# SIDE SHOTS

Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado

Volume 38, Issue 2



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## PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS OF COLORADO, INC.

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#### Dear Fellow Members,

Thanks to the contributions from the current and past Chairs of the Legislative Committee, Roger Nelson and Ron Perkins, the PLSC, Inc. lobbyist, Peg Ackerman, all the members of the Legislative Committee, and to the efforts of Rep. Jim Kerr and Sen. Abel Tapia, House Bill 1225 was a successful endeavor, and has been signed into law by Governor Bill Ritter. I will recommend to the Board of Directors that we officially thank both Representative Jim Kerr and Senator Abel Tapia for sponsoring the legislation, and discuss presentation of plaques or other form of recognition for their efforts (valued less than \$50 of course!). Please read more about this legislation, including when it may take effect, in the Legislative Committee report that is included in the "Committee Reports" section of this issue. Also, there are photos of the Governor signing the bill posted on the PLSC website.

I would like to recognize the outstanding work of everyone involved with the 2007 Colorado Refresher Course. Herb Stoughton, Alan Blair, Diana Askew, Randy Bloom, Randy Zanon, Gaby Neunzert, Roger Nelson, Doyle Abrahamson, Geoff Stephenson, and Gene Kooper all worked hard to make the courses a success. We are fortunate in Colorado to have recognized, expert, professionals to donate their time to teach these courses. I am looking forward to seeing what they prepare for 2008.

Gene Kooper has provided new information on the McComber Mentoring Program that is included in this issue. As with the Refresher Course, we are fortunate to have the speakers we have had, and I encourage everyone to take advantage of their experience and expertise. If you want to be included in Gene's email group, please contact him at ekooper@uswest.net.

The Bureau of Land Management has cut funding to the colleges they support due to cuts to their own funding. Metro State is one of these colleges, so the PLSC, Inc. will be trying to help fill that funding gap by drumming up new funding sources as well as contributing ourselves. The letter from Randy Zanon of the BLM advising the PLSC, Inc. of this situation is included in this issue.

Thanks to Russ Clark, Chair and to all the members of our new Colorado Spatial Reference Network Chapter, including Pam Fromhertz and Dan Smith for their valuable input in keeping the PLSC, Inc. at the forefront of the rapidly changing realities. Thanks to their work, we are participating in planning for a Real Time Reference Network in the Front Range.

I would like to encourage the membership, including our new Associate Members to participate in some of our committees. We have re-activated several formerly dormant standing committees, some of which may need members and others that would benefit from new voices. Some of these committees include:

- The "Nominations and Elections Committee, chaired by Larry Connolly makes and/or accepts nominations for the Board, and runs the elections. This committee generally handles award nominations for surveyors who have given to the PLSC, Inc. or the survey community in general.
- The Legislative committee, which composes and recommends legislation of concern to the practice of land surveying, is perhaps the strongest and most active committee of the PLSC, Inc. It is currently going strong under the chairmanship of Roger Nelson. At this time the committee has

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# SIDE SHOTS

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Side Shots is the official publication of the Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado, Inc. and is published quarterly for the betterment of the surveying profession.

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Deadlines for editorials, articles, pictures and advertising are January 1, April 1,

July 1 and October 1. All material received after the current deadline will appear in the next issue of Side Shots.

We would like to invite anyone who is interested to advertise in our newsletter - Side Shots. Do you have something you want to sell, trade or buy? Why not use Side Shots for your next ad. We can also reproduce business cards for advertising. All material must be sent to Arthur W. Hipp, 9660 W. 56th Place, Arvada, CO 80002, before the editorial deadline (January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1).

#### Current Advertising Rates:

Business card size or less - Member \$15.00; Non-member \$20.00 One-Half Page - Member \$75.00; Non-member \$100.00 Full Page - Member \$150.00; Non-member \$200.00

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Metropolitan State College of Denver



The Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado, Inc. (PLSC) recently entered into a Partnership Agreement with Metropolitan State College of Denver.

The agreement will benefit everyone in the real estate and surveying communities who depend on quality surveying work to help their businesses thrive.

As part of the agreement, funding will be provided to Metro on behalf of the school's Surveying and Mapping Program. The funding will help the program to achieve the highest academic standards and ensure quality surveying work in Colorado for years to come.

Please send your donation to: Colorado Surveyors Education Foundation, Inc. c/o Art Hipp 9660 West 56th Place Arvada, CO 80002

Education is the Future!



Dear Friends & Surveyors:

Well, the time has come again to bring us up to date by reviewing the progress and accomplishments that we have made in the past quarter. This issue contains the latest things that several Chapters have done, the report of the Western Federation of Professional Surveyors and several other important reports that you are asked to read and comment on.



I will take this opportunity to compliment all of you who responded so well to our last dues due notice but there are still some 140 individuals who did not respond. As members you must know that April 1st of the year which follows your membership year is the critical time. This means that members who paid their dues in 2006, became delinquent on April 1st of this year. PLEASE search your records and see if this includes

If you have not paid your 2007 dues by the August issue of Side Shots, you will not receive it and not be included in the 2007 Roster.

I know you are very busy and it is easy to forget that the dues are due — but it is my duty as Executive Director and Editor to remind you. Please don't be offended — just send me your check for whatever you OWE

The strength of our organization depends on all of us to keep current and active. We have bills to pay and our creditors do not hesitate to remind us. As usual, I send out current membership cards when I receive a check, so just look around and see if you have one. If you didn't receive one and you have paid, just call me.

Our friend, Gaby Neunzert, is doing a great job guiding the Mentoring Program, started by our former President and my good friend Bill McComber. In my opinion, that program is a thing that makes real surveyors from students and those who are struggling to succeed in this highly technical world.

One more time, PLEASE PAY YOUR 2007 DUES if you haven't already and continue to help make PLSC effective and resourceful. I hope to see you all at our future meetings.

# ON THE COVER:

Gov. Bill Ritter signs House Bill 1225. From left, state Sen. Abel Tapia, John B. Guyton, Diana Askew, Gov. Bill Ritter, Roger Nelson, and state Rep. Jim Kerr.

# **Governor Signs House Bill 1225**

NOTE: This bill has been prepared for the signature of the appropriate legislative officers and the Governor. To determine whether the Governor has signed the bill or taken other action on it, please consult the legislative status sheet, the legislative history, or the Session Laws.



HOUSE BILL 07-1225

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Kerr J., Balmer, Liston, Looper, and Solano; also SENATOR(S) Tapia.

CONCERNING LAND SURVEYS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. 12-25-202 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended, and the said 12-25-202 is further amended BY THE ADDI-TION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW SUBSECTIONS, to read:

**12-25-202. Definitions.** As used in this part 2, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Board" means the state board of licensure for architects, professional engineers, and professional land surveyors, created by section 12-25-106. "BASIC CON-TROL FOR ENGINEERING PRO-JECTS" MEANS SURVEY MARK-ERS SET ON OR IN THE VICINITY OF A CONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO ENABLE ALL COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT TO BE BUILT IN COMPLIANCE WITH PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE PROJECT LOCATION, ORIENTATION, ELE-VATION, AND RELATIONSHIP TO PROPERTY, EASEMENT, OR RIGHT-OF-WAY BOUNDARIES.

(1.5) "BOARD" MEANS THE STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR ARCHITECTS, PROFES-SIONAL ENGINEERS, AND PRO- FESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS, CREATED BY SECTION 12-25-106.

(3.3) "GEODETIC SURVEY-ING" MEANS THE PERFOR-MANCE OF SURVEYS IN WHICH MEASURE OR ACCOUNT IS TAKEN OF THE SHAPE, SIZE, AND GRAVITATIONAL FORCES OF THE EARTH TO DETERMINE OR PREDETERMINE THE HORI-ZONTAL OR VERTICAL POSI-TIONS OF POINTS, MONU-MENTS, OR STATIONS FOR USE IN THE PRACTICE OF PROFES-SIONAL LAND SURVEYING OR FOR STATING THE GEODETIC POSITION OF CONTROL POINTS. MONUMENTS, OR STATIONS BY USING A COORDINATE SYSTEM OR DERIVATIVE THEREOF REC-OGNIZED BY THE NATIONAL GEODETIC SURVEY.

**SECTION 2.** 12-25-202 (6) (a) (X), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended, and the said 12-25-202 (6) (a) is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBPARAGRAPH, to read:

**12-25-202. Definitions.** As used in this part 2, unless the context otherwise requires:

(6) (a) "Professional land surveying" means the application of special knowledge of principles of mathematics, methods of measurement, and law for the determination and preservation of land boundaries. "Professional land surveying" specifically includes:

(X) Surveying to establish basic

control for engineering projects and Geodetic surveying; and

(X.5) BASIC CONTROL FOR ENGINEERING PROJECTS; AND

**SECTION 3.** 12-25-212 (2) (b) and (2) (c), Colorado Revised Statutes, are amended to read:

12-25-212. Qualifications for land surveyor - interns. (2) (b) In order to be admitted to the examination pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (2), the applicant must have SATISFIED EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIRE-MENTS:

(I) THE APPLICANT graduated from a four-year board-approved surveying OR SURVEYING TECHNOLOGY curriculum THAT IS AT LEAST FOUR YEARS.

(II) THE APPLICANT HAS SENIOR STATUS IN A BOARD-APPROVED SURVEYING OR SURVEYING TECHNOLOGY CUR-RICULUM THAT IS AT LEAST FOUR YEARS.

(c) Upon passing the examination AND UPON SUBMISSION OF OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS TO THE BOARD VERIFYING GRADUATION OR IMPENDING GRADUATION, the applicant shall be enrolled as a land surveyor-intern if the applicant is otherwise qualified pursuant to section 12-25-211.

SECTION 4. 30-10-903 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW PARA-GRAPHS to read:

**30-10-903. Duties and powers of the county surveyor.** (2) The county surveyor may, when author-

Continued page 6

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

ized by the board of county commissioners:

- (d) CONDUCT GEODETIC CONTROL SURVEYS, VERTICAL CONTROL SURVEYS, OR ANY SURVEYS FOR THE PURPOSE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS:
- (e) CONDUCT OR SUPER-VISE CONSTRUCTION SURVEYS NECESSARY TO THE COUNTY;
- (f) PROVIDE REFERENCE MONUMENTS FOR OR THE REMONUMENTATION OR MONUMENT UPGRADES OF PUBLIC LAND SURVEY SYSTEM MONUMENTS THAT ARE DESTROYED BY COUNTY CONSTRUCTION OR OTHER FUNCTIONS.

**SECTION 5.** 38-44-112, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

38-44-112. Agreements. Any UNCERTAIN line, or disputed UNCERTAIN corner, or UNCERTAIN boundary OF AN EXISTING PARCEL OF LAND THAT IS RECORDED IN THE REAL

ESTATE RECORDS IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RECORDER FOR THE COUNTY WHERE THE LAND IS LOCATED AND THAT IS IN DISPUTE may be determined and permanently established by written agreement of all parties thereby affected, signed and acknowledged by each as required for conveyances of real estate, clearly designating the same, and accompanied by a map or plat thereof which THAT shall be recorded as an instrument affecting real estate, and shall be binding upon their heirs, successors, and assigns. IF THE MAP OR PLAT IS PREPARED BY A LICENSED PRO-FESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR, MONUMENTS SHALL BE SET FOR ANY LINE, CORNER, OR **BOUNDARY INCLUDED IN THE** AGREEMENT.

**SECTION 6.** 38-51-102 (12), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

**38-51-102. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(12) "Land survey plat" means a plat which THAT shows the information developed by a monumented land survey OR SHOWS ONE OR MORE SET MONUMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 38-51-104 AND 38-51-105 and includes all information required by section 38-51-106.

SECTION 7. 38-51-106 (1) (c), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended, and the said 38-51-106 (1) is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH, to read:

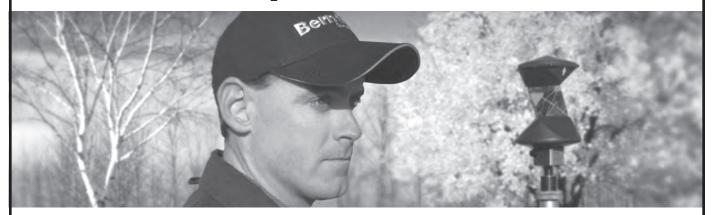
**38-51-106.** Land survey plats. (1) All land survey plats shall include but shall not be limited to the following:

(c) All FIELD-MEASURED dimensions necessary to establish the boundaries in the field ON THE GROUND AND ALL DIMENSIONS FOR NEWLY CREATED PARCELS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH THE BOUNDARIES ON THE GROUND;

(I) A STATEMENT DEFINING

Continued page 8

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from page 6

THE LINEAL UNITS USED INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO METERS, CHAINS, FEET, AND U.S. SURVEY FEET. IF IT IS NECESSARY TO DEFINE CONVERSION FACTORS, THE FACTORS SHALL BE A FUNCTION OF THE METER AS DEFINED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.

**SECTION 8.** 38-53-103 (12), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

**38-53-103. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(12) "Land survey plat" means a plat which THAT shows the information developed by a monumented land survey OR SHOWS ONE OR MORE SET MONUMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 38-51-104 AND 38-51-105 and includes all information required by section 38-51-106.

#### **SECTION 9. Effective date.**

This act shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly that is allowed for submitting a referendum petition pursuant to article V, section 1 (3) of the state constitution, (August 8, 2007, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2007); except that, if a referendum petition is filed against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part, if approved by the people, shall take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by proclamation of the governor.

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Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

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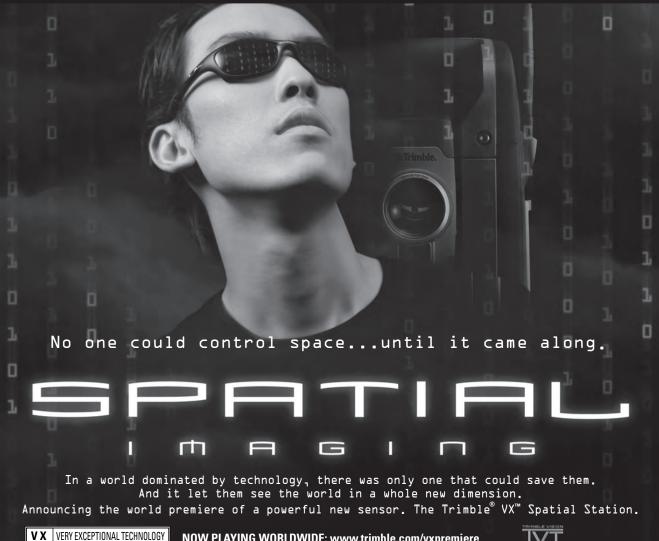
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# PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS OF COLORADO INSURANCE PROGRAM

Administered by: Lisa Isom

# Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado has the Insurance Program that's Designed for Its Members.

As you know it has been a cold, hard winter for most of us in the state. I am looking forward to our summer and the busy field time of year.

I have had several conversations with clients over the past few months; about the "what if" of insurance. Therefore, I want to address a few risk management topics with the PLSC members in this article.

What if...a client slipped and fell on your property? A customer sued me for an error I made? An employee stole funds? A power surge zapped your equipment?

Unfortunately, today's surveying business owner faces big risks every day. And while it's impossible to eliminate risks, it's possible to reduce the financial impact on you by using a few proven risk management ideas.

The following will be a general overview of three ways or tips to manage your business risks or how to control property losses, lawsuits, vehicle losses, and workplace accidents.

Accidents. Surprises. Losses. They all come with owning your own business. But there's no reason you have to be a "victim" of these unexpected losses, not if you take advantage of following three key ways to manage your risks.

# 1 You can insure risk

One primary approach to risk management would be purchasing insurance to transfer the losses to your insurance company.

Know your insurance policies. If you don't know what types of losses your policies cover, you may be in for a surprise when a loss occurs. You need to review your policy and if necessary purchase additional coverage to ensure that your company is fully protected.

# 2 You can transfer risk

When appropriate; you'll want to shift the risk to your subcontractors, competitors and even your customers. Here are some tips on how to transfer some of your business risk to others.

- Hire the right subcontractors. Using knowledgeable, properly insured subcontractors can reduce your risk and minimize high risk professional liability exposures. Request Certificates of Insurance to verify that your subcontractors have current insurance.
- Consider "hold harmless" agreements. A "Hold Harmless" agreement is a tool that shifts legal and financial risk from you to another party
- Don't try to be all things to all people. Let your competitors take the job and the chances on potentially problem projects.

# 3 You can control risk

Of course; there are some things you can't prevent, like storms, power failures, or accidents. But there are ways of minimizing either the likelihood something will occur, or the impact it will have on your business after it occurs. **Fire. Theft. Water damage.** Just a few of the things that can do damage to your property—one of your business' most valuable assets. Unless property and equipment are maintained properly and insured adequately, they can be at significant loss and damage to your business.

#### Some tips:

- Review your insurance to make sure you understand what is and is not covered.
- If your policy has "blanket" coverage for a number of different properties, make sure that all properties that should be insured are actually listed on the property policy.
- Be sure that your property is insured to replacement value. Improvements or changes in building costs should be reflected on your insurance coverage. So periodically review and update your property values and adjust the coverage accordingly.

# Managing Your Vehicle Risks

Your business' autos represent many types of risk in one place such as loss of equipment, loss of jobs, and liability to persons and injury to your employees. No wonder your auto premium can account for a large portion of your commercial insurance cost. However, risk management can be used to reduce motor vehicles liabilities, by simply:

- verifying driving records of potential employees.
- monitoring employee driving records.
- keeping your drivers properly trained.

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As a member of PLSC you have available to you the PLSC Insurance Program that will provide coverage necessary to cover your business needs.

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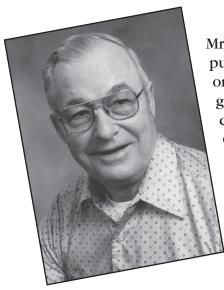
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# PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS OF COLORADO, INC.

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



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Are you a member of A.C.S. M.?		es 🔲 No	eine eugte a 19	

# PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS OF COLORADO, INC.

# **Purpose**

The purpose of this organization shall be to improve the profession of Land Surveying in Colorado. (Article II Constitution)

# Membership

Voting Member — Any person who is a registered land surveyor in the State of Colorado, and whose registration is in full effect, shall upon payment of \$75 annual dues, be a voting member of P.L.S.C., Inc. and as such shall have full voting and office holding privileges. (Article IAI By-Laws)

Associate Member — Any person who is interested in land surveying shall, upon payment of \$55 annual dues, be an associate member of P.L.S.C., Inc., but shall have no voting or office holding privileges. (Article IA2 By-Laws)

Student Member — Any undergraduate student who is interested in land surveying shall, upon payment of \$15 annual dues, be a student member of P.L.S.C., Inc., but shall have no voting or office holding privileges. (Article IA3 By-Laws) Individuals holding a Colorado PLS or PE-PLS registration are not eligible for this class of membership.

Retired Professional Land Surveyor — A Colorado licensed Professional Land Surveyor who no longer practices land surveying (including field work, office work and consulting). He/she however may continue to maintain his/ her license in effect and shall not be precluded from acting as an expert witness or court appointed commissioner. This is a non-voting classification. The annual dues shall be \$30.00.

Sustaining Member — Any person or firm engaged in a business related to land surveying or interested in the land surveying profession shall, upon contribution of \$200 annually, be a sustaining member of P.L.S.C., Inc., but shall have no voting or office holding privileges. (Article IA4 By-Laws)

Dues—Dues shall be due and payable as of January 1st for the coming year and shall be delinquent if not paid by April 1st following. Membership rights cease when dues become delinquent. (Article 1B By-Laws)

#### Standing Committees

Following is a list of the star	nding committees of	this organization: Indicate your interest by checking one or more
☐ Legislation		Nominations and Elections
☐ Liaison		Program
☐ Membership		Publications
☐ Ethics and Fair Practi	ices $\square$	Survey Monuments and Records Standards
		Meetings

Regular meetings or other sanctioned activities shall normally be on the 3rd Saturday of February, May, August, and November at a place designated by the Executive Board. The February meeting shall be the annual meeting of the organization. (Artice VI A & B By-Laws)



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- sufficient membership, however they are always open to input.
- The Publications Committee, of which I am the Chair, handles all publications including Side Shots and brochures. Art Hipp is the Editor of Side Shots, and has taken care of the both the publication and editing of the magazine.
- The Liaison committee, chaired by Gary Gable, has the duties to confer and cooperate with other professional organizations, educational institutions and other related organizations. Currently they are associated with the MSCD **Industrial Advisory Committee** and need members to help contact organizations such as other colleges, CEC (Colorado Engineering Council), perhaps GIS-In-The-Rockies, IRWA (International Right-of-Way Association), and others.
- The Survey Monumentation

- and Standards Committee is assigned the task to study and recommend related standards and needs. This committee is currently not doing much. If anyone thinks there is a place for this committee to be more active, please volunteer and put forth ideas.
- The Membership Committee, chaired by Tom Adams, promotes membership benefits of the PLSC, Inc. and works to increase and maintain membership. Ideas such as mailing reminders for membership renewal, and offering free firstyear memberships to newlylicensed surveyors are being implemented. Please contact Tom at tom@plsc.net if you have any ideas or want to help with the committee.
- The Ethics and Fair Practices Committee, chaired by Larry Connolly, has the duty to prepare and recommend a code of ethics to the PLSC, Inc. and

other assignments and tasks as appointed by the board. The committee will be reviewing the current code of ethics as well as looking into recent complaints or concerns. One concern would be some of the discussion by counties on making their own standards for a quasi-ILC to be required of land surveyors.

Some controversial issues challenging our profession include, but are not limited to, cutting corners on boundary surveys; City/County departments, title attorneys, lenders, or other parties pressuring surveyors to provide services outside accepted standards; technological advances eliminating the need for trained surveyors; and yes, Improvement Location Certificates also. If we, as members of our profession, do not stand up and address these challenges, other experts may be making decisions

Continued page 18



# "Celebrating 20 Spatial Years" GIS in the Rockies 2007 First Announcement and Call for Papers



We invite you to submit an abstract for a technical session, workshop, or poster session at the upcoming GIS in the Rockies 2007 Conference. Share the ways you are applying GIS to any aspect of your GIS project. This may include data acquisition, software/technology, application specific projects/programs, analysis, decision making.

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- Emergency Management & Homeland Security
- **GIS** for Managers

- Surveying: Building GIS from the Ground Up
- GIS for Communities
- Vendor Showcase
- GIS for Urban and Regional Government
- Geospatial Imaging: GIS Foundation & Layers of Value

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for us. By becoming active in PLSC, Inc. committees, you can help address these issues.

Member opinions and comments are welcome - we have multiple forums for these items, both through the PLSC, Inc. website "bulletin board" at http://plsc.net/forum/forum.htm and through submittals to Side Shots. We have created a 'Member Opinion' section in Side Shots where submittals of that type can be printed. We are eager to hear from new voices and from all regions of Colorado. Stories and other items will be printed in the magazine wherever space permits, opinions and editorials will be printed in the new section. I hope that by providing multiple avenues for discussion, PLSC, Inc. members will become actively involved in issues, and that we may stimulate interest in the PLSC, Inc. from members and other readers of this publication.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 4th from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. in conjunction with the WCLS Annual Spring Seminar at the Grand Vista Hotel in Grand Junction. Following the May meeting, the next meeting will be held in September in Colorado Springs, hosted by the Southern Chapter. Please check www.plsc.net for the time and date of that meeting.

Sincerely,

John B. Guyton, PLS

Professional Surveyors Association of Nebraska Summer Conference July 26 & 27, 2007 Crawford Nebraska

For Information Contact:
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# C H A P T E R N E W S

# SCPLS

The results of the chapter election are in, the ballots have been counted and the winners are: Secretary, Mike Bouchard; Treasurer, Dan Hanten; Directors, Randy Reeves and Shawn Richards. Thank you for all who returned ballots.

On March 20th a membership meeting was held at Colorado State University-Pueblo. The speaker was Michael Mincic, PLS, Med., Assistant Professor of the Civil Engineering Technology. Mike gave a slide show and discussion of the program at CSU-Pueblo. In addition to SCPLS members, students of the CSU-Pueblo program were in attendance. After Mike's presentation, the group retired to the computer lab to view a presentation by a student who completed a boundary survey of his parents' property. In completing the survey, BLM/GLO notes and township mapping, USGS quad mapping and aerial photography were melded into one drawing to help in corner search and recovery. A very impressive use of the old and new.

Don't forget to set August 11th aside for the Paul Grout Golf Tournament at Hollydot Golf course. More news to follow in the mail.

Terry R. Maw, PLS President, SCPLS

# **CCPS**

The Central Colorado Professional Surveyors held their annual conference on February 23 and 24, 2007. Despite the threat of a blizzard on Saturday, the conference was a resounding success. I would like to personally thank the conference speakers, Dave Doyle, Angie Kinnaird Linn, Dave Pehr, Clyde Hubbard, Dan Roman and Gary Gable; along with those that helped behind the scenes to make the conference a success. In addition to the Friday workshops, the new CCPS officers and directors were installed, four surveying students were presented scholarships, CCPS awards were presented to three people, and the National Geodetic Survey's 200th birthday was celebrated in style!

The 2007 officers and directors

are: Gene Kooper, President; Bill Buntrock, Vice President; John Lautenschlager, Secretary; Kurt Ernstberger, Treasurer; and Directors Georgia Satterlee, James Rihanek, Randall M. Zanon, Anthony B. Syers, John Doty, Robert Snodgrass and Ann Ogden. A special thank you to the outgoing officers and directors for all their hard work: Gary Leak, President; Diana Askew, treasurer; Dick Barton, Randy Bloom, Gary Gable, and Mark Hall, Directors.

The CCPS awarded four scholarships, each in the amount of \$750.00 for the spring 2007 semester. The scholarships went to Seth Oldenburg, Stephen Bloomfield and Justin Scheitler from Westword College, and Paul Rogalla from Metropolitan State College of Denver. The CCPS honored Diana Askew and Dave Pehr by presenting them with the CCPS Distinguished Service Award. Their hard work and contributions to the CCPS and the greater surveying community over the years is greatly appreciated. In addition to the Distinguished Service Awards, the CCPS recognized Gaby Neunzert for his many years dedicated to educating surveyors young and old alike. Gaby was made an honorary lifetime member of CCPS and given the very fitting title of CCPS Surveyor Emeritus. Thank You Gaby!

The Denver McComber Mentoring Program started up its Spring 2007 classes on April 4 and will continue through June 27. The scheduled times are every other Wednesday starting at 6:00 p.m. Classes will be held at Survey & Construction Supply, 930 W. Byers PI., Denver CO. Further information regarding class content and speakers will be posted on the CCPS web sight at http://www.coloradosurveyors.org and at the PLSC web sight at http://www.plsc.net. If you wish to be added to the email distribution list for the Denver mentoring sessions, please contact Gene Kooper at ekooper@uswest.net.

Last, but certainly not least, the CCPS would like to thank the Metropolitan State College of Denver Surveying and Mapping Program in cooperation with the Colorado School of Mines for their help with

the 2007 Refresher Course. The course offered a review and self-study plan for those taking the NCEES Fundamentals of Surveying, Principles and Practice of Surveying, and Colorado-specific examinations. There were approximately 50 students that attended. Thank you to instructors Herb Stoughton, Alan Blair, Gaby Neunzert, Diana Askew, Randy Zanon, Randy Bloom, Doyle Abrahamson, Roger Nelson, and Geoffrey Stephenson.

The CCPS Board of Directors voted to have the Hayden Atlas scanned last fall, and is currently deliberating how to makes prints and/or a DVD available to interested persons. The proceeds will be used to conserve the atlas and fund various educational programs. CCPS members are encouraged to submit suggestions to the board regarding the possible sale of prints, DVDs, etc.

Respectfully submitted, Gene Kooper, PLS President CCPS

# WCLS

Western Colorado Land Survevors held their last meeting on March 14. Patrick Green ran the meeting and Mike Grezenko prepared an excellent salmon meal. Our guest speaker was Frank Kochevar from Mesa County. He gave an overview of the County's new Real Time Reference Network (RTVRN). He gave a fairly detailed discussion on how the system works and the benefits and disadvantages of using the RTVRN compared to the "single baseline solution" RTK broadcast that most surveyors are accustomed to in Mesa County. The discussion also discussed the availability of the RTVRN to surveyors outside of Mesa County Government.

Many thanks should be given to the City of Grand Junction for letting us use their facilities and to Mike for preparing such delicious meals.

Our spring seminar is going to be held on May 4. Wendy Lathrop will be talking on documentation and adjoining land owner disputes. Lee Stiles will also be presenting on

# C H A P T E R N E W S

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railroads and canals and Bob Larson will present on retracing of mining claims. Registration forms for the seminar can be found on the PLSC website at http://www.plsc.net/calendar.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9 and we look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely, Les Doehling President, WCLS

# NC/PLSC

The Northern Chapter had its Spring Technical Program on April 13, 2007. Dr. Herbert Stoughton lectured on surveying state boundaries. Randy Zanon, Paul Lukacovic, and Dale Grass with the BLM lectured on the new BLM Manual, Section 6, history of the PLSS, the BLM Geographic Coordinate Data Base, and Boulder County land exchange surveys.

The Northern Chapter plans to take the summer off and resume meetings next September.

Steve Varriano Northern Chapter President

# NW1/4 CLS

Greetings from Northwest Colorado!

As our long, cold winter finally recedes, and the days become warmer and longer (and a lot wetter), all of us are about to see our busiest period ever. The region is experiencing unprecedented growth and development, and the services of local land surveyors are in high demand.

Thanks to the technology of the Information Age, we are in contact with one another like never before. Just a few years ago, we depended on our quarterly chapter meetings to connect with one another. Now that high speed, high bandwidth connections are available to all in our rural area, we can share data and drawings with ease, which helps us help each other immensely.

Nothing can change the weather, though. The deep snows, extreme cold and short days still challenge us constantly. I'm sure I

speak for many when I say I welcome the advent of Spring.

We are still pursuing a regional GPS base station in the Steamboat Springs area. It's amazing, considering the tens of millions of dollars spent in the annual budgets of Routt County and Steamboat Springs, the extreme reluctance we have encountered trying to obtain even minimal funding from either entity. I had an opportunity last month to utilize the base station that Peter Epp has established in Craig. The signal is repeated from Cedar Mountain, and is obtainable for a considerable distance. I worked with Peter and Llovd Powers to get established in the local coordinates and datum, and the project went very smoothly. Thanks to both Peter and Lloyd, and kudos to Peter for a job well done!

> Respectfully submitted, John C. Noonan Secretary-Treasurer

# SWC/PLSC

The Southwest Chapter held its bi-monthly meeting in March. Among the topics discussed was the donation to other organizations of funds raised from the annual Four Corners Area Survey Seminars. The survey programs at Fort Lewis College in Durango and San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico were selected as recipients. Coordination with the department heads at the respective schools is in progress and a presentation will be made to the departments later this spring. There is a chapter of the Engineers Without Borders organization coordinated through Fort Lewis College and a donation will be made to a matching funds program for that organization.

The 2007 Four Corners Area Surveying Seminar was also discussed and Dave Freienmuth, seminar coordinator, presented a draft of the speakers and schedule. Larry Connolly presented an expense report and a follow-up discussion regarding the anticipated expenses for the 2007 seminar.

The next meeting of the PLSC-SW Chapter will be at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday May 8th at the offices of Animas Survey and Mapping located at 960 E. 2nd Ave. in Durango. This will be an organizational meeting for the upcoming seminar.

The registration forms for the 2007 Seminar have been sent out and registration can also be done online at http://www.plsc.net/calendar/calendar.html. We are looking forward to a great seminar and hope to see everyone there!

Respectfully submitted, Parker S. Newby President, SWCPLSC

# **CSRN**

We now have a new Chapter in the PLSC called the Colorado Spatial Reference Network (CSRN). Its purpose is as follows:

The purpose of this organization shall be to design, create, expand, operate, maintain and/or provide professional oversight of a network of continuously operating reference stations to provide rapid, reliable, real time geodetic control data and positioning corrections to a variety of field surveying, mapping, navigation, emergency response and geospatial services in the state of Colorado.

Its Officers and Directors are: CSRN Officers:

Russ Clark, President – Clark Land Surveying, Colorado Springs\*; Dan Smith, Vice President – CDOT, Denver\*; Pam Fromhertz, Secretary – NGS, Denver; Tom Adams, Treasurer – CDOT, Pueblo\*

# **CSRN Directors:**

Brian Dennis – Clark Land Surveying, Colorado Springs; Roger Nelson, – Merrick, Denver\*; Frank Kochevar – Mesa County, Grand Junction\*; Larry Connolly – Animas Surveying, Durango\*; Kevin Hoffman – Woolpert, Denver \*

\* denotes Founding Member Additional Founding Members: JB Guyton, PLSC President; John Noonan; Warren Ward, NSPS Governor

All members of the PLSC are welcome to join the new Chapter, and membership is free this first year. If you are interested, please download a membership form online at www.plsc.net, and send it in to the address indicated on the form.

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9600

April 2, 2007

Mr. John B. Guyton, PLS President, Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado, Inc. Flatirons, Inc. 3825 Iris Avenue, Ste. 395 Boulder, CO 80301

Dear. Mr. Guyton:

The purpose of this letter is to detail the origin and history of the current Assistance Agreement between Colorado BLM Cadastral Survey and the Metropolitan State College Surveying and Mapping Program, and to inform you of the current status of said agreement, and the forecast for the future of the agreement.

In November 2003, Colorado BLM Cadastral Survey entered into an Assistance Agreement with the Metropolitan State College Surveying and Mapping Program, with the objectives of this agreement outlined as follows:

- 1. To create a partnership between the BLM and the MSCD enabling the development of workshops, college-level courses, distance learning, and techniques relating to the collection, analysis, and manipulation of data related to the surveying profession. This information shall be used to enhance the body of knowledge related to the Metes-and-Bounds and the Public Land Survey systems for private, public, and Indian lands.
- 2. To create a cooperative, formal relationship which supports the MSCD through field training of student land surveyors and MSCD employees in land surveying principles and practices, as they related to the Metes-and-Bounds and the Public Land Survey systems, and to encourage permanent employment in the surveying profession.
- 3. To provide an opportunity for students to gain a better understanding of the Bureau of Land Management, the Metes-and-Bounds and the Public Land Survey systems, and to encourage permanent employment in the surveying profession.

This agreement is to remain in effect until September 30, 2009, and the BLM is to provide \$50,000 per fiscal year for the life of the agreement, provided funding is available. The BLM provided MSCD with \$50,000 in FY2004 and FY2005; however because of funding cuts, the BLM only provided \$25,000 to MSCD in FY2006 and FY2007.

In the President's proposed federal budget for FY2008, BLM Cadastral Survey nationwide is projected to be cut approximately 25-30% in base funding. If this happens, BLM will not be able to continue to fund the assistance agreement with the MSCD Surveying and Mapping Program. MSCD is currently one of five schools nationwide that have entered into similar assistance agreements with BLM Cadastral, and it is very likely that if the projected cuts in funding become a reality, then none of the educational institutions will be able to continue to be funded through these BLM Cadastral assistance agreements.

I share this information with you as a "heads up" to the professional surveying community in Colorado as a whole, and to see if alternative methods can be developed to help fund the MSCD Surveying and Mapping Program.

Please feel free to circulate this letter among the membership of the Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado.

Sincerely,

Branch Chief, Cadastral Survey

cc: Herbert W. Stoughton, Ph.D. Head, Surveying and Mapping Program Metropolitan State College of Denver

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# C O M M I T T E E R E P O R T S

The reports published here are the official reports from PLSC committees, and represent the majority opinions, recommendations, and/or findings of those committees. The PLSC Board of Directors considers these reports in making policy decisions, but is not required to follow the recommendations of a committee. If you have questions or comments about items included in this section, please contact the PLSC, Inc. Board of Directors, or the appropriate Committee Chair.

# **Legislative Committee Report**

The 2007-2008 Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado Legislative Committee efforts culminated with the signing of House Bill 1225 on March 30, 2007 by Governor Bill Ritter. This Bill will become law 90 days after the 2007 legislative session adjourns. Should the legislature stay in session until May 9, 2007, the constitutional deadline for adjournment, the HB 1225 will become law on August 8, 2007. As chairman of the Legislative Committee I must acknowledge the work of my predecessor Ron Perkins who laid the foundation upon which the committee was able to build. Ron put in many hours of hard work to get the committee through the bulk of this year's legislative process. I would like to personally thank Ron Perkins for his efforts. I would also like to thank Ackerman Information Corporation, more specifically Peg Ackerman and Steve Balcerovich, for their successful lobbying of House Bill 1225. Peg and Steve achieved an uncommon accomplishment. Our Bill passed unanimously in both the House and Senate Local Government Committee. Last but not least I need to thank the Legislative Committee members: Doyle Abrahamson, Dexter Brinker, Gary Gable, Gene Kooper, Larry Connolly, Georgia Satterlee (former member), Maurice Schumann, Ron Perkins, Warren Ward and newly appointed member Mark Johannes. Many hours of each of these individual's time and effort was donated to craft these legislative changes. Spirited discussions over varying view points were held to arrive at the final proposed legislation. This

necessary process yields legislation that will aide the surveying profession in its charge to safeguard life, health, and property and promote the public welfare. The following revisions were made to Colorado Revised Statutes pertaining to professional land surveying: 12-25-202. Definitions. As used in this part 2, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Board" means the state board of licensure for architects, professional engineers, and professional land surveyors, created by section 12-25-106. "BASIC CON-TROL FOR ENGINEERING PRO-JECTS" MEANS SURVEY MARK-ERS SET ON OR IN THE VICINITY OF A CONSTRUCTION PROJECT TO ENABLE ALL COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT TO BE BUILT IN COMPLIANCE WITH PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE PROJECT LOCATION, ORIENTATION, ELE-VATION AND RELATIONSHIP TO PROPERTY, EASEMENT OR RIGHT-OF-WAY BOUNDARIES;
- (1.5) "BOARD' MEANS THE STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR ARCHITECTS, PROFES-SIONAL ENGINEERS, AND PRO-FESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS, CREATED BY SECTION 12-25-106.
- (3.3) "GEODETIC SURVEY-ING" MEANS THE PERFOR-MANCE OF SURVEYS IN WHICH MEASURE OR ACCOUNT IS TAKEN OF THE SHAPE, SIZE AND GRAVITATIONAL FORCES OF THE EARTH TO DETERMINE OR PREDETERMINE THE HORIZONTAL

OR VERTICAL POSITIONS OF POINTS, MONUMENTS, OR STATIONS FOR USE IN THE PRACTICE OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYING OR FOR STATING THE GEODETIC POSITION OF CONTROL POINTS, MONUMENTS, OR STATIONS BY USING A COORDINATE SYSTEM OR DERIVATIVE THEREOF RECOGNIZED BY THE NATIONAL GEODETIC SURVEY.

12-25-202 Definitions. As used in this part 2, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (6)(a) "Professional land surveying" means the application of special knowledge of principles of mathematics, methods of measurement, and law for the determination and preservation of land boundaries. "Professional land surveying" specifically includes:
- (X) Surveying to establish basic control for engineering projects and Geodetic Surveying; and
- (X.5) BASIC CONTROL FOR ENGINEERING PROJECTS; AND
- 12-25-212 Qualifications for land Surveyor interns. (2)(b) In order to be admitted to the examination pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (2), the applicant must have SATISFIED EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:
- (I) THE APPLICANT graduated from a four year board-approved surveying OR SURVEYING TECHNOLOGY curriculum THAT IS AT LEAST FOUR YEARS.
  - (II) THE APPLICANT HAS

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# C O M M I T T E E R E P O R T S

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SENIOR STATUS IN A BOARD-APPROVED SURVEYING OR SURVEYING TECHNOLOGY CUR-RICULUM THAT IS AT LEAST FOUR YEARS.

(c) Upon passing the examination AND UPON SUBMISSION OF OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS TO THE BOARD VERIFYING GRADUATION OR IMPENDING GRADUATION, the applicant shall be enrolled as land surveyor-intern if the applicant is otherwise qualified pursuant to section 12-25-211.

30-10-903. Duties and powers of the county surveyor. (2) The county surveyor may, when authorized by the board of county commissioners:

- (d) CONDUCT GEODETIC
  CONTROL SURVEYS, VERTICAL
  CONTROL SURVEYS, OR ANY
  SURVEYS FOR THE PURPOSE
  OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
  SYSTEMS:
- (e) CONDUCT OR SUPERVISE CONSTRUCTION SURVEYS NEC-ESSARY TO THE COUNTY; AND
- (f) PROVIDE REFERENCE MONUMENTS FOR OR THE REMOUNUMENTATION OR MONUMENT UPGRADES OF PUBLIC LAND SURVEY SYSTEM MONUMENTS THAT ARE DESTROYED BY COUNTY CONSTRUCTION OR OTHER FUNCTIONS.

38-44-112 Agreements. Any UNCERTAIN line, or disputed **UNCERTAIN** corner or UNCERTAIN boundary OF AN EXISTING PAR-CEL OF LAND THAT IS RECORD-ED IN THE REAL ESTATE RECORDS IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RECORDER FOR THE COUNTY WHERE THE LAND IS LOCATED AND THAT IS IN DISPUTE may be determined and permanently established by written agreement of all parties thereby affected, signed and acknowledged by each as required for conveyances of real estate,

clearly designating the same, and accompanied by a map or plat thereof which THAT shall be recorded as an instrument affecting real estate, and shall be binding upon their heirs, successors, and assigns. IF THE MAP OR PLAT IS PREPARED BY A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR, MONUMENTS SHALL BE SET FOR ANY LINE, CORNER, OR BOUNDARY INCLUDED IN THE AGREEMENT.

38-51-102 Definitions. As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(12) "Land Survey Plat" means a plat which THAT shows the information developed by a monumented land survey OR SHOWS ONE OR MORE SET MONUMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 38-51-104 AND 38-51-105 and includes all information required by section 38-51-106.

38-51-106 Land Survey Plats. (1) All land survey plats shall include but shall not be limited to the following:

- (c) All FIELD-MEASURED dimensions necessary to establish the boundaries in the field ON THE GROUND AND ALL CALCULATED DIMENSIONS FOR NEWLY CREATED PARCELS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH THE BOUNDARIES ON THE GROUND;
- (I) A STATEMENT DEFINING THE LINEAL UNITS USED INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO METERS, CHAINS, FEET, U.S. SURVEY FEET. IF IT IS NECESSARY TO DEFINE CONVERSION FACTORS, THE FACTORS SHALL BE A FUNCTION OF THE METER AS DEFINED BY UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.

38-53-103 Definitions. As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(12) "Land Survey Plat" means a plat which THAT shows the information developed by a monumented land survey OR SHOWS ONE OR MORE SET MONUMENTS PURSUANT SECTIONS 38-51-104 AND 38-51-105 and includes all information required by section 38-51-106.

The PLSC Legislative committee is looking forward to addressing machine control grading of boundary related construction, minimum requirements to monument roadway centerline control within newly created subdivisions and minimum physical standards for property corner monumentation. We are also considering revising required plats to include whenever any monument is newly established. Concern regarding professional land surveyor's property descriptions being altered (i.e., basis of bearing removed, acreage reference removed, and signature and seal removed) prior to inclusion into a warranty deed has been brought to the attention of the legislative committee and will be considered in the coming year. Each member of the legislative committee will be sponsoring a maximum of two items for consideration by the committee in the coming year. If you have a concern that you would like to be addressed contact a member of the committee and seek sponsorship of your concern. I look forward to another successful year within the legislative committee.

Sincerely Legislative Committee Chairman Roger D. Nelson, PLS

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

# **MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Legislative Committee, Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado

FROM: Peg Ackerman, Ackerman Information Corporation

DATE: April 22, 2007

RE: Legislative Report

# Action During the Week

SB 87 - This bill prohibiting the shifting of financial responsibility for negligence in construction agreements was signed by Governor Ritter on 4/11 and becomes effective on 7/1/07.

SB 210 - This bill implementing Amendment 41 passed 3<sup>d</sup> Reading in the House on 4/20/07 by a 50-12 vote. Voting no were Representatives Cadman, M. Carroll, Garcia, C. Gardner, J. Kerr, Lambert, Liston, Looper, Lundberg, Sonnenberg, Weissmann and Witwer. Representatives T. Carroll and McGihon did not vote due to a conflict of interest and Representative Merrifield was excused due to illness. The bill was amended on 3<sup>d</sup> Reading to provide that the following subsection (5) is repealed if the Supreme Court holds that it is unconstitutional.

- (5) (a) The commission shall dismiss as frivolous any complaint filed under article XXIX that fails to allege that a public officer, member of the general assembly, local government official, or government employee has accepted or received any gift or other thing of value for private gain or personal financial gain.
- (b) For purposes of this subsection (5):
- (I) "Official act" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section 24-18-102 (7).
- (II) "Private gain" or "personal financial gain" means any money, forbearance, forgiveness of indebtedness, gift, or otherhing of value given or offered by a person seeking to influence an official act that is performed in the course and scope of the public duties of a public officer, member of the general assembly, local government official, or government employee.

#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS SCHEDULED IN THE APRIL 23rd CALENDARS

### THURSDAY, APRIL 26

House Appropriations - 7:30 AM, Room LSB-A <u>SB 107</u> Borodkin--License Landscape Architects

House Business Affairs & Labor - 1:30 PM, Room 0107 <u>SB 084</u> Jahn--Registered Interior Designers Data Base

Bill No.	Bill Title	Status	Comments
HB 1115 Riesberg & Tapia	CONCERNING PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS DUE UNDER A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT.	PI by Business Affairs and Labor 3/8	Dead
HB 1225 J. Kerr & Tapia	CONCERNING LAND SURVEYS.	As amended, passed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Reading in the House on 2/20 by a 64-0 vote; Passed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Reading in the Senate on 3/5 by a 34-0 vote	New Law; Effective date 90 days after adjournment
HB 1304 Marshall & Ward	CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RRICLE XXIX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFOR.	As amended, passed 3 <sup>d</sup> Reading in the House on 3/14 by a 46-16 vote; PI by Senate State Affairs 3/27	Dead
SB 84 McElhany & Jahn	CONCERNING THE CREATION OFA DATA BASE OF REGISTERED INTERIOR DESIGNERS	As amended, passee 3 <sup>d</sup> Reading in the Senate on 4/18 by a 25-8 vote; Assigned to House Business Affairs and Labor and Appropriations	Amended
SB 87 Tapia & Fischer	CONCERNING A PROHIBITION AGAINST THE SHIFTING OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR NEGLIGENCHN CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS.	As amended, passed 3 <sup>d</sup> Reading in the Senate on 2/12 by a 25-9 vote; Passed 3 <sup>d</sup> Reading in the House on 3/12 by a 40-22 vote	New Law; Effective date 7/1/07
SB 90 Kopp & J. Kerr	CONCERNING COUNTY AUTHORITY TO VEST TITLE TO A VACATED ROADWAY.	As amended, passed 3 <sup>d</sup> Reading in the Senate on 2/9 by a 33-0 vote; As amended, passed 3 <sup>d</sup> Reading in the House on 3/16 by a 65-0 vote; Senate concurred 3/19	Awaiting the Governor's signature
SB 107 Tapia and Borokin	CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF LANDSCAPEARCHITECTS.	As amended, passed 3 <sup>d</sup> Reading in the Senate on 3/20 by a 23-11 vote; Referred to Appropriations by House Business Affairs and Labor 3/23	Amended
SB 188 McElhany	CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RRICLE XXIX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFOR.	PI by State Affairs 3/8	Dead
SB 210 McElhany & Marshall	CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT ETHICS COMMISSION AS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE XXIX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFOR.	As amended, passed 3 <sup>d</sup> Reading in the Senate on 4/2 by a 35-0 vote; As amended, passed 3 <sup>d</sup> Reading in the House on 4/20 by a 50-12 vote	Amended in both houses

# C O M M I T T E E R E P O R T S

# **PLSC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

February 23rd, 2007
Tivoli Center, 900 Auraria Parkway, Denver, Colorado
Hosted by the Central Colorado Professional Surveyors Chapter

- 1) Call to Order 6:40 PM
- Recognition of Board Members Present: John Guyton; Tom Adams; Gary Gable; Larry Connolly; Michael Greer; Diana Askew; Russ Clark; Roger Nelson; Doug Berling; Les Doehling; Paul Suter Absent: Lisa Isom; Art Hipp
- 3) Welcome of Members and Guests: introductions Warren Andrews; Bob Stollard; Doyle Abrahamson; Bryan Clark; Dan Smith; Thomas Case; John West; Karen Meckel; Brian Dennis; John West
- 4) Additions, Deletions and Modifications to Agenda Warren Andrews request:
  - PLSC pays fees every year for membership in the Colorado Engineering Council but has no representation at the meetings from the PLSC Board. Warren used to attend the meetings. Warren requests representation from the PLSC Board at the meetings.
  - Gary Gable agrees to contact the Council, attend or find someone to attend the meetings.

Mike Greer request:

- GIS in the Rockies
- 5) Approval of Minutes from previous meeting
  - Mike Greer moves to approve Larry Connolly seconds – unanimously approved
- Comments from Hosting Chapter Gary Gable and Di Askew
  - a) Progress of Workshops tabled
  - Seeking volunteers to assist BLM with color scanning of records tabled
- Di Askew and Dave Pehr received exceptional service awards
- Gaby Neunzert is awarded the status of Member Emeritus
- Gene Kooper is the new president
- Bill Buntrock is the new vice president
- 7) REPORTS (if bracketed, no request to present a report was received)
  - a) Secretary Treasurer Art Hipp
  - See attached report from Art Hipp
  - PLSC finances beginning to look better because of systems implemented in the last 4 or five years
  - The PLSC has more cash on hand
  - The Fall workshop was financially successful
  - PLSC finances need to be up to date and in order
  - Recommendation to discuss increasing dues and

- conference fees
- i) Report to the Board of Directors no comments or questions
- b) (President John B. Guyton) will give report in the executive committee report
- c) (Vice President Tom Adams) no report
- d) (Executive Director) absent
- e) (NSPS Delegate-Warren Ward) absent, no report
- f) (WFPS Delegates Dave DiFulvio / John B. Guyton) no report

# g) STANDING COMMITTEES

- i) (Nominations and Elections Larry Connolly, Chair) – no report
- ii) Legislative Roger Nelson, Chair
- JB states that the PLSC is lucky to have Roger Nelson as the chair
- JB is asking for a report visa vi the minutes because the Side Shots minutes from the last meeting have not been published yet
- Roger is asked to send the report to Diana and it will be included in the next Side Shots
- Roger is commended for his ability to step into the position and make a significant amount of progress
- (1) Report requested
- Legislative committee bill HB 24 has passed the House and is now engrossed in the Senate – there have been heated discussions throughout the year, however this is a good bill to represent our profession
- Definition of control for engineering projects an attempt to clearly define exactly what the definition is as it pertains to PLS (see report)
- Qualification for LSI to take the exam in their senior year – parallel to what engineers have now – will enable Metro to maintain abet accreditation
- County Surveyor can conduct many more types of surveys and set monuments
- Boundary line agreement has been revised to add new requirements for a PLS being involved in the process
- Vote to support the legislative committee decision was made by the PLSC Board via email
- LSP definition to allow a LSP to be deposited if less than the entire boundary is monumented – additional items to add to the minutes from Roger's report
- Future Legislation is in development and is still being questioned and challenged committee members

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

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- Members are asked to develop a stance on current issues – contact Roger Nelson with any information or additional concerns
- iii) Publications JB Guyton, Chair
- (1) Feedback on new look of Side Shots
- Discussion concerning the new cover of Side Shots and the article included by JB with Doyle's review concerning the 40th latitude parallel – all in attendance agree a new look for the publication is necessary and refreshing
- Bryan Clark asks if there will be a credit on the cover photographs – a paragraph – JB would like to add a teaser for the article – but not this time
- Please send neat pictures for the cover of Side Shots to any Board member
- Side Shots is read all over the country
- Publication information is due by January 1, July 1, and so on. The dates are listed on the second page in Side Shots
- No primitive information please
- JB posts the Side Shots on the WFPS Web site
- Would like to market clothing (Carhart, etc) with PLSC logo on the web site and in Side Shots
- Roger requests to include an announcement in the next Side Shots that he contacted the president of each chapter and found a designee to send information concerning the legislative committee activity so each chapter is aware of their avenue to receive the information. Roger will send an email with the names of those who are designated.
- Les Doehling and John Noonan are ex-officio members of the PLSC Board, this needs to be added to the list of members of the PLSC Board in Side Shots
- True summit of the Rockies article to be published in POB
- iv) (Liaison Gary Gable, Chair) Report Requested
  - Tuesdays meeting is spirited, Dr. Stoughton is ecstatic about the SIT legislation and would like to turn the signing of the bill into a photo op
  - BLM will be curtailing the donations to Metro because of budget constraints
  - Will be pursuing funding for a foundation in the order of 1.7 million
  - Outreach committee formed
  - Finance committee formed
  - Requesting some support from PLSC for advertisement
  - Program seeks to increasing distance learning opportunity
  - Hopes to bring in an additional professor
  - Herb requests the PLSC to write a letter to the state board to implement the new legislation regarding SIT's immediately – Brian Clark said it is implemented as soon as it becomes law
  - Warren Andrews asked if continuing education and/or a 4 year degree program are implement-

- ed if the Metro State College would do better. A general discussion on the possibility of implementing continuing education follows:
- PLS and PE groups will need to combine in order to move forward with a minimum requirement request to the AES Board. Groups to coordinate and contact are the PEC and the Civil Engineers group.
- PLSC needs to take baby steps to make the laws parallel between LPSs and PE's maybe education and experience requirement for licensure, one thing at a time
- Tom Adams feels that paralleling the PE's should not be the goal; it needs to be what is important to protect the public and property rights
- Doyle makes the point that there should be a minimum requirement only, and surveyors should be doing this already – continuing education and 4 year degree are separate issues structure the requirement so that it encourages the 4 year degree but not require it
- Important to keep up with our need for technology and the growth of technology
- v) (Survey Monumentation and Standards ) tabled
- vi) Membership Tom Adams, Chair
  - (1) Report requested
  - Committees are important, requested that Art send out a first class letter and Art had a better response than he ever has before
  - Add which committee's people want to belong to and follow up on that
  - Will ask Art send out a second notification in a paper form rather than the little card he generally sends next year
  - List of new PLS's and LSI's sent out and offered new memberships that they have to fill the card and return it (on the Treasurer Report)
  - Tom wants to send out an application for membership to all the PLS's licensed in Colorado (over 1000) with the "Why join the PLSC" flyer
  - Add an online membership database Tom requests advice as to what to show on the form? Enter the information you want on the public shared database (people can pick and choose) certain people will be allowed to download the entire database (chapters, etc) may actually get more members in the PLSC by making it easier for them to join.
  - Committee to update create a new statute book Doug Berling to help
  - Di asked if we could designate a place on the Web site to post applicable statutes – maybe in PDF form, we just need to find a way to index them
  - We need some tracking system to get some of these people back after they have used their free membership
  - vii) (Ethics and Fair Practices Larry Connolly, Chair)

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

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- Larry is looking for volunteers to take the committee on
- JB suggested to keep the committee and let it lay dormant
- Doyle said it is a good committee to gain support when surveyors are asked to do things they should not have to do (example, Counties)
- viii) Executive Committee JB Guyton, Chair JB's report on the executive committee will be shared upon request
- xi) (Awards Larry Connolly, Chair) no comments

## h) SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- i) (Trig Star / NCEES Multi Media Warren Ward)
   -tabled
- ii) Marketing Paul Suter
- Board agrees to support Paul with helping Dr.
   Stoughton, contact the governor concerning the photo op to sign the bill for SIT
- New Logo contest for a new logo (need vendors to sponsor) agree that it is dated Mike said the debate could be brought up in Side Shots
- iii) Electronic Secretary Lisa Isom tabled

# Agenda Additions

- GIS in the Rockies Mike Greer
  - www.gisintherockies.org new Web site, offering Cad and GIS type classes (really cool) – 20th birthday, something will be done to celebrate at the conference this year – need more PLS's to attend!

# i) CHAPTERS

- Please provide brief report on Chapter activities when Board of Director's Meeting is hosted by your Chapter.
- ii) (Northern Lonnie Sheldon, President)
- iii) (Central Gene Kooper, President) see item 6 above
- iv) (Southern Terry Maw, President ex-officio)
- Tom Adams chapter asked Tom to bring something forward – Terry's opinion chapter president should automatically be a member of the board of directors – beginning to practice the ex-officio – this should suffice?
- Dissemination of information would help the PLSC communicate to the chapters – chapter summit?
- Every meeting would become a meeting of all the chapters to discuss for the revisions to the bylaws so it is time sensitive – they want the presidents of the chapters to become voting member of the board of directors –
- Warren Andrews said that the chapter president would attend the meetings (ex-officio) and should attend the meetings and has a vote, exofficio is not necessarily the president and may

- not attend the chapter meetings.
- Roger Nelson said the chapters need to appoint a member to be ex-officio
- Bob suggested that we consider inviting presidents of other state organizations to the PLSC meeting? They used to do this and it sort of fizzled out.
- iv) (Northwest 1/4 Ridgeway Moon, President) tabled
- v) (Western Les Doehling, President ex-officio)
- The PLSC Board is invited to the western chapter conference listed in the Side Shots in May 4th
- Teresa is going to Iraq to survey and has adjusted her mentoring program accordingly
- vi) (Southwest Parker Newby, President)
- Larry Connolly reports they are preparing for their conference
- vii) Colorado Spatial Reference Network of the PLSC
  - Russ Clark, Committee Chair
- according to the by laws we need to have 10 voting members of the PLSC to begin this chapter will need 10 voting members of the new chapter
- form a reference network chapter or form a new non-profit, chapter would provide a tax exempt status more quickly than the not for profit, have draft name, draft mission statement, under the PLSC umbrella, committee will morf into the chapter
- a bit of a debate used the central chapter bylaws and edited them to fit their needs
- Colorado Spatial Reference Network (CSRN) is the name of the new chapter (see draft)
- Leica is considering setting up a statewide network, they want to coordinate with the PLSC and the new chapter to set the network up.
   Lots of questions come up, Leica only? Leica has funding and is going ahead no matter who else does it. Trimble has also suggested it.
- Motion to meet the amended articles of incorporation and the bylaws of 1985 amended (see motion by Russ Clark)
- JB accepts Motion, Di seconds, no discussion, unanimously approved
- Russ is asked to email updates to the board on a regular basis
- It is possible that the need for the new chapter may disappear after a few months
- Chapter role may become an advisory role, overseers of the construction and maintenance of the network

### 8) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### 9) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Legislative Committee
  - i) Access weekly information on the Ackerman

# C O M M I T T E E R E P O R T S

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- ii) Information Corporation website.
- b) BOD votes on Legislative Committee proposals
- New Chapter Colorado Spatial Reference Network of the PLSC
  - i) Charter Members letter
- d) Reasons to join PLSC
- 3) Wheeler Monument
  - Discussion:
  - Contribute 3000 to manufacture and install a shelter around the meridian monument
  - possible opportunity for more exposure for PLSC
  - maybe the chapters can contribute as well
  - look at where the monument is to see if the public will visit it and put a brass plaque on there with PLSC on it free advertising forever, lat and long on the plaque
  - Tom would like to make a motion and feels PLSC should jump on this

# -Motion-

Tom Adams moves to give JB the authority spend to up to \$3,500.00 toward the manufacture and installation of a shelter for the Wheeler Monument in Georgetown Colorado and to oversee the construction of the shelter, as well as the appropriate recognition of the PLSC for the donation of the monies; under the condition that an ease-

ment is obtained, and the structure is maintained by others, and the Town promotes PLSC through literature relating the monument and shelter.

Gary Gable seconds - unanimously approved

- f) "Your Career in Surveying" DVD
  - Prepared by CLSA, customizable to PLSC for a fee
  - ii) Paul Suter fees: tabled
  - iii) Keep as monthly 'retainer' or change to "task based" fee schedule
- g) Online registration and payment for workshops & dues
  - Terry Sanders is setting this up for the PLSC and CCPS
  - Look into making PLSC merchandise available for purchase
    - (1) E-print provides this service for Flatirons, does a good job.

If time allows, additional items may be brought up for discussion after Agenda Items are discussed.

- 10) NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME, PLACE Friday, May 4th, Grand Junction, location in the *Side Shots* or in the PLSC Web site
- 11) ADJOURN 10:22

# Western Federation of Professional Surveyors Combined Summary Meeting Report:

Board of Director's Meetings: 1/20/07 in Reno, NV <u>and</u> 4-14-07 in San Diego, CA by: David C. DiFulvio, PLS, Colorado Delegate

This meeting report covers the last two meetings of WFPS. The 4-14-07 meeting in San Diego, held in conjunction with WestFed's biennial conference and the January 2007 meeting in Reno.

Guests at the January, 2007 meeting included: Steve Parrish, former WFPS secretary – Nevada; David Priesch, Past Chairman of APLS; Steve Shambeck, CLSA President-Elect; and Crissy Wilson, WFPS Central Office.

Guests at the April, 2007 meeting included: Curt Sumner, Executive Director of ACSM; Rita Lumos, NSPS President; John Fenn, NSPS Treasurer; and several people whose names I didn't catch being

the Montana President-Elect, MARLS President, and CLSA Treasurer.

Highlights from both meetings are noted below. Items of significance to one of the two meetings are noted as such.

Selected highlights from WFPS member states' reports:

Alaska: Regulations have gone into affect requiring Continuing Education for License renewal for Surveyors as of January 1, 2008, after which time a renewal will require 15 PDH's with 30 PDH's required every two years thereafter,,,,Their AELS Board voted to repeal adoption of the NCEES Model Rule dealing with "Inclusions and Exclusions" of

Land Surveying, however it was delayed until their May, 2007 Board meeting, and also is dealing with the definition of Engineering and Surveying overlap,,,, The AELS Board is working on an open book Jurisprudence Exam that will be posted on their web site in the near future, dealing with existing Alaska Law and Regulation.

Arizona: APLS implemented a non-profit entity for managing the scholarship grants, to be administered by the Northern Chapter of APLS,,,, Their membership has reached an all time high of 800 and is researching the possibility of a

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

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dues increase,,,, Their Chapters have become much more active in presenting seminars and other educational opportunities,,, Their 2 year Sunset review of Geospatial members expired in 2006 with their Board unanimously voting to maintain their membership in APLS,,,, at their annual meeting in January, Dave Minkel, their NGS representative, presented information of the status of Arizona's Height Modernization Program and their recent success in securing a commitment for funding.

California: The CLSA 2007 conference was a joint conference with WFPS on April 14 - 18, 2007 in San Diego, CA.,,,, Their membership has experienced a steady increase in the past 10 years, currently at 2261, and is attributed to their extensive and rewarding benefits available to members, with a surprising increase directly as a result of the complimentary digital copy of their Exam Guide to members only (for free),,,, One of their greatest accomplishments in 2006 was the release of the CLSA Exam Guide, to assist in passing the State Specific Professional Land Surveyor Examination,,,, The CLSA Board adopted a resolution opposing the NAFTA MRD,,,, As a result of their focus on public relations and recruitment into the profession, CLSA has developed the recruitment program "Choose Your Path...Make Your Mark". The program includes a 6 minute DVD and printed material featuring a career in land surveying and has also created a licensing program to authorize other state associations to tailor both the DVD and printed material with their logo, name and contact information,,,, The three legislative proposals put forward by CLSA are now signed into law - SB1849. SB1196, SB1849 containing their revisions to 8726 and 8771 of the LS Act, with SB1196 containing their revisions to 66448 of the Government Code,,,, Will award approximately \$33,000 in scholarships to 33 students,... their Student Outreach Program is enjoying great

success with a tremendous response to their information mailing to math department heads in every high school in California (+/-2000),,,in addition, CLSA launched the website www.SurveyPath.org to help this effort.

**Colorado:** J.B. Guyton presented a comprehensive report on the activities of PLSC at both meetings. The reports are published in *Side Shots*. The passage of HB 1225 was also noted.

**Hawaii:** Their legislature failed to address the Shoreline Certification issue in last year's session, however a recent Hawaii Supreme Court Decision confirmed the existing definition of shoreline as being along the "upper reaches of the wash of the waves".... as evidenced by the edge of vegetation or the debris line. What once was a process primarily performed by professional surveyors, now involves coastal geologists, ocean scientists, and the State Surveyor, in addition to the private surveyor,... their Height Mod. Program is scheduled for completion in 2009,,, last year the State Surveyor implemented a new web site for public access to all Land Court, File Plan and Registered maps free of charge.

Idaho: ISPLS received a letter from the NGS, David Doyle confirming that the reporting of U.S. Survey Feet on data sheets was approved for Idaho,,,, supported proposed legislation to establish a GIS Service Center in and for the State of Idaho,,,, the Right of Entry legislation is still pending in the legislature and expected to pass,,,, is working on proposed legislation regarding minimum monument standards, corner perpetuation and records filing,,,, also voted not to support the RFTA MRD,,,, awarded two scholarships of \$1,700 each,,,, Idaho State University has received ABET certification for its Geomatics program,... their GIS representative reported on the Idaho Geo-Spatial Information Center, expressing concern about the creation of a Cadastral Parcel Layer without land surveyor's involvement. The Ada County Assessor Office Land Surveyor stated that much of this has already been done in some of Idaho's 44 counties.

Montana: MARLS agreed to support a proposed 2009 ACSM Conference in Salt Lake City... their Southeast Chapter is dealing with issues regarding a local county requiring an engineer - not allowing surveyors - to design roads, in violation of the definition of Land Surveying in Montana Law. The membership directed their President to write a letter to all of the counties and county attorneys regarding confusion as to the definition of land surveying and the definition of design, layout, and staking of roads,,,, there appears to be no progress with the Geomatics Advisory Committee document being transformed into administrative rule,,,, MARLS granted \$12,000 in scholarships,,,, BLM is working to host the .tif images of GLO notes and plats for the State of Montana on the Montana Cadastral Mapping web site.

Nevada: The four year Survey Degree Program at Great Basin College in Elko, Nevada has completed its first full year of classes, with a majority of classes now offered by IAV or internet,,,, NALS has retained lobbyist Bruce Arkell for the 2007 legislative session,,,, has an up-dated new web site, www.nv-landsurveyors.org ,,,, their 2008 conference will be March 16 -19 in Harvey's Hotel & Casino in Lake Tahoe,,,, has presented a proposal to jointly participate with Utah, ACSM, NSPS, and WFPS for the 2009 Conference in Salt Lake City or Reno.... is currently tacking 16 bills in the legislature affecting surveyors, including a bill concerning hotel condo conversions and another allowing the subdivision of boundaries if considered agricultural, without having a survey performed or subdivision plat prepared.

New Mexico: Interesting Case: 05-04-05: complaint against surveyor. This case is interesting in that it has crossed the several branches of the judicial and legislative review as well as the Board Room and also

# C O M M I T T E E R E P O R T S

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has caught the attention of many a local surveyor, which, although may not be the best way to learn the legal angle of surveying or surveying law for that matter but, it has definitely started a fire in this Southwest Corner of the U.S. More information on this matter will be provided if and when their judiciary and the legislative branches can sort out their understanding of what is happening,,,, Ethics: Rule 16.39.2.8 NMAC effective July 1, 2006 is the P.D.H. requirement of obtaining professional development hours which 4 hours must be in ethics,,,, they are tracking legislation to abolish the County Land Surveyor from Proclamation and Ballot.

Oregon: Their membership count seems to have stabilized,... PLSO has recently passed new guidelines for student and associate members,,,, Scholarship awards will surpass \$10,000 this year,,,, due to the retirement of one of their engineering professors (not scheduled to be replaced), the Geomatics program at Umpqua Community College is in jeopardy of closure,,,, OSBEELS has promulgated 30 new administrative rules, primarily related to the practice of photogrammetry. Part of this process has been focused on standardizing the dimensions of seals and stamps, primarily due to the use of electronic replicas,,,, their legislative committee has fine-tuned their efforts relating to property line adjustments for the 2007 legislative session, with more of a focus on housekeeping. They are currently tracking four bills dealing with the statute of limitations, property line adjustments, partitions, etc.(prohibiting the placement of utilities within one foot of platted monuments), and pavedover monuments,,,, an up-date to the PLSO Strategic Plan is being circulated, reflecting goals and initiatives through 2011,... a 5% dues increase was approved for 2008.

Utah: Their state GIS Department is pursuing a statewide GPS RTN network,,,, their Surveyors Examination Preparation Course seems to be very successful with a

100% pass rate,,,, their 2007 conference was held in St. George this past February with their conference rates raised from \$275 to \$375. The registration of 380 was the largest they ever had,,,, their 2008 conference will also be in St. George on Feb. 20 —22, 2008,,,, UCLS presented a proposal to join with WFPS and ACSM for their 2009 conference in Salt Lake City.

Washington: LSAW's proposed "Redefinition of Surveying" legislation made it to committee this year before getting hung up by MAPPS and ASPRS with concerns that it would eliminate private aerial mapping companies. They are currently discussing whether to continue with legislative activity on this issue or focus on their Board of Registration to enforce their existing statute,,,, their Board of Registration has decided not to pursue a re-definition of "incidental" surveying and engineering and "let it be" with the existing statutes and rules on this issue,,,, LSAW continues their support of the CORSE program with their state donating \$4,000 to fund 2 teachers for the 2007 class,,,, their 2007 Conference was a great success, drawing almost 990 attendees. The conference ran 11 tracts, including 2 hands on GIS / CAD labs on Thursday and Friday, with 5 on Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning, with all classes filled to near standing room only,,, their 2008 conference, possibly in association with ACSM, will be in Spokane.

Wyoming: Their State Board of Registration attempted to revise the state registration rules and regulations this legislative session with HB 277. Among the main issues of this bill is the requirement for a 4-year degree in the year 2017. It was defeated in the Senate on 2nd reading,,,, a new program at Sheridan College has been rumored to be up and running and supporting necessary education for an AAS degree that will assist applicants in the NCEES-FLS process,,,, PLSW has formed a new Chapter - the Laramie Valley Chapter, encompassing Albany County,,, is considering resurrecting the PLSW publication Lines and Points. If approved, there is an expectation of a May, 2007 issue.

# Other items of interest:

- WFPS has revamped their web site: www.wfps.org.
- The West Fed Board received reports on the NSOS Board of Governors/BOD joint meeting, and the Western Governors Council meeting, both held at the 2007 ACSM Conference in St. Louis.
- It was noted that a revised NCEES Model Law for Engineering was adopted by NCEES that will require an additional 30 educational units (Masters Degree) for engineers to sit for licensure, effective in 2015.
- Information was shared regarding various state's fines for disciplinary actions by their State Boards of Registration.
- WFPS approved a donation of \$1,500 towards the creation of a brochure for the promotion of the David Thompson Traveling Exhibit.
- The location and teaming for the 2009 WFPS Conference was discussed, with Idaho, Nevada and Utah submitting proposals for this joint conference. It was voted to pursue planning and negotiations for this joint conference with ACSM and partner WFPS states in both Reno, Nevada as well as Salt Lake City, Utah. A decision will be made at the next meeting depending on proposals received.
- WFPS voted to send their Chairman and Chairman-Elect to all NSPS meetings.
- Ray Mathe (California) was elected the next Chairman Elect, and Harold Baldwin (Arizona) elected the next Secretary /Treasurer.

Our next meeting will be held in September 15th, likely in Las Vegas, Nevada.

End of Report ■

# **Personal Rewards**

by Diana E. Askew, PLS

A couple years ago someone told me they felt I was more respected in my profession because of the people I associate with in the industry. My answer to that was that many of the people I associate with were all people who share a common personal goal - to give to our profession. We don't choose to associate with each other because of our stature in the industry; it isn't like we all belong to an exclusive club... So what is it that draws us together?

If all we wanted is recognition for our efforts we would be disappointed. There is no recognition during the months of preparation necessary to prepare our material for the next seminar or dedicate our entire weekend to preparing a report. Another aspect to consider is that "what we do" does not mean much to those outside of our profession. When we gather for a social hour, nobody cares if we participate on this board or that, help to organize a conference, or prepare a PowerPoint presentation for a seminar. Character is built from the challenges we face as well. If what we do is easy then more people would do it.

I can't speak for all of the individuals that volunteer time and time again to participate in the many aspects of the industry; however I can share the reasons I do. I receive personal rewards which are directly related to my actions. I feel it is important to give back to my profession and that it is important to make a difference in the lives of others during my lifetime. I make a personal choice as to how I spend my time. Many people tell me they don't have time to participate because they have busy lives. I feel that it isn't a lack of time inhibiting them, it is a lack of personal choice, and that is OK. People find satisfaction in life in many ways. For example, they clean up trash on the side of a highway, run in races for charity, or visit nursing homes on the weekends. Others find satisfaction in life by filling roles necessary for the perpetuation of their profession.

I do like it when others say thank you or when I am recognized among my peers for sharing time, talent, and ideas, but this is not what continues to motivate me. Some of my personal rewards are the increased opportunities to learn something new, increased exposure to aspects related to the industry, and an increased ability to develop deeper knowledge based on input from "many minds". I have associations with others in the industry which are the direct result of

Continued page 34



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# MEMBER OPINIONS

The opinions published in this section are the opinions of individual members, and are not necessarily the opinions of the PLSC, Inc. If you have questions or comments about items included in this section, please contact the PLSC, Inc. Board of Directors, or the appropriate Committee Chair.

# PLSC Board Rejects Legislation to Limit AES Licensing Board Power

By PLSC Legislative Committee Members Dexter M. Brinker and Maurice L. Schumann

In the process of reviewing and approving PLSC Legislative Committee proposal that became House Bill 07-1225, PLSC Board of Directors rejected limiting the authority of the Architect, Engineer and Surveyor Licensing Board in complaint cases involving disputed boundary evidence. Two, PLSC Board members, Tom Adams and Douglas Berling, supported the concept.

It is interesting and perplexing to note that since the founding of PLSC some legislative efforts by the group have been to protect the public, some to protect surveyors and some simply to define terms and "level the playing field." To protect surveyors, PLSC success fully pushed for both "statute of limitations" and "right of access" legislation, yet this year opposed one of the most important forms of protection a *diligent* land surveyor needs. Why?

The suggested proposal stated: Amend 12-25-208(1)(b) to read:

Failing to meet the generally accepted standards of the practice of land surveying through act or omission. HOWEVER, NO CAUSE FOR ACTION UNDER THIS SUB-SECTION SHALL EXIST IN ANY COMPLAINT WHICH IS BASED ON THE EVALUATION OF CON-FLICTING BOUNDARY EVIDENCE IF THE ACCUSED PARTY HAS MADE A REASONABLE SEARCH FOR SUPPORTING AND CON-FLICTING EVIDENCE AND HAS FOLLOWED THE PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN ALL APPLICABLE COLORADO STATUTES.

#### Rationale:

Current wording is vague since there are no "generally accepted

standards" for the evaluation of conflicting boundary evidence. The AES Licensing Board should be prevented from favoring one licensee over another solely on the basis of the Board's interpretation of such evidence and subsequently disciplining the "loser." Such action by the Board would usurp the long standing and satisfactory District Court method or resolving boundary disputes. Even "BLM Instructions" are, by reference, part of Colorado law (Section 38-51-103).

Proposed amendment will give to diligent and conscientious land surveyors the same type of protection as is offered to licensure board members and witnesses under provisions of 12-25-118 which states:

Any member of the board, any member of the board's staff, any person acting as a witness or consultant to the board, any witness testifying in a proceeding authorized under this part 2, and any person who lodges a complaint pursuant to this part 2 shall be immune from liability in any civil action brought against him or her for acts occurring while acting

in his or her capacity as board member, staff, consultant, or witness, respectively, if such individual was acting in good faith within the scope of his or her respective capacity, made a reasonable effort to obtain the facts of the matter as to which he or she acted, and acted in the reasonable belief that the action taken by him or her was warranted by the facts. Any person participating in good faith in lodging a complaint or participating in any investigative or administrative proceeding pursuant to this part 2 shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability that may result from such participation.

This amendment would in no way restrict the power of the AES Licensing Board to discipline incompetent or unqualified surveyors under the provisions of sub-sections 12-25-208(1)(e) and (1)(g).

We believe that all voting members of PLSC are entitled to know the background of this failed legislative effort and welcome member's comments – email to surv\_colo@yahoo.com.

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my actions.

When I consider all of the rewards and opportunities which are directly related to my personal choices, the greatest personal reward of all is the people who have come into my life. I have made additional friends whom I cherish,

which I would not have known otherwise. I am very thankful to have opportunities to participate at a higher level in my chosen profession; but I am most thankful for the resulting relationships! I want to thank all of you who have made my life so rich and rewarding.

# MEMBER OPINIONS

# What is a Boundary?

# By Maurice L Schumann

When a big tall man with steely eyes, bib overalls and a shotgun says coldly "don't step over that line," you heed his notice. Even though you don't see any line on the ground, you know where the boundary, as well as the remainder of your life, is.

While surveying, the issue is not always so clear – neither so quick. Boundaries can take on many forms from the basic line on the ground to complex solar or view easements. Boundaries may be natural, man-made and tangible. Also, they may be as intangible as calls in a description or lines on a protraction. Unfortunately, the word boundary does not have associated with it the distinction afforded to corner and *monument* where one is a point determined by the surveying process and the other is a real object which marks the point.

Why ask "What is a boundary?"
The issue arose because, as part of involvement with PSLC Legislative Committee, I recognized that although the primary business for surveyors is locating boundaries and corners, a statute definition for boundary does not exist within those which regulate surveying, It is time to add, dependent upon careful and

thoughtful consideration, a definition or definitions for "boundary."

Some considerations are as follows:

- 1. A boundary is a place or location where control of, interest in, or liability for space, on, above or below the ground changes. Usually, the place or location is thought of as a line, straight or curved, on the ground. However, along with the line there may be associated an imaginary vertical, inclined or complex surface of varying height or depth.
- 2. A "public land survey" boundary connects corners—the inverse statement from Section 5-4, BLM *Manual* of SURVEYING INSTRUCTIONS 1973 which states:

The "corners" of the public land surveys are those points that determine the boundaries...

- 3. Usage indicates "boundary" may be considered singular or plural. In one context a parcel boundary may refer to the complete boundary all of the parcel's lines. In another, it may refer to only one line.
- 4. Boundaries may change location with time. Two neighbors disputing may agree upon a boundary differing from what might have been previously accepted by others.

Water boundaries may change due to accretion or avulsion. Earthquakes and land mass movements may change others.

- 5. Boundaries may be those for condominiums, town houses or for easements and right-of-ways.
- 6. Boundaries may also be referred to as property lines, easement lines or right-of-way lines.
- 7. It is the surveyor's task to locate boundaries; not to ascertain or define the kind or type of control or interest. It may be necessary to to determine dimensions for an existing boundary or it may be that the boundary is to be located as a function of some prior or existing dimensions or other information.

## **Last and Least**

While it is my opinion it is a lawyer's objective to confuse, it is a surveyor's responsibility to clarify. In this vein, I am not necessarily inclined to be influenced by a law dictionary, but, will acknowledge that lawyers have something to say. This said, I close my discussion with an excerpt from David Mellinkoff's The Language of the Law, Little Brown and Company, 1963:

Sir, the law is as I say it is, and so it has been laid down ever since the law began; and we have several set forms which are held as law, and so held and used for good reason, though we cannot at present remember that reason.

Fortescue, C.J. [Y.B. 36 Hen. VI, ff, 25b-26 (1458); transl., 3 Holdsworth, A History of English Law 626 (3d ed. 1923)]

PLSC members and the surveying community are invited and encouraged to enter discussion and comments regarding a surveying related definition for "boundary." Please email to surv colo@yahoo.com

# PLSC, Inc. Committees

Following is a list of PLSC Committees. Many of these committees need additional members to be fully effective, so if you are willing and/or able to participate, please contact the Committee Chair.

Nominations and Elections Committee - Larry Connolly Legislative Committee - Roger Nelson

Publications Committee - JB Guyton Liaison Committee - Gary Gable

Survey Monumentation and Standards Committee -

**Membership Committee** - Tom Adams

Ethics and Fair Practices
Committee - Larry Connolly
Awards Committee - Larry Connolly

Fall Technical Session 2007 - Mike

GIS in the Rockies - Dan Smith / Mike Greer

Metro State College of Denver -Randy Bloom

**GPS User Group, (G2)** - Pamela Fromhertz/Dan Smith

Real Time Reference Networks -Russell Clark

PLSC "Leadership Academy" program - Randy Bloom

# FOUR CORNERS AREA **SURVEYING SEMINAR 2007**

SPONSORED BY:

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER OF THE PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS OF COLORADO

WHEN: JUNE 8th AND JUNE 9th, REGISTRATION IS FROM 7:00 TO 7:45 A.M. EACH DAY AND CLASSES

BEGIN ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE SHOWN BELOW.

WHERE: THE COLLEGE UNION BUILDING (CUB) AND NOBLE HALL ON THE FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

> CAMPUS, DURANGO, COLORADO. (See FLC web page for maps).

WHO: Don Wilson, Jim Simpson, Dave Doyle, Angie Kinnaird Linn and Dexter Brinker.

#### PROGRAM:

FRIDAY, June 8th

7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.: Registration, coffee and pastries provided at the ballroom in the CUB

7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.: Opening remarks, directions to classes

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.: Mr. Donald A. Wilson, "Court Decisions Every Surveyor Should Know

About"

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Mr. James A. Simpson, "Water Boundaries for Surveyors"

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.: Happy hour: complimentary Hors D' Oeuvres and beverages in the CUB.

SATURDAY, June 9th

7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.: Registration, coffee and pastries provided at the ballroom in the CUB

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.: Mr. Donald A. Wilson, "Ethics and the Land Surveyor"

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.: Mr. Dexter Brinker, "New Responsibilities of the Colorado Land Surveyor as a "Quasi - Engi-

neer""

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.: Ms. Angeline Kinnaird Linn, "Colorado Land Surveying Laws, Board Rules and Policies; An

Overview"

1:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Mr. Donald A. Wilson, "Easements & Reversions and the Land Surveyor" 1:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.:

Mr. Dave Doyle, "National Readjustment of the North American Datum 1983.

NAD83(NSRS2007)"

Buffet lunch is included from 12:00 to 1:00, along with beverages and snacks during registration and breaks on both days, at the ballroom in the College Union Building.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS:

For those people coming from out of town who need lodging accommodations, please visit www.gatewayreservations.com/DR.

Check out the following web sites for more places or information if you are interested in making a vacation out of this workshop:

www.durango.org, www.farmington.nm.us/depts/parks/golf/phills.html, www.telluride.com and www.riversports.com

This form can be found on the internet at: http://www.plsc.net/calender/calendar.html

Registration form on page 39

### **TOPICS**

# Court Decisions Every Surveyor Should Know About, Donald A. Wilson

Selected cases of significance and importance to practicing land surveyors. Topics include interpretation, rules of construction, retracement and liability.

#### Ethics and the Land Surveyor, Donald A. Wilson

An examination of ethics and how the professional is affected with emphasis on the land surveying profession.

Easements & Reversions and the Land Surveyor, Donald A. Wilson A brief discussion of easements, their significance, and the responsibility of the surveyor to research, identify and locate them. A brief overview of how reversion takes place, and its significance to the title and the survey.

### Water Boundaries for Surveyors, Jim Simpson

This course will cover the following topics:

- a) Introduction and reasons for study of this unit.
- b) Navigability
- c) Federal Patents and their effect on surveys.
- d) Gradual change in river banks and lake shores
- e) Survey of the Ordinary High Water Mark
- f) Islands and sand bars
- h) Water boundary legal disputes and the surveyor's role.

# New Responsibilities of the Colorado Land Surveyor as a

"Quasi-Engineer, Dexter M. Brinker This is a course on the evolution of Colorado Laws regulating Land Surveying and Engineering. A wide variety of subjects will be reviewed including:

- 1. The definition of "Quasi Engineer"
- Comparison between "quasijudicial" and "quasi-engineering" functions of the Land Surveyor
- 3. The art and science of Construction Surveying
- 4. What is the meaning of "basic control" as used in the current definition of Land Surveying?
- Former Civil Engineering functions now performed by Land

- Surveyors
- Quick review of circular curves, vertical curves, spirals and earthwork
- 7. Liability under the law, especially 12-25-208(1)(g) C.R.S.

  Bottom line! Be prepared to document your competency you are working in a litigious (lawsuit prone) society.

Colorado Land Surveying Laws, Board Rules and Policies; An Overview, Angeline Kinnaird Linn Angie will discuss several topics related to the Board of Licensure for Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, including the following:

- The makeup of the new board and the responsibilities of the Surveyors Quorum
- How the board evaluates land surveying experience for candidates applying for licensure as a Professional Land Surveyor
- 3. An outline of the Board of Licensure's complaint process
- Changes brought on by the 2004 Surveying Practice Act enacted as a result of the sunset legislative process
- New laws related to land surveying effective July 1, 2006
- 6. New laws to go into effect July 1, 2007

# National Readjustment of the North American Datum 1983, Dave Dovle. NGS

This session focuses on the impact that the recent adjustment has on surveying and mapping. It will address whether you need to reference this latest readjustment and why. It will trace the development of the datums of the U.S. developed by the NGS and its predecessor agencies, the Coast & Geodetic Survey, US Coast Survey and the Survey of the Coast. The presentation will include a detailed discussion of the North American Datum of 1983 and its various iterations and its relationship to the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF) and the World Geodetic Sys-

### **PRESENTERS**

tem of 1984 (WGS84).

**Donald A. Wilson** is president of Land & Boundary Consultants, Inc.,

based in southeastern New Hampshire, and has been in practice as a land boundary consultant for about 40 years. While most of his practice has been in and around the New England area, Mr. Wilson has consulted to firms and groups throughout the United States. He is both a licensed land surveyor and professional forester, and has conducted programs on a variety of topics, including description interpretation, boundary evidence, law, title problems and related subject matter.

Mr. Wilson has been active in numerous organizations in the surveying and mapping, forestry, and related fields, including the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, the Canadian Institute of Geomatics, the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, a life member of the American Forestry Association, a Fellow of ACSM, past president of both the Maine Society of Land Surveyors and the New Hampshire Land Surveyors Association, member of the New Hampshire Title Association and the New England Land Title Association.

In addition to more than 150 technical publications in several areas, Mr. Wilson has been involved with over 40 books. He is co-author of Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location and Boundary Control and Legal Principles, author of Deed Descriptions I Have Known....But Could Have Done Without and Easements and Reversions, and the chapter on Boundary Surveys in the Surveying Handbook. His latest work, published through John Wiley & Sons, is Interpreting Land Records. Mr. Wilson has spoken before and consulted with several organizations, including several state Departments of Transportation, several power authorities, offices of Attorneys-General, the International Right of Way Association as well as Minatome Corporation, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Don currently writes a regular column for Professional Surveyor magazine and is an instructor for RedVector in producing on-line professional courses.

Jim Simpson is now retiring from

private practice of water boundary determination and navigability studies. Most of the work has been in preparation for expert witness testimony. In all he has been working in the surveying field for more than 58 years and well over half that time has been in private practice. Jim designed and developed the Cadastral Survey Training Program for the Bureau of Land Management and served as BLM's first Riparian Boundary Specialist. He is the author of "River & Lake Boundaries" a water boundary survey manual that is in now in its second edition.

Dexter M. Brinker, PE-PLS Graduated from North Denver High School in 1943. U.S. Army, 1943 – 1946, Combat Infantry service with the 36th Infantry Division in France, Germany and Austria. A.B. (Physics) 1949 and B.S. (Civil Engineering) 1952, University of Colorado. Worked for several engineering firms in Denver area before starting own business in surveying, mapping and engineering. Operated Brinker School of Surveying and

Mapping, 1971 – 1980, Charter member and first president of P.L.S.C. Drafted many of Colorado's land survey laws from 1963 to 2004.

Angeline Kinnaird Linn, has served as Director of the newly organized Business and Technical Section within the Division of Registrations since Spring 2006. In that capacity, she oversees all of the non-healthcare programs in the Division, including Accountancy, Boxing, Electricians, Outfitters, Plumbers, Tramways and the Architects/Engineers/ Surveyors Board. Her responsibilities include policy development, implementation of legislation and consistency of the programs.

Angie served as Program Director for the Colorado Board of Licensure for Engineers/Surveyors for twelve years. For the previous ten years she worked in the design/construction industry as a marketing professional with several types of companies including architectural, engineering, real estate development and construction. From 1987-92 Angie served as a public member of the Engineers/Surveyors

Board

**Dave Dovle** is the Chief Geodetic Surveyor of the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) where he is responsible for the development, technical design and management of high accuracy reference networks. He provides technical assistance in Geodesy to International, Federal, State and local surveying, mapping and GIS agencies. Since 1967 his experiences have included all phases of geodetic triangulation, astronomic positioning, geodetic leveling, GPS data collection, data analysis, datum transformations, network adjustments and data publication.

Mr. Doyle is a Past President of the American Association for Geodetic Surveying, a Fellow member of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, a Charter member of the Geographic and Land Information Society, and the District of Columbia Association of Land Surveyors and is active in the Maryland Society of Surveyors and International Association of Geodesy.

Registration form on page 39

# **Denver McComber Mentoring Program Spring 2007**

The remaining Spring 2007 schedule for the Denver McComber Mentoring program will include four sessions on legal topics and one session on an Independent Resurvey of two townships. The legal topics will include an introduction to legal terms and principles, followed by three round table discussions of selected topics. The speakers for the legal topics will be Doyle Abrahamson, who will lead the discussion on "Corner vs. Monument." Mr. Ed Bristow and Mr. Dave Pehr will be the discussion leaders for two of the sessions. The two legal topics they will discuss will be decided by the attendees at the "Introduction to Legal Terms" session. An example topic may be a discussion of the differences between acquiescence

and adverse possession.

Below is a tentative schedule for the remaining sessions in May and June.

- May 2, 2007 Introduction to Legal Terms
- May 16, 2007 Corner vs.
   Monument (to be held at Merrick & Co.)
- May 30, 2007 Examples of Independent Resurveys of Two Townships
- June 13, 2007 Roundtable discussion of selected legal topics
- June 27, 2007 Roundtable discussion of selected legal topics

With the exception of the session at Merrick & Co. on May 16, all McComber Mentoring sessions will be held at Survey and Construction Supply, 930 Byers, Denver, Colorado. The May and June schedule is still tentative as to when each topic will be discussed, subject to speaker availability. Please contact Gene Kooper at ekooper@uswest.net to be included in the distribution list. A reminder email will be sent prior to each session verifying the location and topic. Classes start at 6:00 p.m. and run until 8:00 p.m. Price is \$10 per session.

Licensed Professional Land Surveyors are also cordially invited to all of the mentoring sessions. Please consider adding your voice to the discussion and help mentor our young surveyors. Admission is free for any PLS.

# REGISTRATION FORM FOUR CORNERS AREA SURVEYING SEMINAR 2007

Name	Phone		
Mailing Address			
City	State	Zip Code	
Company	Fax	e-mail	
PLEASE FILL OUT SESSION CHOICES			
Friday, June 8:Mr. Don Wilson "Court Decisions Ever	y Surveyor Should	Know About"	8 PDH, or
Mr. Jim Simpson, "Water Boundaries f	or Surveyors"		8 PDH,
Saturday, June 9: Mr. Don Wilson "Ethics and the Land \$Mr. Dexter Brinker "New Responsibiliti as a "Quasi – EngiMs Angie Kinnaird Linn "Colorado Lan and Policies; An	ies of the Colorado neer" od Surveying Laws,	•	4 PDH, or 4 PDH, or 3 PDH and
Mr. Don Wilson "Discrepancies in theMr. Dave Doyle, "National Readjustme	Official Record"		4 PDH or 4 PDH
I am a member of the following Profession	nal Society:PL	SCNMPS _	APLSUCI
I certify that I am a student enrolled in a su	urveying program a	ıt;	
School:	Signature:		
REGISTRATION FEES (Please circle the Professional Society Members. We urge y			
Member of Professional Society Non-Member Students of a Survey-related curriculun (If received after June 1, 2007, there		\$230 \$310 \$ 40	y you attend)
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Questions may be directed to David Freier david@animassurveying.com	nmuth (970) 385-68	891(work) e-mail;	



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Colorado State Office 2850 Youngfield Street Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7093



www.co.blm.gov

CO-956 9655.2

March 29, 2007

Mr. Arthur W. Hipp, Secretary-Treasurer Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado 9660 West 56th Place Arvada, Colorado 80002

### Dear Art:

This letter is to inform you of official cadastral surveys in Colorado that have been accepted from, October 1, 2006, through March 30, 2007, and are now available from the Public Room, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215.

The accepted original surveys, resurveys, supplemental plats or remonumentations are listed below by township, range, meridian, group #, type, approval date and number of plats.

<b>Township</b>	Range	<u>Meridian</u>	Group #	<b>Type</b>	Approved	<u>Plats</u>
T. 32 N.	R. 18 W.	NMPM	1428	Plat & Notes	11/15/06	1
T. 35 N.	R. 16 W.	NMPM	717	Plat Only	12/21/06	1
T. 36 N.	R. 11 W.	NMPM	862	Plat Only	01/10/07	1
T. 1 N.	R. 78 W.	Sixth	Sec.18	Suppl. Plat	01/23/07	1
T. 50 N.	R. 9 W.	NMPM	1312	Plat & Notes	01/24/07	2
T. 37 N.	R. 19 W.	NMPM	1387	Plat & Notes	01/25/07	1
T. 32 N.	R. 3 W.	NMPM	1463	Plat Only	01/30/07	1
T. 50 N.	R. 18 W.	NMPM	3,4,9,14	Suppl. Plat	02/01/07	1
T. 7 N.	R. 91 W.	Sixth	750	Plat Only	02/05/07	1
T. 8 N.	R.100 W.	Sixth	750	Plat Only	02/05/07	1
T. 8 N.	R.101 W.	Sixth	750	Plat Only	02/05/07	1
T. 5 N.	R. 92 W.	Sixth	1336	Plat & Notes	02/13/07	3
T. 6 N.	R. 92 W.	Sixth	1336	Plat & Notes	02/13/07	1
T. 36 N.	R. 6 W.	NMPM	1459	Plat & Notes	03/01/07	1
T. 41 N.	R. 2 W.	NMPM	Sec.21	Suppl. Plat	03/07/07	1
T. 25 S.	R. 72 W.	Sixth	1410	Plat & Notes	03/15/07	1
T. 24 S.	R. 73 W.	Sixth	1410	Plat & Notes	03/15/07	1
T. 45 N.	R. 5 E.	NMPM	1468	Plat & Notes	03/21/07	1

As other surveys are completed, I will advise you of their acceptance. You may circulate this letter among the membership of the Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado.

Sincerely yours,

Randall M. Zanon

Chief Cadastral Surveyor for Colorado

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# The Keeneyville Swamp Rats and Their Laughing Places

# By Dean Glorso

Du Page County Resolution SM-0006-06 will put the funding in place to improve the drainage in Keeneyville. The county has studied the plan extensively and estimates the cost to improve the drainage in East Keeneyville to be \$26 million over the next ten years. One aspect of these studies, I'm sure, never included some of the boyhood memories I have of the poor drainage and wetlands there. The wetland/swamps were our play ground.

In the past 40 years, since leaving the wonderful community of Keeneyville, I have watched the many changes during my infrequent visits to the Chicago area. These drainage improvements will forever change the rural community I grew up in, but improvements will never drain the memories of the group of boys that called themselves "The Keeneyville Swamp Rats."

We were part of the baby boomer generation. We Swamp Rats were especially lucky because our parents were smart enough to leave the crowded city of Chicago and move west to this wonderful rural subdivision. "Keeney's Lake Street Farms," located about 25 miles west of Chicago, was created when Virginia Keeney signed and recorded the subdivision plat in 1932. The original subdivision, East of Gary Road, and South of U.S. Highway 20 (Lake Street), contained approximately 115, one-acre lots. It was the perfect place for young boys to grow up in the 1950s.

When I was age 10, I acquired a paper route delivering the Chicago American and the Elgin Courier in the community of Keeneyville. At that time, both were evening papers and a perfect way for a boy to earn a few bucks and get to know many of the people in the neighborhood.

Mrs. Mae Miller was one of my paper customers who lived to be 100 years old. She and her husband Francis Xavier Miller were one of the first home owners in Keeneyville. They lived on Keeney Road in a lovely white house with green trim just south of Lake Street. I remember asking Mrs. Miller to help me with one of my school assignments, writing a brief history of Keeneyville. She was very willing to tell me some things I still remember to this day. One was the fact that Keeneyville had a lake that was considered by the Native American Indians to be a great fishing spot. According to Mrs. Miller, the lake was reduced to a swamp when drainage ditches were cut, and fill material was placed during the original construction of Gary Road back in the 1930s.

Winter was a great time for the Keeneyville Swamp Rats. Bob Sherman organized a hockey team and The Swamp Rats skated regularly in the open areas between the cattails.

But in the summer I distinctly remember one of those drainage ditches where the cottonwood trees on the banks seemed as tall as the buildings in downtown Chicago. We called our favorite playground "The Laughing Place".

It was Dale Young and Warner Baumgartner. Two Swamp Rats who procured a heavy long rope from Case Foundation Company and made a wonderful swing in the trees. Dale and Warner were both very athletic and had the great upper body strength required to climb high in the tall cottonwoods. Like circus trapeze actors, they hauled up the large rope and draped it over a high limb. While Gary Olson tied one end of the rope to the trunk of the tree, Warner let the other end drop until it hung directly over the stagnant drainage ditch. A large knot at the swinging end of the rope completed the fabulous boy-made swing.

Hot summer days were spent swinging on the long rope in a large counter-clockwise arc. The swing travel was over, parallel with, then back over the smelly, stagnant ditch. I remember watching Tim "Tink" McLaughlin take a turn dressed in his Sunday wing tip shoes. Tink had big feet for a young boy and as he left the ground on the high side of the tree bank, Terry Kupp and Bill Steiner inched the tie-down side of the rope up the trunk of the tree until Tink was lowered closer to the slime green water. Soon his large shoes hit the surface and he looked like a water skier spewing green water in all directions. With a final nudge on the rope, Terry and Bill sent Tink to the mud and slime bottom of the ditch. It was at this moment, I remember, when the Laughing Place got its name. I can still see Tink's blonde head emerge from the brown water, with a large piece of green moss rolling off his forehead. Belly laughs from both banks of the ditch secured the name of our play ground forever.

Quickly, Dan "Porky" Williamson took charge of the rope while Ron Cabai and Mark Olson were starting a duet swing. Porky leaped from the bank just as Ron and Mark swung by, knocking the two boys and himself into the stinking ditch. This act caused a mud fight to break out and before long all the Swamp Rats present were soaked in mud, slime and laughter.

So as the County makes these drainage improvements to the Keeneyville swamps, remember there are some of us around who still consider Keeneyville's poor drainage, "Our Laughing Place."

Dean F. Glorso, a Professional Land Surveyor living in Aurora, Colorado enjoys hearing from old friends. He can be reached at dfglorso@comcast.net



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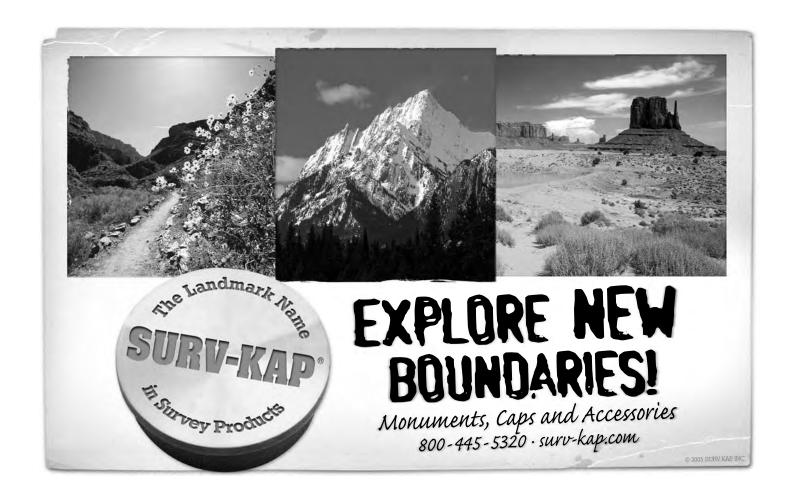
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