



# COUNCIL REPORT

January 30, 2008

*The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on January 30, 2008. Here is a summary of their discussions.*

## **FROM THE REGISTRAR**

Council approved an application from **Syd Loeppky** to be placed on the register of retired members.

Council approved an application from **UMA Engineering Ltd.** to cancel their registration as a surveyor's corporation.

Council approved **Benchmark Geomatics Inc.** as a surveyor's corporation. Adam Thompson will be the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for the supervision, direction and control of the corporation.

Council was pleased to welcome **Darcy Pittman** as an associate member. Mr. Pittman is a graduate of SAIT and has been in the land survey industry for many years and currently works for Eclipse Geomatics in Calgary.

In the event that there are outstanding corporate renewals at February 1, 2008, Council directed the Registrar to cancel the registration of a surveyor's corporation or partnership after the expiration of 30

days notice unless the practitioner complies with the notice.

## **ASSOCIATION FINANCES**

Council considered the first draft of the 2008-2009 budget and will finalize the budget at the March Council meeting. At this time, Council is projecting a deficit of more than \$250,000.

At this time, it is proposed that:

- Alberta Land Surveyor fees be increased to \$700 per member from \$600;
- Iron posts are projected to decrease 35% from the 2007-2008 and marker posts are projected to fall 30% from the 2007-2008 budget;
- The price to attend regional meetings will have to increase and/or new venues will have to be found in order for the meetings to break-even;
- Some committees may have their budgets cut or eliminated;
- Administration and Practice Review expenses will have to be cut back and some other non-dues fees increased;

- Council will need to decide what level of service it wants the Association to provide to the public and the membership.

The 2008 AGM budget was put forward. There will be an increase in the price to attend some social events to cover increased costs.

Council unanimously approved an additional \$4,000 for the Practice Review Board for the balance of the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The Practice Review Board's total 2007-2008 budget will be \$16,500.

Council directed the Executive Director to speak with the Association's banker about increasing the Association's line of credit to cover a potential shortfall in the bank account. It was felt that it was better to increase the line of credit than liquidate funds in the Association's investment account.

The Association has funds in its investment account and it was agreed to develop a current investment plan that would match the type of

investment with the length of time until the money may be needed.

**PROPOSED BYLAW  
AMENDMENT**

Council has approved forwarding a proposed bylaw amendment to the annual general meeting for consideration by the membership.

The proposed bylaw amendment would increase the maximum annual dues for Alberta Land Surveyors, surveyors' corporations and partnerships to \$1,200 each.

The application for registration as an Alberta Land Surveyor, surveyor's corporation or surveyor's partnership would increase to \$500.

A maximum fee for branch offices would be established at \$1,000.

The maximum fee for retired members, articulated students, and affiliate members would increase to \$200.

The bylaw change, if approved, would not affect the 2008-2009 membership fee renewals. It does not mean that Council would charge these membership fees but that these are the maximum fees that could be charged.

Council has put forward this recommendation because post sales have declined and the surcharge on iron posts and marker posts is fixed by agreement. At the same time, expenses have increased. The Association has been able to cut some expenses in the 2008-2009 budget.

The complete recommendation is online at [www.alsa.ab.ca](http://www.alsa.ab.ca).

This notice is provided to the membership in accordance with Section 68 of the bylaws.

**SUBDIVISION &  
DEVELOPMENT  
REGULATIONS**

Council, upon the recommendation of the Legislation Ad Hoc Committee, has sent a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, concerning the application of the Subdivision & Development Regulations under the *Municipal Government Act*.

The letter reads, in part: *As an association, our members have been experiencing growing frustration in dealing with the various approving authorities because of widely different processes for review and approval of subdivision and development applications.*

- *Many municipalities are facing a huge volume of applications for subdivision and development due to Alberta's thriving economy.*
- *Smaller municipalities often seem to have a greater challenge in maintaining a subdivision and development framework which is objective, non-political and based on accepted engineering and planning principles.*
- *Political influence appears to be more prevalent than ever in the approval processes.*
- *Often municipalities are unable to provide a decision within the specified timeframes, perhaps due to the high volume of applications being considered, but often it appears to be due to staff inexperience or lack of accountability.*

The Association has recommended the establishment of regional planning authorities whose jurisdictions would encompass several small municipalities and random or periodic audits of planning authorities' subdivision and development processes and policies to determine non-compliance with the MGA or its regulations.



**WELLSITE CERTIFICATION**

Council approved a recommendation from the Standards Committee that a motion be put forward at the annual general meeting for the following addition to the ALSA Manual of Standard Practice:

***5.11 A surveyor performing a wellsite (MSL – maximum 2 hectares) disposition plan amendment shall locate and confirm by measurement sufficient evidence within, on or defining the disposition to allow the determination of the boundaries and shall:***

***5.11.1 Indicate pre-existing disposition survey evidence as found, restored or re-established and,***

***5.11.2 Indicate the actual field dates of the amendment field survey in accordance with Part E, Section 4, Schedule B.***

***5.11.3 Notwithstanding 5.11.2 the amendment field survey shall not span more than 24 months.***

Council also approved the Standards Committee assisting the Director of Surveys in publishing plan amendment requirements on

the Alberta Sustainable Resource Development website.

**ALSA AGREES TO SIGN MOU WITH ASSMT**

Council has agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with ASSMT to provide (1) a broad overview and model of a future partnership between ALSA and ASSMT which will formalize both organizations' commitment to developing a cooperative relationship and (2) provide the framework whereby committees from both organizations can begin formalizing procedures and working details of such an agreement.

The 2006 ALSA Future of the Association committee drafted a flow-chart model of the current land surveying industry. Specifically, this model identified the roles and relationships between the Alberta Land Surveyors, clients, technologists, government and the public. It was noted that the ALS often fills the role of project manager, and while he/she currently takes full responsibility for each survey product, many tasks and data sources which contribute to the product are being completed by technicians and technologists under varying degrees of supervision.

In response to this model, the 2007 FOTAC committee has been given, as one of their terms of reference, the task of working with ASSMT to formalize the role of the certified technician and technologist (CST) within the land surveying industry. In doing so, land surveyors and technologists would work as an integrated team to effectively serve the interest and safety of the public with collaboration on education and standards. This will enhance quality and confidence in survey products, which will be mutually beneficial to the public and the land surveying industry.

This Memorandum of Understanding has been developed by the FOTAC committee composed of ALSA and ASSMT members. The approval of this document by both organizations represents a commitment to formalizing a partnership, following the broad principles it outlines. Working details of how it will be implemented will be handled as they arise.

The Future of the Association Ad Hoc Committee has now been disbanded as it has now completed its terms of reference.

Council has directed that a new three-person committee be established to develop terms of reference to outline how to proceed with formalizing procedures and working details of the agreement. Council member Rob Radovanovic will chair this small committee.

ASSMT has yet to ratify the MOU.

#### **CORNER RECORDATION**

The Corner Recordation Index remains down due to hackers corrupting the database.

Council has received two proposals to upgrade the security of the Corner Recordation Index but has tabled discussion on the proposals until the next Council meeting.

Please do not use the Corner Recordation Index until further notice.

#### **RE-STAKING WELLSITES**

Council approved sending a letter to the ERCB regarding the increasingly common occurrence of wellsite boundary re-stakes being performed by non-licensed survey service companies.

The ALSA seeks to educate industry that this sort of practice exposes the public, companies and government to unnecessary liability and

compromises the interests of all the involved parties.

ALSA is asking for a bulletin from the ERCB in defining the requirement for industry to use a company or an individual licensed to practice land surveying within Alberta when dealing with the staking or re-staking of wellsites, pipeline right-of-ways or other oil & gas facilities. This would be beneficial to all Albertans, our clients and to the regulator.

#### **CCLS VISION OF THE FUTURE REPORT**

Council welcomed CCLS Executive Director Sarah Cornett and Brian Ballantyne to the meeting to present the CCLS Vision of the Future report.

As a result of a proposal from the Presidents forum that the CCLS address the future of our profession, CCLS set up a task force to prepare a report on the current state and future needs of the surveying profession in Canada. At the CCLS annual meeting in Quebec City, October 2-5, 2007, the task force reported to the Directors of CCLS the following:

#### **The status quo is not acceptable:**

- Current demographics are a threat to the future viability of our profession;
- administrative costs are

high and human resources are stretched at the association level.

- The profession has evolved into 11 different Canadian versions of the surveying profession with fewer than 3,000 individual surveyors.
- The profession is fractured without an efficient cohesive voice to respond to the profession's key users in government, industry and the public.
- Multiple mixed messages are creating confusion with key clients, diminishing credibility, influence and professional status.
- There is no national agreement on an expanded profession model, existing models have not been successful, and lack of meaningful interaction with the broader professional community results in lost opportunities for all
- The public and government are insisting on improved inter-provincial mobility and recognition of foreign trained professions, thus putting pressure on the profession to address these national and international issues.

CCLS is recommending that:

1. That a national association of surveyors, tentatively called the Professional Surveyors of Canada Association (PSCA), be operational by December

- 31, 2010, supplanting CCLS.
2. That the members of the PSCA be the individuals who work as surveyors across Canada, meaning that the PSCA would not be a federation of surveying associations in the same way as the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors (CCLS).
3. That the CCLS champion the formation of the PSCA over the next three years by
- Developing a business case;
  - Consulting with the surveying associations;
  - Liaising with other groups such as the CIG, post-secondary geomatics programmes, provincial and federal government departments, and international surveying organizations (such as FIG); and
  - Arranging articles of incorporation pursuant to the *Canada Corporations Act*.
4. That the 11 member associations of CCLS divest themselves of a significant part of their current responsibilities beginning January 1, 2011. Such responsibilities may include:
- attracting new members
  - liaising with other professional groups

- lobbying industry and regulatory groups, marketing products and services
- providing continuing professional development
- facilitating inter-provincial mobility
- developing standards
- examining candidates

Council has thanked the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors for its presentation and will consider their recommendations at the next Council meeting.

#### **COMPETITION BUREAU REPORT ON THE PROFESSIONS**

The federal Competition Bureau prepared a report on the professions calling it one of the overall economy's least productive sectors. The Competition Bureau identified six areas that professions can look at to improve their competitiveness: restrictions on entering the profession, restrictions on mobility, restrictions on overlapping services and scope of practice, restrictions on advertising, restrictions on pricing and compensation, and restrictions on business structure.

The Executive Summary will be published in the next issue of *ALS News*.

#### **INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

The Association provided a letter to the University of Calgary supporting an initiative of the universities of Calgary, Alberta and Lethbridge to establish a Centre for Integrated Resource Management.

It is the intent of the Centre to advance and apply the interdisciplinary science and technology of geomatics, remote sensing, sensor networks and geographical and land information systems to address, in an integrated manner, resource management and environmental sustainability of importance to Alberta, Canada and the world.

#### **DIRECTOR OF SURVEYS ISSUES**

The Director of Surveys updated Council on a number of issues that he raised with Council at the December meeting.

Council will be considering terms of reference for the following items and which committees they could be assigned to.

1. Field note repository for retired and deceased members.
2. Mapping private land dispositions.
3. Develop a standard procedure for correcting plans.

The Association will also look into organizing a DOS/LTO/MSLR/ALSA liaison meeting soon. The government has established a working group to look at proposed changes to the digital plan submission process and has asked the Association to participate.

There will likely be a couple of meetings in Edmonton within the next couple of months.

#### **ALSA CENTENNIAL**

The Historical & Biographical Committee put forward two proposals to Council to help the Association celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting in 2009.

The first proposal was a request for \$35,000 to present a historical display during the 2009 AGM in the foyer of the meeting room and to circulate the display to various museums around Alberta subsequent to the AGM.

The second proposal was a request for \$50,000 for two monuments – one in Fort Edmonton Park and one in Calgary Heritage Park.

Since any project to celebrate the Association's centennial would have significant public relations value, Council has asked that the Association's public relations consultant,

Rose Country Communications, be retained to help the Association develop an overall plan for the centennial and identify which project or projects would have the greatest effect given the established budget.

#### **COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS**

Council accepted, with regret, the resignation of Carrie Desjarlais as chair of the Safety Committee. Barry Fleece was appointed chairman.

Robert Radovanovic was appointed Council Liaison to the Practice Review Board and the PRB Subcommittee investigating the future of systematic practice review.

Dr. Radovanovic replaces Ron Hall as Council Liaison. Council was concerned about the perception of a conflict of interest if the future Discipline Committee chairman were to be asked to investigate a complaint from the Practice Review Board that had been discussed while he served as Council Liaison.

#### **SHORT CUTS**

Council received a letter from a practitioner recommending that the Association discuss the Alberta Land Surveyor name to change it to Professional Surveyor, Professional Land Surveyor or Professional Survey Engineer.

Council has asked the Legislation Ad Hoc Committee to review the *Condominium Property Act* and regulation in response to the government's forthcoming review of the legislation.

Council approved any award nominations that had been submitted. The recipients will be announced at the Awards Luncheon at Lake Louise on Thursday, April 24.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES TO BE AWARE OF**

Getting It Right Seminar  
Lethbridge  
March 6 - 7

Getting It Right Seminar  
Calgary  
March 20 - 21

Exam Preparation Seminar  
Red Deer  
March 22

Professional Exams  
April 8 - 9

Annual General Meeting  
Lake Louise  
April 24 - 26