50
11/19	Knud E. Hermansen	999	3,630.00
12/21	Parkway Plaza	1003	2,685.69
	Total:		\$ 7,398.96

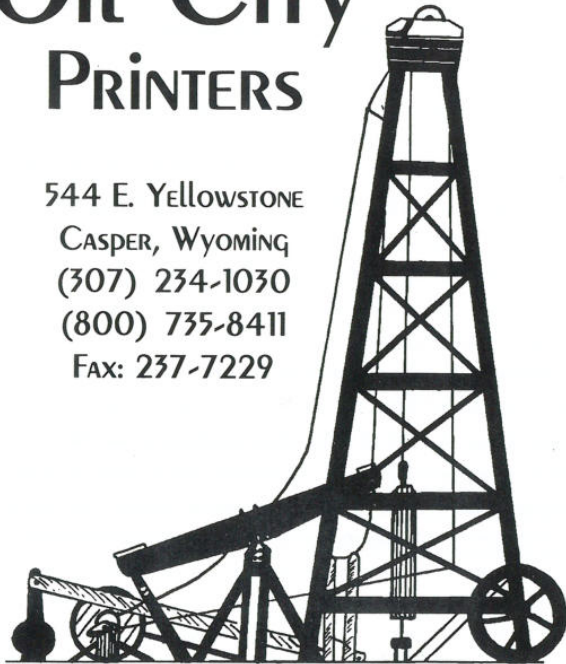


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High School Name (REQUIRED) _____

City and State (REQUIRED) _____

Local Sponsor _____

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Comments of the Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming, Inc.

Surface Transportation Board

Washington, D.C. 20423

STB Ex Parte No. 582

Public Views on Major Rail Consolidations

The Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming, Inc., ("PLSW") is filing these comments, on behalf of its surveying and mapping professional members, in response to the Decision of the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") served on January 24, 1999, in this proceeding. In this Decision, the STB announced its commencement of a review of public views on major rail consolidations and the present and future structure of the North American railroad industry.

PLSW was founded in 1980 and incorporated in 1988 as a non-profit corporation to improve and protect the profession of land surveying in Wyoming. Under its by-laws, PLSWs object and purposes includes being able "To advise and recommend the enactment of legislation on a state and national level in the interest of the public and the professional land surveyor, and to oppose all legislation, statutes, regulations, and administrative rules which are discriminating or inimical thereto, and to assist the members comprise' this corporation in state or local matters which may have a bearing on the general interest of the Professional Land Surveyors and the general public." Licensed professional land surveyors in Wyoming are individuals "who by reason of his knowledge of the mathematical and physical sciences, principles of land surveying and evidence gathering acquired by professional education and practical experience is qualified to practice land surveying as attested by his registration as land surveyor." (Wyoming Statutes 1987; Title 33, Chapter 29; Section I 14-(a) (v)) It is under these obligations to help protect the public's rights and welfare that The Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming, Inc., and its 200+ members come before the STB to comment and voice its discouragement with the evolution of the railroad consolidation in this country and to voice its frustration with the increasingly "aloof" behavior of the railroad industry, as influenced by the major railroads. The Wyoming surveying professions' discouragement(s) and frustration(s) with the railroad industry can be focused into five areas:

(1). The lack of access to accurate, current and reliable mapping of railroad right-of-way and station maps as specified under 49 CFR 1201 as specified to be maintained and accountable to the STB or its predecessor, the Interstate Commerce Commission;

(2). The lack of availability of land schedules as specified under the old 49 CFR 1263 (prior to January 1, 1982) and the industry's paranoia about divulging how its rights-of-way are held, the color of title and location of its ownership documents that were to be held in public trust as regulated common carriers responsible for interstate commerce;

(3). The lack of local access to and the lack of adequate staffing in general of qualified and expert railroad technical personnel at the state and local level to deal with public and private surveyors in the performance of their duties and obligations to the public. In the post-Staggers era and the rail consolidation era, there is a real concern that regulatory, civic and professional obligations of railroad surveying, mapping and land stewardship are being sacrificed in the name of the financial bottom line;

(4). The lack of proper monumentation and evidence related to rights of way (mapping, land schedules, infrastructure records, etc.) abandoned by the major railroads directly or thru the Class 2 and Class 3 railroads that the Class I railroads sold them to. A source of concern there also is the STB's inability to protect adjoining landowners and local surveyors, the public, affected by the abandonment of these rights of way; and

(5). The perception by the major consolidated railroads that they are completely exempt from local, county, and state regulation by federal rule in matters that include, but are not limited to land subdivision, platting, the practice of land surveying and engineering.

"The land surveyor is charged with the responsibility of locating property lines and showing the relationship of possession and title lines; he does not declare who has ownership of the land or who has the right of possession. Such matters are referred to attorneys and the courts". A land surveyor gathers evidence to make an informed decision on the location of boundary and possession lines. A surveyor, by law, is regarded as an expert witness and a measurement scientist in the eyes of the court. Property surveyors' most important functions are (1) to locate previously described parcels of land and (2) to prepare descriptions of newly created parcels of land.

The surveyors' obligation to protect the public and to gather evidence is harmed by the railroad's failure to keep accurate right-of-way and station maps and also to withhold information that use to be freely exchanged with the surveyor as a professional courtesy. The reluctance of railroad legal departments to allow mapping and land schedule evidence to be shared with boundary surveyors as too much of a risk and a lawsuit waiting to happen is damaging the public's interest, damaging the land surveyor's ability to make an informed decision based on the evidence, and is casting shadow on the railroad's ability to comply with 49 CFR 1201 2-22 (a) currently and 49 CFR 1263 (a) (1&2) as well as 49 CFR 1263 (c, d, e) as they existed before January 1, 1982. Surveyors are paying railroads \$40 to \$50 a map sheet for information that is supposed to be public record and is frequently out of date and also frequently has portions blanked out, usually the land schedule. County courthouses do contain some of this information and generally are very weak at producing railroad documentation required as evidence by the surveyor. The railroad and the public are frequently harmed by the creation of gaps and overlaps along common boundaries created by the railroad's reluctance to be a good corporate and public citizen willing to share map and land title information. In spite of the efforts of the few remaining railroad field engineers and surveyors, the flow of information from the railroad and the surveying community has been severely restricted. Those same few remaining railroad field engineers, surveyors, and technicians must be hard pressed to keep up with changes required to keep maps current and to interact with the public.

As the statute that is now 49 CFR 1201 evolved after January 1, 1982, as to exempt Class 2 and Class 3 railroads from the mapping requirements, no one could foresee the current increase in the number of shortlines created from cast-off rights-of-way of the Class I's. As the remaining Class I's continue to consolidate, it is logical that additional rights-of-way will be

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-COMMENTS

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next wave of abandonments and spinoffs be far behind?

In much the same way that Section 2-22 of 49 CFR 1201 requires that Class I railroads "shall maintain current maps of its property ... and shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted mapping practices." A plat should be prepared and filed with the County Clerk & Recorder to eliminate boundary questions and legal description conflicts that "jeopardize the ability of property owners to utilize and to convey their property". The land surveyor, charged with protecting the public interest, cannot properly evaluate boundary line evidence on these "sold" parcels by the railroad (the property owner) who in turn is responsible for making sure that the plat is executed. The railroad (property owner), by not making a proper plat of survey and not showing the changes in detail on its Right-of-Way and Station maps supposedly kept to "generally accepted mapping practices" has damaged "the public's welfare and is interfering with the economic development and utilization of land". As the major railroads of this country continue to consolidate into ultimately 2-4 mega railroads, their intimidating size and political clout is beginning to allow them to operate above the letter of the law that is supposed to apply to all landowners in the State of Wyoming. We ask the Surface Transportation Board to help surveyors in all states, including Wyoming, by reminding the mega railroads that as a publicly regulated utility, each of the railroads are required to be responsible to the public and this include maintaining and sharing plats, maps, and records with surveyors who are also regulated under the laws of the state.

In summary, The PLSW representing the land surveying profession in Wyoming, is asking the STB to assist the public by protecting its interests and well-being by reminding the consolidating railroads of their public obligations. This includes compliance with (1) 49 CFR 1201 in keeping accurate mapping showing their property; (2) sharing land schedule data that helps define that property and is critical evidence- (3) committing to deep adequate staff to serve the public and to share mandated information with the public, including the surveying profession; (4) to better serve the public and especially adjoining land owners and surveyors in abandonment proceedings; and (5) to keep the mega railroads accountable to the public interest and to be a good corporate citizen, abiding by the laws of the states in which they operate.

Respectfully submitted, PLSW

P.L.S.W. Investment Policy

Section 1. The name of the investor shall be the Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming (PLSW), Inc., a nonprofit corporation incorporated in the State of Wyoming, hereafter referred to as PLSW Inc.

Section 2. The purposes of this investment policy is to promote educational activities in the field of land surveying and its associated disciplines of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Land Information Systems (LIS), geodesy, cartography, engineering surveying, cadastral surveying, and mapping. Specific purposes are:

a. To have the funds of PLSW Inc. invested for growth and

appreciation to provide additional funds;

b. To promote education, study, and research in the field of land surveying and diffusion of knowledge thereof;

c. To provide scholarships, awards, or other support to qualified students of land surveying; and

d. To conduct and support educational programs, lectures, forums, or seminars in land surveying and related subjects.

Section 3. The general affairs of the investments of PLSW Inc. shall be under the oversight of the PLSW Board of Directors. The point of contact of the Board of Directors shall be the Secretary/Treasurer, who will distribute/communicate all correspondence received from the financial counselor and the investments. The Secretary/Treasurer shall have the authority to vote all proxy statements.

Section 4. The investment portfolio shall be in accordance with Federal and State statutes and regulations for nonprofit public corporations. A sum of monies equivalent to the previous calendar year's earnings shall be invested such that withdrawal for scholarships shall be without financial penalty to the portfolio.

Section 5. Disbursements from these investments shall not exceed the cash earnings for the previous calendar year, or unspent cash earnings from earlier years.

Section 6. If there are no disbursements or the disbursements are less than the cash earnings received for the previous calendar year, those unspent funds shall be invested and may be considered for disbursement in succeeding years.

Section 7. The PLSW Scholarship Committee may request scholarship awards in excess of the previous year's earnings or the unspent earnings from earlier years. In the event the request exceeds the unspent earnings, the excess funding requested shall be paid from the general funds of PLSW approved by the PLSW Board of Directors.

Section 8. Donations and transfers of PLSW funds may be invested at any time.

Section 9. Scholarships shall be paid from the PLSW general account only after the funds have been transferred from the investments.

Section 10. An annual statement of the investments and earnings for the previous calendar year shall be published at the PLSW Annual Meeting.

Section 11. All donations, transfer of funds from the general funds of PLSW, and funds earned through fund raisers shall be invested, and shall not be considered earnings for the calendar year for the purpose of disbursements.

Section 12. Recipients of monies from these investments shall be residents of Wyoming.

Section 13. In the event that the PLSW shall be dissolved, the funds and investments shall be transferred to the control of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping/National Society of Professional Surveyors Foundation (hereafter referred to as ACSM/NSPSF). The designated recipient, ACSM/NSPSF, is charged with the authority/responsibility stipulated in this policy of investment and disbursement to invest, reinvest and disburse the funds of the PLSW account.

Memorandum For Record

This version of the document was approved by the PLSW BOD at their quarterly meeting of 28 August 1999.

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cast off to shortlines or abandoned. The surveyors of Wyoming are very concerned that any such spinoff or abandonment will create another set of lost land records and maps that have a direct bearing on future boundary surveys and protection of the public's interest.

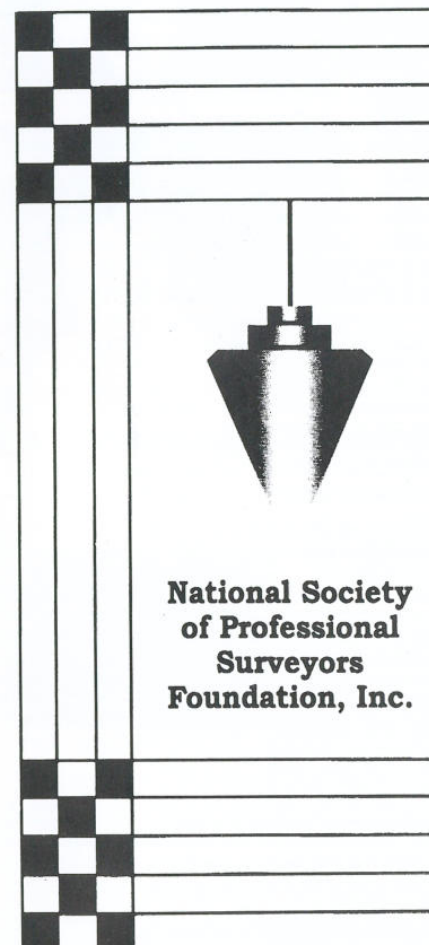
Since January 1, 1982, reference to land schedules showing deed locations, custodian's number, color of title, grantor, grantee, date of instrument, and serial number for each tract of land has gone away and makes accurate maps of its property and right-of-way problematic as the intent of the original surveyors and land agent's design is often obscured. With the fact that the bulk of the railroad rights-of-way are controlled by a very limited few, one railroad failing to share marking and title information with the land surveying profession and the public can create an incalculable amount of harm in the determination of land boundaries. We very much fear that the whim of a legal department fearing lawsuit will not allow surveyors over a large part of the country to properly evaluate the evidence of boundary location and ownership along a great many miles of railroad right-of-way and the land of others.

Since the advent of Staggers Act, deregulation and the consolidation of the railroads began 'in earnest in 1983. The numbers of railroaders with technical and mapping backgrounds has dropped precipitously. The act of balancing a railroad's operating budget on the back of the Engineering Department to improve the bottom line has been a reality for many years. The railroad trade press is already wondering if (or when) the training of the next generation of railway surveyors, engineers, and technicians will ever take place. With these ideas in mind, the

surveying profession in Wyoming is concerned that pressures to bring more operating monies to the bottom line rather than to a railroad's professional and statutory obligations win lead mapping and record keeping efforts into a higher state of decay. The potential of harm to the public and the surveying profession is substantial and need not happen. We ask the STB to investigate why information that is accepted as the definitive public record evidence is so difficult to obtain, is frequently not current as required by statute and is dismissed as not essential to the operation of our nation's large railroads.

The centerline of railroad track(s) are frequently used as monuments to define railroad rights-of-way and often are used to describe adjoining properties and boundaries. Hard to obtain railroad maps and deed descriptions/schedules further help describe these monuments and boundaries as evidence. The abandonment and removal of track as approved by the STB often causes both the monument (the track) and the supporting boundary evidence (the maps and records) to be lost to future surveyors and landowners. The surveying profession 'in Wyoming requests that the STB consider requiring that the public's interests and that of the surveying community be protected in the future abandonment proceedings of Class I's and in sales to Class 2 and Class 3 railroads. We request that Class I railroads, prior to sale to a shortline or abandonments place their mapping and records in a designated public repository (courthouse, county surveyor?) rather than in the trash as is sadly the case today. The public would be much better served by preservation of the historical records. As the next round of mergers and consolidation seems to be sadly inevitable, can the

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**National Society
of Professional
Surveyors
Foundation, Inc.**

The National Society of Professional Surveyors Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to promote educational, scientific and charitable activities in the field of surveying and mapping.

Over the years, surveyors have demonstrated with pride, a desire to support the preservation and development of the surveying profession both on the state and national levels. The **NSPS** Foundation needs your help and guidance now to enhance the profession nationally. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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