



# COUNCIL REPORT

May 21, 2008

---

*The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on May 21, 2008. Here is a summary of their discussions.*

## **FROM THE REGISTRAR**

Council approved applications from **Lorne McNeice, Art Miller, Francis Prefontaine** and **Con Zarowny** to be placed on the register of retired members.

Council approved an application from **Principia Geomatics Inc.** to cancel its registration as a surveyor's corporation.

Council approved a request from **Peter Walker** to exempt him from the provisions of the mandatory insurance bylaw as he is not currently engaging in the practice of surveying.

Council approved **Explore Surveys Inc.** as a surveyor's corporation. **Dwayne Edmundson** will be the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for the supervision, direction and control of the corporation.

Council approved **GEOSpark Surveys Inc.** as a surveyor's corporation subject to receipt of specific information. **Jarl Nome** will be the Alberta Land Surveyor

responsible for the supervision, direction and control of the corporation.

Council was pleased to welcome **Ted Abraha** and **Stephen Gear** as the Association's newest associate members.

Mr. Abraha, originally from Ethiopia, is a member of ASSMT and works for Stantec.

Mr. Gear is an ASSMT member and was sponsored by Larry Pals and Brian Doyle.

Council directed the Registrar to cancel the membership of any member whose annual fees remain outstanding after the expiration of thirty days notice.

## **COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE, VOLUNTEERS, AND MEETING DATES**

Committee action plans are available on the Association's web page at [www.alsa.ab.ca/MemberResources/internal\\_policies.htm](http://www.alsa.ab.ca/MemberResources/internal_policies.htm).

Council formally appointed members to the Association's committees. Many thanks to all those who put their names forward and to all those who are stepping down after years of service.

A calendar of Association meetings, seminars and other events is also available online.

## **MAKE BYLAWS**

Council made the bylaws as approved by the membership at the 2008 AGM in accordance with Section 17 of the bylaws.

The bylaws increase the maximum allowable annual fee but do not change the membership fees currently charged.

The only exception is the application fee for registration as an Alberta Land Surveyor, surveyor's corporation or surveyor's partnership which now stands at \$500.

## **REFORMAT THE MANUAL OF STANDARD PRACTICE**

Council unanimously approved funding to retain a

technical writer to reformat the Manual of Standard Practice.

Irwin Maltais, the mover of the new business motion at the 2008 AGM, will be the liaison between the technical writer and the Standards Committee. The Standards Committee, in turn, will report to Council as to the proposed reformatting to the Manual of Standard Practice.

#### **100<sup>TH</sup> AGM CELEBRATIONS**

Council gave second and final reading to a proposal from the Historical & Biographical Committee outlining a plan to celebrate the Association's 100th AGM in 2008.

The main component of the plan is a travelling museum exhibit promoting the history of land surveying in Alberta. The exhibit would be used at the ALSA centennial AGM, local museums, student presentations and other public displays.

The projected cost of the travelling display is \$35,000 with funds coming from the ALSA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project Fund.

#### **MINISTERIAL ORDER AMENDMENTS**

Council continues to discuss amendments to the

ministerial order which allows the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association to sell iron posts and marker posts.

Council has reviewed the proposed ministerial order as out forward by the government and the ALSA has proposed some further changes to it.

The changes include a sentence which would allow the ALSA to use the mark up on iron posts and marker posts to maintain the EDM calibration baselines in Alberta necessary for cadastral surveys.

A further clause has been proposed which would allow the ALSA to use the mark up to maintain the Corner Recordation Index which remains down.

#### **DIGITAL SUBMISSIONS TO LAND TITLES AND PUBLIC LANDS**

Recommendation #6, tabled at the 2008 AGM, will now be dealt with by the government's Digital Submissions Review Committee.

The Digital Submissions Review Committee consists of representatives from government departments, AltaLIS, the cities of Edmonton and Calgary and

the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association.

Bruce Gudim will represent the ALSA at these meetings.

#### **REGISTERING PLANS AT LAND TITLES AND PUBLIC LANDS**

The government's lawyers are reviewing the Association solicitor's legal opinion concerning the interpretation that survey plans must be registered at Alberta Land Titles when a statutory monument is placed.

When the government has prepared its legal opinion, Council has directed the Standards Committee to continue its discussions on this issue, including the possibility of proposing legislative changes to the Surveys Act.

#### **SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS**

Council has directed the Legislation Ad Hoc Committee to review the Deputy Minister's response to the ALSA's concerns about the Municipal Government Act and Subdivision and Development Regulation, within the context of the government's Land Use Framework Document, and make recommendations to Council.

The Legislation Ad Hoc Committee reviewed the provisions of the Municipal Government Act and prepared a letter on behalf of Council outlining a number of concerns.

The letter contained two recommendations:

1. Establish regional planning authorities whose jurisdiction would encompass several small municipalities;
2. Random or periodic audits of planning authorities' subdivision and development processes to determine non-compliance.

The Deputy Minister responded but was not supportive of the Association's recommendations.

#### **MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Council has directed the Professional Development Committee to develop a mandatory continuing education regime for presentation at the 100<sup>th</sup> AGM.

Council has requested a report from the Professional Development Committee concerning the need for an educational consultant in

light of the mandatory continuing education motion (above) and how it will impact the Committee's time and resources to complete all of its assigned duties.

#### **NON-ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP BYLAW CHANGE**

Council directed the Legislation Ad Hoc Committee to investigate creating a category for non-practicing or 'inactive' membership with separate annual dues.

The issue came forward under new business at the 2008 AGM.

#### **DIRECTOR OF SURVEYS**

Council welcomed the Director of Surveys to the meeting and discussed a number of issues.

The Government of Alberta is awaiting the Alberta Law Reform Institute's analysis of the Association's proposal amend the Surveys Act to give governing status to Part 3 monuments placed at non-monumented positions.

The Director of Surveys requested an update from the Association on a Boundary Panel case. The case is part of a formal Section 9 of the Surveys Act investigation.

#### **SYSTEMATIC PRACTICE REVIEW**

The Practice Review Board and Council accepted a proposal to keep the Systematic Practice Review program operating until October 31, 2008.

John Ironstone will take on some additional tasks. Don George will come back to the ALSA on a contract basis to analyze practitioner's responses. Administrative Assistant Kerry Barrett will take on some of the file tracking previously undertaken by the Director of Practice Review.

During this six-month period, Council has directed the Practice Review Board to investigate:

1. What can/can't be done for the balance of Phase 3 and
2. Investigate what the next peer review program looks like if a new Director of Practice Review cannot be hired.

#### **TILMA**

Council has requested that the TILMA Working Group reconvene to proceed with a review of the Association's obligations under the investment provisions of TILMA.

Council agreed to consider a TILMA-like agreement with other Canadian self-governing survey associations.

**JOINT MEETINGS**

Council discussed the possibility of holding a joint Council meeting with the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors.

It was agreed to investigate the costs of holding such a meeting and develop potential agenda items.

**RPR INDEX**

Council has referred the future of the RPR Index to the RPR Ad Hoc Committee with a recommendation that the users assume responsibility for the Index.

The RPR Ad Hoc Committee has also been asked to respond to concerns raised by the Canadian Bar Association and review the City of Calgary's requirements regarding a copyright statement.

**ASSOCIATION  
INVESTMENTS**

Council endorsed a set of investment guidelines that will help the Association ask the right questions when considering revising its investment policy.

1. *The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association, including its members, the Council and the staff, is not a professional financial advisor or investment manager.*
2. *Therefore, the Association's funds shall be managed by a prudent professional investment expert.*
3. *The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association has a fiduciary responsibility to manage the Association's funds on behalf of the membership.*
4. *Therefore, the Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association shall tend to be conservative in its investment policy.*
5. *No one has been able to consistently predict the swings in the market. Some may have been able to do it once but no one has been able to do it consistently.*
6. *The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association is a self-governing professional regulatory organization established by statute. It is a not-for-profit organization. It is tax-exempt as long as it does not engage in commercial activities.*
7. *The timing of withdrawals from an investment account can dramatically affect the value of the account. Therefore, it is critical that the Council regularly review how much money may be needed by the Association and when.*
8. *The Council should deposit and monies which may be required by the Association in the next two years in a bank or any similar institution where funds are readily available.*
9. *The Council should invest any monies that may be required within two to five years in Canadian fixed income investments. The purpose of these investments is to preserve the Association's assets against inflation since the rate of return on these less risky investments is often comparable to the inflation rate.*
10. *The Council should invest any monies that are not expected to be required within five years in equities with a limited*

*exposure to foreign equities since, over the long-term, say ten-plus years, equities will produce higher rates of returns but one has to be prepared to suffer significant losses for an extended period of time.*

11. *The Council should review its financial needs with a prudent professional investment expert on an annual basis.*

**STRATEGIC ISSUES**

Council will dedicate 60-90 minutes at each Council meeting to discuss a specific strategic issue.

Strategic issues are matters that require extended discussion and debate and have the potential to have a long-term impact on the Association.

At its June meeting, Council will devote to time to discuss the future of the Director of Surveys Office, particularly as it relates to their difficulty in hiring Alberta Land Surveyors.

Other strategic issues for future meetings may be the implementation of the ASSMT memorandum of understanding, buried facilities and Association finances.

**IMPORTANT DATES  
TO REMEMBER**

ALS NEWS  
DEADLINES  
JUNE 1  
SEPTEMBER 1  
NOVEMBER 15  
FEBRUARY 13

ALSA GOLF  
TOURNAMENT  
AUGUST 15  
LACOMBE

ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING  
APRIL 23-26  
BANFF

COUNCIL MEETINGS  
JUNE 26  
AUGUST 26  
SEPTEMBER 25  
NOVEMBER 13  
DECEMBER 10  
JANUARY 29  
MARCH 5

PRESIDENT'S TOUR  
SEPTEMBER 16  
RED DEER  
  
SEPTEMBER 24  
LLOYDMINSTER  
  
OCTOBER 2  
LETHBRIDGE

**IMPORTANT DATES  
TO REMEMBER**

REGIONAL MEETINGS

CALGARY  
OCTOBER 1  
FEBRUARY 3  
APRIL 2

EDMONTON  
SEPTEMBER 25  
JANUARY 29  
MARCH 26

GRANDE PRAIRIE  
OCTOBER 7  
FEBRUARY 10  
MARCH 25

MEDICINE HAT  
OCTOBER 2  
FEBRUARY 4  
APRIL 1