



# Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

March 1, 2005

*The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on March 1, 2005. Here is a summary of their discussions.*

## From the Registrar

Albert Shillingford is the ALSA's newest associate member. Mr. Shillingford currently works for Usher Canada and is a former Bahamas and Turks & Caicos land surveyor. Welcome!

Council approved a duplicate permit stamp for Alpine Land Surveys Limited. In accordance with section 61(5) of the Association's bylaws, "a surveyor's corporation or surveyor's partnership may apply to Council for one or more duplicate stamps to be issued to it."

Council approved Baseline Geomatics Group Ltd. as a surveyor's corporation. Vince Ziegler will be the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for the supervision, direction and control of the practice. Baseline Geomatics Ltd. will remain active as a surveyor's corporation to complete the present projects started under the old company.

Council approved an application that the registration of ISL Land Services Ltd. be cancelled. Mr. Alcock, the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for ISL Land Services Ltd., remains responsible for any outstanding projects of the surveyor's corporation.

## Part 2/Part 3 Monuments to the AGM

The membership will be asked to recommend to the Government of Alberta that the Surveys Act be amended by adding Section 39.1 to give governing status to Part 3 monuments placed at non-monumented Part 2 positions.

There will be a separate recommendation at the AGM to ask the Government of Alberta to amend Section 44 of the Surveys Act to give governing status to re-established Part 2 monuments and re-established Part 3 monuments placed at non-monumented Part 2 positions.

The proposed amendments to both of these sections and the rationale document for each are included in the AGM package which will be sent out soon.

## Grid Coordinates to the AGM

Council approved forwarding a recommendation to the AGM from the Standards Committee to add "*Grid [NAD83] co-ordinates must be shown on the plan or on a separate document registered along with the plan*" as Part D, Section 2.2.4 of the Manual of Standard Practice.

The Standards Committee stated in their rationale document that the coordinates shown and the coordinate datum used on delayed posting plans pursuant to Section 47 of the Surveys Act are not consistent from plan to plan. This could lead to confusion and or misinterpretation of the coordinate positions by other practitioners or other users of the coordinate data, possibly resulting in boundary uncertainties.

The intent of the motion is to provide guidance to the members of the Association in the preparation of this type of plan and to promote consistency in the coordinate systems and datum being used on the plans of survey.

Systematic Practice Review has found some Section 47 plans containing coordinates that are assumed, ground or other types that are not on the standard NAD83 grid coordinate systems that are normally used for surveys in Alberta.

## Separating the MSP into Two

Council approved putting Part E, Section 5 (Bulletin 38), Part E, Section 6 (Control Survey Standards & Specifications), Part E, Section 8 (History of Re-Establishing from Road Plans) and Part E, Section 9 (Commitment to Property Damage Mitigation) in a compendium to the Manual of Standard Practice. Council considered the move a housekeeping matter since it does not change the intent or wording of any sections in the Manual of Standard Practice.

In January 2003, Council passed a motion that the Standards Committee review the concept of restructuring the Manual of Standard Practice into two separate volumes. The motion was the result of the debate on putting the Commitment to Property Damage Mitigation document into the Manual of Standard Practice. Concern was expressed at that time about putting the document in the Manual of Standard Practice and whether it would increase liability. Some members had concerns that Systematic Practice Review would assess compliance against the Commitment to Property Damage Mitigation document.

## Putting the Compendium Online to the AGM

Council approved asking the membership to approve taking the compendium out of the Manual of Standard Practice and putting it on the ALSA website.

The Standards Committee felt that there is other reference material (besides these four items) that members should be aware of. They include Practice Review Board Interpretations, historical acts, old copies of Good Practice Resolutions and the Manual of Good Practice and various *ALS News* articles from over the



years. However, the Manual of Standard Practice binder would become too big and unmanageable if all of those documents were placed in it.

The Standards Committee, therefore, recommended that the ALSA website, in essence, become the compendium of resource material for Alberta Land Surveyors and their staffs. Alberta Land Surveyors would be encouraged to print the relevant reference information, depending on their type of practice, for inclusion in their own Manual of Standard Practice. A list of reference material, including the specific website address, may be included in the Manual of Standard Practice.

The four items making up the compendium are already on the ALSA website or the Director of Surveys' website. Some of the information contained in the current Manual of Standard Practice, such as Bulletin 38, is not complete as the reference is only to "See Bulletin 38." However, the ALSA website already contains a ZIP file of Bulletin 38 itself. The Control Survey Standards and Specifications section does not contain control survey standards but a link to the Director of Surveys' website.

### **New Board of Examiners**

Council endorsed the concept of a business case for a new ACLS-Western Provinces board of examiners.

This business case is the result of the work of a task force formed by representatives from the ABCLS, ALSA, SLSA, AMLS and ACLS. A total of three teleconference meetings were held.

The new board would consist of two members from each of the land surveyors associations in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors, and may include up to four representatives from academia as selected from time to time by the other board members. The executive will consist of a chair and a vice-chair, to be elected from among the members. The new bylaws would stipulate that a quorum would consist of at

least five representatives from member surveying associations.

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 registration committees would remain responsible for the setting of professional exams. The ACLS would assign responsibility for administration of its professional examinations (not setting and marking) to the new board.

The new board anticipates annual operational expenses totalling \$56,140 the first year and some start-up costs. The new board's operations would be financed by revenues from the conducting of examinations, registration of candidates and levies to the Associations. Because of its many years of experience in running common core syllabus exams, and since it will be very difficult for the new board to be able to function with part time inexperienced staff, the ACLS has offered to provide registrar services and administrative support.

The Task Force came up with a levy scheme that is based on a flat levy per active member and articling student. A modified formula is proposed for the ACLS.

The educational institution examination exemptions recognized by the WCBELS and the ACLS Board of Examiners at the time the new board begins its operations, will be recognized by the new board until those exemptions expire (not more than five years), or are removed for other reasons. Then it is up to the new board to deal with the renewal of those exemptions.

### **PRB Report**

Council welcomed PRB chairman Chad Finner to the Council meeting to provide an update on the activities of the Systematic Practice Review and the Practice Review Board over the last year.

Mr. Finner stated that Systematic Practice Review is at the end of Phase 2 and has begun Phase 3. There has been some transition during the past

year in that the Practice Review Board is still completing some reviews under Phase 2 and will be looking at three Phase 3 reviews at its next meeting. It was noted that Systematic Practice Review has been doing Phase 3 reviews for most of the past year.

Mr. Finner stated that over the last couple of years, the Board has encouraged practitioners to come in voluntarily while their review is being presented. He noted that five practitioners have chosen to attend their reviews. Mr. Finner stated that the Board feels that the one-on-one dialogue works well. The Board has also developed a guide sheet for anyone who wishes to attend to give them an idea of what is expected of the practitioner and the format of the review. He added that, when the Director of Practice Review initially sends the review to the practitioner, he suggests that the practitioner attend. Anonymity is still being preserved unless the practitioner chooses to attend.

Council asked whether there is still improvement in the survey practices in Alberta. Mr. Finner responded that there is a better atmosphere with practitioners generally and felt that Systematic Practice Review has been accepted by the profession at large. He added that Alberta has a good practice review program.

### **Sharing Practice Review Information**

The Association of Canada Lands Surveyors approached the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association with the suggestion that practice review files be exchanged between associations that have practice review. It was felt that, in the case where practitioners have multiple commissions, there would be economies of scale and increased efficiency. The exchange would only take place with the consent of the practitioners.

The ALSA Council responded that, while an exchange of information is usually positive, the Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association



feels it is not appropriate in this instance. Finding efficiencies in our respective processes is always important. However, in this case, it is more important that the ALSA provides a fair and independent assessment of practitioners.

### Calgary EDM Baseline

As reported in the January issue of *Council Report*, the Geodetic Control Unit of the Government of Alberta will no longer accept EDM calibration survey results from the Calgary baseline for conventional establishment and/or maintenance of ASCMs. Users will be required to calibrate at one of the other three EDM baselines in Alberta (Lethbridge, Edmonton or Grande Prairie), which are considered to be stable.

The Association expects to meet with the Geodetic Control Unit in April to discuss long-term options.

### Distance Learning

Council tabled a recommendation from the Professional Development Committee to ratify a memorandum of understanding on developing national learning opportunities for Canadian land surveyors.

The purpose of the memorandum of understanding is to enable a co-operative approach amongst member associations on matters of distance education and shared learning opportunities.

The motion was tabled to the next meeting of Council pending further information from CCLS on structure and budgets.

### Government News

President Al Nelson and Executive Director Brian Munday met with Ty Lund, Minister of Government Services (responsible for the Land Titles Act), to discuss the activities and initiatives of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association.

A meeting has been scheduled with Mike Cardinal, Minister of Human Resources & Employment, (responsible for the Land Surveyors Act) and a further meeting with David Coutts, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development (responsible for the Surveys Act) will be set as the schedules allow.

### CAPP NAD 83 Conversion

Council reviewed a letter from the CAPP Geomatics Committee regarding NAD83 conversion. It read in part: on February 2nd, 2005 the Alberta Executive Policy Group (EPG) for the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) approved the following recommendations presented to them by the CAPP Geomatics Committee. These recommendations are the result of a cost/benefit analysis done throughout 2004 which involved a CAPP member survey, a survey of data and application vendors and specific site technical testing at various oil companies. The scope of data under discussion is the Canadian Upstream petroleum industry.

- The oil industry should convert to use NAD83 as the reference datum for all data interchange in a coordinated manner and conversion should be complete by Q2, 2008.

- An authoritative master land grid (DLS) that is based on NAD83 is made available to industry and the conversion from NAD27 to NAD83 should be performed at the same time as the conversion to the master land grid.

### Section 9 Investigation

Council received a copy of a letter by the Director of Surveys sent to two practitioners involved in a Section 9 of the Surveys Act investigation. The Director has asked the practitioners to search for additional survey evidence and submit the findings and proposed resolution when ready.

In August 2004, Council notified the Director of Surveys that the position of a corner is in question as the result of an alleged error in a survey and asked that an investigation be conducted in accordance with Section 9 of the Surveys Act.

Council remains unaware of the identities of the practitioners involved.

### Short Cuts

The Canadian Council of Land Surveyors is considering a 5% fee increase. If approved, it will not affect the levy paid by Alberta Land Surveyors for 2005-2006.

Council referred the title insurance and Western Torrens Protocol position papers to the Executive Committee for amendment and recommendation to Council.

## Alberta Land Surveyors' Association Annual General Meeting and Convention

April 21 to 23, 2005  
Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge

Deadline for hotel registration: *March 20th*  
Early Bird Draw: *April 1st*