



COUNCIL REPORT

January 28, 2009

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on January 28, 2009. Here is a summary of their discussions.

FROM THE REGISTRAR

The Association is pleased to welcome **Michael Kieser** as an associate member. Mr. Kieser is a member of APEGGA and works for Eclipse Geomatics Ltd. in Calgary.

Council approved requests from **Real Comeau, Bruce Drake, Don George, Jeff Patton and Mike Porylo** to be exempt from the provisions of the mandatory professional liability insurance bylaw as they are not currently practicing land surveying in Alberta.

Council approved **Drake Geomatics Ltd.** as a surveyor's corporation. **Bruce Drake** will be the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for the supervision, direction and control of the practice. Drake Geomatics Ltd. must pay the fees and provide proof of insurance to the ALSA before it is eligible to practice.

In the event that there are any outstanding corporate renewals at February 1, 2009, Council directed the Registrar to cancel the registration of any surveyor's

corporation or partnership after the expiration of 30 days from the date of the written notice unless the practitioner complies with the notice.

ASSOCIATION FINANCES & BUDGET

Council did a first review of the 2010-2011 ALSA budget. The initial forecast was for a deficit of \$260,000 based on iron post and marker post sales of approximately 60% of 2008-2009 sales and similar to sales of 1993.

Council considered increasing membership dues by approximately 30% but the numbers will not be finalized until the overall budget is finalized in March.

The Executive Director was directed to review the draft budget in detail to determine how expenses could be pared in order to bring in a balanced budget. The Executive Director was asked to identify those activities which are core activities (the ALSA is required to undertake them), core-plus activities (the ALSA should undertake them) and non-

core activities (nice but non-essential).

If the membership has any recommendations or suggestions, please contact the Executive Director or any Council member.

The 2008-2009 financial statement is expected to be close to break-even or show a small loss instead of the original projected deficit of \$260,000. There have been cost savings in 2008-2009 in the systematic practice review program and additional revenues from the increase in the iron post and marker post surcharge.

The 2009 centennial AGM budget currently shows a deficit of approximately \$30,000 due primarily to increased guest speaker costs and an expected decrease in sponsorship support. However, several years ago, Council created a fund of \$50,000 for the centennial AGM so that the ALSA could bring in more high profile speakers and make the centennial AGM a memorable event.

**AGM
RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Standards Committee put forward three recommendations to amend the Manual of Standard Practice (MSP).

The proposed amendments were the result of the plain language re-write of the MSP but were felt to be significant enough that they should be debated and voted on separately.

It is proposed that Part B, Section 1.1 of the Commentary to the Code of Ethics section of the MSP be amended to include “or employer.” The intention is to remove any possibility that members or Discipline committees could fail to agree that the public interest also takes precedence over the interest of employers.

It is proposed that Part C, Section 5.5.4 of the MSP be amended to refer to the ALSA Boundary Panel instead of Section 9 of the Surveys Act. The revised wording would make it clear that Alberta Land Surveyors are expected to refer boundary uncertainties to the ALSA Boundary Panel if they are not able to agree amongst themselves first.

It is proposed that Part D, Section 1.2 of the MSP be

amended by adding “a notice must also be placed in the legend indicating how the bearings were derived.” The intention is to make it mandatory for members to clearly indicate on plans how bearings were derived. The Practice Review Board had requested that the Standards Committee investigate this issue.

INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

The membership had asked Council to consider creating a category for non-practicing or inactive membership with separate annual dues under new business at the 2008 AGM.

The Legislation Ad Hoc Committee was directed to look into the issue by Council and investigated several options. The Legislation Ad Hoc Committee put forward a recommendation to Council to amend the bylaws. However, Council felt that the recommendation and the alternatives were too complex and could be contrary to the legislation. Council directed that no further action be taken on this issue.

CONDOMINIUM ACT

Council accepted a report from the Legislation Ad Hoc Committee on possible amendments to the Condominium Act whenever

the act is opened for review again by the government.

**CONTINUING
EDUCATION &
REPORTING**

The Professional Development Committee put forward a recommendation to Council that every Alberta Land Surveyor, affiliate member, articling pupil submit to the Registrar by April 30 of each year an in the prescribed form information regarding his or her professional development activities during that year.

Council liked the general direction of the recommendation but felt that it needed more work and research.

Council suggested that the program be voluntary for the first year with reporting due by December 31 so that they can be analyzed prior to the 2010 AGM.

Council then suggested that the program be made mandatory the following year with a formal mandatory continuing education program the year after that.

The Professional Development Committee will continue to work on this initiative with a view to having a recommendation to Council in March.

BOUNDARY PANEL

Council considered a recommendation from a working group looking into amending and updating terms of reference to the ALSA Boundary Panel.

Council liked the general direction of the revised terms of reference but felt that more detail and clarity is required with respect to issues such as stipends and reimbursement, definitions and contracts.

The working group and the chairman of the Boundary Panel will continue to work on this initiative with a view to having a recommendation to Council in March.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

Council appointed Mohamed Abdel-salam and Eric Collins to the GPS Working Group and Rachel Heck to the Standards Committee.

Council appointed the following members as vice-chairs: Jacques Dupuis (Practice Review Board), Greg Hebb (Professional Development Committee), Jarl Nome (Public Relations Committee), Michael Stewart (Registration), Victor Hut (Safety), and Scott Boulanger (Standards).

LABOUR MOBILITY

Effective April 1, 2009, all land surveyors licensed in

another Canadian province will only be required to pass one jurisdictional examination.

The move was made in response to the federal and provincial ministers' endorsement of a report that includes amendments to the Agreement on Internal Trade Chapter on Labour Mobility so as to achieve full labour mobility. The amendments come into force on April 1, 2009.

The one jurisdictional exam is the same requirement as that of British Columbia Land Surveyors who wish to become Alberta Land Surveyors under the TILMA agreement.

Council unanimously approved the expenditure of \$6,080 to develop an online examination system based on the system developed by the ABCLS.

**CBEPS CORE &
OPTION SYLLABUS**

Council has directed the Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors to implement the new core and option syllabus.

Council had approved the new syllabus in principle previously but has now requested that it be formally adopted.

The new syllabus will have eleven core subjects which all candidates must complete. There are five optional syllabus items.

Candidates must complete the eleven core items and two optional items in order to earn a certificate of completion.

**DIRECTOR OF
SURVEYS REPORT**

Alberta Law Reform Institute On December 3, 2008, the Director of Surveys office met with the ALRI and was informed that they have reviewed the department's request and that they are recommending to their Board to approve a review the proposed amendments to the Surveys Act.

Dual plan registration

Work continues by the government lawyer.

Geo-referencing of CAD files

Draft standard and rationale document prepared. Anticipate implementation April 1, 2009.

Full integration Goal is to have Standards Committee work on standards for 2011 implementation.

Future of the Director of Surveys Office January 20, 2009 meeting with Mr. Craig Quintilio, ADM.

LiDAR

Requirements for LiDAR pilot projects updated December 12, 2008.

Disposition Survey Standards

Effective April 1, 2009

- * monument requirement upgraded from iron spike/iron bar to statutory iron post for the following:
- * Easements (EZE) (monument one limit, rather than the centre line).
- * Pipeline Installation Lease (PIL)
- * License of Occupation (LOC) (non-access roads)

Effective April 1, 2011

- * monument requirement upgraded from iron spike/iron bar to statutory iron post for the following:

- * Licence of Occupation (LOC) (access roads, monument one limit, final plan surveys)
- * Mineral Surface Lease (MSL)

TRAVEL BUDGETS

Council unanimously agreed to reimburse Mr. Bob Wallace for expenses incurred, not exceeding \$1,500, in giving his presentation to the Land Surveyors Association of Washington on surveying in Canada; funds to come from the Ambassadors Reserve Fund.

Council agreed that, in addition to the president, the vice-president, executive director and a Council member should attend the

ABCLS AGM. The funds will come from existing travel budgets. It was felt that attending the ABCLS AGM would be the best way of continuing the efforts to work together that started at the joint meeting in November 2008.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Regional Meetings

Edmonton
January 29, 2009

Calgary
February 3, 2009

Medicine Hat
February 4, 2009

Grande Prairie
February 10, 2009