



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2019 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: July 27, 2018

Date of Next Status Update Report: December 31, 2019

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 5, 2019

Project Completion Date: December 31, 2020

Does this submission include an amendment request? No

PROJECT TITLE: Improving Statwide GIS Data by Restoring the PLSS

Project Manager: Patrick Veraguth

Organization: Minnesota Association of County Surveyors

College/Department/Division: PLSS Committee

Mailing Address: 526 Willow Drive, PO Box 398

City/State/Zip Code: Alexandria, MN 56308

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Web Address: <http://macsinfo.org/>

Location: Township 130 North Range 44 West, Lawrence Township, Grant County Minnesota

Total Project Budget: \$135,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$135,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 03m

Appropriation Language: \$135,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Minnesota Association of County Surveyors to conduct a pilot project with Grant County to remonument and certify the public land survey corners in Lawrence Township. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2021, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The Minnesota Association of County Surveyors (MACS) has compiled the number of Public Land Survey (PLS) corners and the number of certified PLS corners in each county. Minnesota has over 300,000 corners in the state and less than half of them have been remonumented and certified. Many of those certified corners do not have GPS coordinates. MACS goal is to reset all these corners and certify them with GPS coordinates for a state wide PLS layer.

This proposal is for a Pilot Project. Grant County and the MACS PLS Committee are working on a pilot project in Grant County to remonument an entire township. There are 137 PLS Corners in Lawrence Township (T130N R44W) which is in the NW corner of Grant County.

The Public Land Survey (PLS) was performed in Minnesota from 1847 to 1905. Most of these PLS corners were originally wooden posts. The Government Land Office (GLO) originally set these corners and gave the power of maintaining them to the State. The State gave that responsibility to the Counties. Traditional funding sources linked to fees leave greater Minnesota short of necessary funds. It is the job of the licensed Land Surveyor to put these corners back to where they were originally set.

These corners affect every land owner in the state. PLS monuments are necessary to accurately depict land ownership and interest in real property, which has impacts on **land transfers, parcel subdivisions, property taxation, hunting and mineral rights and granting of easements**. The environmental or land tie to this proposal is clear in that all resources, their use and delineation, require some description related to the corners of the PLSS. With the loss of one ¼ section corner every parcel of land within two sections are affected, the loss of one section corner has the same adverse effect in four sections. This project will help protect all land rights now and into the future.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

First Update December 31, 2019

Second Update July 1, 2020

Final Report between project end (October 31) and December 31, 2020.

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1 Title: *Re monumenting Lawrence Township in Grant County*

Description: *-Initial Research will review the GLO notes, GLO plats, Historical County Surveyor Books, filed surveys and other survey sources. This information will be compiled into a Statement of Evidence for each corner in the township.*

-Initial survey shall search for all monuments in the township, perform excavations at any corners that are buried in roads and collect survey grade geodetic coordinates for each corner. Grant County has volunteered their backhoe services for this project.

-Final Survey shall analyze data with the County Surveyor and all final corner positions will be approved by the County Surveyor. Upon approval, all corners will be set with durable magnetic monuments.

-Certify all corners with a standard corner certificate and final Statement of Evidence and record documents in the County Recorder's office.

ACTIVITY 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$135,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Section Corner Research	August 31, 2019
2. Initial Survey	December 31, 2019
3. Section Corner Excavations	August 31, 2020
4. Finalize Section Corner Locations	September 30, 2020
5. File Corner Certificates	October 31, 2020

First Update December 31, 2019

Second Update July 1, 2020

Final Report between project end (October 31) and December 31, 2020.

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Remonumentation of the Section Corners in Lawrence township will include the setting of new monuments when needed along with a sign with ENRTF acknowledgement and post at each corner. Corner certificates will be recorded in the County Recorder’s office for each corner. Corner coordinates will be added to the Mngeo Statewide Database for Section Corners.

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the [ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines](#).

First Update December 31, 2019

Second Update July 1, 2020

Final Report between project end (October 31) and December 31, 2020.

V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION:

A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: N/A

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:

35 hours County Surveyor work	= 0.017 TOTAL FTE:
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:

1260 hours for RFP survey work	= 0.61 TOTAL FTE:
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VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners outside of project manager’s organization receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Patrick Veraguth	Douglas County Surveyor	Create RFP contract	Approve corner Locations
RFP winner	MN Licensed Land Surveyor	Section work	Surveyor doing remonumentation work

B. Partners outside of project manager’s organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Tracey Vonbargen	Grant County Engineer	County contact	Incharge of scheduling for corner excavations
Diann Giese	Grant County Recorder	County Recorder	Provide copies and file corner certificates.
Thomas Harper	Land Survey Principal	Mndot D-4 Surveys	Excavate and Remonument corners in TH 55 (11 corners)

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

This is a pilot project for remonumenting the PLS across the entire state. MACS is looking for funding partners to implement a state wide remonumentation program. This project is the first step in this process. This will be a model for other counties to follow in the future.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- Project status update reports will be submitted December 31 and July 1 each year of the project
- A final report and associated products will be submitted by December 31, 2020

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

- A. Budget Spreadsheet
- B. Visual Component or Map
- C. Parcel List Spreadsheet
- D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements
- E. Research Addendum

Attachment A:
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2019 Budget Spreadsheet
Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 03m
Project Manager: Patrick Veraguth
Project Title: Improving Statewide GIS Data by Restoring The PLS
Organization: Minnesoat Association of County Surveyors
Project Budget: \$135,000
Project Length and Completion Date: 1.5 Years, December 31, 2020
Today's Date: July 27, 2018



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Douglas County Surveyor approves each corner certificate (15 minutes per cert) 137 certs. The Douglas County Surveyor is contracted by Grant County to check these corner certificates.	\$ 2,400		\$ 2,400
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts			
RFP for Land Survey work (Estimate \$1000/corner)	\$ 126,000	\$ -	\$ 126,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
PLS corner monuments (\$50/monument)	\$ 6,600	\$ -	\$ 6,600
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL	\$ 135,000	\$ -	\$ 135,000

OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
Non-State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
In kind:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

PAST AND CURRENT ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
Current appropriation:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Past appropriations:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

