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MEMBER — WESTERN FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

KEVIN JONES, VICE-PRESIDENT

RICHARD MUSCIO, PRESIDENT

MARLOW SCHERBEL, SEC.-TREAS.

VOLUME 17, NO. 2

AUGUST 2005



P.L.S.W.



A (Very) Short History of RTK GPS

by
Dr. Lon G. Toody, Geodesist

October 1995 -

We were toting around an RTK rover backpack that weighed 36 pounds - not including the rover GPS antenna which weighed another three pounds.

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2005 PLSW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS OF WYOMING

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



NAME _____ DATE _____

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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 Marlow Scherbel, Sec./Treas., P.O. _____

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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O LINES AND POINTS FAX AND E-MAIL - Our fax number is 307-235-5604 and our E-mail address is dond@wlcwyo.com or johnhh@trib.com.

O PLSW KEY RINGS AND PINS - The South Central Chapter has key rings and pins for sale. Contact *Lines and Points*.

O SAFETY MANUAL FOR SURVEYORS - Available from the Southwest Chapter. Comprehensive Affordable, Adaptable - \$50.

CD contains entire 206 page manual in both "Word" and "Adobe" in pdf formats that can be edited and adapted for your particular use.

Contact Secretary/Treasurer Ken Magrath - kenm@co.sweet.wy.us or send a check or money order for \$52.00 (includes postage) made payable to:

Southwest Chapter PLS
1010 South Dakota Street
Green River, WY 82935

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE	PAGE
EDITORIAL POTPOURRI	3
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	4
WFPS REPORT	6
BOD MINUTES	7
WYDOT'S CESSNA	7
ACSM NEWS	8
PARK COUNTY COMPUTERIZATION	9
SOURCE OF THE SNAKE	14
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	15

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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.

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Advertising Information

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President's Message

Well it's summertime again and I'm sure everyone is in about the same boat, working harder and getting further behind. Welcome to the wonderful world of surveying in Wyoming. I hope everyone is having a great year and doing fine.

There is one item from my last message that I would like to bring special attention to at this time and that is the education requirement for licensing as a Professional Land Surveyor in the State of Wyoming. On June 17th of this year I was asked by a member of the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors to attend a meeting of the Joint Corporations, Elections and Political Subdivisions Interim Committee at Sheridan College. Members of the State Board were there to address the legislation concerning the education requirement for engineers and surveyors in the state. All of the members in attendance spoke in favor of retaining the existing educational requirements. I also spoke in favor representing the Northwest Chapter of PLSW but made it clear I was not speaking for the state organization as a whole. In the end no action was taken by the Interim Committee at this time. They asked the State Board to come back when they had a clear consensus of what the profession would like. After the meeting I was asked by members of the State Board to go to the general membership of PLSW for their stand. There are differing opinions throughout the state on this subject but we need to come up with a majority decision. At the August 27, 2005, PLSW Board of Directors teleconference I will be asking all of the directors to go back to their individual chapters and come back to our meeting at the Fall Technical Session with their input. Everyone please take time to think hard about this issue and consider all the ramifications of your decision.

Congratulations to Rick Hudson, PLSW's latest inductee into the "Honorary Membership" Hall of Fame. All of us who have worked with Rick over the years know that this is well deserved. Thanks for all you have done and are continuing to do for PLSW.

Jack Bell, a member of the WES 2005 President's Project of the Year Committee, is looking for surveyors interested in applying for a project to submit. Jack can be contacted at P.O. Box 2189, Casper, WY 82602, (307)473-3200. Notebook entries must be received by January 4, 2006, and follow all of the award guidelines.

Everyone mark October 27th and 28th on your calendars for the Fall Technical Session. It promises to be another great educational opportunity as well as a chance to get together with fellow surveyors.

Have a great summer and fall.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Muscio

President

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TAPE ONE

1. *Professional Land Surveyors & GIS; Mapping the Future*; New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors.
2. *Professional Land Surveying: A Career Without Boundaries*; New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors.
3. *A Matter of Degrees*; American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, National Society of Professional Surveyors (1986).
4. *Surveyors of the Sixth Principal Meridian*; Bureau of Land Management

TAPE TWO

1. Wyoming T2 Center: *Surveying Crew Orientation: Surveying Options, Part I.*
1. Wyoming T2 Center: *Surveying Crew Orientation: Surveying Options, Part II.*

TAPE THREE

1. *Introduction to Legal Research*; by West Publishing (nine chapters).

appeared to have been assigned a reception number, but as filed originals, not recorded, no photo record exists. Investigation using reception number ranges would likely locate the date of filing and the filer of any missing record, but it would only be recoverable if the preparer had maintained a file copy.

A small percentage of corner records used multiple document sheets as opposed to using both sides of the corner record form. In most cases, the sheets were not clearly linked by the preparer, but notations were added during this project. It was obvious that recombining the several pages of certain documents, if separated, might be difficult or impossible without such identification safeguards, unless the researcher had a very good understanding of the corner information. Fortunately, the scanning of documents under the new recording process should completely eliminate this possibility. Inter-sheet referencing using the cross-index number, the document date, and a page-of-pages notation is the recommended minimum. Most of these multi-sheet document sets were stapled together and no missing pages were noted during the recodification process. Predictably, the staples were a detriment to the viewing of the documents in the bound corner record books, and the document sheets were usually found pulled apart. In order to make copies of the original filings, the staples had to be removed. Over time, the removal and restapling damaged portions of the record, though not usually any of the critical data portions. As part of this project, clerk's office staff had to remove the staples from the documents to scan them into the database.

Some corner records had as attachments or accompaniments a variety of nonuniform and/or nonconforming sizes of documents. Attachment was made using tape or other adhesive and different types of mechanical fasteners. Accompaniments were found bound into the corner record books but not necessarily referenced to a particular record. While this was understood to have been a reasonable method in the past to provide mapping information along with the corner data, the adhesives have aged and failed with time and the fasteners caused the problems previously cited. The use of a double-sided form with appropriate line drawings, or multiple-sheet forms with appropriate inter-sheet cross-referencing is now preferred. It should be noted that the clerk's office staff's handling of the oversized documents may have been made by moving those objects to a filing location along with records of survey and subdivision plats. Hopefully if that was done, a notation in that regard was placed on the respective corner record. It is unlikely that the clerk's office staff cut or otherwise altered original documents for scanning.

Finally, clerk's office staff noticed that many of the corner records are now being filed with shaded maps and digital pictures, which in many cases are not scanning well, appearing very dark or with large areas of black. They have requested that documents, as much as possible, be prepared using simple text styles, line drawings with low-density line hatching patterns, and higher-contrast black and white photography.

CONCLUSIONS

The project was a successful recodification of the corner record filing system through cooperation between the county clerk, the county commissioners, and the local surveyors representing the Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming.

The project reported only a few lost records and by changing the filing process to a computerized recording and scanning process, the chances of losing an original document have been

considerably lessened.

The project corrected the indexing of many improperly located forms, making their information more easily located by researchers. Documents misidentified by index number can still be difficult to locate since the index number is the most discriminatory of the searchable location attributes.

The alpha-numeric system of indexing and recording land corner records is simple, efficient, and relatively error-free, providing a uniform system of data management, yet proving to be forgiving of minor errors and differences in interpretation of index number assignment, as well as of a major difference such as indexing under an older original survey township.

Documents with simple, high-contrast graphics are desired for scanning.

The system is compatible with the future prospect of digital file retrieval over the Internet or similar data communications system.

-CESSNA

(Continued from Page 7)

Because it was intended for use with freight, the new plane came with only two seats for the pilot and co-pilot. Three passenger seats were added along with a lower one designed especially for the photographer.

A fifth seat has a "potty seat" underneath for emergencies.

The extra seating means the plane can be used to take passengers when it's not being used for photography and mapping. The current plane has no extra seating and is limited to photogrammetry missions.

The new plane also was fitted with a special cabinet for electronic equipment and a box cover for the camera to keep it from being damaged when not in use.

Carpeting and acoustic pads on the interior walls and ceiling reduce the noise of the plane.

In addition, mechanics installed a gross weight kit that increases the carrying capacity.

The cost of those improvements was \$157,350, taking the total cost of the plane to \$1.76 million.

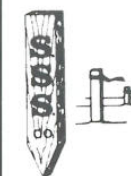
"If it says aviation on it, it's going to be expensive," Reams said. "Making sure it was done right was a priority.

"We keep these planes for 20 years. We don't want have to modify it later."

Once finished, the plane went to Wichita, Kan., for servicing and inspections. Then it was delivered to Laramie, where it is based.

Reams said she expected the Zeiss camera, which was taken from the old plane, to be installed by this week.

WYDOT experts will train in Texas to use the plane, which will be put into regular use for mapping later this month.



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(Continued from Page 10)

corners of the survey system down to the one-sixteenth section subdivision corners will fall exactly on a grid intersection. This will be true regardless of the government survey employed by the filer. It is presumed that only by pure chance would any other survey corners be found to fall exactly on those lines or at those points unless the survey was intentionally using those lines or points for boundary control. It is also only by special instruction or the agreement of a bona fide rights claimant in the case of segregated tracts that tract corners would be coincident with resurvey township or section subdivision lines. This basic guidance should help with most of the cases of index number assignment.

The corner record filing act encourages surveyors to file on corners other than public land survey system corners, including national and local control points and bench marks, and corners related to other types of land subdivision. Thus with time, additional corners are being added to the system. This factor made the county's numbering system master plats very difficult to keep current. In contrast, the alpha-numeric indexing system in its prescribed form is immune to all modifications other than a government-sponsored independent resurvey. Any number of corners may fall within a grid area between two lettered and two numbered grid lines and have an identical cross-index number. The prescribed index system relieves the clerk's office staff from having to distinguish between types of corners. The burden is placed on the researcher, who should be prepared through training and experience, to differentiate between the names of those corners. Most surveyors and others researching corner records usually expand their records research area, thus, corners only marginally mislocated will still be easily found in the system database.

All records recodified under this project were done so in accordance with the latest government survey for the township. Since computer graphics were unavailable to work with the public records, the method employed was a scaled, transparent overlay placed on the master index plats to identify the nonaliquot corner positions. This technique may still be useful for many preparers due to its speed, though it is becoming less necessary as computer methods replace manual analysis methods, including the recent availability of the government plats via the Internet. As a result of using the manual overlay method, there is a likelihood that index number assignments could be off in any direction by one grid letter or number, but as previously noted, recovering records is still fairly easily accomplished with a slight expansion of a record research area.

Though it is desired that index numbers will be assigned by others from this point forward according to use of the prevailing township as described, it is recognized that there is no authority to review records for uniformity or to determine deficiencies. The clerk's office staff will file the record at the index number assigned by the filer, provided the record meets the necessary minimum data for public record filing. The records researcher is cautioned to check index numbers associated with any likely survey grid.

INDEXING ELONGATED AND FRACTIONAL SECTION CORNERS

As previously discussed, assignment of the index number depends upon the township grid datum the filer chooses to use. Elongated and fractional sections were found to be handled in a

filer's point of view, but many of which might have been improved upon with respect to uniformity when considering the point of view of a researcher looking for the information at some later date.

Areas where lack of uniformity was most notable were in the fractional townships along the Montana state line, fractional townships with completion surveys having double monumentation on the adjoining completion survey boundaries, and townships with sectional correction lines and guide meridians resulting in the establishment of closing corners from non-standard directions.

Since most townships are surveyed from their southeast corner in our base and meridian, nonuniform assignments tended to manifest themselves by indexing from the northwest, or index number A-1. All incomplete or otherwise irregular sections must be scrutinized with respect to the aliquot lines and corners for proper application of index number assignment. The recommended principle to follow is that if a junior and senior corner or line relationship exists, the junior corner is unlikely to be an aliquot corner and will be an intermediate grid location in at least one direction.

INDEX NUMBER BLUNDERS AND FORMAT

As might be expected, there were a number of records with incorrect indices unrelated to the above described systematic assignment problems. Those index numbers were just erroneous. The only recommendation that can be made in this circumstance is for the preparer to check their work and cause as few errors as possible. For those who are unfamiliar with independent resurveys, it is recommended that contacting or working with someone familiar with the system to review records before filing may well be worth the effort.

A few corner records were filed with the index number characters reversed, in other words, with the number or numbers preceding the letter or letters. It was uncertain if the problem was related to being in too much of a hurry or to inexperience. Whatever the case, it was always corrected by those preparers as observed by their later records. Though those records were filed in the permanent public record and so remain, the index numbers were corrected during this project.

Punctuation was at times distinctly different, with commas, hyphens and periods the more common delimiters for the character fields. Per the standard Cross-Index Plat instructions, hyphens are prescribed between fields and dual numbers, but not between dual letters. For this project, the comma was used to separate the dual letter or numeric characters, and a hyphen was used between the letter and number fields because of the predominance of that format in the filed records. Strictly adhering to the prescribed format will require only the use of hyphens. The Clerk's office is strictly using the hyphen between characters and fields..

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Other considerations worthy of a brief mention were either noted or mentioned by clerk's office staff. These had no impact on the document recodification project in terms of index number assignment, but some did and will continue to have an effect on the clerk's office staff properly and conveniently entering or scanning the records into the computer database until procedures are changed.

During the project, filed corner records were matched with the index numbers on each township's master index plat. It was noted that a few original corner records were missing. All corner records

WFPS BOD Report

WFPS Board of Directors Meeting held Saturday, June 11, 2005 at the Silver Legacy Hotel and Casino, Reno, Nevada.

Chairman Ron Whitehead called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m. Roll Call was taken and a quorum declared with (16) Delegates and Officers in attendance representing ten the thirteen western states.

It was motioned and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2005 Board of Directors meeting.

Chairman Ron Whitehead reported that the Conference Committee is working on getting final numbers on the WFPS share of A-C-N-W 2005 Conference proceeds. Written report was submitted.

Secretary Harold Baldwin submitted a written report, which focused on tracking/action list items concerning Conference 2006, Redefinition of Surveying and Education.

Treasurer Jerry Tippin presented a written financial report with total equity being \$140,564.82, which resides in three CDs and the checking account.

State activity reports were reviewed with each member delegate giving verbal updates or noting specific issues and items important to their respective state associations.

Committee reports were presented with the following noted highlights: NCEES committee members were charged with identifying issues, concerns and allies on the issue of NCEES lack of representation of land surveying and report back to the Board at their next meeting. A request was made for the reprint of the Summary by States. Chairman Whitehead suggested that, to maintain current information on licensing requirements, that the licensing requirements be linked from the WFPS website. Each delegate to forward a link to their state land surveying practice act. 2007 Conference committee reported that, as noted at the March Board of Directors meetings, hotels specs were sent to hotels in the San Francisco bay area with a specified room ceiling rates of \$159 +/- per night. Responses received indicated that the hotels could not meet the room rate. Responses were received from hotels in the San Francisco *airport* area, located in Burlingame, CA. Burlingame is located approximately 15 miles from San Francisco. Dorothy Calgary toured two hotels in Burlingame of which only one (Hyatt Burlingame) would meet WFPS requirements. Based on the information provided the Board directed the Committee to pursue San Diego as the site for the 2007 Conference. Dave Diluvia reported that GIS in the Rockies is in the process of incorporating. There are currently six sponsors of the Conference which includes: The Colorado Section of ACSM; Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS; Rocky Mountain Chapter of URISA; Professional Land

Surveyors of Colorado; and GIS Colorado. The sponsors of GIS in the Rockies are interested in participation by WFPS in the September 2006 Conference. Dave presented a profile of the Conference. For further information on the conference: <http://www.GISintheRockies.org>. It was moved, seconded and approved that WFPS support, to the tune of \$5,000, the GIS-PLSC Conference to be held in September 2006. Dave Diluvia is to bring back a formal proposal for Board consideration at their next meeting. Ron Whitehead reported that all Board members subscribe to the ACSM Joint Governmental Affairs email list at: <http://www.acsm.net/govaf00.html>. It was reported that ACSM has provided to each state Society, a Career in surveying program. Dorothy Calegari is to check into linking the career program to the WFPS website. Three scholarships were awarded to the following students: James E. Jacobs, (Senior @ Metro State) for \$2,500; Branden Lee Langley (Senior @ New Mexico State) for \$2,500 and Julian Sisneros (Senior @ Metro State). Dorothy Calgary was to draft bylaws amendments combining the Offices of Secretary and Treasurer, as well as other administrative changes to bring the bylaws technologically up-to date for Board review at their September meeting.

The Action list was reviewed and updated.

The next WFPS Board of Directors meeting will be held in Seattle, September 24. The January, 2006 meeting will be held in Las Vegas, NV. Paul Whipple is to check on locations and accommodation rates in Alaska for the June, 2006 board of Directors meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Reid, Wyoming Delegate

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Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming, Inc.

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2005

1) The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming was called to order by President Richard T. Muscio.

a) Location: teleconference

b) Date and Time: Saturday 14 May 2005 at 10:00 am

c) Presiding Officer: President Richard T. Muscio

2) Agenda: A letter from WES was added to the agenda prepared by Secretary Scherbel. It was noted by Secretary Scherbel that Enclosure No. 2 was never sent out. The agenda was approved by President Muscio.

3) Board of Directors' Minutes: Motion by Jim Jones to approve the minutes of the 3 February 2005 Board of Director's meeting. Motion seconded by Don Lee. Motion passed.

4) Secretary's Report: Secretary/Treasurer Scherbel reported that,

a) He is setting up an email account for PLSW email

b) He would like to get Committee reports 3 weeks prior to each meeting

c) The distinction was made between "no report" and "no action"

5) Treasurer's Report:

A discussion was held about obtaining a credit/debit card for the checking account.

John Lee made a motion that the Secretary request issuance of a debit card for official business only. Randy Stelzner seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Secretary/Treasurer Scherbel said that all accounts have been set up on Quick Books. A discussion was held about moving funds from the checking account into investment accounts. Secretary/Treasurer Scherbel is looking into various account rates for the best investment vehicle.

6) Committee Reports:

a) Audit (Jeff Jones) Enclosure No. 10 dated 11 May 2005 read by Secretary/Treasurer Scherbel. A discussion was held about audit procedures and authorization. President Muscio deferred to Don Davis who will review by-laws for procedure. Don Davis and Secretary/Treasurer Scherbel will confer and decide. Audits will now be by Don Davis.

b) By-Laws (Alan Cormier) President Muscio did not receive a report from the By-Laws Committee. According to Article 5 the Board of Directors is made up of one Director from each chapter, a President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and past-Presidents. The past-Presidents do not have a vote. Secretary/Treasurer Scherbel will compile policies and provide digitally. President Muscio and Vice President Jones will try to find out if Alan wants to continue as Committee Chairman.

c) Convention (Troy Fields) Troy will be resigning after this year and recommends that the chair person be in the Chapter where convention is being held (Southeast for 2006). John Lee will solicit a volunteer and suggested Paul Reid or Pete Hutchison. President Muscio will contact both.

d) Education (Jim Jones for Bill) Bill signed memo of understanding with Paul Como to speak at Convention. Need \$500 deposit to Paul Como. Other costs will be approximately \$385

airfare and his fee of \$2000.00. Jim Jones made a motion to approve expenses and John Lee seconded. Motion was passed.

e) History (Herb Stoughton) No report. Secretary Scherbel had spoken with him and was told that he needs to receive more information from Chapters and the Board. President Muscio asked the Chapter Directors to provide Herb with requested information.

f) Legislative (John Steil) President Muscio reported that the education requirement for Land Surveyors is still in place. Paul N. Scherbel had provided a letter outlining the Legislature's intent to discuss this topic in upcoming sessions. A discussion followed about what participation is needed in these sessions.

g) Manual (Don Oakley) Dormant at this time.

h) Membership (Stanton Abell and Herb Stoughton) Secretary/Treasurer Scherbel has received three new membership applications. It was decided it would be okay to read them over the phone this time, but in the future, applications need to be sent out for Board members' review.

i) Newsletter (Don Davis) Committee members are resigning following Volume 17 for WES meeting in Cheyenne. President Muscio suggested Southeast Chapter take it on. John Lee will solicit volunteers. Don Davis will be available for transition. President Muscio requested all Chapters discuss at their next meeting.

j) Nominations will be presented in Oct/Nov meeting

k) PLSW Handbook (Herb Stoughton) Secretary Scherbel requested Chapter Directors find out who needs one.

l) Awards (Don Davis) Don said Jeff presented him with award with gavel. There are no additional awards at this time.

m) Public Relations (Larry Perry) No report. Kevin Jones brought up the subject of the Presidential Project of the Year awards.

n) SOS (Paul Reid) No report

o) Scholarship (Scott Scherbel) No report. President Muscio is also on the Committee and is not aware of any new requests for scholarships.

p) Standards (Rusty Blough) No report. A short discussion was held about Chapters conducting their own investigations prior to submitting to the Northwest Chapter and the Board.

q) Trig-Star (Joel Ebner) Enclosure No. 5.

r) Allen Mace (Chris Hamilton) A discussion was held about whether a decision had been made to have Chris contact businesses directly for contributions rather than holding a raffle, and how scholarship monies tie in with investments. President Muscio will discuss further with Chris.

s) Corner Record (Rick Hudson) No report.

t) Investment (Scott Pierson) No report. Kevin Jones transferred all information to Scott and Secretary/Treasurer Scherbel. Further discussion of transfer of funds from checking to investments.

7) Delegate Reports: Reference to report on Las Vegas meeting.

8) ACSM: President Muscio and Secretary/Treasurer Scherbel received no report, but there is one in Lines and Points.

9) Old Business:

a) A discussion was held on the Hudson nomination and procedures for nominations. Secretary/Treasurer Scherbel read

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filed through December 2003 and to advise clerk's office staff in the use of the new cross-index filing system. Clerk's office staff then recorded and scanned those records into the county's computerized recording system.

Corner records filed after January 1, 2004 were required to be prepared using alpha-numeric index numbers, so the clerk's office staff were able to receive, index and scan them into the computerized system without further assistance. It was recommended that any corner records not meeting filing requirements be returned to the preparer for revision, the same as for any record document. Informal support to clerk's office staff from chapter members continues on an as-needed basis.

INDEX NUMBER ASSIGNMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Over time, the Clerk's office staff has broadened its range of filing duties, and has less time to read and understand documents. It was determined that the staff should not be burdened with any unnecessary indexing system detail, especially if it conflicted with Wyoming's prescribed index system or required additional special training. Thus, employment of the simplest system that accomplishes the necessary corner record filing function is considered essential. Though reassigning index numbers under the alpha-numeric system was straightforward for the majority of the filed records, a number of problems and inconsistencies were noted with both the assignment of corners records to their respective townships and with previously assigned alpha-numeric index numbers misrepresenting their location in their respective township. Two major classes of records were generally identified.

Records in the first class were those filed using only the originally employed sequential indexing system. These records were simply assigned the appropriate cross-index number during this project. Two main filing problems were encountered with this class of records. The more frequent was assignment of the record to the wrong corner position on the master tracking plat. Nearly all of these errors were the result of clerk's office staff misunderstanding the corner name, mostly due to their lack of understanding of public land surveying system nomenclature, but sometimes assisted by the filer's own misrepresentation. The less frequent was the assignment of a corner to the wrong township, most often due to a filer failing to notice that a corner for an entry survey, mineral survey or segregated tract that spanned a township line fell into the adjoining resurvey township. However, sometimes it was the error of the clerk's office staff failing to recognize the limits of the resurvey township, again attributed to a lack of understanding of public land survey system nomenclature. To help combat this problem, it is recommended that corner record filers pay closer attention to the sub-tracts or underlying resurvey section lots that were often created by the township lines when assigning the subject corner's township index number.

The second class of records, being a slim majority of the total filed at the time of the project, were prepared with alpha-numeric cross-index numbers, and notably filed by surveyors regularly practicing either in other Wyoming counties or other states that utilized that form of indexing system. It was noted that the number of corner records prepared with alpha-numeric index numbers increased as time passed from the date of enactment of the corner record filing act, including those filed by the local surveyors, and that over roughly the past five years, essentially all forms have been so indexed. The majority of these records were properly

inconsistencies and variants noted in the following paragraphs.

DECIMAL INDICES

The inconsistency most at variance with the prescribed indexing system was the decimalized index number. The source of this variant was not investigated but it was found to be predominant in records filed by those from or also practicing in other states. The intent the variant was judged to be helpful in nature, being a means of adding discriminating corner location information to each record via the index number. Unfortunately, use of this variant in the prescribed Wyoming system served to defeat the system's simplicity, especially since the Clerk's office staff were unable to interpret the values and given their background with the sequential number system. Further, this variant was found to complicate and interfere with computer data entry of index number attributes. Since the prescribed system does not explicitly support the decimal number format, it was recommended that the use of the decimalized variant be discouraged, and better, disallowed. The chapter offered to assist with the draft of a letter that could be sent with returned records, explaining the problems associated with decimalized index numbers. Decimal values were eliminated during this project.

TOWNSHIP INDEXING UNIFORMITY

The inconsistency most noted was the choice of the township grid. It was the Chapter's decision to recognize the prevailing township grid at the time of filing: using the independent resurvey township configuration for any township so resurveyed, and using the respective original government survey, dependent resurvey of the original survey, or protracted survey in all other cases. While surveyors have significant latitude in interpreting the laws and administrative requirements affecting their professional duties, it is hoped that the majority of filers will employ this concept, recognizing that the simplicity of the system will help with the registry of data provided by those who choose not to use this form of the filing system or who are unaware of this concept.

Understandably, assigning an index number according to the original township corner position is easier than determining the likely interstitial position of the corner within the resurvey township index grid. However, with some townships having over a mile of shift between the original survey and resurvey, and frequently nearly one-half mile, research for records strictly by grid area might fail to return the presence of that record, especially since the segregated tracts or other types of surveys are not graphically depicted on the index plats. Further, index numbers would thereby be unnecessarily duplicated for many resurvey section corners having the same name.

The most important aspect of the township grid is that in the vast majority of cases, only aliquot corners of the public land survey system will fall on the index grid lines, and only aliquot

(Continued on Page 12)



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procedures – Board can approve. Bruce made motion to approve and John Lee seconded. Motion was passed.

b) Education requirements – further discussion on PLSW taking a position and level of involvement.

c) Policy Books – Secretary/Treasurer Scherbel will have policies available to Board by next meeting.

10) New Business:

a) New membership applications for Mark Rehwaldt, Richard Pals, and G. Steward Nash. John Lee made a motion to approve and Randy seconded. The motion was passed.

b) Non-profit status – There was a concern about losing status as a non-profit. Secretary/Treasurer had discussed this concern with Linda Abell, who said it should not be a problem. PLSW is 501C and donations are tax deductible.

c) Website Policy – A discussion was held about paying to put up a website, what the content would be, and who would have access. President Muscio will contact Rich and Skylar to put together more information for next meeting.

d) NCEES – A discussion was held about how to provide instructional CD to students about becoming a Land Surveyor.

e) New members – already addressed

f) SurvZone publication – tabled for next meeting and more information.

g) Legislative Interim Committee – already discussed.

h) Next Board meeting scheduled for 4th Saturday in August (8/27). Kevin Jones will find out date for meetings in conjunction with Convention.

i) WES President's Project – letter from Jack with requirements. Secretary/Treasurer Scherbel will send copies to each Director for dissemination to local firms.

11) Adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlowe A. Scherbel
Secretary/Treasurer

WYDOT bought and outfitted a Cessna to take aerial photographs for mapping and planning projects.

By Ilene Olson

rep3@wyomingnews.com

CHEYENNE - After more than a year of planning, designing and monitoring progress, the state Department of Transportation took delivery last week of a plane used to take aerial photographs.

It will replace the agency's existing photogrammetry plane — a Cessna 206 that has been in service for about 23 years. Aerial photographs are used during mapping and planning phases for WYDOT projects.

Planning for the purchase began two and a half years ago, and the new plane — a Cessna 208 Caravan - was ordered and paid for at a cost of just under \$1.65 million more than a year ago.



Wyoming Department of Transportation took delivery recently of a plane used to take aerial photographs. It will replace the agency's existing photogrammetry plane – a Cessna 206 – that has been in service for about 23 years. Aerial photographs are used during mapping and planning phases for WYDOT projects.

It arrived in July 2004, at which time officials flew it to Oklahoma City, Okla., for a lengthy engineering process.

Shelly Reams, administrator of the Aeronautics Division of WYDOT, said that model never had been fitted with a camera hole for use as a photogrammetry plane.

The hole for the camera had to be cut in the bottom of the plane in a way that would not compromise the strength of the hull or the ribbing around it, she said.

Before that could be done, engineers had to get a supplemental type certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration, Reams added.

"They can't even be 1/8th of an inch off," she said. "It's not as simple as getting a blow torch."

The hole for the camera was fitted and complete in January or February, after which the power supply for the camera was rerouted and a few other minor adjustments were made.

The engineering and certificate process cost \$96,000.

A larger plane was designed for two camera holes, but the bigger size meant it was less agile and harder to handle. The smaller plane is easier to handle, and that increases safety, Reams said.

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ACSM NEWS

Federal Prison Industries Reform Update.

The recent Federal Prison Industries reform legislation, H.R. when down in flames recently during the judiciary committee markup. Representative Steve Chabot (OH-1) offered a substitute amendment that struck the text of H.R. 2965 and created a "Federal Inmate Work Opportunities Review Commission Act" to conduct another study and issue another report within two years.

Supporters of the Chabot substitute included Rep. Bobby Scott (VA-3), Rep. Dan Lundgren (CA-3), former Chairman Henry Hyde (IL-6), Rep. Mark Green (WI-8), Rep. Adam Schiff (CA-27) and Rep. Spencer Bachus (AL-6). The Committee agreed to table further consideration of the legislation until next year. In the meantime, the Senate version of FPI reform legislation is moving forward.

Lobby Day 2005 News.

Lobby Day 2005 will take place on Thursday, September 15th. Participants should plan to come in on Tuesday the 13th or early Wednesday the 14th. We plan on having our pre-Lobby Day meeting in the afternoon of the 14th. During this meeting we will go over the issues we will be discussing with legislators, and our strategy for the meetings with legislators. We have a lot of issues to discuss this year and hopefully we will be as successful as we have been in the past.

Also, we are now planning to have a reception for the opening of the ACSM Mapping Exhibit at the Library of Congress at the Capitol Hill Club on the evening of the 14th. ACSM members are encouraged to participate in Lobby Day, and join us at the opening reception for the ACSM Mapping Exhibit. Read more about our planned exhibit below.

ACSM Exhibit at Library of Congress.

After almost 2 years of planning, the ACSM Mapping Exhibit will open at the Library of Congress soon. We still do not have a firm date for the opening, but we are expecting it to be open in time for Lobby Day on September 15th. The exhibit will have four parts; surveying, GIS, geodesy and cartography. There will be approximately 50 pieces to the exhibit showing a wide variety of maps and a kiosk showing a film about GIS. As noted above, assuming that the exhibit will be open by September 15th, we will have an exhibit "opening reception" the evening of September 14th at the Capitol Hill Club, which is right across the street from the Library of Congress. We are planning to invite Members of Congress and their staff to the opening ceremonies at the exhibit and to the reception.

Teleconference on Contracts and Negotiations for Surveying Firms.

Schinnerer and Company will sponsor a teleconference entitled: SURVEYING THE ISSUES: CONTRACTS AND NEGOTIATIONS FOR SURVEYING FIRMS

The teleconference will take place on Wednesday, October 19, 2005 from 12:00 – 1:30 PM, EDT.

This event is free to Schinnerer insureds and ACSM members and is ideal for surveyors who have responsibility for negotiating professional services agreements.

Participants will discuss:

- Ø Determining the type of contract
- Ø Key elements of a contract
- Ø Common contractual provisions that may cause problems

Continuing education certificates and supporting documentation will be issued to each participant.

Hear from:

Joseph H. Jones, Jr., Esq., AIA, Moderator: Joe Jones is the director of Victor O. Schinnerer & Company's A/E/C Risk Management Services. Prior to joining Schinnerer, Joe practiced architecture for more than ten years and served the AIA as Assistant Counsel for the Contract Documents Committee. Joe also currently serves as editor for Schinnerer's Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of Invited Attorneys.

Gerald W. Farquhar, Esq.: Jerry Farquhar has been actively engaged in the construction claims arena as a professional liability defense attorney and as an A/E risk management consultant for more than 40 years. For the past 30 years, he has served as a consultant to both CNA and Victor O. Schinnerer & Company, providing risk management advice to policyholders and decision support to CNA and Schinnerer in the areas of policy drafting, revision and underwriting.

Gary R. Kent, LS.: Gary Kent chairs the ACSM/NSPS committee on ALTA/ACSM Land Title Survey Standards. He has worked on the committee since 1988, and he continues to be actively involved in standards issues on both the state and national levels. Gary is the Director of Surveying for The Schneider Corporation in Indianapolis. Gary regularly presents seminars and workshops across the country on a variety of survey-related topics and is frequently called as an expert witness in legal actions.

Curt Sumner, LS.: Curt Sumner is the Executive Director for the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM), and is a nationally known speaker on topics related to the surveying profession. He is also a licensed surveyor in Virginia and Maryland. Curt has been involved in the surveying profession since 1966, and has conducted and/or managed projects in relatively all areas of surveying practice. He has participated on the ACSM committee for ALTA/ACSM Land Title Survey requirements since 1988.

THE AGENDA

- ? Types of contracts
- ? Key elements of a contract
- ? Tips for reviewing a contract
- ? Common contractual provisions that may cause problems
- ? What surveyors can do to minimize risks
- ? Questions

Because this event will have a limited number of phone lines, firms should register early. Complete the form below for your firm and fax to Joe Jones at 301-951-5466. Additional information will be sent to you on how individuals within the firm can complete the registration process.

(Continued on next page)

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Recodification And Computerization of the Park County, Wyoming Corner Record System

By: Kevin D. Jones, PE, PLS
Northwest Chapter, PLSW, July 25, 2005

ABSTRACT

Park County's land corner record filing system, originally based on a chronologically assigned number sequence for corners filed in each township, often resulted in incorrect corner assignments and multiple index numbers on master index plats, especially for tract, entry survey and mineral survey corners in the independent resurvey townships that are so common in the county, causing confusion and inefficiency. Recodification to the standard alpha-numeric cross-index reference system prescribed by the State of Wyoming was encouraged by the Northwest Chapter of the Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming to simplify the land corner record filing process for clerk's office staff, thereby reducing their time requirements and filing errors, make the system compatible with computer recording, and meet statutory and administrative rule requirements. Completed in April of 2004 under a cost-sharing project with the Park County Board of County Commissioners that was supported by the Park County Clerk, the Chapter reviewed and reindexed all corner records filed through December 2003. The Clerk's office staff was trained in the new indexing system, who then computer indexed and scanned those corner records. The Clerk's office continues to successfully process all corner records filed since January of 2004. The Chapter continues to provide support on an as-needed basis.

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

Park County's land corner record filing system was originally devised at the time of enactment of the corner record filing statute and administrative rules as a chronologically assigned number sequence for each corner filed upon in a township. Master township corner tracking plats were drafted for the county, for the most part prepared according to the latest government township survey plat available, and bound into a standard plat book. Beginning with the number one, as corner records were filed they were indexed with the next available number in that township, regardless of their corner name. Over time, corners filed on more than once were

assigned additional index numbers, causing confusion and inefficiency, as well as making the master index plat hard to read due to space limitations.

Assigning and maintaining a single number for each unique corner was attempted but met with varying degrees of success. Lack of expertise of the clerk's office staff in survey corner nomenclature, inconsistent naming of the same corner by different filers due to legitimate alternate corner names and common adaptations of an official corner name, and failure of a filer to note the previously assigned index number for a corner all contributed to the situation. Further, even when clerk's office staff believed they recognized an error or omission, they were reluctant to, if not prohibited from, making document modifications should their interpretation be incorrect. Thus, in these instances, the staff filed the document to the best of their ability, relying on the information exactly as provided on the corner record form. Proper location of corner indices on the master plats was also complicated by incomplete graphical plat data, most noticeably missing tract, entry survey and mineral survey corner numbers, unprotracted minor subdivision corners for sections and tracts, and any more recently added or revised subdivisions of those sections and tracts.

Recodification to the more common and statutorily supported alpha-numeric cross-index system was encouraged by the Northwest Chapter of the Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming to simplify land corner record filing, reduce indexing errors, reduce record filing time spent by clerk's office staff, make the filing system compatible with computer database indexing and scanning, comply with Wyoming statute and administrative rule, and assist research and retrieval of filed corner data. Supported by Karen Carter, Park County Clerk, a cost-sharing project was negotiated with the Park County Board of County Commissioners when it was determined the magnitude of the project involving over 6000 filed corner records was too large and time sensitive to be conducted as a volunteer project. The Chapter membership provided discounted professional-level resources to review and reindex all corner records

(Continued on next page)

ACSM NEWS (Continued from Page 6)

Registration closes on Friday, October 14, 2005.

Firm Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Firm Contact: _____

Contact's Email: _____

Advance questions on this topic can be emailed to Joe Jones at joe.h.jones@schinnerer.com or faxed to 301-951-5496. Questions must be received by 5:00 PM, EDT on Monday, October 11, 2004. Questions???? Please call Joe Jones at 301-951-5466.