

Chapter A-E 5

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PROPERTY SURVEYS

A-E 5.01 Minimum standards for property surveys

A-E 5.02 U.S. public land survey monument record

A-E 5.01 Minimum standards for property surveys. (1) **SCOPE.** The minimum standards of this section apply to every property survey performed in this state except that,

(a) Where other standards for property surveys are prescribed by statute, administrative rule or ordinance, then such standards shall govern; and

(b) The land surveyor and his or her client or employer may agree in a signed statement to exclude any land surveying work from the requirements of this section except the preparation of a U.S. Public Land Survey Monument Record, providing any map prepared by the land surveyor for the client or employer includes a note which states that an agreement to exclude work from the requirements of this section has been made, the names of the parties making the agreement and a description in plain language of the requirements not complied with.

(2) **PROPERTY SURVEY, DEFINITION.** In this section, "property survey" means any land surveying which includes as one of its principal purposes describing, monumenting, locating the boundary lines of or mapping one or more parcels of land. The term includes the restoration, perpetuation or reestablishment of a U.S. public survey corner.

(3) **BOUNDARY LOCATION.** Every property survey should be made in accordance with the records of the register of deeds as nearly as is practicable. The surveyor shall acquire data necessary to retrace record title boundaries such as deeds, maps, certificates of title, and center line and other boundary line locations. The surveyor shall analyze the data and make a careful determination of the position of the boundaries of the parcel being surveyed. The surveyor shall make a field survey, traversing and connecting monuments necessary for location of the parcel and coordinate the facts of such survey with the analysis. The surveyor shall set monuments marking the corners of such parcel unless monuments already exist at such corners.

(4) **DESCRIPTIONS.** Descriptions defining land boundaries written for conveyance or other purposes shall be complete, providing definite and unequivocal identification of lines or boundaries. The description must contain necessary ties to adjoining parcels together with data of dimensions sufficient to enable the description to be mapped and retraced and shall describe the land surveyed by government lot, recorded private claim, quarter-quarter section, section, township, range and county, and by metes and bounds commencing with some corner marked and established by the U.S. public land survey; or if such land is located in a recorded subdivision or recorded addition thereto, then by the number or other description of the lot, block or subdivision thereof which has been previously tied to a corner marked and established by the U.S. public land survey.

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(5) **MAPS.** A map shall be drawn for every property survey showing information developed by the survey and including the following elements:

- (a) The map shall be drawn to a convenient scale;
- (b) The map shall be referenced as provided in s. 59.61, Stats.;
- (c) The map shall show the exact length and bearing of the boundaries of the parcels surveyed. Where the boundary lines show bearings, lengths or locations which vary from those recorded in deeds, abutting plats, or other instruments there shall be the following note placed along such lines, "recorded as (show recorded bearing, length or location)";
- (d) The map shall show and describe all monuments necessary for the location of the parcel and shall indicate whether such monuments were found or placed;
- (e) The map shall identify the person for whom the survey was made, the date of the survey, and shall describe the parcel as provided in (4), above;
- (f) The map shall bear the stamp or seal and signature of the land surveyor under whose direction and control the survey was made with a statement certifying that the survey is correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

(6) **MEASUREMENTS.** (a) Measurements shall be made with instruments and methods capable of attaining the required accuracy for the particular problem involved.

(b) The minimum accuracy of linear measurements between points shall be 1 part in 3,000 on all property lines of boundary or interior survey.

(c) In a closed traverse the sum of the measured angles shall agree with the theoretical sum by a difference not greater than 30 seconds per angle, or the sum of the total angles shall not differ from the theoretical sum by more than 120 seconds, whichever is smaller.

(d) Any closed traverse depicted on a property survey map shall have a latitude and departure closure ratio of less than 1 in 3,000.

(e) Bearings or angles on any property survey map shall be shown to the nearest minute; distances shall be shown to the nearest 1/100th foot.

(7) **MONUMENTS.** The type and position of monuments to be set on any survey shall be determined by the nature of the survey, the permanency required, the nature of the terrain, the cadastral features involved, and the availability of material.

History: Cr. Register, June, 1974, No. 222, eff. 7-1-74; am. (5) (e) and (6) (e), Register, June, 1975, No. 234, eff. 7-1-75; am. (1) (b), Register, January, 1982, No. 313, eff. 2-1-82; am. (1) (b) and r. and recr. (2), Register, August, 1982, No. 320, eff. 9-1-82.

A-E 5.02 U.S. public land survey monument record. (1) **WHEN MONUMENT RECORD REQUIRED.** A U.S. public land survey monument record shall be prepared as part of any land survey which includes or requires the perpetuation, restoration or reestablishment of a U.S. public land survey corner, and, either,

(a) There is no U.S. public land survey monument record for the corner on file in the office of the county surveyor or the register of deeds for the county in which the corner is located; or,

(b) The land surveyor who performs the survey accepts a location for the U.S. public land survey corner which differs from that shown on a U.S. public land survey monument record filed in the office of the county surveyor or register of deeds for the county in which the corner is located; or,

(c) The witness ties referenced in an existing U.S. public land survey monument record have been destroyed.

(2) **FORM REQUIRED.** A U.S. public land survey monument record shall be prepared on the board approved form or on a form substantially the same as the board approved form which includes all the elements required by this section. A form used for this purpose shall be entitled, "U.S. Public Land Survey Monument Record".

(3) **MONUMENT RECORD REQUIREMENTS.** A U.S. public land survey monument record shall show the location of the corner and shall include all of the following elements:

(a) The identity of the corner, as referenced to the U.S. public land survey system;

(b) A description of any record evidence, monument evidence, occupational evidence, testimonial evidence or any other material evidence considered by the surveyor, and whether the monument was found or placed;

(c) Reference ties to at least 4 witness monuments, or, if the location is within a municipality, then at least 2 witness monuments. Witness monuments shall be concrete, natural stone, iron, bearing trees or other equally durable material, except wood other than bearing trees;

(d) A plan view drawing depicting the relevant monuments and reference ties which is sufficient in detail to enable accurate relocation of the corner monument if the corner monument is disturbed;

(e) A description of any material discrepancy between the location of the corner as restored or reestablished and location of that corner as previously restored or reestablished;

(f) Whether the corner was restored through acceptance of an obliterated evidence location or a found perpetuated location;

(g) Whether the corner was reestablished through lost corner proportionate methods;

(h) The directions and distances to other public land survey corners which were used as evidence or used for proportioning in determining the corner location; and,

(i) The stamp and signature or seal and signature of the land surveyor under whose direction and control the corner location was determined and a statement certifying that the U.S. public land survey monument

record is correct and complete to the best of his or her knowledge and belief.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1982, No. 320, eff. 9-1-82; am. (3) (c), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84.