

GREEN COUNTY SECTION CORNER REMONUMENTATION POLICY

Maintaining and restoring the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) section corner monuments within Green County is of importance. Green County has established a payment system to encourage corner maintenance and remonumentation. This policy, funded through the Green County Highway Department and the Green County Land Records Department, will provide financial assistance to public and or private land surveyors, for section corner remonumentation that is performed during the course of a public or private survey.

This policy will be administered as follows:

(A) The Policy will be managed on a first come – first serve basis and will be subject to available funding. All remonumentation practices shall satisfy the terms of Chapter A-E 7.08 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

(B) Application forms, monuments, fiberglass carsonite witness posts and corner certification forms will be provided to the requesting land surveyor by the Green County Land Records Department. Verbal permission shall be obtained from the Green County Land Information Officer prior to any corner remonumentation. Final approval shall be granted by the Land Information Officer before payment is authorized.

(C) Corners funded by this policy shall include those corners of the original government survey (section corners, quarter corners) in Green County. Other corners may be approved on a case-by-case basis (Center $\frac{1}{4}$ corner, etc.) by the Green County Land Information Officer.

(D) The Green County Land Information Officer reserves the right to deny an application and or payment for remonumentation for reasons enumerated, but not restricted, to the following:

- (1) The applicant has not completed a current corner restoration request.
- (2) The application does not directly relate to a past or present private survey.
- (3) The applicant is unqualified or has established a pattern of unprofessional practice.
- (4) Existing application is pending and or already is on file for the subject corner by others.
- (5) The applicant has failed to provide the necessary information to substantiate a reasonable corner position.

(E) The Green County Land Records Department shall provide the requesting land surveyor the section corner monument and the fiberglass carsonite witness posts to be used for the corner relocation. Payment will not be granted when the corner is re-established without using the provided/pre-approved section corner monument. The participating land surveyor shall provide his/her own dies to stamp the corner location on the cap (on applicable monuments). All section corner monuments placed, shall be flush with the ground where practical, or mounded with stone or other material to stabilize. Monuments placed within the roadway, shall be set at a minimum of 2" below existing grade to help protect the monument's location, and further, fully contained within a closed clean-out box or similar box installed flush with grade (box provided by the Green County Highway Department). In the event that the Green County Highway Department is unable to assist with the excavation, traffic control, and installation, the requirement for a clean-out box is waived. In this alternative, a 7/8" O.D. iron rod, "drive-in" marker, or approved equal will serve as the monument. The roadway shall be returned to its

original condition; cold mix, if needed, can be provided by the Green County Highway Department. That the Highway Department may optionally install a valve box at a later date, it may be requested of the surveyor that the new monument location be left marked by aerosol spray paint. Disturbance of the new monument due to valve box installation shall be avoided. If conditions prohibit the placement of a PLSS monument for any reason, please contact the Green County Land Information Officer to discuss further options.

(F) Witness monuments shall be concrete, natural stone, iron, bearing trees or other equally durable material, except wood other than bearing trees. It is recommended that iron pipes or iron rods be used for witness monuments. These monuments shall be at least 3/4" O.D. x 24" in length for iron rods and 1" O.D. x 24" in length for iron pipes and shall be provided by the land surveyor. Further, when corner monument placement is in a roadway, and is only an iron rod, or similar "drive-in" marker, with or without containment by a valve box, newly set ties are to be 1-1/4" O.D. x 30" iron rod/rebar (more substantial). All witness monuments shall be placed flush with the ground where practical and/or mounded with stone or other material to stabilize, and a fiberglass carsonite witness post shall be placed at each location. Fiberglass carsonite witness posts shall be provided to the land surveyor by the Green County Land Records Department. The land surveyor shall provide bearings and distances from all witness monuments to the PLSS corner monument location.

(G) The monument certification form to be used for any PLSS corner monument requests, shall be drawn on the Green County approved U.S. Public Land Survey Monument Record form. This approved form will be provided to the requesting land surveyor in either a paper or digital format. The monument certification form shall be completed as accurately as past and present records allow. Basis for monument location, previous notes and data, plan view drawing and other requirements of Wisconsin Administrative Code A-E 7.08 shall be included on this form and a photo of the completed corner if available. The original certification form shall be filed at the office of the Green County Register of Deeds and a copy of the form of the completed corner location, shall be submitted to the Green County Land Information Officer for payment.

(H) Upon completion of the PLSS monument restoration, filing of the monument certification form and subject survey map, Green County will pay \$300.00 to the land surveyor of record for each approved monument re-installed. For existing PLSS monument corners that just require new witness monuments and or an updated monument certification form, Green County will pay \$150.00 for each form filed. Acceptance of a remonumented corner or the payment for the same under this program, shall not be construed to imply that Green County places any sanctions on the corner position or location. The liability for the authenticity, acceptability, and accuracy of the corner position lies entirely with the land surveyor who places the PLSS corner.

On the Green County monument certification form, there is an area for the Green County Coordinates to be listed for each corner location.

The following items are to be listed as follows:

- The Northing, Easting and Elevation of each corner listed in the Green County Coordinate System.
- The GPS Adjustment that was utilized for the Horizontal and Vertical Datums.

[Original] Dated January 1st, 2014. [Administrative party and monument/box language updated September 7th, 2018. Monument/box/ties language further updated December 20th, 2021.]

Green County Land Information
Officer
rsommers@greencountywi.org
1016 16th Avenue
Monroe, WI 53566
608-328-9635

Green County Highway
Commissioner
cnarveson@greencountywi.org
2813 6th Street
Monroe, WI 53566
608-328-9411

Green County Register of Deeds
cmeudt@greencountywi.org
1016 16th Avenue
Monroe, WI 53566
608-328-9439

Addendum to Green County Section Corner Remonumentation Policy

The Green County Land Information Council met on May 6, 2016 and discussed the issue of established section corner monuments being moved in the field by licensed surveyors to “correct” their locations. This should not happen regardless of the “correctness” of a monument because all surveys tied to that point would be affected.

The Council prefers that the “incorrect” monument is left in the ground and a new “correct” monument is set and described by a new tie sheet.

If a surveyor believes there is overwhelming proof that a monument is incorrect, the correct process to address this issue is described by Wisconsin State Statute 59.74. The surveyor should not take it upon themselves to “correct” the monument’s location.

Penalty for Non-Compliance: As described in Wisconsin State Statute 59.74, “any person who removes, destroys or makes inaccessible any landmark, monument of survey, corner post of government survey, survey made by the county surveyor or survey of public record without first complying with this subsection shall be fined not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisoned in the county jail for not more than one year.”