

# FieldNotes...

Affiliated with the  
National Society of  
Professional Surveyors

The Monthly Newsletter of the **Maine Society of Land Surveyors**

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Maine Society of Land Surveyors  
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## Inside This Issue

**June ExCom Minutes**  
Page 2

**ExCom Zoom Call Minutes**  
Page 9

**Chocolate Benchmarks**  
Page 12

**NSPS Certified Floodplain  
Surveyor (CFS) Training and  
Certification Program**  
Page 13

**NSPS 2025 Map/Plat Contest**  
Page 18

**Calendar Notes**  
**"The Parting Shot"**  
Page 20

## Contributing Made Easy

Someone in your office, a mentor, a retiree, or **you** has an interesting story of life experiences, big and small, that add to the overall experience of surveying and living in the great state of Maine that other surveyors would enjoy reading. This is our call for submissions! You are welcome to write an article as you would tell a surveying life story or use some of the half dozen prompts below to guide writing a biographical sketch of interest. There are some hints in *blue italics* after each prompt that may be helpful. "Rough cuts" are fine, editing and polishing a piece is what your editor is here for! We'd love to build a reserve of these stories to run soon and in the future.

Tell us a little bit about yourself growing up, your background, and what being in Maine means to you today. (*Here you can tell us about you personally, if you hail from Maine or elsewhere, where you went to school, and just being in Maine.*)

When and under what circumstance did you realize surveying was going to become the profession you would pursue? (*This can vary from tales of "falling into it" to how you determined pursue it.*)

What was your first surveying job and what from that experience still resonates with you today? (*This is an opportunity to tell about your early days, perhaps any humorous experiences, mentors you may have worked for, and anything you might have learned that is still important to you today.*)

Please share with us a unique or memorable survey project, job, or problem you have dealt with. (*This could be anything that you'd like to tell a story about. You can expound on the situation anyway you'd like from a problem solving to a humorous point of view.*)

When did you join MSLS? Please share your thoughts on MSLS and about the future of surveying. (*This is an opportunity to share any background you have in MSLS or any other professional surveying organization along with passing along your two cents about the challenges or potential of the surveying profession in the future.*)

Please share with us a bit about yourself regarding other interests beyond surveying. (*Here you can share about your involvement in other organizations, public service, hobbies, and any other interests.*)

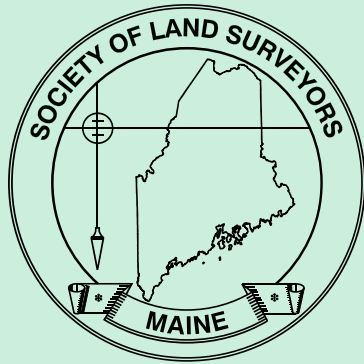
Please send along a digital picture of yourself. *While any type of photo is welcome, we especially welcome those that show you surveying or enjoying a special pastime. Please be sure to include any explanation that should be used in the photo caption to explain it.*

## You Can Do This

Send submissions to [editor@msls.org](mailto:editor@msls.org)

## MSLS Contact Information

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Legislative Committee  
(Jonathan Stewart - Chair & Daniel Bernier, Esq.)

Nominating & Membership Committee  
(Cassandra Quintal - Chair)

Budget & Finance Committee (Jimmy Courbron)

Board of Licensure (Jonathan Stewart - Liaison)

NSPS (Matt Ek, NSPS Director)

SVT at UM (Stephen Gould - Liaison)

GIS (Greg Copeland - Liaison)

FEMA (Mark Carpenter - Liaison)

DOT (Guy Ladd - Liaison)

Education Committee - (Cassandra Quintal - Chair)

Scholarship Committee  
(John Lloyd & Stephen Gould - Co-Chairs)

Historical Committee - (Tom Blake - Chair)

Benevolent & Betterment Benevolent Fund Com't  
(Matt Ek - Chair)

Program Committee  
(Steve Gould & John Lloyd Co-Chairs)

Publications, FieldNotes and Website  
(Bruce Bourgoine)

## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

"The Cabana" – Marr's Point Road – Wales, ME  
June 12, 2025

### Please note:

*ExCom had additional business this month which it took up via a Zoom on June 24 and notes on attendance and voted actions from that meeting follow these minutes.*

### Members Present

Officers -	
President	Levi Ladd
Vice President	Jon Stewart (Zoom)
Secretary	Kevin Farrar
Treasurer	(proxy) Cassandra Quintal
Directors -	
Crown of Maine	Spencer Caron (Zoom)
MidCoast	Karl Olson
Narragansett	Wayne Wood
Somerset	(proxy) Wayne Wood
At large	Judd Vear
NSPS Director	Matt Ek
Past President	Cassandra Quintal
Legislative Committee	Dan Bernier (Zoom)
Executive Director	Bruce Bourgoine
Guest	Nick Plummer

The meeting was called to order by President Ladd at 6:05. Levi introduced Nick Plummer who will giving a presentation on an indexing/ data/GIS program he is developing for surveyors.

**Legislative Committee** (Jon Stewart) – Dan said LD 38 is Public Law 52. This provides a hearing as fast as possible on hazardous materials. LD 65 is now Public Law 128. It defines a coastal wetland as being "all tidal and subtidal lands; all areas with vegetation present that is tolerant of salt water and occurs primarily in a salt water or estuarine habitat; and any swamp, marsh, bog, beach, flat or other contiguous lowland that is subject to tidal action during the highest astronomical tide as determined by the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Coastal wetlands may include portions of coastal sand dunes". LD 121 includes brush and lawn debris as litter. An exemption was made for utilities who often trim trees and do 'slashing'. LD 353 is an act to prevent deed fraud. It has been enacted but it may get a special study. LD 358, the bill to raise registry of deeds fees has been amended. You will be able to download 400 free images (was 500) and after that it will be 50 cents per image. The final bill is better than the original proposal. LD 398 amends the definition of transient occupancy from 120 days to 150 days. LD 708, an act to allow for recission of site location of development permit has become law. LD 870 an act regarding membership of LURC passed but has a fiscal note, it may not become law because of that. LD 1396 would have amended the definition of a subdivision. It is now dead.

The following bills which can be researched at the following web address are included on the emailed list. <http://www.mainelegislature.org/LawMakerWeb/search.asp> Once at that web address, add the LD# and hit search.

**LD 1** – "An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes and Infrastructure" was assigned to the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. A public hearing was held on February 27th. It has been enacted as Public Law 33.

**LD 36** – "An Act to Clarify Processes of the Board of Environmental Protection" was assigned to the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. A public hearing was held on January 27th. It received an "ought to pass as amended" recommendation and was enacted as Public Law 52.

LD 39 – “An Act to Require Forest Landowners to Report the Registration or Sale of Their Forest Carbon Credits” was assigned to the Agricultural, Conservation and Forestry Committee. A public hearing was held on January 28<sup>th</sup>. It has been engrossed.

LD 65 – “An Act to Update the Definition of ‘Coastal Wetlands’ Under the Natural Resources Protection Act” was assigned to the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee. A public hearing was held on January 27<sup>th</sup>. It received an “ought to pass as amended” recommendation and has been engrossed.

LD 75 – “An Act to Update Funding for the Board of Environmental Protection” was assigned to the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee. A public hearing was held on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The bill is now DEAD.

LD 121 – “An Act to Include Brush and Yard Debris in the Definition of Litter” was assigned to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. A public hearing was held on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. It has been engrossed.

LD 128 – “An Act to Support Permitting of Certain Multifamily Housing Developments Under the Site Location of Development Laws” was assigned to the Housing and Economic Development Committee. A public hearing was held on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Workshops have been held on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

LD 161 – “Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Convene a Stakeholder Group Tasked with a Comprehensive Overhaul and Modernization of the State Subdivision Laws” was assigned to the Housing and Economic Development Committee. A public hearing was held on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Workshops were held on March 6<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup>.

LD 183 – “An Act to Cap Publicly Owned Land Area at No More than 50% of Any County” was assigned to the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee. After a public hearing & workshop, it received an ought not to pass recommendation and is DEAD.

LD 353 – “Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Recommend Methods for Preventing Deed Fraud in the State of Maine” was assigned to the Judiciary Committee. A public hearing was held on February 12<sup>th</sup>. It received an “ought to pass as amended” recommendation and has been engrossed.

LD 358 – “An Act to Increase the Fees Paid to Registers of Deeds” was assigned to the State and Local Government Committee. A public hearing was held on February 24<sup>th</sup>. It has received an “ought to pass as amended” recommendation.

LD 383 – “An Act to Facilitate the Consolidation of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Land Use Planning Commission into a Single Combined Entity” was assigned to the Housing and Economic Development Committee. After a public hearing and workshop, the bill is DEAD.

LD 398 – “An Act to Amend the Definition of ‘Transient Occupancy’ in the Laws Governing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission” was assigned to the Housing and Economic Development Committee. After a public hearing it was enacted, Public Law 61.

LD 413 – “An Act Regarding Disclosure by Sellers of Residential Real Property of Notices of Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Violations” was assigned to the Housing and Economic Development Committee. After a public hearing, the bill has been enacted as Public Law 69.

LD 530 – “An Act Regarding Occupational Licensing Reform” was assigned to the Labor Committee. After a public hearing, the bill has been engrossed.

LD 531 – “An Act Regarding Dam Ownership” was assigned to the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. A public hearing was held on March 31<sup>st</sup>. It received an “ought to pass” recommendation.

LD 578 – “An Act to Improve Occupational Regulation” was assigned to the Labor Committee.

LD 870 – “An Act Regarding the Membership of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission” was assigned to the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee. After a public hearing, the bill has been engrossed.

LD 928 – “An Act to Maintain Public Access to Town Ways in Maine” was assigned to the State and Local Government Committee. After a public hearing and workshop, the bill received an “ought not to pass” recommendation.

LD 958 – “An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands” was assigned to the Judiciary Committee. After a public hearing and two workshops, the bill received a divided report.

LD 994 – “An Act Regarding the Enforcement Provisions of the Law Governing Private Road Maintenance” was assigned to the Transportation Committee. A public hearing was held on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The bill is now DEAD.

LD 997 – “An Act to Allow Residential Use Development in Commercial Districts” was assigned to the Housing and Economic Development Committee. After a public hearing and workshop, the bill received a divided report.

LD 1026 – “An Act to Provide Mapping Services for Aquaculture Lease Siting” was assigned to the Marine Resources Committee. A public hearing was held on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

LD 1247 – “An Act to Restrict Municipal Ordinance Requirements Regarding Housing Developments” was assigned to the Housing and Economic Development Committee. A public hearing was held on April 25<sup>th</sup> and workshops were held on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

LD 1396 – “An Act to Amend Maine’s Municipal Subdivision Standards to Increase the Number of Dwelling Units on or Divisions of a Tract of Land Before the Tract is Considered a Subdivision” was assigned to the Housing and Economic Development Committee. After a public hearing and two workshops, the bill is now DEAD.

**Secretary Report** (Kevin Farrar) – The minutes from the abbreviated May 16<sup>th</sup> ExCom meeting held in conjunction with the MSLS Spring general membership meeting at Spring Meadows Golf Club in Gray were accepted as printed. Motion to accept was made by Wayne, seconded by Karl, approved unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report** (Jimmy Courbron) – [Jimmy emailed the following information.](#) There is \$47,019.56 in the Checking Account. The scholarship fund currently contains \$244,932.08, a gain of about \$5700 over the last reported amount. There is \$9200.25 in the Bereavement and Betterment Fund. The golf tourney took in \$1,119 for the B&B fund. Moved to accept the Treasurers Report by Wayne, seconded by Karl, approved unanimously.





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**Executive Dir. Report** (Bruce Bourgoine) – Bruce notes that he'll be working with the Crown of Maine on organizing the fall MSLS meeting. No date has been set as of now. His written report is below.

*From: Bruce Bourgoine, Executive Director*  
*Regarding: April & May 2025 Report*  
*Date: June 10, 2025*

*Here are the items focused upon during April and May:*

*MSLS Corporate Filing (April).*

*Spring Meeting planning and logistics. Promotion to members and nonmembers, coordination with venue, registration, on-site support and issuing CEU's.*

*Routine matters of ExCom meeting preparation, deposits, broadcast e-mails, website updates, FieldNotes publication, and handling external and member communications as required.*

*Looking ahead, the following item will be of intermediate focus:*

*Supporting the Fall Meeting Chapter Host, Crown of Maine Chapter.*

*Looking ahead, the following items will be of long-term focus:*

*Encouraging/educating members to use their MemberClicks interface resources.*

*Launching new web-based member-only and Committee web services over time.*

*As always, I appreciate your direction to help us achieve MSLS's goals to serve members.*

#### **Nominating & Membership Committee** (Cassandra Quintal) –

	May 2025 Report		
Member type	June	April	+/-
Associate	19	19	0
Complimentary	2	2	0
Honorary	8	8	0
Life	10	10	0
Life Charter	2	2	0
Out of State	20	20	0
Out of State Charter	1	1	0
Regular	166	162	+4
Retired	36	35	+1
Student	17	16	+1
Sustaining Individual	1	0	+1
Sustaining	7	7	0
	-----	-----	
	289	282	+7



Nick Plummer of Boothbay Region Surveyors gave a presentation on a QGIS indexing and data program that he is developing for use by surveyors who may be interested. Judd asked Nick what his goal was in presenting this information to us. Nick said he'd like a letter of support from MSLS which would aid him with seeking other funding sources. Spencer Caron said he's using ESRI in a similar way. *Note – after the meeting, it was decided to have an ExCom “Zoom” call to discuss a letter of support for this project”.*

**Education Committee** (Cassandra Quintal) – 10 people signed up for the CST exam on June 26<sup>th</sup> at CMCC. Tara Mullen is hosting study group at CMCC the week before.

President Ladd is now on an advisory board for the Tri-County Technical Center in Dexter. He has been working to create and grow a surveying course/program at Tri-County.

**Scholarship Committee** (John Lloyd & Steve Gould) – No report.

**Benevolent & Betterment Fund Committee** (Matt Ek) – The fund is almost up to \$10,000 after the golf tournament.

**Historical Committee** (Tom Blake) – Levi asked if ExCom knew of anyone interested in aggregating historical info with Tom. Judd said he was. Levi appointed Judd co-chair for this aggregating/indexing project.

**Program Committee** (Steve Gould & John Lloyd – MSLS Annual Meeting) – Bruce said that The Regency in Portland has been selected as the Annual Meeting host site adding that the hotel has agreed to the same room rates as last year.

**Pending General Membership Meeting Planning** (MSLS Fall Meeting, Crown of Maine) – Bruce said this is typically planned over the summer. He plans on working with Spencer and the chapter to select a location, topic, date and program.

#### **LIAISONS –**

**Board of Licensure** (Jon Stewart) – No meeting since the last report. The April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting was cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. The next meeting is scheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup>. Jon said that they are looking at the complaint process, because many complaints the public files are related to boundary location disputes/disagreements and not contracts and ethics.

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**NSPS** (Matt Ek, Director) – Matt said that the NSPS directors are having monthly meetings online. The fall business meeting will be in October in Minneapolis, MN and Matt plans to attend. Bruce added that NSPS is planning to do a town hall for all Executive Directors across the country.

**SVT at UMaine** (Rich Vannozzi) – No report.

**Central Maine Community College** (Cassandra Quintal) – The last technician class for the current session is next week. She had 13 students to start with and there are 10 remaining. She noted that funding procedures has changed. If the school can get enough people fully committed to take a class, the school will then seek funding for it. Cass added that Tara Mullen will be teaching the survey course within the building trades program.

**GIS** (Greg Copeland) – No report.

**FEMA** (Mark Carpenter) – No report

**MDOT** (Guy Ladd) – No report.

**Registries** (Kevin Sargent) – No report.

**Chapter Reports –**

**Androscoggin Chapter** (Keith Morse) – No meeting. Bruce noted that a graveside service will be held for William (Bill) Saucier on Thursday June 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am at Gracelawn Memorial Park in Auburn. Bill’s obituary indicates in lieu of flowers that donations cab sent to Andwell Hospice House in Auburn.

**Narraganset Chapter** (Wayne Wood) – The last meeting was held on May 8<sup>th</sup> at the office of RW Eaton Associates in Westbrook. The topic covered was using AI / ChatGPT to write deed descriptions.

**Crown of Maine** (Spencer Caron) – The Chapter will be hosting the MSLS Fall General Membership meeting and they are working to come up with ideas for speakers. They may host a golf tournament.

**MidCoast Chapter** (Karl Olson) – They met at 8 am this morning. Nick Plummer did a presentation there on his GIS/indexing/data project. About 8 members were in attendance.

**Penobscot/Hancock Chapter** (Rich V) – No meeting. No report.

**Somerset Chapter** (Steve Gould) – No meeting. No report.

**Unfinished Business –**

Determine process to write proposed online voting language for Fall Meeting. Bruce said the he put this on the meeting agenda as a reminder that we need to have information ready for the fall general membership meeting and maybe we should come up with some suggested wording for a motion to be made at the fall meeting.  
Annual Meeting location. The program committee recommends The Regency in Portland. Gary Kent will be the featured speaker who will talk about the new ALTA rules that will begin about a month after that meeting.

**New Business –**

Presentation by member Nick Plummer – previously covered.  
Next ExCom meeting – July 31<sup>st</sup> at Wayne Wood’s house for the annual ExCom barbeque.  
Correspondence – Thank you letter from Owen Haskell family.

**Consent Agenda -**

<i>May 12, 2025</i>		
<i>From Whom</i>	<i>MSLS Committee</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Bruce Bourgoine</i>	<i>Executive Dir. Expenses ~ May</i>	<i>\$139.55</i>
<i>Bruce Bourgoine</i>	<i>Executive Dir. Services ~ May</i>	<i>\$1,850.00</i>
<i>Portland Regency</i>	<i>Deposit on 2026 Annual Meeting</i>	<i>\$2,000.00</i>
<i>MemberClicks LLC</i>	<i>Website</i>	<i>\$4867.80</i>
<i>William Gilbert</i>	<i>TrigStar winner</i>	<i>\$250.00</i>
<i>Total</i>		<i>\$9,107.35</i>
<i>Additions at meeting – None</i>		

**Grand Total** **\$9,107.35**  
It was moved to accept the consent agenda by Wayne, seconded by Karl, and passed unanimously.

Moved to adjourn at 7:37 pm, by Matt seconded by Levi and passed unanimously.  
Respectfully Submitted

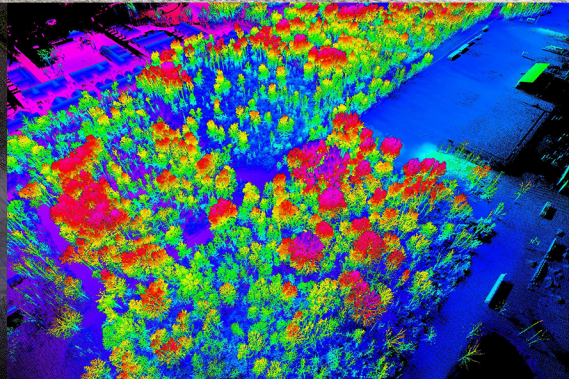
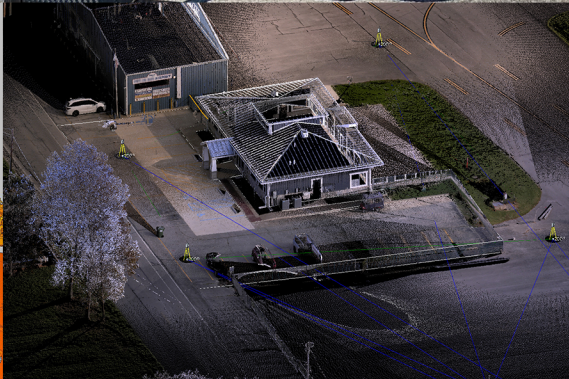
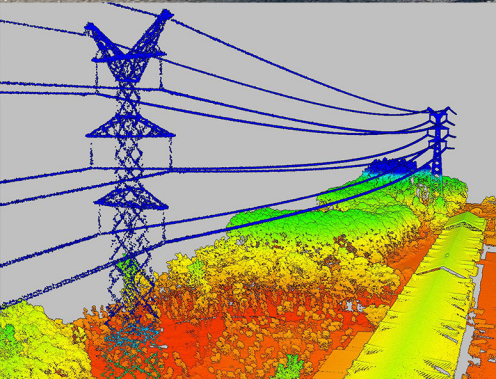
**DRAFT**  
Kevin Farrar – MSLS





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## MSLS Zoom conference call

June 24, 2025, 12:00 noon

Executive Committee members on the call:

Vice President:	Jon Stewart
Secretary:	Kevin Farrar
NSPS Director:	Mat Ek
Past President	Cassandra Quintal
Androscoggin Director	Keith Morse
Somerset Director	Steve Gould
Crown of Maine Director	Spencer Caron
MidCoast Director	Karl Olson
MSLS Executive Director:	Bruce Bourgoine



VP Stewart called the meeting to order at 12:03.

Topics to be covered:

MSLS support for an open-source GIS/data/indexing program being developed by Nick Plumer.

NSPS notification of and response to a proposed Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) rule change that would rescind requirements regarding geodetic markers on federal (highway) projects.

ITEM A - Nick is seeking grant funding for this project and a letter from MSLS would help him with his effort to obtain a grant. Last week, Nick Plumer emailed the below proposed “letter of support” to MSLS ExCom.

*National Science Foundation*

*2415 Eisenhower Ave*

*Alexandria, VA 22314*

*Re: SF 24- 606: Pathways to Enable Open-Source Ecosystems (POSE)*

*I am writing today in support of Nicholas Plumer and BRS Maine as the lead entity in the SF 24- 606: Pathways to Enable Open-Source Ecosystems (OSE) grant request. The purpose of this proposal is to project and support a new pathway for translating innovation results by supporting the establishment, facilitation, creation, and growth of a sustainable and high-impact OSE around an already-developed open-source product. It will produce a method to preserve geographical records for surveyors, as well as be useful for multiple industries, including, but not limited to, Archeology, Anthropology, and Biology. Mr. Plumer’s organization and team has initiated this work and will seek to continue to grow the community of individuals who develop and contribute to its OSE efforts, as well as enable the pathway to intentionally transitioning a promising, robust open-source innovation into a self-sustaining OSE that could lead to new technology with potential broad societal impacts.*

*With the support of this grant funding, this team and open-source product shows potential for wide adoption and forms the basis for becoming a self-sustaining OSE with full (network, industry, academic, etc.) support. We envision this tool serving our audience locally, regionally, and nationally, as well as becoming a useful tool for complementary audiences and potential lay people, creating wide access to information and knowledge, and transforming our work as a whole.*

*Sincerely,*

*Name, Title*

*Organization*

Karl Olson moved to have President Ladd modify Nick’s letter as he sees fit to express MSLS support for Nick’s project, the motion was seconded by Spencer Caron and passed unanimously.

ITEM B - NSPS Director Matt Ek, has a similar request for MSLS support regarding an NSPS government affairs alert. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has proposed a rule change that would remove the requirement of geodetic markers on federal (highway) projects. NSPS is seeking each state surveying society to contact each state’s Department of Transportation and the FHWA to express opposition to this rule change.

The proposed wording of the draft letter prepared by NSPS is as follows:

*Appropriate Contact*

*State - Department of Transportation*

*Anytown, USA*

*To whom it may concern:*

*The National Society of Professional Surveyors ([NSPS](#)) is the national voice of land surveying professionals throughout the United States. As the national advocate for surveying and geospatial professionals nationwide, we would like to bring attention to a proposed Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) rule that will undo years of advancement by the National Geodetic Survey (NGS), an agency that is part of the National Ocean Service (NOS) within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA), in establishing and maintaining a high-accuracy coordinate network system in which all geospatial activities in the US are based.*

*On May 30, 2025, the Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration issued a notice of “PROPOSED RULE” (23 CFR Part 630, [Docket No. FHWA-2025-0020] RIN 2125-AG28) titled “Rescinding Requirements Regarding Geodetic*

Markers” with a comment period of 30 days, ending on June 30, 2025.

On a corresponding press release, it stated the following: “FHWA prescribes procedures for conducting geodetic control surveys using FHWA financial assistance under 23 CFR part 630, Subpart D. Under these regulations, States must conform geodetic marking procedures to the specifications of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As FHWA believes this regulation largely states that projects need to be compliant with NOAA specifications, which is outside of statutes that FHWA administers, FHWA is proposing to remove it.”

NSPS has specific concerns regarding the proposed rescission of 23 CFR Part 630, Subpart D as follows:

- Our central trepidation of the rescission of this section in its entirety is the loss of this statement: “**All geodetic survey work performed as a Federal-aid highway project will conform to the National Ocean Survey (NOS) specifications.**”

- Removal of this would signal that alignment with the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) is optional for federally funded transportation projects.

O This is in conflict with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018, which sets out to improve the coordination and use of geospatial data and enhance the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) by requiring the use of the modernized NSRS across federal agencies.

O This is also in conflict with the FHWA’s ADCMS Grant program which states, “The ADCMS Program is a competitive, discretionary program that focuses on accelerating the adoption of advanced technology that may be applied throughout the construction lifecycle (including through the design and engineering, construction, and operations phases) that **maximize interoperability with other systems, products, tools, or applications; boost productivity; manages complexity; reduces project delays and cost overruns; and enhances safety and quality.** States may apply alone or in partnership with Local Agencies, Tribes, or Private Industry.” Requiring FHWA projects to utilize the NSRS supports the statements in bold above.

O Not requiring the use of the NSRS also impedes innovation in areas such as digital twins, BIM, autonomous driving, digital delivery, and other geospatially-reliant technologies.

Much of the geodetic backbone we have in this country was established through the development of transportation infrastructure, a need that will only intensify as we continue updating and expanding our country’s aging infrastructure.

Rather than rescind Subpart D in its entirety, perhaps an amendment should be considered that would update agency references, maintain the requirement to conform to NGS standards (i.e. use of the NSRS) and create a stronger tie back to the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 while removing undue and cumbersome review and approval processes. For example:

## Title 23

### Highways Chapter I—Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation

#### Subchapter G—Engineering and Traffic Operations

#### Part 630—Preconstruction Procedures

#### Subpart D—Geodetic Markers

(Source:39 FR 26414, July 19, 1974, unless otherwise noted.)

##### § 630.401 Purpose.

The purpose of this subpart is to ~~prescribe procedures for conducting geodetic control surveys when participation with Federal-aid highway funds in the cost thereof is proposed and to encourage inter-agency cooperation in setting station markers, surveying to measure their position, and preserving the control so established.~~ encourage inter-agency cooperation related to geodetic control that benefits both transportation infrastructure and the nationwide control network by allowing the use of federal-aid funds and requiring the use of accepted technical standards that ensure the efficient use of geodetic control throughout the lifecycle of the transportation asset.

##### § 630.402 Policy.

Geodetic surveys along Federal-aid highway routes may be programmed as Federal-aid highway projects.

All geodetic survey work performed as a Federal-aid highway project will conform to ~~National Ocean Survey (NOS)~~ National Geodetic Survey (NGS) specifications. ~~NOS will, as the representative of FHWA, be responsible for the inspection and verification of the work to ascertain that the specifications for the work have been met. Final project acceptance by FHWA will be predicated on a finding of acceptability by NOS.~~

##### § 630.403 Initiation of projects.

All projects shall be coordinated by the FHWA Division Administrator, the State highway department, and the ~~National Ocean Survey~~ National Geodetic Survey.

##### § 630.404 Standards.

Highway purposes may best be served by the establishment of station markings for horizontal and vertical control along Federal-aid highway routes ~~at spacings of three to eight kilometers (about 2 to 5 miles) and station markers for vertical control of spacings no closer than one kilometer.~~ in conjunction with policies and procedures set forth within the Geospatial Data Act (GDA) of 2018 and/or corresponding state DOT regulations.



~~Projects should be of sufficient scope to permit efficient use of field parties. Projects should extend at least 30 kilometers. Projects may be coordinated with adjoining States to attain greater efficiency.~~

~~Where geodetic station markers cannot be established initially at points readily accessible from the Federal-aid route, or where unavoidable circumstances result in their being established within construction limits, supplemental projects may later be approved to set and survey markers at satisfactory permanent points, preferably within the right-of-way but at points where their use does not introduce traffic hazards. Application of a geodetic coordinate datum (horizontal and vertical) utilizing the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) shall be required for all project-related infrastructure plans and specifications. Sufficient metadata must be provided for reasonable establishment and recovery of significant positions throughout the said project.~~

NSPS urges FHWA to revise and enhance these existing rules and regulations whereby the expertise found in the professional surveying and mapping community is robustly engaged to maintain and enhance federal transportation projects in a uniform process to support your goal of increased efficiency.

Once again, thank you for your leadership and NSPS stands ready to work with the Administration to revise and enhance these existing rules and regulations to continue to safeguard our federal highways for the benefit of the public

Sincerely  
State surveying society

Matt moved to draft a letter mirroring NSPS position for MSLS president to sign. Seconded by Karl and passed unanimously.

Keith Morse moved to adjourn at 12:10, seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
MSLS Secretary – Kevin Farrar



## Chocolate Benchmarks

Why chocolate benchmarks? While browsing web sites last year I came across some silicone molding compounds that I thought would be fun to play with. I wasn't sure what to use them for, but it occurred to me that it might be fun to make molds of benchmarks, and then create chocolate treats.

Then I started thinking (as did others around the same time, as evidenced by a Geocaching.com forum thread) that a similar process could be used to make a mold of a mark still in its setting if there was something special about it. Or if you're really into it and have a lot of spare time, I suppose you could make a mold of every mark you find and start a collection. Here is the process I used to create my chocolate benchmarks.



### 1. Find a Benchmark

This may be the hardest part! I happen to have quite a few survey mark disks of various types, most of which are unused disks I acquired from surveyors or others in related fields. One was a Destroyed mark that had to be removed from its setting. I also have several 1-inch replica pins such as can be ordered through Mountainclimb.com. You may even want to modify the process and capture impressions of marks in the field.

The disk I'm using for my demonstration was never used in the field. It was sent to me by a USGS employee with whom I've corresponded on an urban exploration forum.

Make sure the disk is clean before making the mold!

## 2. Make the Mold

Possible molding materials abound, depending on how much time you have to make the mold, what you plan to do with it, and how long you'd like to keep it.

I chose Culinar's Silicone Plastique, a food-safe silicone molding compound, because I planned to use the molds for chocolate and other goodies. I also liked the fact that the silicone will produce flexible molds that are heat- and cold-resistant. [2025 edit: It appears that Silicone Plastique is no longer available, but any food-grade mold making silicone putty like EasyMold should work just as well.]



A. It's almost like baking.



B. This still needs to be mixed and kneaded some more



C. Spreading on a thin layer.



D. Smooth up the sides.

### A. Measure the molding compound

For this four-inch disk, I used approximately 2.5 tablespoons of each component. The catalyst (blue) and base (dull white) need to be mixed in equal parts.

### B. Mix it together

The components need to be mixed until a uniform light-blue color is reached. I do this slowly so I don't introduce too much air into the mixture. Once the two are mixed, you've got about twenty minutes to work and an hour until the silicone fully cures. It's sticky, so I lined the board with waxed paper.

### C. Fill in the details

It's best if you fill in the fine details first with a thin layer. Be sure not to trap air bubbles beneath the silicone. An offset spatula might help, or just use your fingers.

### D. Complete the mold

Form a 1/4-inch thick patty from the remainder of the silicone and press the mark down into it. Then smooth the sides of the mold up to conform to the edges of the mark. (see finished mold previous page)

Let it sit for at least an hour for the silicone to cure, then peel away the mold. Test it first by trying to press a fingernail into the outer edge of the mold, just to make sure it has solidified.

## 3. Make and Eat the Chocolates!

### A. Melt the chocolate

For the best appearance and taste, buy real chocolate and learn how to temper it. Did I do this? No, at least not yet. I used quick-melting candy wafers that are available in most arts & crafts stores. If you're using candy wafers, just follow the manufacturer's directions. Generally they'll melt in a few seconds in the microwave. Or if, like me, you don't have one of those newfangled contraptions, they'll melt equally well in a double boiler. And if, like me, you don't have a real double boiler, you can make one out of a shallow metal bowl set atop a deep pot half-filled with simmering water. You'll figure it out.



### B. Fill the mold

Pour the melted chocolate slowly into the mold. Lifting the mold a few inches and dropping it on the counter several times will help release any air bubbles that may have formed. As you can see, some chocolate spilled over the sides. It's very easy to remove the excess after the chocolate hardens.

### C. Chill and unmold

Refrigerate 20-30 minutes or until chocolate has hardened, and then pop out your chocolate benchmark! They go very well with tea and shortbread cookies.

Article by and reprinted courtesy of Zhanna/Jennifer Galas from her interesting website **The Survey Station**: <https://thesurveystation.com/>





## **NSPS Certified Floodplain Surveyor (CFS) Training and Certification Program**



**Tuesday, September 16 - Thursday, September 18, 2025**

**Heritage Hotel, Golf, Spa, Conference Center, 522 Heritage Road, Southbury, CT**

**8:00 AM - 5:15 PM Tuesday through Thursday; 8:00 AM – 5:15 PM**

The surveyor is well versed in measurement, property law, history, mathematics, and numerable topics related to surveying, mapping, and describing real property. A number of years ago, FEMA made the surveying community a “partner” in the National Flood Insurance Program. This program is designed to enable the surveyor to learn much that has always been within the discipline of floodplain management, thus filling that gap between land surveying and floodplain management. It is also intended to prepare participants to take the certification exam offered on the last day of the program. Attending this program and passing this exam allows participants to show that they have the particular expertise required to be recognized as a Certified Floodplain Surveyor and an authority in the field.

A tiny portion of items on FEMA forms require the skills and knowledge of the surveyor. The vast majority of the questions deal with items that are seldom included in surveying education. Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations is the legislative root for all FEMA and NFIP regulations. You will become well-versed in CFR 44 and flood insurance. Following Risk Rating 2.0, the surveyor’s role shifted in importance to the Pre-Construction Elevation Certificate. Upon completion of the course, one should be able to speak knowledgeably about the floodplain regulations and ordinances that will affect your client prior to construction. Also, following RR 2.0, you will be serving the public better if you know methods to sometimes reduce their flood insurance premiums. One should be able to submit for FEMA MT-1 (LOMR-F and LOMA) applications and know just what the reviewers are requiring and what other items you can include to make their jobs easier, hopefully speeding up the LOMC process. Upon becoming certified, you will know that you have taken an extra step to enhance your licensure, perhaps lower financial liability and boost your bottom line. Most importantly, you have taken an active step in protecting the safety, health, and welfare of the general public.

This program provides participants with three days of instruction and a comprehensive set of printed reference materials. After lunch on the third day, a four-hour exam will be administered, consisting of two parts with a total of 125 questions. The exam is very thorough and program participants are advised to independently review the materials that they receive. To pass the exam, Part One requires a 75% minimum score and Part Two requires 80%. Normal pass rates vary from 50%-68%.

Please be aware that a hand-held calculator is required for portions of the certification exam. Scales will be provided.



**NSPS CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN SURVEYORS (CFS)**  
**Connecticut TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**  
**September 16, 2025 – September 18, 2025**

**Training Day 1 – September 16, 2025, 8:00 am – 5:15 pm**

**NFIP Overview**

- FEMA and NFIP
- Regulations/Terms
- Definitions/Acronyms
- FIS/FIRMS
- Quiz

*10:00-10:15 BREAK*

**NFIP Regulations**

- CT Coordinator
- Overview – 44 CFR
- Part 60: Land Management
- Part 65: ID and Mapping of SFHA
- Part 70: Map Corrections

*LUNCH 12:15 – 1:00 pm Buffet*

**NFIP Regulations – continued**

- Potential Violations
- NFIP Insurance
- Overview
- Risk Rating 2.0
- Quiz

*2:30 -2:45 BREAK*

**Elevation Certificates**

- Purposes
- Section Breakdown
- Building Diagrams
- Common Errors
- Quiz

**Training Day 2 – September 17, 2025, 8:00 am – 5:15 pm**

**LOMCs**

- Using a FIRM and its Components
- Letters of Map Change (LOMC)
- Description
- Policies

*10:00-10:15 BREAK*

- LOMC Forms and Data Requirements
- LOMC Issuance and CFS support and renewal

*LUNCH 12:15 – 1:00 pm Buffet*

**NSPS CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN SURVEYORS (CFS)  
Connecticut TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM  
September 16, 2025 – September 18, 2025**

**Resources**

- Finding State Specific Regulations and Ordinances
- Resources available through FEMA and other sources

BFE in Zone A's (Un-numbered A-Zones) for LOMAs

*2:30 -2:45 BREAK*

**Common LOMC application errors**

**Quiz**

**Training Day 3 September 18, 2025, 8:00 am – 5:15 pm**

**Online LOMC and eLOMA**

- Online LOMC requirements
- eLOMA requirements

*10:00-10:15 BREAK*

**Surveying Technology**

- Print on Demand: FIS and FIRM
- DFIRM, LIDAR and Geodatabases

FFRMS & ZONING

**Review/Questions and Answers**

*LUNCH 12:15 – 1:00 pm Buffet*

**Exam Testing**      1:00 – 5:00 pm

**Instructors**

**John Chagnon, PE, CFS, LLS** is Regional Manager and Vice President at Haley Ward, a full-service Surveying, Engineering, and Environmental services company. John has a Civil Technology Associates Degree from the Thompson School of Applied Science, UNH, and a Bachelors in Science, Civil Engineering, from UMass Lowell. John was an adjunct professor at the Thompson School of Applied Science, teaching the Legal Aspects of Land Surveying course. John has worked on the Seacoast of New Hampshire for 35 years and has been involved with Flood Hazard issues in his capacity as a Land Surveyor and Civil Engineer. Increasingly, site improvements, including single family home replacement, require attention to the local and national regulatory requirements for development in flood prone areas. John also serves with Mark on the NSPS Certified Floodplain Surveyors Committee, helping to develop programs to increase educational opportunities in floodplain issues for Land Surveyors.

**NSPS CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN SURVEYORS (CFS)**  
**Connecticut TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**  
**September 16, 2025 – September 18, 2025**

**Mark Condodemetrak**y is President of G.C. Engineering, Inc., a full-service Engineering and Surveying company located in Laconia, NH. He graduated from Northeastern University with a Major in Mechanical Engineering and a Minor in Mathematics. Upon Graduating in 1996 Mark incorporated G.C. Engineering with his father George and began specializing in the National Flood Insurance Program. Mark is a Licensed Professional Engineer in NH, VT and ME, a Licensed Professional Land Surveyor in MA and NH and is a Licensed Insurance producer writing flood insurance. Specializing in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), Mark has been on multiple national panels as well as an instructor for the Principles of Mortgage Banking and teaches a Real Estate CEU course covering regulatory requirements in the real estate transaction. Mark's company specializes in floodplain management, regulatory reports, expert witness testimony, letters of map amendment, and base flood elevation calculations. Mark lives in Laconia with his wife Andrea, three children, dog Chester, and two cats.

### **Registration Information**

Registration Fees: \$700 for CALS Members and members of MSLS, MALSCE, NYSAPLS, RISPLS, VSLS, and NHLA. The non-member fee is \$950.

### **Registration Deadline: Friday, August 29, 2025**

Please complete the registration form and send it to the Connecticut Association of Land Surveyors, 78 Beaver Road, Suite 2-J, Wethersfield, CT 06109, or email [kathy@ctsurveyors.org](mailto:kathy@ctsurveyors.org). No refund will be given after August 29, 2025.

### **Continuing Education**

This training is worth 20 PDH (NY, RI, VT, ME) or 5 CEUs for NH. All seminar participants will receive a certificate documenting attendance at the end of the seminar. Please complete the registration form with your legal name, address, and other contact information so that you will be properly identified on the certificate.

### **Tax Information**

Expenses incurred for education undertaken to maintain and improve professional skills (including travel, meals, and lodging) may be tax-deductible.

### **Overnight Accommodations**

The [Heritage Hotel](#) is holding a block of rooms for those guests who wish to stay at the hotel overnight for the training seminar. The cost per night is \$149.00 plus taxes and fees. The deadline to reserve a room is August 2, 2025. Contact the hotel directly and mention the CALS Seminar for the discounted room rate 203-264-8200.

### **Questions**

Call Mark Condodemetrak at 603-524-8023.







## NSPS CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN SURVEYORS (CFS)

Connecticut Training and Certification Program

September 16, 2025 – September 18, 2025

Registration Form - \$700 for CALS Members, MSLS, MALSCE,  
NYSAPLS, RISPLS, VSLS, and NHLA. The non-member fee is \$950



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Association Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Connecticut Association of Land Surveyors  
78 Beaver Road, Suite 2-J, Wethersfield, CT 06109. <mailto:kathy@ctsurveyors.org>.

**Closing date for registration: Friday, August 29, 2025.**

\*\*\**SECURING THE FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION*\*\*\*



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# NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS, INC.

## 2025 MAP/PLAT DESIGN COMPETITION

Entrants need not be members of NSPS; however, entries must be sponsored by a state association affiliate of NSPS or a member of NSPS. NSPS members may self sponsor.

Freehand and machine or computer drafted maps and plats completed after 6/30/2023 are eligible for entry. Previously entered maps or plats will be disqualified, and no more than two entries per category will be considered.

The maps or plats submitted can be black and white (halftone/shaded), blueline or color prints

Submit **10 FOLDED prints** for each entry with a maximum map size of 36" by 48". Prints allow the judges to have a more comprehensive view of the entry overall. **MAPS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED ELECTRONICALLY.**

All entries must be received by or July 31, 2025.

Use one entry form per document submitted. An entry fee of \$30.00 must accompany each form. Make checks payable to NSPS or pay online at [www.nsps.us.com](http://www.nsps.us.com).



# NSPS

## CATEGORIES

Subdivision Plats  
Boundary/Cadastral Maps  
Topographic Maps  
ALTA/NSPS Survey Maps  
Miscellaneous Maps

## SEND ENTRIES TO

NSPS Map/Plat Contest  
21 Byte Court  
Suite H  
Frederick, MD 21702

## DEADLINE

July 31, 2025

Entrant's Name\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_

Employer\_\_\_\_\_

Title of Entry\_\_\_\_\_

Description of Project\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor    ☐ State Affiliate    ☐ NSPS Member    ☐ Self

Sponsor Name\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

All entries will be judged on adherence to the minimum standards as set forth by NSPS and/or local, state, or other national standards as appropriate. For ALTA/NSPS Standards and NSPS Model Standards for Topographic and Property Surveys visit [www.nsps.us.com](http://www.nsps.us.com) > Resources > Standards. The judges will consider content, innovation in layout, interpretability, presentation, applicability to typical client or persons using this type of map, and correctness. Neatness and accuracy of scale will also be considered. The decisions of the judges are final.

Prizes will be given in categories where three or more entries are received. No entries will be returned.

**Submit entry and fee with this form**

**Check the appropriate category**

### Categories

- ☐ Subdivision Plats
- ☐ Boundary/Cadastral Maps
- ☐ Topographic Maps
- ☐ ALTA/NSPS Survey Maps
- ☐ Miscellaneous Maps

### Judging Criteria

Content  
Data relevance  
Accuracy of scale  
Layout innovation  
Interpretability  
Applicability  
Neatness in presentation

**For Office Use Only**  
**Map #**



## Calendar Notes...

### MSLS Summer ExCom – Meeting and Annual Cookout

**July 31 Cookout at 5:00 PM and Business at 6:00 PM**

At the Wayne Wood's residence in Gray

Zoom access will also be available at 6:00 PM.

### NSPS 2025 Map/Plat Contest

**July 31 Deadline**

*Details and submission rules inside this issue on page 18*

### NSPS Certified Floodplain Surveyor (CFS) Training and Certification Program





**September 16 - 18** *Details inside this issue starting on page 13*


Heritage Hotel & Conference Center, 522 Heritage Road, Southbury, CT

Please send your Calendar Notes for FieldNotes  
and our online calendrer to: [editor@msls.org](mailto:editor@msls.org)



## The Parting Shot...

# HEAT SAFETY WHEN WORKING

-  Drink a cup of cool **water** every 20 minutes, even if you aren't thirsty. For long, strenuous jobs, drink a beverage with electrolytes.
-  Take regular breaks to **rest**. During hot conditions, skipping breaks is not safe!
-  Take breaks in the **shade** or a cool location.
-  Look for any signs of heat illness, including muscle spasms, nausea, dizziness, and fainting. When in doubt, call 911.



weather.gov  
osha.gov/heat

   
Occupational Safety  
and Health Administration

The heat has already been extreme in June and we thought it made sense to include this timely reminder of preventing heat injuries when you and your crews are in the field.

Email your interesting surveying or Maine "Parting Shot" to [editor@msls.org](mailto:editor@msls.org)!