



Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

September 30, 2004

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on September 30, 2004. Here is a summary of their discussions.

Members Equity Rises

Council approved the review engagement report by the Association's accountant, Tom Gee of the firm Peterson Walker.

For the year ending April 30, 2004, the Association had a net increase in members equity of almost \$200,000 or 16% of net assets. The increase was due almost entirely to the strong iron post and marker post sales in 2003-2004.

The complete review engagement report is available on the Association's website at www.alsa.ab.ca.

AGM Stabilization Fund

Council gave first reading to establish a \$100,000 annual general meeting stabilization fund and that \$15,000 be used from the fund with Council approval in any one year.

Council learned that the cost of running the Association's annual general meeting keeps increasing. The Convention Levy paid by each active member is capped at \$100 and the Convention & Social Committee does its best to keep events prices as reasonable as possible. The annual general meeting has operated at a deficit for the last several years and Council has had to approve extra funds from general revenues.

The AGM Stabilization Fund would be established out of the 2003-2004 surplus and allow the Convention & Social Committee to continue to organize for at least a number of years the same level of annual meeting that members have come to expect.

The policy to establish the AGM Fund will come back to the October Council meeting for second reading. Members are encouraged to make their comments known to any Council member or the Association office.

No Changes to Annual Interview Process

Council defeated a motion that would have changed how often annual interviews between the Registration Committee, pupil and principal are conducted.

The Registration Committee proposed that articulated pupils be required to attend a minimum of two pupil/principal interviews with the Registration Committee. These are: (1) initial interview at the commencement of articles; (2) final interview near the completion of articles. However, the pupil, principal or Registration Committee would have been able to request additional interviews if deemed helpful or necessary. All pupils who transferred articles would also be required to attend the next round of annual interviews.

Council was concerned that the proposal seemed to contravene Section 9(2) of the Examination & Training Regulation which requires the pupil to meet with the Registration Committee on an annual basis.

The Registration Committee felt that the annual interviews were not always necessary and that it would have been better to spend more time with the pupils and principals who required it.

In a related discussion, Council added "investigate hiring a consultant to review the ALSA registration process to ensure fairness and efficiency" to the Future of the Association Ad Hoc Committee. The Future of the Association Ad Hoc Committee's focus is reviewing the registration process

to ensure that articling pupils are learning what they need to learn for the future.

Integrated Landscape Management

Council will be inviting the Alberta Chamber of Resources to write an article for *ALS News* and speak to the membership at future regional meetings about integrated landscape management.

At the August Council meeting, Council welcomed Bob Demulder of the Alberta Chamber of Resources to discuss their integrated landscape management proposal. The purpose of integrated landscape management is to better coordinate industrial land disturbance among forestry and energy companies.

The Alberta Chamber of Resources has consulted with companies over the last couple of years to encourage co-operation on such things as building access roads so that duplication and extra costs can be avoided during resource exploration and logging. Mr. Demulder indicated that he thought that Alberta Land Surveyors may be able to assist in this project and is seeking feedback from the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association.

For more information on integrated landscape management, visit www.acr-alberta.com/Projects/ILM_backgrounder.htm.

Laying Down the Lines

Council unanimously approved funds to purchase 2,000 hard cover copies of the history of land surveying in Alberta book to be entitled *Laying Down the Lines*.

The Historical & Biographical Committee had initially contracted the publisher to print 1,500 hard cover books for the Association members



but based on the pre-order forms, the Committee recommended to Council that the number of books be increased to 2,000.

Members can still pre-order the book by clicking on the link on the home page of the Association's website, www.alsa.ab.ca.

The book will be launched at the 2005 AGM.

National Standards on Integrated Surveys

Council directed that the Standards Committee report on national integrated survey standards be forwarded to the Director of Surveys for the October 2004 Canadian Council on Geomatics meeting.

Last year, Council asked the Standards Committee to comment on the draft standards for integrated surveys from the Canadian Council on Geomatics and provide comment back to Council. The Canadian Council on Geomatics consists of the Surveyor General of Canada and the provincial surveyors general and directors of surveys. At their last meeting last fall, they reviewed a report on integrated surveys and asked for the input of each survey association.

The ALSA Standards Committee reviewed the material and noted a number of concerns and issues. The Standards Committee report will now be forwarded to the Alberta Director of Surveys so that he may take them to the October 2004 CCOG meeting. It was understood that, arising out of the concerns of all of the survey associations, CCOG would review and update its report. The ALSA is expected to have the opportunity to comment on a second draft.

Deficiencies Related to Grid Bearings

Council approved a recommendation from the Standards Committee that: 1. the March 31, 2004 letter from the Director of Surveys concerning deficiencies related to grid bearings be published in *ALS News*; 2. the letter be sanitized to remove any reference to any specific surveyor; and 3. the

explanatory article accompanying the letter stress that proper methodology is to notify the surveyors when problems are found in previously registered plans so that appropriate corrections can be made.

EUB Digital Pipeline Plan Submission Committee

Council referred the question of having official representation on the EUB committee that is developing standards and the technical process for submitting digital pipeline plans to EUB to the Oil and Gas Ad Hoc Committee for more information and recommendation back to Council.

Council reviewed correspondence from Robert Morrison, ALS, who is presently volunteering on a committee at the EUB that is developing both the standards required and the technical process for submitting digital pipeline plans to EUB, along with the application forms associated with obtaining a license. This will be part of the EUB's GIS database.

At present there are people from several areas of industry there to provide input into the development of this program. The Committee includes oil and gas representatives as well as technical people from GIS mapping and digital data companies.

Mr. Morrison felt that this initiative on the part of EUB will ultimately affect the members of the Association and suggested that there should be an official representative from the Association on this committee.

New Board of Examiners Proposal

Council received a proposal from the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors to manage a new ACLS-western provinces board of examiners. Council referred the issue back to the Executive Committee for a recommendation.

Since all four of the western provinces surveying associations responded positively to the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors' invitation to enter into discussions on the formation of a combined ACLS-west-

ern provinces board of examiners for land surveyors, a business plan was drafted for consideration and further discussion.

It is proposed that this new board initially be located in Ottawa to facilitate the transition process and later development into a true national board. ACLS recommended that the new board consist of two members from each of the land surveyor associations (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and ACLS) and one person from each of the universities of Calgary, New Brunswick, Laval and one person from BCIT. The executive would consist of a chair and a vice-chair to be elected from the members.

The new board would take over responsibility for the administration of Schedule I and II examinations, including the selection of special examiners. The ACLS and provincial association boards would remain responsible for the setting of professional exams.

Setting up this board would be a first step toward a truly national board. CCLS had been investigating the establishment of a national board of examiners but the initiative failed when not everyone could see the value of it.

Council has not endorsed the proposal but have asked the Executive Committee to review and make recommendations. The ALSA will meet with the ACLS and the other western survey associations in early October to gather more information.

Grande Prairie Regional Group

Council has directed that a Grande Prairie Regional Group be established on a trial basis as soon as possible.

In early September, President Al Nelson and several others went to Grande Prairie as part of the Association's annual President's Tour. The turnout for that meeting rivalled that of Edmonton and Calgary. Council, therefore, decided to establish a Grande Prairie Regional Group on a



trial basis with the view that it would be organized in the same manner as the ones in Edmonton and Calgary. That is, there would be an opportunity to have a guest speaker, a regular update on Council activities, and an opportunity to listen and debate upcoming AGM recommendations.

FIG Regional Conference in Jakarta

Council gave second and final reading to an application from Ken Allred for assistance to attend the FIG Regional Conference to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from October 3-8, 2004.

Mr. Allred has applied to the Ambassadors Reserve Fund and has estimated his expenses to be C\$4,350.

A paper entitled *Underground Facilities—The Need for Accurate Records in an Expanding Society* was accepted for presentation in Technical Session 16: Disaster Management. Mr. Allred will also be participating in a workshop on Mutual Recognition.

Mr. Allred will be attending in his capacity as Vice-President Elect of FIG but is not eligible for FIG funding until January 1, 2005 when his term actually starts.

Canada will be submitting a bid to host the FIG Congress in 2010. Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver are currently in the running for the Canadian venue for this bid.

The terms of reference for the Ambassadors Reserve Fund are as follows:

- The Ambassadors Reserve Fund shall be used to reimburse members of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association who are either:
 - (1) acknowledged delegates of international organizations or
 - (2) invited speakers or participants at conferences or meetings outside of Alberta.
- The fund shall be used to reimburse (in whole or in part) the delegate's reasonable travel, lodging and meal costs and registration fees. The fund shall not be used to reimburse expenses of the delegate's spouse.

- Expenditures from this fund must be approved by Council in advance of the date of the conference. Every request for use of this fund must receive unanimous approval, in lieu of which it will be referred to the next meeting of Council, at which time, a simple majority shall carry.

Council appreciated receiving member comments on the application following first reading.

Ambassadors Reserve Fund Clarification

Council directed the Executive Committee to review the Ambassadors Reserve Fund policy and fund balance and make recommendations to Council.

Council felt that the current policy needed to be clarified after three applications to use the Ambassadors Reserve Fund from two different members totaling a maximum of \$12,560 were received in the last year. It should be noted that expense claim and receipts were submitted, the actual expenditure from the fund was less than the maximum approved by Council.

Adverse Possession

Council received a letter from the Hon. David Coumts, Minister of Government Services, indicating that Alberta Government Services has not received any official request for legislative amendments dealing with the concept of adverse possession at this time but that, should a proposal for this or any other legislative amendments arise, the department would ask the Alberta Land Surveyors Association to participate in any stakeholder input.

The Association informed the Government of Alberta that the ALSA is reviewing the principles of adverse possession and may wish to submit a paper on any government review of the application of adverse possession. This issue arose out of the motion made under new business at the 2004 AGM.

Vice-Chairs

Council approved the appointment of the following vice-chairs:

It was MOVED by Mr. Pals that the Executive Committee recommend to Council that the list of vice-chairs be approved:

Convention & Social *J. Thistle*
Editorial Board *F. Cheng*
Future of the
Association Ad Hoc .. *A. Amundrud*
Historical & Biographical . *A. Main*
Legislation Ad Hoc ... *J. VanBerkel*
Practice Review Board . *D. Wiberg*
Professional Development *A. Miles*
Public Relations *L. Rodney*
RPR Ad Hoc *I. Douglas*
Registration *C. Petersen*
Section 9 Ad Hoc *D. Thomson*
Standards *K. Swabey*

Short Cuts

Council recommended to the Hon. Clint Dunford, Minister of Human Resources & Employment, that Lawrence Kluthe be reappointed public member on the Association Council. Mr. Kluthe was appointed public member one year ago.

Bernard Lamarche has been appointed a second ALSA Council liaison to ASSMT. David Marquardt is the other ALSA-ASSMT liaison.

The Public Relations Committee will not be working with Fort Edmonton Park or Calgary Heritage Park on a provincial centennial project as those facilities have other priorities at the present time. The Public Relations Committee will, however, remain in contact with them as part of their ongoing terms of reference.

Council unanimously approved the lease of a new photocopier.

Council agreed to publish a letter from Tim Grusie, Director of Survey Registrations, with *Council Report* concerning a change to the LTO Procedures Manual. The amendment does not change the plan preparation requirements but is to assist in avoiding a rejection for lack of proper documentation.

The Executive Director was asked to investigate the possibility of holding meetings by videoconferencing and report back to Council.