



Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

October 28, 2004

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on October 28, 2004 in Calgary. Here is a summary of their discussions.

From the Registrar

Council approved **Vision Geomatics Inc.** as a surveyor's corporation. Jason Paziuk will be the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for the supervision, direction and control of the practice.

Council approved an application from **Leanne James** to be exempt from the provisions of the Association's mandatory insurance bylaw as Ms. James is employed full-time by the City of Calgary and is not engaged in the practice of surveying for any client other than her employer. Ms. James passed her qualifying examination in early October.

AGM Stabilization Fund

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

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 event 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 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.

At second reading, Council amended the motion as presented at first reading by adding the words "up to." As the amendment did not change the intent of the motion, it will not come back to Council for another reading.

2007-2009 Annual General Meetings

Council approved holding the 2007 and 2008 annual general meetings at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise. Chateau Lake Louise recently opened expanded conference centre facilities.

Council approved holding the Association's centennial AGM in 2009 at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel. The Banff Springs Hotel has enough conference centre space to hold the type of events that will be planned for the big event.

The 2005 and 2006 annual general meetings will be at the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge.

Five Year Public Relations Plan Tabled

Council tabled a motion from the Public Relations Committee to retain Rose Country Communications to develop a new five-year public relations plan for the Association at a cost of \$15,000.

The intent of the recommendation was to develop a new plan based on the polling results of the membership, the general public and client groups. The Public Relations Committee hoped to have the plan available by January when the budget for 2005-2006 will be put forward.

Council requested an analysis of the polling results and that a presentation be made based on those results. Council also noted that the Future of the Association Ad Hoc Committee has several items on its terms of reference which may lead to recommendations that could affect the direction of the Association's public relations

efforts. Council wanted to learn when the Future of the Association Ad Hoc Committee may have recommendations for Council.

Stopping House Displays

Council unanimously approved funds to purchase ten stopping house displays from Rose Country Communications for the sum of \$7,666 plus GST with funds from the ALSA Provincial Centennial Fund.

Council asked the Public Relations Committee to review the text and graphics one more time before proceeding with printing the displays.

The intent is to put up the survey display in the seven stopping houses around the province. Alberta Transportation has already approved them and is willing to put them up. The display would be made out of a material that is durable and resistant to vandalism.

The display includes a series of pictures showing how surveying has progressed and highlights a number of accomplishments by surveyors over the last 100 years.

The idea for the display started in 2001 and was suggested by then president Ken Allred. It thought there would be some way to tie in the provincial relief maps in the stopping houses with land surveying and the Alberta township system and that this be a provincial centennial project.

Horizontal Accuracy

Council accepted a recommendation from the Standards Committee that the sixth bullet in Part C, Section 1.5 of the Manual of Standard Practice be deleted and that it be considered a housekeeping matter.

The bullet point reads "a minimum of two benchmarks with published elevations should be used and the result related to the appropriate vertical



datum as specified in Part D, Section 1.2” but was listed in the section for horizontal accuracy. The same statement is duplicated in the section for vertical accuracy and will remain.

The bullet was mistakenly inserted when this section of the Manual of Standard Practice was amended in 1999.

Content Management System

Council gave first reading to a proposal to hire a firm to develop a content management system which would allow for the elimination of duplicate processes by the ALSA staff.

Once in effect, the content management system would allow members to update their member profile and change their addresses, phone numbers and so on. Members could only change specific designated fields.

Once in effect, the content management system would also allow members to register for seminars and regional meetings online and order posts online. Members can do this now, however, the Association would add the ability for members to pay online with a Visa card using secured means. When members register online, the Association’s seminar or regional meeting or post order database would be automatically updated. This would eliminate routine processing of information.

It was MOVED by Mr. Halliday, seconded by Mr. Pals, that the Content Management Proposal be approved at a cost of a maximum of \$21,500 and that the funds come from the Technology Transfer & Education Fund.

Motion Carried

Council passed the motion but it did not receive unanimous approval so it will come back to the December 9 Council meeting for second reading. Council asked for more information on how the content management system would save money and be integrated into the Association’s accounting software. Members are encouraged to comment before the second reading of the motion.

Ambassadors Reserve Fund Clarification

Council gave first reading to a motion to clarify the intent of the Ambassadors Reserve Fund.

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

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. Council also received feedback from a member on publication of papers at these conferences in *ALS News*.

The following statement would be added to the Ambassadors Reserve Fund policy:

At the start of each fiscal year, the Executive Committee shall examine the fund and set the balance at \$10,000. Council shall not approve more than \$10,000 in applications in any one fiscal year. Council may approve applications for members to attend a meeting or conference in a future fiscal year, no more than two years in advance, but the approval limit shall apply to the current fiscal year. Therefore, the Association’s financial statements may show more than \$10,000 in expenditures in a given fiscal year.

And the following sentence in the policy would be amended to read:

A complete report, including any papers presented, shall be provided to ALSA Council within 60 days of completion of the conference.

The current policy is on the Association’s website at www.alsa.ab.ca. As this is a policy motion, it will require two readings of Council. Members are encouraged to provide comments to the Association before the December 9 Council meeting.

Short Cuts

Lawrence Kluthe was reappointed public member on Council by the Hon. Clint Dunford, Minister of Human Resources & Employment.

Stephen Van Berkel has been appointed to the Historical & Biographical Committee by Council. Tony Melton has resigned from the Public Relations Committee.

Council accepted a recommendation from the Convention & Social Committee to keep the format for the annual ALSA golf tournament as is.

As mentioned in the last *Council Report*, Council received a proposal from the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors to manage a new ACLS-western provinces board of examiners. A meeting with the other western provincial survey associations and ACLS will likely take place during the first two weeks of November.

Dates to Remember

December 9, 2004
ALSA Christmas Open House

December 24, 2004 to January 3, 2005
ALSA Office Closed for the Holiday Season
(the office will close at noon on December 24th and reopen on January 3, 2005)

April 21st to 23rd
ALSA AGM and Convention
Jasper Park Lodge