

November 2017 Issue of NMPS *Benchmarks*

(Mr. Brian Portwood had a very powerful article in September 2017 issue.)

1. This “letter to the Editor” appeared in the November 2017 issue.)
2. A follow-up to the SEWRPC reference below is included in the January 2018 issue.)

Brian/Barry/Minet;

I just received and read the September 2017 issue of *Benchmarks* – Wow!

Brian, your comprehensive article is a “must read” for all surveyors and other land-rights professionals. It took a bit of time, but I settled in and studied it carefully.

Now, I must tell you why it is so important to me right now. On Sunday I travel to Wisconsin to participate in a day-long discussion on Monday with some rather talented professionals to talk about using coordinates as a substitute for monuments at section corners in the 7-county SE Wisconsin Regional Planning (SEWRPC) Region. Yes, they have reliable state plane coordinates and elevations on every section corner in the region. They also have a formal maintenance program in place to replace those positions/elevations that are destroyed over time.

“Progressive” land managers at the county and municipal levels are beginning to look at those maintenance costs as unnecessary because the coordinates define the location of the corner and, if the corner is destroyed, it can be replaced with GPS and/or other survey methods to the “same” coordinate position.

I am fully convinced that it is possible to use coordinates and I continue to promote use of the 3-D global spatial data model (GSDM) for modern surveying applications. But I am also convinced that the ability to do something is not a legitimate reason for doing it. Your article provides additional solid reasoning for continuing the policy of “monument in the ground” as the basis for surveying activities – both engineering and cadastral – within the SEWRPC Region. It will be an interesting discussion.

Thank you again for an interesting (and very timely) article.

Regards always,

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