



# Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

August 25, 2005

*The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on August 25, 2005. Here is a summary of their discussions.*

## From the Registrar

Council approved an application from Syd Loeppky to be exempted from the provisions of the mandatory insurance bylaw as he is not currently engaging in the practice of surveying in Alberta. Mr. Loeppky is with the Beiramar Group in Calgary.

Ed Salmon's application to be exempted from the provisions of the professional liability insurance bylaw was approved. Mr. Salmon recently accepted employment with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

## 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, 2005, the Association had a net increase in member equity of \$183,000 or 9% of net assets. The increase was due to the continuing strong iron post and marker post sales in 2004-2005 as well as a rebound in the Association's investments.

The increase in member equity was transferred to reserve funds which needed to be topped up and the remainder was transferred to the Financial Stabilization Fund.

The complete review engagement report is available on the Association's website at [www.alsa.ab.ca/agmcrreports/050430reviewengagement.pdf](http://www.alsa.ab.ca/agmcrreports/050430reviewengagement.pdf).

## Budgeting Post Sales

Council gave second and final reading to rescinding Policy 2002.05.003 which stated that "the annual budget for iron post and marker post revenue shall be established by averaging the

previous four years actual revenues for iron post and marker post sales."

This policy has not been replaced with a formal policy for budgeting iron post and marker post sales. Instead, Council will use forecasts for provincial economic indicators such as housing starts and the consumer price index to project iron post and marker post sales. No one provincial economic indicator correlates that well with past post sales so a blended approach was felt to be the best.

Council's review of this issue is a result of the new business motion passed by the membership at the 2005 AGM.

## Christmas Reception

Council gave second and final reading to hosting a Christmas reception in Calgary on December 8, 2005 at a cost not to exceed \$6,500. A Christmas reception was not included in the budget for 2005-2006 so extraordinary budget approval was required. Details on the reception will be announced soon.

## Policy Manual Amendments

Council gave second and final reading to minor amendments to the ALSA policy manual as discussed at the May 26 Steering Committee meeting. The Steering Committee consists of Council and all committee chairs. The minor amendments include changing several references from the Executive Committee to Council and changing the number of years that financial records must be kept from seven to eight.

## Calgary EDM Calibration Baseline

A questionnaire has been sent to Calgary area Alberta Land Surveyors regarding their opinions on the Calgary EDM calibration baseline. The

deadline for responses is September 14. Your input is vital.

The Calgary Electronic Distance Measurement (EDM) calibration baseline was established in the mid-70s by the Government of Alberta in support of the various municipal survey control programs. Starting in 1985, regular re-observation of the Calgary baseline was undertaken to verify the inter-pillar distances and to detect pillar movement. Since this time, the Calgary baseline has increasingly been unstable with pillar movement greater than 1 mm for at least four of the eight pillars. Other issues at the baseline include lack of inter-visibility to pillar 7, off-line alignment of pillar 8, and measurement influences due to fences and high voltage electrical boxes.

In April of 2005, the Director of Surveys (DOS) office (Mike Michaud, Ron Cote, and Geoff Banham) met with the ALSA executive (Al Nelson, Stephen Green, and Brian Munday) to discuss the 2003 re-observation results and any further actions that should be taken. From this discussion, the DOS office was tasked with developing a short questionnaire to determine the value of the Calgary EDM calibration baseline to Calgary members and use it to help direct any further steps to be taken.

## Alberta Centennial

Council unanimously approved \$2,500 from the Association's Provincial Centennial Fund for the ALSA display at the Legislature on September 1 as part of the day's overall festivities.

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association display will consist of one main display will be a weather-proof board chronicling over one hundred years of surveying and measuring in Alberta. This is the same display board that is in the provincial rest stops



throughout Alberta. The same diary that appeared in *ALS News* will be another display board.

The display will be set up from 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Other activities at the Legislature that day include: RCMP Musical Ride horses, the RCMP Ceremonial Troop, re-enactments, music and fireworks.

It is free to the public and you are invited to attend. Thanks to the ALSA volunteers who will be at our display that day.

### **Safety Ad Hoc Committee**

Council established a safety ad hoc committee to deal with safe work practices, safety legislation, certifications and incidents of concern to Alberta Land Surveyors and their personnel for the safety of all involved. The intent is to encourage information sharing and act as a clearing house.

The formal terms of reference are:

1. Discuss safe work practices, safety legislation, certifications and incidents of concern to Alberta Land Surveyors and their personnel.
2. Communicate the discussions to practitioners and the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association, through Council.
3. Liaise with WCB, Occupational Health & Safety and other safety authorities and how safety practices are administered by those authorities.
4. Make recommendations to Council.

The committee is open to safety coordinators employed by practitioners. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in serving on this ad hoc committee, please contact the ALSA office at [info@alsa.ab.ca](mailto:info@alsa.ab.ca).

The first meeting should take place in October.

### **Use of Trade Names**

Council gave first reading to an Association policy regarding the use of trade names.

Some sole practitioners use a trade name (such as John Doe Surveys) in promoting their survey practice. In

accordance with the Land Surveyors Act, Council must approve the name of a surveyor's corporation but the same requirement has not applied to sole practitioners. The proposed policy would require practitioners who wish to use a trade name to have it approved by Council in much the same manner as surveyor's corporations.

The proposed policy reads: "Practitioners who wish to use a trade name must have the name approved by Council. The practitioner must provide proof of declaration of trade name as required under the Alberta Partnership Act before Council approves the use of the trade name. No permit stamp shall be issued to a practitioner using a trade name. The practitioner's correspondence shall clearly indicate the name of the ALS or ALSs responsible for the practice."

Section 110 of the Partnership Act reads (in part) that "each person who...some name or designation other than the person's own, or the person's own name with the addition of 'and company' or some other word or phrase indicating a plurality of members in the firm shall sign and file with the Registrar a declaration in writing of the fact."

All members are encouraged to comment on the policy before second reading on September 29.

### **Additional Committee Volunteers and Vice-Chairs**

Council that appointed the following vice-chairs to the appropriate committees: Rob Radovanovic (Future of the Association), Les Frederick (Historical & Biographical), Andrew Miles (Professional Development), Damian Gillis (Public Relations) and Fred Cheng (Registration). More ALSA committees will need to make vice-chair recommendations to Council for September.

Council appointed Art Miller and Javier Siu to the Public Relations Committee and accepted Mike Frewell's resignation from the Public Relations Committee with regret.

ALSA members can still volunteer for Association committees. It is not too late!

### **Unauthorized Practice**

From time to time, the Association becomes aware of situations where non-land surveyors approach an Alberta Land Surveyor to sign a plan based on the fieldwork and client contact made by the non-land surveyor. The Alberta Land Surveyor usually receives some remuneration for providing his signature.

Alberta Land Surveyors should be familiar with the "Technical Services Sub-contracting" section of the Manual of Standard Practice and their responsibilities under the Code of Ethics regulation if considering such an arrangement.

## **Volunteers Needed**

### **Safety Ad Hoc Committee**

Email: [munday@alsa.ab.ca](mailto:munday@alsa.ab.ca)

## **Dates to Remember**

**September 1, 2005**

Alberta Centennial Celebration  
Legislature Grounds  
ALSA display: 10:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m.

**December 8, 2005**

ALSA Christmas Reception (Calgary)

## **Regional Meetings**

**Grande Prairie**  
September 20, 2005

**Calgary**  
September 27, 2005

**Edmonton**  
September 29, 2005