



Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

November 3, 2005

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on November 3, 2005. Here is a summary of their discussions.

Price of Posts Increasing

Council approved entering into a new two-year contract with Russel Metals for them to supply iron posts and marker posts. The new contract includes an increase in price for the first time since 1995.

The new price to the membership will increase to \$6.75 per post (or \$67.50 per bundle of ten). The price of marker posts to the membership will increase to \$10 per post (or \$50 per kit of five).

The price increase will take effect May 1, 2006.

Land Titles Act

Council has asked the Legislation Ad Hoc Committee review the Land Titles Act for possible submission to the government on possible amendments to the Act.

President Stephen Green and Council Member Murray Young met with Hon. Ty Lund, Minister of Government Services, to discuss concerns about caveats. See Mr. Young's Councillor's Forum article in the September 2005 issue of *ALS News*.

If there are any possible amendments to the Land Titles Act that you would like the ALSA Legislation Ad Hoc Committee to consider, please contact the Association office or email Dawn Phelan at phelan@alsa.ab.ca.

Monumentation on Crown Land Dispositions

Council has asked the Oil & Gas Ad Hoc Committee to develop a position on Alberta Sustainable Resource Development's plans for full monumen-

tation of crown land dispositions, including its implications regarding time, cost and other factors, and develop a position on access to mapping and digital data from SRD for recommendation back to Council

The Director of Surveys has indicated that it is his vision that he would like to move to full monumentation using statutory iron posts for crown land dispositions. The Director has indicated that he would like, in the future, for the Association to address the monumentation standards for LOCs and the requirement/need to change the monumentation type.

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers has become aware of this issue and has asked the Association for its position.

Cadastral Research Fund

Council gave first reading to a proposal for the ALSA to establish a fund in the amount of \$90,000 to fund a cadastral research program at the University of Calgary. The topics which would be proposed to be researched would be presented to Council for acceptance prior to any research proceeding. Any research carried out would be reported annually to the membership at the AGM. The maximum annual expenditures from the fund would be capped at \$30,000.

The University of Calgary proposed the research program with the idea that it would be used to support specific projects that are high quality, innovative and of broad application and relevance to the ALSA and its members.

The projects would have a three-year scope and would involve the training of at least one graduate student (MSc or PhD).

This list is not restrictive and other areas (proposed by ALSA or researchers) are expected:

- The use of multi-media data and information systems as evidence of land rights and boundaries
- Evaluating the effectiveness of cadastral systems
- The development of an integrated digital cadastral database for Canada
- Comparative analyses of case law, legislation, dispute resolution processes and survey practice.

The University of Calgary expects that the ALSA support would create a mutually beneficial relationship whereby surveying companies would be able to collectively invest in the investigation of important issues facing this sector, and faculty members would also benefit through support of their research and the development of the next generation of cadastral researchers.

New Five-Year Public Relations Plan

Council approved the Association's new five-year public relations plan as presented by the Public Relations Committee.

It is an ambitious and aggressive plan that was developed based on the polling of the membership and stakeholders. The plan particularly focuses on encouraging students at all levels to pursue a career as a land surveyor.

This is the third five-year public relations plan and Rose Country Communications provided the framework for the Committee's plan.

The plan is available on the Association's website at www.alsa.ab.ca/pdf/prplan.pdf



Safety Committee

Council approved revised terms of reference for the new Safety Committee. The term, “ad hoc” was also removed from their official title. The revised terms of reference now reads: *On an ongoing basis, the Committee shall:*

1. *Discuss and promote 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, other industry associations, and other safety authorities and how safety practices are administered by those authorities.*
4. *Make recommendations to Council relating to Occupation Health & Safety initiatives.*
5. *Provide an open exchange of information governing Occupation Health & Safety issue and best practices.*

Council also asked the Safety Committee to consider the issue of maximum working hours for survey crews. Section 16 of the Employment Standards Act which states, “An employee’s hours of work must be confined within a period of twelve consecutive hours in any one work day, unless

- (a) an accident occurs, urgent work is necessary to a plant or machinery or other unforeseeable or unpreventable circumstances occur, or
- (b) the Director issues a permit authorizing extended hours of work.”

Section 16(2) goes on to state that, “If hours of work have to be extended, they are to be increased only to the extent necessary to avoid serious interference with the ordinary work of a business, undertaking or other activity.”

Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association continues to work with the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors as well as the survey associations in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba to establish a new board of examiners to replace the Western Canadian Board of Examiners.

The new board will be known as the Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors and the new board is expected to be in place in early 2006. At this time, the bylaws, the application for incorporation and the affidavit are being finalized for submission to Corporations Canada.

The Law and Practice of Land Surveying

Council approved the recommendation from the Editorial Board that the publication of “The Law and Practice of Land Surveying in Alberta” be made available on the ALSA website, at no charge, that a custom binder and custom binder with printed pages be made available on a cost recovery basis.

“The Law and Practice of Land Surveying in Alberta” is designed for students in surveying in Alberta and as a reference for Alberta Land Surveyors. It includes material on the surveying profession in Alberta, Alberta-based court cases affecting Alberta Land Surveyors, commentary on evidence assessment and evaluation and articles on land registration.

The material is expected to be ready in 2006.

Curator Appointed – Help Needed

Executive Director Brian Munday was appointed curator of the Association’s historical collection and archive for the purposes of Council policy 2003.010.010.

The Executive Director will be responsible for the day-to-day matters concerning the collection and, in particular, receiving objects for the col-

lection, overseeing the loan of objects to museums and others, and ensuring the objects are properly secured.

The Historical & Biographical Committee is seeking volunteers! Volunteers in the Edmonton area are needed to informally meet in the Association office to catalogue the objects, carry out some research on them, maintain and repair the objects as needed. There may be workshops or seminars available for those interested.

You wish to be a part of this group and help preserve a part of survey history, please contact Executive Director Brian Munday at 780-429-8805.

Abbreviations for Railway Plans

Council accepted the Standards Committee recommendation that no further action be taken on this item. Council had asked the Standards Committee to compile a list of abbreviations for railway plans for possible inclusion in the Manual of Standard Practice. After considerable research, the Standards Committee came across only one abbreviation on one plan that was not already covered in the Land Titles Office Procedures Manual.

The one abbreviation was “TST” which was thought to mean “total subtangent” or “tangent to subtangent.”

Calgary EDM Calibration Baseline

Council will meet with the Director of Surveys in December at the Association’s annual liaison meeting with the Director of Surveys, Land Titles and the Metis Settlements Land Registry, to discuss the Calgary EDM calibration baseline. In response to the questionnaire sent earlier this year, there was unanimous support for the establishment of a new baseline in Calgary although there were, of course, concerns about the cost.



Women in Surveying

The Association will help sponsor a promotional calendar called "Women in Surveying" that is being created by the Geomatics Engineering Students Society of the University of Calgary. The calendar features Geomatics Engineering students in the photographs. Beside each photograph will be a personal description of what the students enjoy about geomatics with a description of the equipment they are using. The Society plans to distribute it to high school students and first-year engineering students to promote interest in Geomatics Engineering.

Committee Volunteers and Vice-Chairs

Council appointed John Landry as vice-chair of the Standards Committee and Darrell Florence as vice-chair of the Safety Committee.

Council accepted Terry Ingraham's resignation from the Standards Committee with regret and appointed Blaine Benson to the Safety Committee.

Council appointed Stephen Green to represent the Association on the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers Geomatics Committee and Resource Access Committee. The Geomatics Group deals with issues such as the conversion from NAD27

to NAD83 while the Resource Access Committee deals with issues such as the SRD approvals process and the Surface Landman Certification Process.

Council appointed Syd Loeppky and Bob Wallace to represent the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association in a meeting with the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to discuss CMHC including title-related protection for homebuyers and lenders. The meeting will discuss the Association's perspective on existing and potential best practices with regards to conveyancing practices and title protection. The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association is the only organization that CMHC is meeting with in Alberta.

Short Cuts

Lawrence Kluthe has been reappointed the public member on Council by the Minister of Human Resources & Employment.

Recent media reports have raised questions about the location of the Alberta-Saskatchewan border. The Association's response to these reports has been posted on the main page of the Association's website. There is also an audio clip of Executive Director Brian Munday's radio interview with talk show host Dave Rutherford.

The Architects Act is being amended and the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association has been asked to comment. The proposed amendments would fully implement AAA's continuing competence requirement.

The Manual of Standard Practice has been updated to replace "Guide 56" with "Directive 056" in Part D, Section 5.6.2 and Part 3, Definitions (Surface Improvement). The revised Manual of Standard Practice has been posted on the Association's website.

The Association reaffirmed its support of the Real Estate Transaction Committee (RETC). The RETC consists of representatives from associations, businesses and government involved in any way with real estate.

Practitioners are reminded that if they wish to use the ALSA logo, they must provide a draft mock-up of how the logo will be placed on their stationery for approval by the Executive Committee.

Council will invite representatives from SAIT to come to the December 8 meeting to make a short presentation to update Council on what is new at the school and the Geomatics Engineering Technology program.

Help Wanted

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