

Remonumentation Policy – U.S. Public Land Survey

Winona County, Minnesota

Adopted by the Winona County Board of Commissioners on September 13, 2016.

1. Monument Locations Approved by the County Surveyor

The corners of the U.S. Public Land Survey (PLS) were originally established with public funds and are the foundation for the location of all private and public land boundaries. It is in the best interest of Winona County and its citizens to have a monument placed at each PLS corner that is permanent and not subject to moving.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 381.12, Winona County is endeavoring to remonument the corners of the U.S. Public Land Survey. Minnesota Statutes, section 381.12 declares that when a land surveyor employed by the county places monuments at Public Land Survey corners that “the monuments are prima facie evidence of the original United States public land survey corners.”

Winona County employs (via a professional services contract) the Winona County Surveyor, with duties including PLS corner remonumentation and overseeing remonumentation by private surveyors as outlined in section 3 below.

Winona County will recognize or accept a monument set to perpetuate an original Public Land Survey corner only if its location has been approved by the Winona County Surveyor.

2. County Remonumentation to Focus on a Township

For efficiency, Winona County’s remonumentation effort will be focused exclusively on an identified township or geographic area.

Requests for the county to remonument other PLS corners, needed for a private survey, will not be entertained. Remonumentation of PLS corners needed for a private survey can be accomplished by a private surveyor under the remonumentation payment policy outlined below.

3. Remonumentation Payment Policy for Private Surveyors

Private surveyors shall comply with the following procedures prior to receiving payment for certifying remonumentation of a PLS corner:

- A. The land surveyor must be a Minnesota licensed land surveyor, in good standing with the Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design.

- B. The land surveyor must have prior approval from the Winona County Surveyor before excavating, restoring, or re-establishing, and/or relocating any PLS corner in Winona County.
- C. Where backhoe excavating for a corner is required, the county backhoe will be the first choice. If the surveyor cannot or elects not to wait for the county's backhoe availability, the surveyor will be responsible for private backhoe services.
- D. Where a new monument is needed, a standard county monument and guard sign (provided by the county) shall be set.
- E. Where a durable monument exists that does not need to be replaced with a county monument, a guard sign (provided by the county) shall be set.
- F. The land surveyor shall reference their Certificate of Location of Government Corner to the HARN 96, NAD 83 Winona County Coordinate System in feet.
- G. The Certificate of Location of Government Corner requires approval by the Winona County Surveyor. The land surveyor and the County Surveyor shall sign the Certificate of Location of Government Corner.
- H. A copy of the Certificate of Location of Government Corner and Statement of Evidence shall be filed in the offices of the County Recorder and the County Surveyor prior to or at the time of invoicing for payment.
- I. A written request for payment (invoice) shall be submitted to and approved by the Winona County Surveyor, then forwarded for approval by the Winona County Engineer.
- J. The payment amount per PLS corner will be per the fee schedule approved by the Winona County Board, as revised from time to time, and will be limited to the amount of funds that are available in the County Surveyor's budget for remonumentation for that year.
- K. The request for payment must be made within six months of physical remonumentation at the PLS corner location.