

IOWA COUNTY

LAND

RECORDS



MODERNIZATION

PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

A. OVERVIEW OF IOWA COUNTY

Iowa County was created by a legislative act in 1829, nineteen years before Wisconsin became a State. Wisconsin's oldest operative courthouse, erected in 1859, stands in Dodgeville. Early land records still on file in Iowa County provide a substantial trail of Wisconsin history. The original plat for the Village of Four Lakes, now Madison, was filed in 1836 in Mineral Point when that community served as the county seat for the area. It included what is now our State Capital and that plat is now prominently displayed at the Iowa County Courthouse. This is mentioned to emphasize that land records, past and present, in the custody of Iowa County are important, and will continue to be preserved with respect and responsibility.

The population of Iowa County is 20,150 and there are county-wide just over 24,000 parcels identified. The county covers 761 square miles and contains 14 towns, all or part of 13 villages and 2 cities.

B. LAND RECORDS COMMITTEE/STUDY

The Wisconsin Land Information Program has enhanced the existing local effort not only to preserve the records, but to improve access and accelerate modernization of record keeping.

On May 15, 1990, the Iowa County Board of Supervisors acted to approve a Land Records Committee to be comprised of the following representatives:

Register of Deeds	- Lynn Martin succeeded by Marian Raess
Data Processing	- Ellen Fischer
Treasurer	- Jolene Millard
Surveyor	- John Halverson
Zoning Office	- Kenneth Palzkill
County Board	- O. Robert Eichorst

The Iowa County Zoning Office, Courthouse, Dodgeville, WI 53533, (608) 935-5077 will serve as the Land Information Office for Iowa County. The contact person will be Kenneth Palzkill.

II. INVENTORY

Municipal offices provide parcel description information for the assessment and tax rolls which the county treasurer maintains and updates. These records are currently on the county computer system. Parcel description numbers are assigned consecutively with the section, town, range or subdivision by municipality. The Register of Deeds is the land ownership record keeper. Since May, 1990 Grantor/Grantee indexes have been automated. The Zoning Office has parcel maps for the townships of the County. Parcel description cards are maintained by all municipalities in various degrees of accuracy and adequacy. The Zoning Office has wetland maps as prepared by DNR, floodplain as prepared by HUD - now FEMA and land use maps for the townships, but not at a common scale. Aerial photos are used by most districts as well as the Zoning Office. Approximately 15% of the county has monument corners established in the remonumentation program. During the last three years, the county has not budgeted specific funds allocated to the land information program, but on-staff personnel have been used from individual office budgets to work on the accomplishments recorded to date.

III. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Intracounty compatibility, sharing of information, avoiding redundancy and duplication of efforts by improved management and accelerated modernization.

- 1) A study and adoption of the parcel identification numbers (PIN) will be the first effort to give each parcel throughout the county an absolute identity.
- 2) The county does not have a tract index; consequently we propose to study and adopt an automated tract index.
- 3) Develop county-wide mapping for:
 - a. Improved control
 - b. Parcel identification by map
 - c. Base map acquisition

The goals are proposed to be accomplished within 5 years and will continue as long as the funding is available.

IV. MODERNIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN

A. GEOGRAPHIC FRAMEWORKS

Iowa County has accomplished approximately 10% of the section corner documentation for the remonumentation program. That effort is ongoing as corners are located and recorded.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has established local GPS control stations based upon NAD 83(91).

The Wisconsin Power and Light Company has a substantial amount of geodetic information. Their program is rapidly advancing with some of the most sophisticated equipment available. We have a verbal mutual agreement to share effort and information.

Coordinate values will meet or exceed Federal Geodetic Control Third Order Class I Standards and will be based on the Wisconsin High Precision Geodetic Network, NAD 83 (91).

At this time there is no in-place program to accelerate the remonumentation program, but it will be advanced for the developing areas as funding is available.

B. PARCELS

- 1) Iowa County will study and adopt a unique PIN that will meet the Board's Data Interchange Standard. The PIN established will be the result of consultant review and should enhance the accessibility of data interchange. It is anticipated that improved PIN would:
 - a. Help resolve property identification problems with the local assessors and the county treasurer.
 - b. Provide assistance toward the adoption of an automated tract index.
 - c. Help build a parcel database for zoning, soils, tax information and any other question relating to the particular parcel.
 - d. Provide the identification for a parcel database and parcel maps.
 - e. Allow better and easier access to information.

This study will be enacted and completed within 6 to 12 months. Conversions to the adopted PIN will begin as soon as it is adopted. It is anticipated that a county-wide conversion could be accomplished in approximately 5 years.

- 2) Iowa County will study the options and initiate the development of an automated tract index. It is anticipated that the index would:
 - a. Help reduce property identification problems.
 - b. Be an aid to the tax and parcel administration.
 - c. Allow better and easier access to information.

This study will be in conjunction with the PIN review but the development will not be initiated until after the PIN is in place. Completion is targeted at 5 years.

- 3) A study and start for parcel mapping will be within about 5 years. The mapping will:
 - a. Use the PIN
 - b. Relate to the parcel database
 - c. Improve tax administration

Completion would be targeted at 10 years.

C. WETLAND MAPS

Iowa County has the DNR Wisconsin wetland inventory maps and the HUD (now FEMA) floodplain maps which are currently primarily used by the Zoning Office. Existing information will be tied to the PIN but no additional mapping is proposed at this time.

D. SOILS MAPPING

Iowa County has the USDA Soil Survey and does not propose to provide anything different at this time.

E. ZONING MAPPING

The Zoning Office currently maintains a map record for the areas of county zoning jurisdiction and that will be continuing to interface with the targeted projects as completed. The PIN will become the common identifier on existing and new maps.

F. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Iowa County has been the lead for local municipalities for data processing/computerization of the assessment and tax rolls and no formal additional arrangements are anticipated at this time. The practice will be an on-going matter and the county involvement will increase as additional data is generated.

G. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION & TRAINING

The county will work with local officials and the public to ensure that information derived from the county effort is publicized and that users are adequately advised to make the best use of the improved system. Presently, the county does not have expert technical assistance on staff but does have dedicated employees who are interested, able to learn, and will take advantage of educational information as it becomes available. An effort will also be made to become familiar with working programs in other counties.

H. PUBLIC ACCESS ARRANGEMENT

As is the case for all records under the control of Iowa County, information as completed under this plan will have complete public access as outlined by the Open Records Law.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE STANDARDS

The County-Wide Plan represents an agreement between Iowa County ("County") and the Wisconsin Land Information Board ("Board"). This agreement is intended to effectuate the objectives of the Program as embodied in the enabling legislation. In order for a County's Plan to be approved, the Board and the County agree and consent as follows:

- a. The County agrees to observe and follow the statutes relating to the Wisconsin Land Information Program and other relevant statutes;
- b. The County agrees to permit the Board access to the books, records and projects for inspection and audit upon reasonable notice by the Board;
- c. The County agrees to provide an annual status report of Plan progress and to update the Plan at the end of five years;
- d. The Board agrees to provide technical assistance to the County;
- e. The Board agrees to maintain and distribute an inventory of land information and land information systems for the state;
- f. The Board agrees to review and, where appropriate, approve Plans and to provide guidance to counties with respect to Plan development. In addition, the Board agrees to review and, where appropriate, approve updates and revisions to the County-Wide Plan;
- g. Board approval of the County-Wide Plan confers certain benefits on local government within the County, including continued participation in the Program and eligibility to make application for Grants-In-Aid;
- h. The Board agrees to review Grants-In-Aid project applications and to provide guidance to counties with respect to the development of such applications;
- i. The Board agrees to provide participating counties with an annual report regarding the status of the Wisconsin Land Information Program and the activities of the Board;
- j. The County will be entitled to retain increased recording fees upon designation of a Land Information Office provided that within two years of the designation it submits a County-Wide Plan to Board which is approved. Board approval of the County-Wide Plan also enables the County to apply for Grants-In-Aid for itself or any other local unit of government within its borders.

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature has created the Wisconsin Land Information Program and the Wisconsin Land Information Board to implement the 1989 law, and

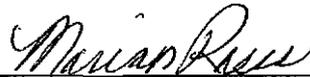
WHEREAS, a State Aid Assistance Program has been established to advance the efforts and an increase in the Register of Deeds fees has been specified for this use if participation is accomplished, and

WHEREAS, the Iowa County Board established the Land Records Committee in May 1990 to consider the matter, and it is recognized that participation in the program allows the county to retain the specified fee and seek a state Grants-In-Aid to advance the program for the improvement and modernization of the land records for Iowa County and its municipalities, and

WHEREAS, the Iowa County Land Record Committee has prepared a plan deemed to be in the best interest of Iowa County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Iowa County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the Iowa County County-Wide Plan for Land Records Modernization.

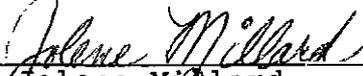
IOWA COUNTY LAND RECORDS COMMITTEE



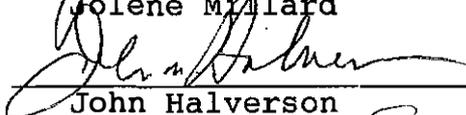
Marian Raess



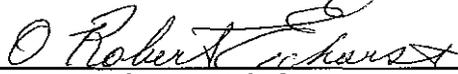
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