

ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2009

Again the Ethics committee was not swamped with complaints. If there were problems they went before the State Board or to court.

Surveyors don't appear to be duking out their differences outside the local bar and I haven't heard of any feuds between survey firms involving gunfire.

Perhaps it's quiet because there is so little work.

At the seminar in Decmeber, David Landecker stated that the State Board will be pushing education in ethics for Land Surveying. Why?

The chair of the Ethics Committee did step down from his vantage point guarding the states surveyors from ethical improprieties for a bit and address another area of importance to surveying in April of 2009.

I was requested by Cass County through Bob Kovanen, the Cass County Surveyor to look at the survey records held by Walt Curo and make a report to the county as to their value as survey records and whether or not the price discussed by Mr. Curo and the county was equitable.

The records included surveys by John W. Curo, John M. Greene, J.H. Flynn, W.H. Spain, Harold Curo, Walt Curo, H.F. Baldwin, M.A. Kemp, E.B. Horst, George W. Miller and others.

There were about 411 field books along with file cabinets and boxes of certificates of survey. It was an absolute treasure. The time period for evidence location can't be duplicated. The Curo records are the best link to the original government corners we have. It contained the bulk of the survey work in Cass County from 1904 to the 1960's, as well as in surrounding counties.

The older surveys were in narrative form in the field books and the quality was high. There was a wealth of information as to retracing government corners, testimony from local residents and the evidence on the ground at that time.

There are four great survey record treasures in the state: Duluth Engineering Company, acquired by Salo Surveying and Engineering in Duluth; The records of Egan, Field & Nowak in Minneapolis; The records of Franklyn Armstrong and others held by Lake and Land Surveying in St. Paul; and the Curo records. Just four in the whole state.

I spot reviewed the books and took ten with me for closer review. My recommendation to the county was to buy, buy, buy! There will never be another opportunity to benefit Cass County survey information like this.

At this time the records have been purchased and scanned. The indexing is yet to be done.

Not only did I have the pleasure of reviewing those marvelous records, but I got paid for it! It's a wonderful world.

Ron Murphy, PLS

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