

The Recorder

Notary Study Group

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The Recorder

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COUNTY RECORDER



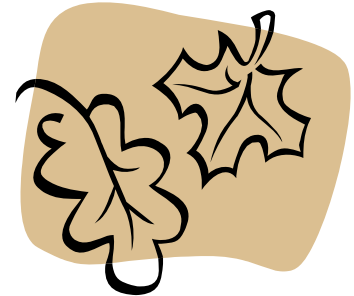
Notary Public Study Group

by
J. Bonnie Rehder, MCRA President

As president of MCRA I received a letter from the honorable Mark Ritchie, Minnesota Secretary of State. The letter points out how the Governor, Secretary of State, Commerce Department, court administrators and county officials share various aspects of the laws regulating notaries in Minnesota. Recorders and Mr. Ritchie have discussed undertaking a study of the notary laws and developing recommendations to the legislature on changes that are needed. Clarification, simplification and organization could make the statutes more usable and understandable to the 100,000 notaries in our state plus the many people and organization who use their services.

Mr. Ritchie asked for a representative from MCRA and MACO. Nancy Huff, Faribault County Recorder and Avis Lewison, Steele County Recorder have agreed to represent MCRA. The MACO representatives from the MACO Vitals Notary Committee are Sue Anderson, Anoka County License Bureau/Vital Statistics Coordinator and Joan Boesen, Olmsted County Vital Records/License Bureau.

Peace is not made in documents but in the hearts of men.



Compliance Survey Results

A common question between MN Recorders is "What is the Compliance Fund used for in your county?" Earlier this year I created a survey to gather information so it could be shared with Recorders. The survey results have been posted on the MACO website, Collective Resources, Recorder section or click

[SURVEY RESULTS](#)



NEOMA LAKEN

I don't think it is possible to be a Minnesota Recorder without having heard the name Neoma Laken. Neoma was the Wilkin County Recorder for 17 years. During that time she accomplished so much for MCRA. Neoma was a wonderful teacher for new recorders. I was fortunate to be a new recorder before Neoma retired. Recently the Wahpeton Daily News told Neoma's life story. A life story I hadn't heard before and Neoma and I talked quite often being from neighboring counties. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Neoma a Minnesota Recorder icon.

What's Happening With Model II?

By Joel Beckman

At the September ERER Task Force Meeting, the members of the Task Force approved Model II electronic recording for all current pilot counties that wish to utilize Model II technology. The Secretary of State will be sending a notice to all pilot counties, and if the county wishes to utilize Model II they can sign the letter and send it back to the Task Force.

Dakota County will be testing the Electronic Certificate of Real Estate Value, and will probably test a Model II Deed shortly after implementation. Since we will be the first to test the ECRV, and have already utilized Model II technology, it made sense to move to the next step as quickly as possible before the Task Force sunsets on June 30, 2008.

Learn More About the eCRV Project

Statewide adoption of eCRV by counties is on a first come, first served basis and is voluntary. The eCRV project is a joint project between the Minnesota Department of Revenue, Counties, and Industry. Revenue has contributed staff and over \$200,000 to the project. Counties have been consulted and are expected to contribute to the project at sign-up. County contributions are set on a CRV volume pro-rated basis. Seventy one (71) of Minnesota counties are being asked to contribute less than \$4,000. The four largest counties are contributing at least \$25,000 with Hennepin contributing \$87,500. The project cannot be completed without the full contributions of counties. To read more about the funding of the project see [project funding](#).

Sign-up

To sign up for statewide adoption do the following:

1. Email your intention and questions you may have here: [eCRV Sign-up email](#) .
2. Download and fill out the [contribution form](#).
3. Send in your eCRV contribution form and check. See your contribution amount here: [County Contributions](#). Your county will then be placed in a queue for statewide adoption beginning summer 2008.

Revenue will work with counties individually to coordinate the actual implementation and schedule to meet your needs. Counties will be able to delay implementation if necessary according to their needs. Your contribution is needed to pay for and complete development of eCRV. We prefer full contribution payment at sign-up, but will accept one half on sign-up and the remaining half just prior to scheduled implementation.

Adoption Schedule

Seven early adopter counties are scheduled from fall 2007 to summer 2008. Statewide adoption begins on a first come first served basis beginning summer 2008.

Early Adopters (Dakota, Hennepin, Sherburne, Steele, Otter Tail, Stearns, Anoka).

Statewide Adopters (Olmsted, Pipestone, Blue Earth, Washington).

Be next!

MCRA Committee Reports

BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS

Bev Bauer – Chair

This committee is meeting October 18, 2007 at Sibley County to update the “Motions and Resolutions” which hasn’t been done for over 10 years.

HISTORIAN

Thora Fisko

Pictures from the Summer Conference have not been added to the website as planned due to poor quality. Hopefully in the future that will not be a problem.

Currently the Associations historical documents are on paper and in boxes. The plan is to sort through this information, scan the records and create CDs for distribution and/or have the history posted to our website. The paper and pictures not already in photo albums will then be placed in albums and a safe storage location found for them.

NEW! Foreclosure Data Committee

Mike Cunniff and Larry Dalien were appointed to represent recorders in a Foreclosure Data Committee. This committee will meet for the first time in October in St. Paul. The agenda will include:

1. Introductions,
2. Purpose/goals/outcomes of the committee,
3. Scope of the foreclosure problem,
4. Discussion: foreclosure data needs, and
5. Next steps.

It was suggested the committee members review the reports in the links below to obtain valuable background material.

The FRB article can be found at:

<http://www.minneapolisfed.org/pubs/cd/06-4/foreclosure.cfm>

Housing Link's study is available at:

<http://www.housinglink.org/Reports.htm>

TORRENS COMMITTEE

Michelle Ashe, Chair

Torrens Workshop October 25, 2007
in St. Cloud.

Please submit your questions to Michelle ASAP.



PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMITTEE OF THE FUTURE COMMITTEE

By Darby Bowen

The Public Relations and Committee of the Future Committee was given the task to investigate the selling of data from public records and how it may affect Recorders down the road. Kelly Callahan, Freeborn County Recorder had some interesting comments about the situation:

“We have a limited ability to keep data from commercial vendors under existing Minnesota law. There is chapter 13 of the statutes to deal with, concerning the data practices act, which makes much government data public and allows the public to access that data. How counties provide that access seems to be the key. We can certainly drag our heels and make the production of such data difficult and perhaps costly, but I believe that is one of the reasons we are seeing commercial requests for this information. I believe we have been given the ability through the recording fee increase to try and control our own destiny. If we utilize those funds to upgrade not only the recorders’ offices technology but also other county departments, we can make our jobs and those of our co-workers easier to perform as well as formatting information in a more user-friendly and easier-to-retrieve fashion. This, in turn, allows us to provide the public with data they want in a perhaps less costly fashion than such companies as Data Tree. If the counties make the data available to the public in a less costly format, many of the middlemen would be eliminated because the profit isn’t there for them to pursue this. I don’t foresee the legislature getting involved in this, and I don’t know that they need to be. I think it would be insightful to know what data is being requested and in what formats. Perhaps a survey for each county?” There may be a survey in future.



MACO eCounties



Kay Wrucke, eCounties Chair, Martin County Recorder

The eCounties committee has just wrapped up the 4th annual conference. The 2007 eCounties conference presented a wide variety of sessions for county officials which included four state agencies updates to information on national eRecording. The conference vendor show was one of the largest we have held. And the conference provided ample time for networking opportunities for county officials.

We presented the Best eSolution Award to The Integrated Financial System for the efforts of upgrading and improving the financial system for 78 of the 87 counties. Fran Windschitl, the Rice County Auditor Treasurer, and Bill Mori of TriMin Systems accepted the award.

We honored our long time eCounties volunteer, Tina Rosenstein, the Nicollet County Environmental Director, with a silent auction to raise money for a scholarship donation to Minnesota State University Mankato's Urban Studies Department. Tina will be moving on to other challenges and we will miss her and her contributions to eCounties.

Now that the conference is done for 2007, eCounties has stepped up the work on two major projects. Both projects have been put on a fast track for implementation after discussing the possibilities over the past several years.

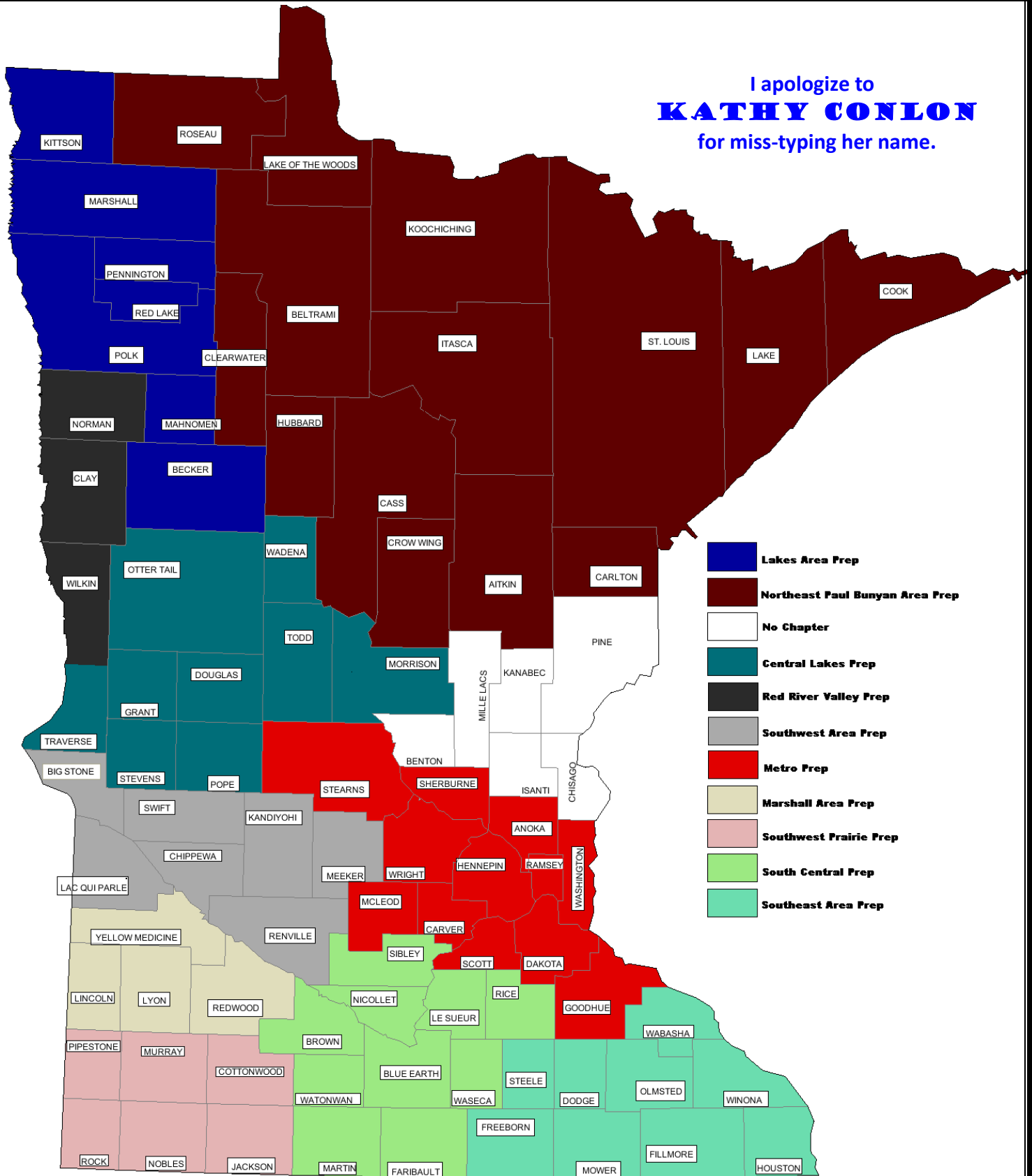
For several months a group has been meeting with the MN Department of Health Well Management Division in creating a well disclosure certificate that does not have to be attached to the deed, but electronically submitted to the division. It is approaching the final stages of development and will be presented to the ERERTF in December, at the MACO conference in January, 2008, and to PREP groups throughout the state on request. County Recorders will still have responsibilities with the collection of the well information and fees, but it will eliminate the paper and the rejections.

The second project is perhaps the largest in scope, time and money. In collaboration with the MACO Vitals Marriage group, eCounties is developing the Minnesota Official Marriage Index. It will require a commitment by all counties and licensing centers that issue marriage applications and certificates. The website will allow users to search for the county of a marriage and they will be able to request a certified certificate online. It will host a standard marriage application for people to fill out before they come into your office and could include information on various wedding services. Development is moving along very quickly and we are looking at implement in 2008. A presentation of the website will be presented at the MACO conference in January. This is a session you won't want to miss.

The 2008 eCounties events calendar is in place and will include topics on Web 2.0, property tax portals, and a session on working together through disasters. But first we have to finish out 2007. The next eCounties meeting will be November 26th at the MCIT Building in St. Paul at 10 a.m. Tom Venibles from the City of Burnsville will speak on the innovative city services they created. Everyone is welcome to attend and please invite your other county officers to join you.

MINNESOTA PREP GROUPS

I apologize to
KATHY CONLON
 for miss-typing her name.



MACO Website Committee



Kristine Basilici, Chair, Carlton County Recorder

Greetings and Salutations to our fellow County Recorders from the MACO Website Committee, we hope everything is going very well in your Recording World.

This committee met most recently on September 25, 2007 at Ewald in St. Paul.

At the last meeting a few new touches were added to the website, such as:

FEATURED COUNTY OF THE WEEK – An interesting and informative highlight of a Minnesota County (of which there are 87), check this area out each week as it will be updated, well, weekly.

You or one of your MACO members will be contacted to provide information for your County's week; the dates will be coming soon.

MACO NEWS – This is now in a very reader friendly format. If you are not receiving this displayed correctly, you may need to select the view in a HTML format, check with you IS/IT Department if you need assistance.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS – Remember to keep sending your date and time notifications for all meetings, conferences or special events to Joef@ewald.com. These are posted immediately to the web site.

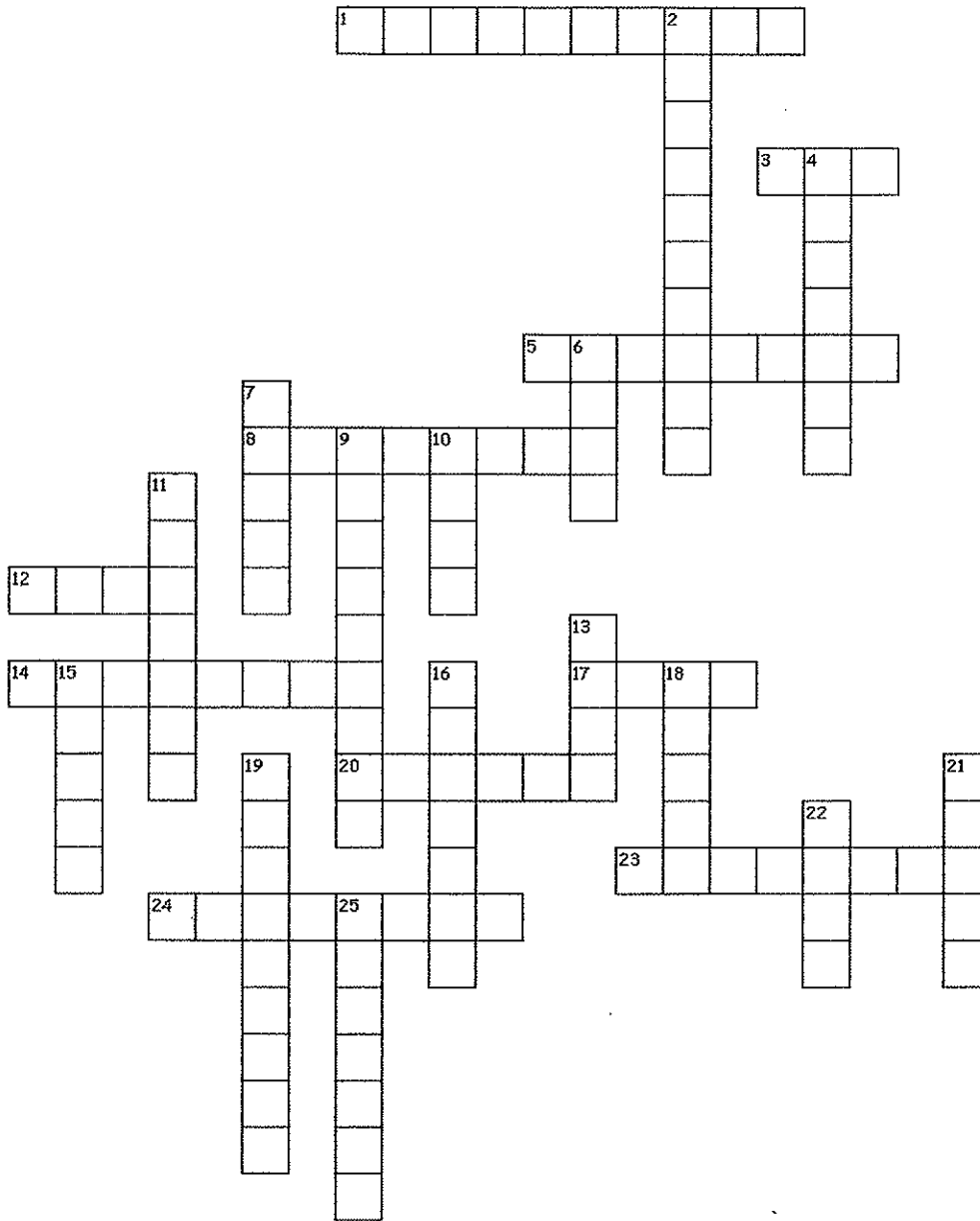
RECORDER'S WEB CONTACT – The Recorders Section of the website should be monitored by every committee and board. The contact person for the Recorder's section of the web site is Darby Bowen @ darby.bowen@co.pope.mn.us. Thanks to Darby and the Committee of the Future and Public Relations for keeping our area so complete and up to date, it is appreciated.

MINUTES AND HONORS – Please make sure to submit your final draft of minutes or notes for meetings to Joef@ewald.com. Also, do you know of an honor bestowed on a fellow Recorder? Please send the 411 (information) to Joef@ewald.com.

CONFERENCE PRESENTORS: Please request, from your conference speakers, an electronic format of the hard copy items and displays from their presentations. If at all possible, this should be available for collection on the day of their presentation. This is what is needed in order to post those items to the web site.

Thank you and with your help the website will flourish and grow as the County Recorder's Association and MACO will also flourish and grow.

2007 MCRA TEST



Across

1. Another word for document.
3. Chattel records.
5. City boat.
8. Right to use.
12. MN County Recorder's Association.
14. Written summary.
17. A measurement.
20. A 45.
23. Some played this instrument in grade school.
24. What is 1 + 1?

Down

2. New method to record.
4. Attest to a fact.
6. Promise.
7. The end.
9. Your mark.
10. MN Association of County Officers.
11. Buyer.
13. Solid surface of earth.
15. MCRA minister.
16. Part of a grapefruit.
18. Mountain _____.
19. Divide again.
21. Existence.
22. What does a Dr. do before surgery?
25. Sir Robert.