

ASPLS Fairbanks Chapter – October 25, 2022 Meeting
ROWAlaska.net – Outline Presentation

- 1985 R&M Engineering Consultants – Fairbanks
 - 1st Immersion into ROW Engineering – Geist Road Extension Project
 - Geist at University Ave. – through RR industrial area to College road.
 - College road through Bentley Trust lands to Birch Hill
 - Illinois Street
- 1986 October – Joined DOT&PF NR as ROW Engineering Supervisor
 - First time position was required to be licensed as PLS
 - DOT was slow to adopt technology – HP 97 desk calculators for COGO
 - I provided first desktop 8086 PC – 10MB HD – 1MB RAM – Amber screen
 - 28 years with NR ROW as ROW Engineer, then last 15 years as ROW Chief
 - Retired in 2014
- 2014 – Joined R&M Consultants, Inc. – Fairbanks Office
 - Work focused on title, base mapping, existing ROW determination.
 - Moved from full time to part time at end of 2020 - Billed 31.5 hours in 2021.
- My Archives:
 - I have maintained a personal email and project file archive since I first owned a computer
 - I found that in the work I do, we rarely produce something completely new – we just apply the knowledge from our prior projects to fit the new assignment. Archives are critical.
- The ROW nerds: Me, Karen Tilton, Jim Sharp (All DOT&PF ROWE Supervisors) and a few others.
 - We dwell in a specialty area at a level most surveyors don't experience.

- Downside to over-specialization: Closest I ever got to operating a GPS is my cell phone.
- AAG – Upon winning a case where I was the State’s expert, thanked me for my “recondite” knowledge of federal land law. I had to look that up. It means “little known subject or knowledge”. Or as my kids would tell me...because no one else wants to know that stuff...”
- By mid-2021 I reached the realization that the “ROW nerds” were getting a bit long in the tooth... And that I was not aware of many others who might want to carry on with this focused area of research. I realized that my archives, to the extent that others might find them of value, could soon be lost. This is when I considered ways to make them available to future researchers.
- In late August of 2021 I signed up with a web hosting provider and started working on a structure for an archival website.
 - As of December of 2021 I had uploaded 31 projects consisting of over 3,000 pdf files.
 - As I expected to more than double that number of files with future uploads, I installed a website search engine to assist researchers.
 - Currently, there are nearly 10,000 files on the website.
- Website walk-through:
 - Home Page
 - Website purpose
 - Confidentiality
 - Available from public agencies under Alaska Public Records Act.
 - Available from the courts if subject to a law suit.
 - Private clients provided confidentiality release.
 - Author Page
 - My daughter asked if she would be obligated to maintain this site after I “bit the big one”. I said yes as this was to be my digital

headstone.

- Links & Contact Pages
 - Just getting started – based on old ASPLS website links page.
 - Contact – should you want to pose a website related question or comment.
- Search & Journal Pages
 - Search: I am not very good with hierarchical organizing and so I have always relied upon a random text-based search engine to find specific information. My digital “work” archives consist of about 487gb in 374k files. After looking at a variety of website search engines I purchased the Australian “Zoom” software.
 - Search: Perform sample “Advanced Searches”
 - Journal: Notices of updates to the website; late breaking ROW/boundary related information; June 22 – ARC Coffee notice; [First place to check for new stuff]
- Archives – Pages are a mix of papers, presentations and project reports
 - Not an exact duplicate of my archives:
 - Almost all uploaded files are in .pdf format. Most MSWord, PowerPoint, Excel, Text & image files have been converted to .pdf.
 - COGO, AutoCad and other non-document files have been withheld.
 - Some files withheld due to confidentiality agreements.
 - In recognition that email has replaced memos and other correspondence to document conversations and project transactions, some have been converted to .pdf format and uploaded.
 - Some email redacted – to reduce burden on correspondents.
 - Compressed & reduced resolution and split files with a goal to keep downloads less than 10mb. About 10 map files may reach 11-12mb.
 - Other excessively sized files such as map image were withheld.

- When I started this project, I lived with third world ACS bandwidth (1mbs) out at 10- mile CHSR. This spring they boosted us to 40mbs so all is good.
- Archives Walk-through
 - Projects: Papers, presentations, research reports
 - Title Resources: title folder in JFB archives
 - NARA: Record groups
 - Naske: Publications & files
 - 1974 RS2477 Inventory:
 - DOT ROWE NR PDF Archives: 2003 files
 - Odds & Ends: Agencies/Archives/History folders
 - 2016 Access Law
 - Scroll through Resources
- Where from here?
 - Still have one case heading to trial in February 2023 that will then be added.
 - A few other project case files to be added.
 - “Highway ROW in Alaska 2023” ?????
 - Please feel free to contact me regarding any errors or omissions you might spot.