

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

by the

STATE SURVEY & REMONUMENTATION COMMISSION

In December of 1990, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law the State Survey and Remonumentation Act (Act 345 of 1990) which provided for the remonumentation of the original U.S. public land survey corners that serve as the basis for all public and private property locations in Michigan. Act 345 and Act 346, a companion act which authorized the collection of fee revenue to fund the program, both became effective on January 1, 1991.

Act 345 created the Survey and Remonumentation Commission within the Department of Commerce which is charged with the responsibility of coordinating "the restoration, maintenance, and the preservation of the land survey records of vertical and horizontal monuments, the public land survey system, and the property controlling corners established by the United States public land survey and by the national geodetic survey within this state..." (Sec. 6a)

The Commission was appointed by the Governor on June 4, 1991 and consists of the following five members: Larry Gerschbacher, P.S. as the public member, and Frank DeDecker, P.S., P.E. as at-large professional surveyor; Mary Feindt, P.S. of Charlevoix representing the Northern portion of the Lower Peninsula; Donald Gilchrist, P.S. of Paw Paw representing the Southern portion of the Lower Peninsula; and Gerald Carlson, P.S. of Marquette representing the Upper Peninsula.

Act 345 requires the Commission to submit a report to the Legislature on or before October 1, 1993 with copies also submitted by that date to all the county boards of commissioners in the state. After this initial report, the Commission is required to submit a report to the Legislature biennially. This report of the State Survey and Remonumentation Commission has been prepared and submitted in fulfillment of this statutory requirement. The Act specifies (Sec. 6g) that the report shall include (but not necessarily be limited to) the following items:

- a. A summary of the Commission's activities regarding administration of this Act.
- b. An assessment of the progress of the implementation of county monumentation and remonumentation plans throughout the state.
- c. A statement regarding the amount of money that was received and disbursed from the fund.

Pursuant to this responsibility, the Commission developed and entered into a cooperative agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation and is pursuing one with the Department of Natural Resources to coordinate relevant work activities and incorporate their survey and monumentation efforts with those conducted by the counties.

5. Section 6(c) of the Act requires the Commission to "*coordinate the extension, densification, and maintenance of the horizontal and vertical control networks initiated by the federal government through the national geodetic survey and the United States geological survey.*" Pursuant to this responsibility, the Commission developed a contract with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Ocean Service (NOAA/NOS) to establish High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) stations in those counties that chose to participate in this national program. The Michigan Department of Commerce will serve as the single contracting agency with NOAA/NOS on behalf of the counties. The result of this contract will be to have NOAA/NOS establish 82 stations paid for by Survey and Remonumentation grant funds. These are in addition to the approximately 20 locations being paid for and established by NOAA/NOS as High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) stations as part of the national program.
6. The Commission is charged with the responsibility to "*coordinate the establishment of geographic information systems*" (title of Act 345). In the furtherance of this responsibility, the Commission is participating in the IMAGIN (Improving Michigan's Access to Geographic Information Networks) Data Sharing Network Agreement. The purpose of this cooperative venture is "*to develop new methods and standards for geographic data exchange within the State of Michigan and to improve the application of geographic related data in state and local decision-making*" (IMAGIN Data Sharing Network Agreement, February 23, 1993).
7. Section 6(f) of the Act requires the Commission to "*establish and maintain a data base of information on approved monumented horizontal and vertical control in the state.*" The Commission has obtained a computerized record of all current horizontal and vertical control stations within the state from NOAA/NOS. This data is being made available to the counties.
8. Section 6(a) of the Act requires the Commission to "*coordinate the restoration, maintenance, and the preservation of the land survey records of vertical and horizontal monuments, the public land survey system, and the property controlling corners established by the United States public land survey and by the national geodetic survey within this state.*" In the furtherance of this responsibility, the Commission developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management which is the federal agency

Based upon the above estimate of the total cost of monumentation or remonumentation by the counties, it would appear that the money received in the Fund will not be adequate to carry out this program within 20 years as contemplated by the Act (Sec. 8). It is estimated that money received in the Fund will provide only about one-half of the amount needed to carry out the program in 20 years. In 1993, 30 of the 83 counties contributed \$448,384 in county funds to the program. If the counties as a group would increase their contributions, the need for additional state funds would be lessened.

F. Commission recommendations

Although the above assessment indicates that the money received in the State Survey and Remonumentation fund will not be adequate to complete the program within 20 years, the Commission does not at this time recommend increasing the fees or other revenues for the following reasons:

1. The statewide estimate in D. above is based upon preliminary estimates by the 83 counties before most of them have had any experience in conducting this program.
2. Technological changes in survey and monumentation may allow a reduction in the cost of implementing this program.
3. The Commission will be encouraging the counties to contribute county funds to the program.

TABLE I
Summary of Work Program Information
by County for 1993

COUNTY	PUBLIC LAND SURVEY CORNERS TO BE RESEARCHED	PUBLIC LAND SURVEY CORNERS TO BE MONUMENTED	HIGH ACCURACY REFERENCE NETWORK STATIONS ESTABLISHED	HORIZONTAL/VERTICAL STATIONS TO BE RECOVERED
ALCONA	45	45	0	0
ALGER	28	48	3	2
ALLEGAN	173	173	0	0
ALPENA	53	53	1	0
ANTRIM	20	20	0	0
ARENAC	38	20	0	0
BARAGA	130	130	1	0
BARRY	92	92	1	0
BAY	116	116	1	0
BENZIE	81	81	0	3
BERRIEN	62	62	2	0
BRANCH	40	40	0	10
CALHOUN	287	174	0	0
CASS	1650	0	1	0
CHARLEVOIX	14	14	1	0
CHEBOYGAN	50	0	1	0
CHIPPEWA	500	86	1	0
CLARE	52	52	1	0
CLINTON	60	60	0	25
CRAWFORD	33	33	1	0
DELTA	222	88	1	0
DICKINSON	70	50	1	0
EATON	240	240	0	0
EMMET	30	15	0	5
GENESEE	136	136	0	0
GLADWIN	98	98	0	0
GOGEBIC	280	30	0	0
GR. TRAVERSE	90	90	0	0
GRATIOT	38	32	1	0
HILLSDALE	70	70	0	0
HOUGHTON	279	0	1	0
HURON	1872	0	2	0

TABLE I
(continued)

COUNTY	PUBLIC LAND SURVEY CORNERS TO BE RESEARCHED	PUBLIC LAND SURVEY CORNERS TO BE MONUMENTED	HIGH ACCURACY REFERENCE NETWORK STATIONS ESTABLISHED	HORIZONTAL/ VERTICAL STATIONS TO BE RECOVERED
ONTONAGON	210	35	0	0
OSCEOLA	48	48	2	0
OSCODA	133	133	0	0
OTSEGO	162	162	1	0
OTTAWA	239	239	2	
PRESQUE ISLE	133	133	2	0
ROSCOMMON	92	92	1	0
ST. CLAIR	66	0	4	0
ST. JOSEPH	92	92	2	0
SAGINAW	95	95	1	0
SANILAC	127	127	2	0
SCHOOLCRAFT	300	100	1	0
SHIAWASSEE	48	48	0	0
TUSCOLA	35	35	1	0
VAN BUREN	68	68	2	0
WASHTENAW	168	168	1	0
WAYNE	360	282	3	0
WEXFORD	48	48	0	0
<i>STATE TOTAL</i>	16,103	6,853	82	83