



Marathon County PLSS Corner Bounty System

I. Purpose

On August 22, 1989, Resolution #R87-89 was passed by the Marathon County Board. The resolution authorized the reimbursement to private surveyors for actual costs of remonumentation/maintenance work performed on section corners of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS). This reimbursement process is known as a bounty system. Surveyors receive reimbursement for maintaining/re-establishing survey monuments, verifying or installing witness monuments, and completing a Monument Location Record and submitting it to the County Surveyor. One of the major duties of the County Surveyor is to monument and maintain the section corners of the PLSS within their county. A successful bounty system in a county the size of Marathon County is crucial to accomplishing this objective.

II. Pay Structure

The following shall be the pay structure and policy regarding the maintenance and remonumentation of the corners of the Public Land Survey System in Marathon County:

a. Reimbursement for Maintenance of PLSS Corners

Section corner monument exists and can be verified by existing witness monuments. Additional witness monuments are set, Survey Monument Location Record is filed in the County Surveyors Office, and a coordinate is provided.

Payment not to exceed \$350

b. Reimbursement for Re-establishing a Corner of the PLSS

Section corner monument is found to be disturbed or non-existent and cannot be verified by witness monuments. Additional measurements to nearby surveys and/or adjoining section corners of record are required to verify the corner location. A new corner monument is set or the existing monument adjusted, and new witness monuments are set. Survey Monument Location Record is filed in the County Surveyors Office and a coordinate is provided.

Payment not to exceed \$450

c. Reimbursement for Re-establishing Lost or Obliterated Corners of the PLSS

All evidence of the section corner and witnesses are lost. The surveyor is required to search for and locate evidence in the field such as fence lines, road centerlines, occupation, topo calls from original notes, or evidence of old surveys. Corner monument is set either by best available evidence or by proportionate measurement and appropriate witness monuments are set. Survey Monument Location Record is filed in the County Surveyors Office and a coordinate is provided.

Payment to be determined upon consultation with the County Surveyor.

III. Reimbursement Criteria

A request form must be submitted and approved before the corner work commences. (Telephone requests may be approved, but must be followed up by a written request). All insurance information must be submitted 15 days prior to the commencement of any work to ensure all of the County's requirements are fulfilled. All section and quarter section corners are eligible for payment upon request. Individual centers of sections and Government Lot Corners may be eligible for payment and shall be considered in consultation with the County Surveyor. Centers of section may be included in cases where the position of the center, as re-established by existing evidence, varies from the statutory position resulting in an "irregular" center.

IV. Fieldwork Requirements


- a. When practical, the surveyor is expected to recover the called for monument of record.
- b. Four (4) iron witness monuments must be used. All witness monuments set or accepted must be set or adjusted to be flush to the ground. Approval by the County Surveyor's Office must be obtained if the surveyor proposes to use monuments that differ from what the County provides.
- c. Witness sign posts shall be placed at all witness monuments for corners that fall in roads in rural areas. Witness sign posts shall be set near section corners that are located off of the road, but are not required for the ties at these corners if aluminum plaques can be set on trees near the metal witness monuments. Witness sign posts are not required in urban areas or rural areas that have a dense residential population. All witness posts must be full sized and in good condition, and bent, broken, rusted or faded witness sign posts must be replaced.
- d. Measurements to witness monuments may be obtained using a compass and tape in heavily wooded areas where it proves difficult to measure with survey instruments.
- e. The County Surveyor may modify or waive product specifications when in his/her professional judgment, compliance therewith creates practical difficulty.

V. PLS Monument Location Record Requirements

- a. The monument location record shall be drafted on the template provided by the County Surveyor's Office or on a template that is reasonably similar, and shall show the Marathon County Corner Identification number.
- b. The corner monument as it relates to the witness monuments and features (i.e. fence lines, buildings, occupation lines, etc.) that may aid in the corner recovery are required to be shown on the sketch portion of the tie sheet. The Basis for Monument Location portion of the tie sheet shall track the corner history far enough to ensure the authenticity of the corner location.
- c. When a surveyor is establishing or re-establishing a corner of the PLSS, all evidence and methods used to determine the corner location shall be explained in the Basis for Monument Location section of the record form. Bearings and distances to all monuments used to establish or re-establish the corner shall be shown in the sketch section of the record form.
- d. The surveyor shall provide coordinates that comply with the "Survey Grade Definition" as defined by The Wisconsin County Surveyors Association: "Coordinates collected under the direction of a Professional Land Surveyor, in a coordinate system allowed by 236.18(2), and obtained by means, methods, and equipment capable of repeatable 2 centimeter or better precision". The coordinate shall be provided on the monument location record stating the datum in which the coordinate was obtained.

VI. All services will be performed according to surveying practices consistent with the highest professional and technical standards, and all applicable Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations. All work must be performed under the direct supervision of a Professional Land Surveyor licensed in the State of Wisconsin.

- VII.** All survey work is reviewed by the County Surveyor and a strict protocol must be met before receiving payment for the perpetuation and restoration of corners of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS).
- VIII.** Procurement and reimbursement approval: The County's procurement policy does not require bids, quotes, or requests for proposals for a reimbursement such as this.
- IX.** Payment of any bounty is wholly dependent upon funds available. If the funds made available for this purpose in any given fiscal year have been exhausted, no additional bounties will be paid for the remainder of that given year.



Laurie Miskimins
CPZ Director

DATE: 11-10-2022



David Decker
County Surveyor

DATE: 11/10/2022