



Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

December 8, 2005

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on December 8, 2005. Here is a summary of their discussions.

From the Registrar

Council approved a request to cancel IBIWN Surveys Inc. as a surveyor's corporation effective January 1, 2006. Council then approved the request by IBI Geomatics Inc. to establish a branch office in Calgary effective January 1, 2006. Brian Wetter, ALS will be responsible for the supervision direction and control of the branch office.

Council approved Navland Geomatics Inc. as a surveyor's corporation. David Higgins, ALS and Jim Harland, ALS will be the Alberta Land Surveyors associated with the practice.

Council approved Halma Surveys as a trade name for William Halma, ALS, pursuant to Council's recently established policy.

Council approved the application for retired status from D. Rae Sutherland, ALS subject to all ongoing jobs being completed or that all ongoing jobs are assumed by a practicing Alberta Land Surveyor. Bernie Rachansky, ALS, has agreed to carry on the practice of land surveying at Pro-Site Surveys Inc. for a maximum term of sixty days.

The Association is pleased to welcome Cameron Gartner as an associate member. Mr. Gartner is a graduate of SAIT's Engineering Design and Drafting Technology program and is employed with All-Can.

The Education of Land Surveyors

Council welcomed SAIT's Larry Rosia, Dean of Construction, and Paul Delorme, Program Coordinator of

Civil Engineering Technology to the meeting.

SAIT put forward a proposal to create four online courses to help WCBE candidates pass selected examinations at a total cost of \$120,000 and 12 to 18 months to complete.

SAIT indicated that it would like to work with the ALSA to increase the number of Alberta Land Surveyors and help improve the success rate of those WCBE candidates who must pass one or more of the challenge examinations. SAIT's online courses would not be courses for credit or a replacement for the WCBE exams but a method to help WCBE candidates study and prepare for the exams. The online courses may include test bank examples, instructional video clips and a chat room.

Council agreed that it is important to look at the education of land surveyors in a broad manner in order to ensure that the Association's funding of these types of initiatives is done in a coordinated, logical and consistent manner. The Executive Committee has been asked to make recommendations back to Council.

Cadastral Research Fund

Council tabled a motion to give second reading to a proposal to establish a fund in the amount of \$90,000 to fund a cadastral research program at the University of Calgary. They 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).

Scholarships

Council approved a recommendation from the Public Relations Committee

to make some minor amendments to the terms of reference of existing scholarships offered by the ALSA. The amendments involved updating the current program requirements. Council also directed the Public Relations Committee to consider other scholarships on a Canada-wide basis.

Bylaw Amendments to the AGM

Council approved sending proposed bylaw amendments to the annual general meeting for consideration by the membership. This serves as notice from the Registrar to amend the bylaws in accordance with section 68(3) of the bylaws.

The proposed bylaw amendments are intended to be minor in nature and reflect current practices and changes in technology.

The proposed bylaw amendments are attached to this issue of *Council Report*.

Government Relations

The Director of Surveys has agreed to attend future ALSA Council meetings. It is expected that this will allow issues to come forward quicker and get resolved on a more timely basis. One of the first items to be discussed will likely be proposed revisions to the guidelines regarding the intent and application of Section 9 of the Surveys Act (See January 1991 issue of *ALS News*.) The Director of Surveys regularly attends the Standards Committee meetings and the Association has an annual liaison meeting with the Director, Land Titles and the Metis Settlements Land Registry.

Council had asked the Oil & Gas Ad Hoc Committee to develop a position on Alberta Sustainable Resource Development's plans for full monumentation of crown land dispo-



sitions, 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.

Council received the Oil & Gas Ad Hoc Committee's report and Council agreed to ask the Director of Surveys for his written position on the full monumentation of crown land dispositions based on the questions and issues raised by the Ad Hoc Committee.

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

Graduate Studies Scholarship

Congratulations to Meredith Hutchison of the University of New Brunswick, the recipient of the Association's 2005 Graduate Studies Scholarship. Ms. Hutchison is "examining marine aquaculture through a property rights lens. As a relatively new industry in Canada, aquaculture has become a source of some conflict, firstly because of its unique land tenure scenario, and secondly due to misinformation and a lack of transparency in communicating with stakeholders. Aquaculture is a private interest with definable boundaries. However, it operates in public space." Ms. Hutchison's faculty advisor is Dr. Sue Nichols. The scholarship is \$5,000.

Alberta's Promise

Council will apply to join Alberta's Promise.

Alberta's Promise is a movement to inspire communities, businesses, service clubs, foundations and agencies to work together to direct more resources to benefit our children and youth.

The ALSA would join Alberta's Promise as a "promise builder" in recognition of the Association's work with youth in the Science-in-a-Crate project and volunteering at Scout jamborees.

Alberta's Promise celebrates successes and recognizes partnerships to increase awareness and motivate all Albertans on the importance of investing in Alberta's children and youth.

Alberta's Promise is not involved in fund development nor does Alberta's Promise deliver programs to children and youth. Alberta's Promise does not solicit nor direct funds or make direct matches between partners.

The Future of the ALSA

The Future of the Association Ad Hoc Committee presented seven recommendations to Council. The recommendations included developing a program of mentorship, creating a canned presentation for high school students and suggesting priority items for the public relations plan.

Council requested that the Future of the Association Ad Hoc Committee refine and provide more detail on their recommendations and then represent them to Council.

Council also asked the Future of the Association Ad Hoc Committee to review the concept and need for the ALSA to update its brand. Branding is the establishment of an identity that creates a positive image of a product, service or organization. It involves developing and consistently communicating a clear set of characteristics to which customers can identify and relate to. If the message is meaningful, it will stick in a customer's mind and will be there when there is a need to fill.

Committee Membership

Bryan Bates was appointed vice-chairman of the Registration Committee, replacing newly appointed Director of Practice Review, Fred Cheng.

Council accepted, with regret, Don George's resignation from the Legislation Ad Hoc Committee.

Short Cuts

Since the last meeting of Council, members of the Oil & Gas Ad Hoc Committee met with the EUB to learn more about a pilot project being undertaken by Crape Geomatics and one of their clients. The Association also met with representatives of CMHC to discuss their title insurance initiative.

Council approved the presentation of awards and honours. The presentations will be made during the Awards Lunch on Thursday April 20th at the annual general meeting. It is not too late to still nominate someone for the Professional Recognition Award, Outstanding Service Award or the Geomatics Award of Excellence.

Council approved forwarding a recommendation from the Practice Review Board that the Standards Committee review the Manual of Standard Practice in regards to GPS surveys and, in particular, Part C, Sections 1.2, 2.4 and 4.4 to reflect current technology and practices. For further information, see Bernie Jess' Guardpost article in the upcoming issue of *ALS News*.

Council unanimously approved reprinting 25,000 *Understanding Easements and Rights-of-Way* brochures at a cost of \$6,215 with funds to come from the Public Relations & Communications Fund.