



COUNCIL REPORT

September 25, 2008

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on September 25, 2008. Here is a summary of their discussions.

FROM THE REGISTRAR

Council approved **Diversified Geomatics Group Inc.** as a surveyor's corporation. **George Smith** will be the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for the supervision, direction and control of the practice.

The Association is pleased to welcome **Bruce Druery** as an associate member. Mr. Druery was sponsored by Alberta Land Surveyors Javier Siu and Jim MacLeod.

Council approved a request from **Steve Vollick** to be exempt from the provisions of the mandatory professional liability insurance bylaw as he is not currently practicing land surveying in Alberta.

IRON POST/ MARKER POST PRICES TO INCREASE

Council approved increasing the price of iron posts from \$6.75 to \$11.45 and increasing the price of marker posts from \$10.00 to \$16.80.

The increase takes effect November 1, 2008.

There are two reasons for the large increase.

First, the Association has concluded negotiations with the Government of Alberta for an amended ministerial order. Under the amended ministerial order, there is a new \$2.50 per iron post/marker post surcharge for the Association to fund the investigation of boundary uncertainties or alleged errors in surveys. There will be a further \$1.50 surcharge on iron posts/marker posts for the Association to ensure compliance with Section 47 of the *Surveys Act*, establish and maintain a field note repository, maintain the Corner Recordation Index and other matters that will maintain and enhance professional practice, education and public awareness.

Second, the steel industry has experienced uncharacteristically high steel prices on a global level. The price of raw materials has increased and the energy prices required in the production of steel have also increased.

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association has an agreement with Russel Metals that there

will be no more price increases from them for the duration of the contract which expires December 31, 2010.

BOUNDARY PANEL

With the signing of the amended ministerial order, effective November 1, the Association becomes responsible for investigating boundary uncertainties and alleged survey errors. Council discussed how the terms of reference of the existing boundary panel might need to be changed and asked the Executive Director to put together a revised action plan based on the additional funding and responsibilities.

COMMITTEE NEWS

The Public Relations Committee had put forward a recommendation to Council concerning the scholarships the Association offers to post-secondary students. Council has requested more information before considering the recommendation.

Council requested the Executive Director put a formal plan together for

dealing with voting on the plain-language re-write of the Manual of Standard Practice and other Standards Committee recommendations for the 2009 AGM.

Council approved a recommendation from the Safety Committee to add “develop a safety manual preparation guide” to their terms of reference.

The resignations of Andrew Miles from the Professional Development Committee and Bill Mintz from the Practice Review Board were accepted with regret.

Council has asked the Historical & Biographical Committee to consider whether the ALSA should purchase of several artifacts for the purpose of donating them to a David Thompson museum display in Alberta.

PRB FUNDING REQUEST

Council gave second and final reading to a request from the Practice Review Board to increase its budget to \$26,880 for 2008-2009 from the current \$18,000.

The increase was requested due to the increased number of meetings and the greater number of PRB members from outside the Edmonton area.

CENTENNIAL AGM PUBLICATION

Council gave second and final reading to a proposal that the ALSA celebrate its forthcoming 100th AGM with a 48-page magazine that would be published alongside *Alberta Venture* and *Alberta Oil* magazines.

The centennial magazine would be financed by the sale of advertising space to members and suppliers. The Association would commit \$35,196 for the distribution of the magazine and guarantee the full cost of the magazine (\$95,708) if advertising support was not forthcoming.

The magazine would promote the history and career awareness of the profession.

Members and suppliers will be contacted about advertising in this special supplement.

DIRECTOR OF SURVEYS REPORT

Director of Surveys Mike Michaud updated Council on several Section 9 investigations, the Alberta Law Reform Institute review of the ALSA’s recommendation to amend the *Surveys Act*, and the government’s analysis of the ALSA legal opinion concerning the registration of plans at both

Land Titles and Public Lands.

Council sent a letter to the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development requesting a meeting with him to discuss the ALSA’s concerns regarding the future of land surveying within Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and potential solutions.

ALSA EMPLOYMENT POLICIES

Council gave second and final reading to a policy that clearly outlines the responsibilities and authorities associated with the hiring and dismissal of all ALSA staff.

The Executive Director is responsible for administering written personnel policies which have been approved by Council. To handle situations not covered by written policies, the Executive Director may take problem solving action without Council approval, keeping the President and Council informed of significant outcomes. At each Executive Committee meeting, the Executive Director shall report any staffing concerns or issues.

The Executive Director is responsible for informing all employees of the rules,

regulations, policies and employee job responsibilities and performance expectations.

The Executive Director is responsible for the recruitment, hiring, morale and dismissal of Alberta Land Surveyors' Association staff.

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association recognizes that the hiring and dismissal of staff in professional staff positions may require extra consideration.

The President and Executive Director shall make a recommendation to Council concerning the hiring and dismissal of the Registrar. Council appoints a Registrar in accordance with Section 10 of the Land Surveyors Act. The Registrar shall perform such duties as required under the Act, Regulations and bylaws. The Registrar reports to the Executive Director on administrative matters.

The Director of Practice Review reports to the Practice Review Board on professional and technical matters and the Executive Director on administrative matters. The Executive Director is responsible for the hiring and dismissal of the Director of Practice Review. The Executive

Director shall consult with the Chairman of the Practice Review Board and the President of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association before hiring or dismissing a Director of Practice Review. The Director of Practice Review is not appointed by Council or the Practice Review Board. However, according to Section 14(1) of the Land Surveyors Act, the Practice Review Board may, prior to an inquiry or review under Section 13(1), appoint a person to conduct a preliminary investigation.

The Assistant to the Director of Practice Review reports to the Director of Practice Review on professional and technical matters and the Executive Director on administrative matters. The Executive Director is responsible for the hiring and dismissal of the Assistant to the Director of Practice Review. The Executive Director shall consult with the Director of Practice Review before hiring or dismissing an Assistant to the Director of Practice Review.

CCLS NATIONAL SURVEYORS' ASSOCIATION THINK-TANK

Past-President Bob Wallace reported on the recent CCLS meeting in Winnipeg to establish the new structure and plot a course for the implementation of the new Canadian national surveyors' association.

Mr. Wallace said that Saturday was spent determining who would be members, the benefits of membership, a governance model as well a financial model of the new association. There was considerable discussion of a wide and varied range of ideas but at the end of the day there was consensus in the above mentioned areas. On Sunday the discussion was centered on the transition from CCLS in its present state to the formation of the new association.

It was agreed upon that the new association would be built upon the existing CCLS platform. The CCLS task force will be struck with implementing the agreed upon structure. The new organization will be governed by a smaller board and it will concentrate on cadastral surveying.



There seems to be some urgency to the creation of this new body because of some looming national issues such AIT, provincial labour mobility and fair working rights legislation. There are many other issues for the new body such as insurance, professional development, career awareness, harmonization, CBEPS, declining memberships,

creating a national voice and lobbying governments to name a few.

SHORT CUTS

The peer review think-tank to discuss the future of systematic practice review and how to create a sustainable peer review program will be held October 28.

Council approved a new investment policy statement outlining the Association's portfolio goals. The statement is a result of the ALSA changing investment advisors to Morgan Meighen of Toronto. The overall conservative philosophy has not changed.