

2023 AMC  
FALL  
PLANNING  
MEETING

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Patrick D. Veraguth

# Minnesota Public Land Survey System (PLSS)

Minnesota Public Land Survey System was surveyed in Minnesota by the Federal Government (GLO) from 1847 to 1907.

Most of these PLSS corners were originally wooden posts.

The Government Land Office (GLO) originally set these corners and gave the power of maintaining them to the State.

The State gave that responsibility to the Counties.

Traditional funding sources linked to fees leave greater Minnesota short of necessary funds.

It is the job of the licensed Land Surveyor to put these corners back to where they were originally set.

# 1978 PLSS Legislation

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A bill for an act

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relating to land surveying; authorizing counties  
to contract for the preservation and  
remonumentation of the United States public land  
survey; appropriating money; amending Minnesota  
Statutes 1978, Sections 287.21, Subdivision 2;  
287.25; 287.28; 287.29, Subdivision 1, 389.011,  
Subdivision 2; and Chapter 287, by adding a  
section.

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11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

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Section 1. [LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.] The legislature  
finds that it is in the public interest that the public  
records and the monuments established by the United States  
public land survey be perpetuated and preserved, and that  
in those instances where the monuments have been destroyed,  
obliterated, or obscured to an extent that they are  
difficult to locate, that they be reestablished with  
permanent monuments and their positions perpetuated. The  
legislature further finds that the preservation of the  
records and monuments and remonumentation is of statewide  
significance.

Sec. 2. [DEFINITION.] Unless the language or context  
clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended, as



*Party Time!*

# MACS

*Is Turning*

# 40!!

*Let's Celebrate*

*August 3rd 4PM*

**Where:** Fish Lake Regional Park Pavilion  
14900 Bass Lake Road  
Maple Grove, MN 55331

**Accommodations:**  
Hampton Inn Minneapolis NW Maple Grove  
7745 Elm Creek Blvd. N.  
Maple Grove, MN 55369  
763-494-4498

**Room Block:** MSPS Summer Meeting

Click Below to Book:

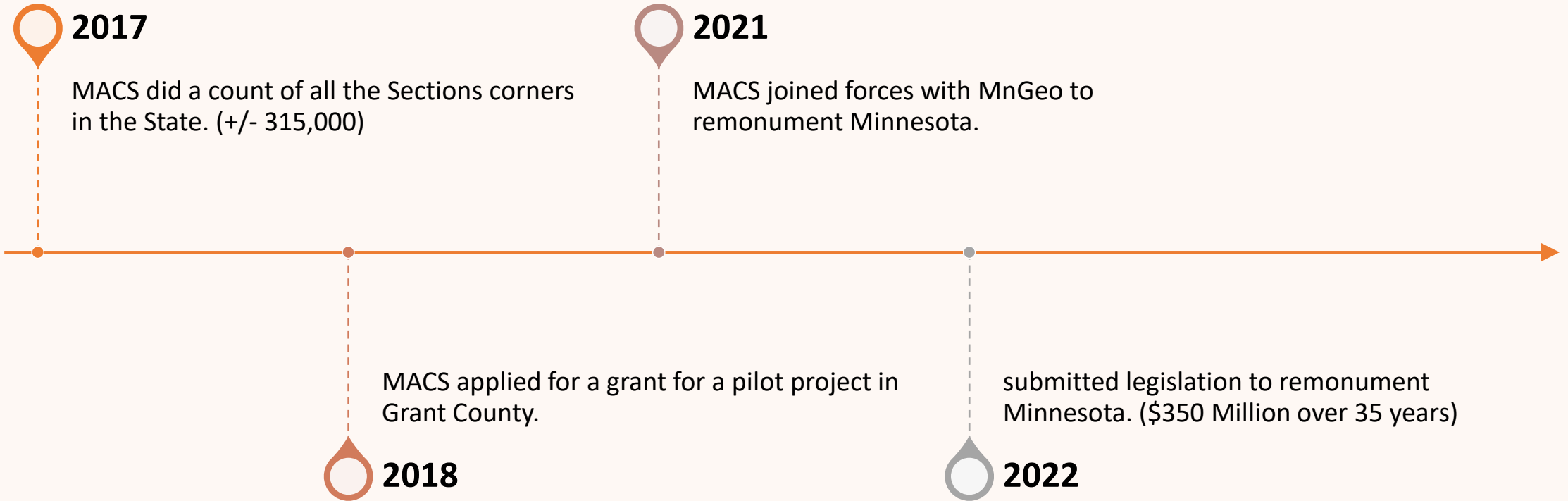
<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?cityhcn=MSPMGHX&groupCode=CHHMSM&arrivaldate=2023-08-02&departuredate=2023-08-04&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

**RSVP:** Robin Mathews  
[Robin.mathews@co.pine.mn.us](mailto:Robin.mathews@co.pine.mn.us)



**Special Notes:** Food and Beverages will be provided

# New PLSS work



In 2023,  
MSPS hired a  
Lobbyist,  
Phil Raines



House File 1830  
and Senate File  
1426  
State  
Government  
Omnibus Final  
Bill

- **Public Land Survey System Appropriation.**
- \$9,700,000 the first year is for the grant program authorized by Minnesota Statutes, section 381.125, and for grants to counties to employ county technical staff to aid surveyors making land survey corners. Up to six percent of this appropriation may be used by the chief geospatial information officer for the administration of the grant program. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2027.





Governor's Signature May 25th



# A big THANK YOU to our PLSS Legislative Authors

- 6 Authors in the House.
- 
- Rep. Mike Freiberg (DFL) District: 43B
- Rep. Paul Anderson (R) District: 12A
- Rep. Gene Pelowski, Jr. (DFL) District: 26A
- Rep. Rick Hansen (DFL) District: 53B
- Rep. John Huot (DFL) District: 56B
- Rep. Mary Franson (R) District: 12B

- 3 Authors in the Senate
- 
- Senator Jim Carlson (52, DFL)
- Senator Mark W. Koran (28, R)
- Senator John R. Jasinski (19, R)
- 
- Senator Torrey N. Westrom (12, R)
- Retired Senator Ann Johnson (2022)

# MnGeo Survey Coordinator



STATE OF MINNESOTA

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Employee’s Name and ID#:

Position Control Number:

Agency/Division: MNIT/MnGeo

Activity: Leadership & Coordination

Classification Title: TBD

Working Title: Survey Coordinator

Prepared By: Dan Ross

Appraisal Period: October 1, xxx to: September 30<sup>th</sup>,  
xxx

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE | DATE

SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE | DATE

(this position description accurately reflects my current job)  
current job)

(this position description reflects the employee's

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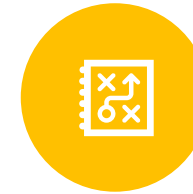
# The Next Steps



PLSS Preservation  
Committee Charter



Hire Surveyor  
Coordinator to  
work in MnGeo.



Develop a model  
plan.



Develop GAC RFP



Develop a Grant  
application.



PLSS Data  
Standards



Supplemental  
Budget Bill for next  
year



Outreach



Get all counties to  
apply.

# Meet Me at the Corner!

## The Public Land Survey System in Minnesota

Free and open to the Public! – Wednesday, Oct 4th, 2023

In conjunction with GIS/LIS Annual Conference

DECC, Duluth, MN

**1:30 pm through 5 pm**

**What is the PLSS?**

**PLSS Corner Monumentation and Section Subdivision**

**Integrating the PLSS into GIS**

**Field Trip**

**Question and Answer Session with Social Hour**

**We will be handing out prizes during the event!**

This event brought to you by the following organizations:



## Local MMATC

Dakota County, Meeting October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Ramsey County

Hennepin County Meeting October 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>.

Carver County

Rice County

Itasca County



## Selection Criteria and Weight

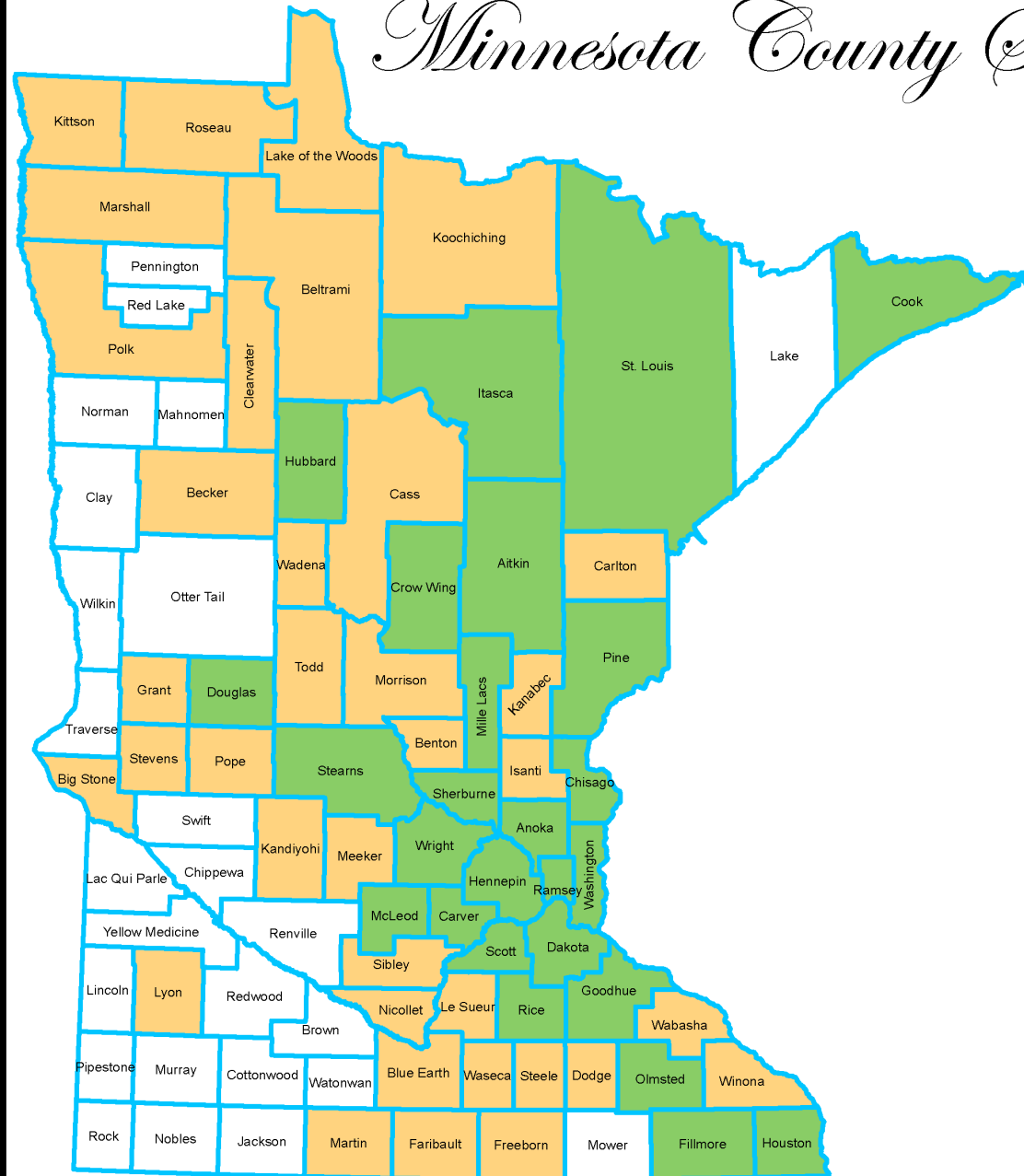
The review committee will be reviewing each applicant based on the following formula:

Rank =  $1000 / (\text{Total County Revenues from 2021 (in millions)} * \text{Percent of certified corners with known geodetic coordinate values})$

Examples:

- Lake County:  
 $1000 / 40.1 * 0.05 = 498.75$
- St. Louis County:  
 $1000 / (365.4 * 0.42) = 6.52$
- Hennepin County:  $1000 / (2371.4 * 1) = 0.42$

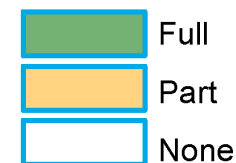
# Minnesota County Surveyors



County	Status	Surveyor
Aitkin	Full	Randy Quale
Anoka	Full	Charles Gitzen
Becker	Part	Roy Smith
Beltrami	Part	Robert Murray
Benton	Part	Jay Wittstock
Big Stone	Part	Brad Nyberg
Blue Earth	Part	Mike Eichers
Brown	None	
Carlton	Part	William Hayden
Carver	Full	Brian Praske
Cass	Part	Terry Freeman
Chippewa	None	
Chisago	Full	Paul Gibson
Clay	Part	Nick Stattleman
Clearwater	Part	Robert Murray
Cook	Full	Wayne Hensche
Cottonwood	None	
Crow Wing	Full	Paul Herkenhoff
Dakota	Full	Todd Tollefson
Dodge	Part	Pat Hanni
Douglas	Full	Pat Veraguth
Faribault	Part	Joseph Haefner
Fillmore	Full	Jeffrey Brand
Freeborn	Part	Steven Thompson
Goodhue	Full	Lisa Hanni
Grant	Part	Pat Veraguth
Hennepin	Full	Chris Mavis
Houston	Full	Eric Schmitt
Hubbard	Full	Ryan Miller
Isanti	Part	Don Hansen
Itasca	Full	Guy Carlson
Jackson	None	
Kanabec	Part	Tyler Kroschel
Kandiyohi	Part	Duane Bonnema
Kittson	Part	Dan Fischer
Koochiching	Part	Robert Murray
Lac Qui Parle	None	
Lake	None	
Lake of the Woods	Part	Don Rasmussen
Le Sueur	Part	Rory Jensen
Lincoln	None	
Lyon	Part	Dan Bueltel
Mahnomen	None	
Marshall	Part	Gerald Pribula
Martin	Part	Ben Madsen

County	Status	Surveyor
McLeod	Full	Jeffrey Rausch
Meeker	Part	Douglas Huhn
Mille Lacs	Full	Warren Delles
Morrison	Part	Scott Marlin
Mower	None	
Murray	None	
Nicollet	Part	Janele Fowlds
Nobles	None	
Norman	None	
Olmsted	Full	Mark Severtson
Otter Tail	None	
Pennington	None	
Pine	Full	Robin Mathews
Pipestone	None	
Polk	Part	Garrett Borowicz
Pope	Part	Rodney Eldevik
Ramsey	Full	Dan Baar
Red Lake	None	
Redwood	None	
Renville	None	
Rice	Full	Mike Fangman
Rock	None	
Roseau	Part	George Coulombe
Scott	Full	James Hentges
Sherburne	Full	Russ Heiling
Sibley	Part	Avery Grochow
St. Louis	Full	Nick Stewart
Stearns	Full	Ryan Hennen
Steele	Part	John Hosfield
Stevens	Part	Brad Nyberg
Swift	None	
Todd	Part	Mark Jahner
Traverse	None	
Wabasha	Part	Marcus Johnson
Wadena	Part	George Coulombe
Waseca	Part	Mike Eichers
Washington	Full	
Watsonwan	None	
Wilkin	Part	Steven Ackerman
Winona	Part	Brian Wodele
Wright	Full	Steven Jobe
Yellow Medicine	None	

## County Surveyor Status





# Southwest corner to Minnesota



## TRI - STATE MARKER

1859

SET AT THE JUNCTION OF THE STATES  
OF MINNESOTA, IOWA AND DAKOTA TERRITORY  
BY THE FEDERAL LAND OFFICE SURVEY  
OF MINNESOTA'S WESTERN BOUNDARY.

EARLY 1900'S

REMOVED AFTER PARTIAL DESTRUCTION  
BY VANDALS.

1936

REPAIRED AND RESET BY ADJACENT  
COUNTIES AT ORIGINAL SITE UNDER  
DIRECTION OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

1959

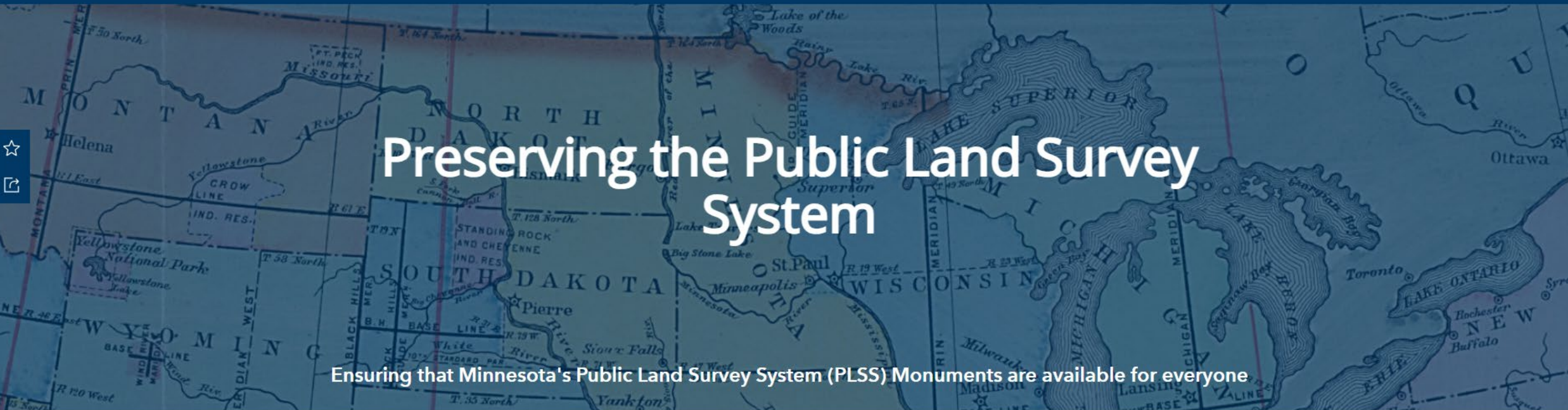
BROKEN FROM BASE BY VEHICLE TRAFFIC

1980

RESTORED AND RELOCATED AT THIS SITE  
BY THE COUNTY GOVERNMENTS AND  
HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF LYON COUNTY, IOWA,  
ROCK COUNTY, MINN. AND MINNEHABA COUNTY,  
D.D. FLUSH, MARKER SET AT ORIGINAL  
LOCATION - 46° 00' N. E.

DEDICATED TO THE PIONEERS  
OF SIOUXLAND  
THIS 24TH DAY OF OCTOBER 1980





Public Land Survey System Monuments are essential for all property descriptions, location of infrastructure, and are the basis for accurate digital geospatial data.

The original Public Land Survey in Minnesota was completed in the early 1900's. After that time, the maintenance of the system was left to local landowners and governmental units. Unfortunately, many of the monuments were quickly destroyed.

A statewide restoration and preservation program of the PLSS will benefit every Minnesotan.

These benefits include:

<https://plss-minnesota.hub.arcgis.com/>





# Preserving The Public Land Survey System

Ensuring that Minnesota's Public Land Survey System (PLSS) Monuments are available for everyone

# Thank You!!

Public Land Survey System Monuments are essential for all property descriptions, location of infrastructure, and are the basis for accurate digital geospatial data.