



Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

January 26, 2006

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on January 26, 2006. Here is a summary of their discussions.

From the Registrar

Council approved a request from Norm Mattson to be placed on the retired member register.

Council approved Prism Surveys as a trade name for Walter Malainey, ALS pursuant to Council's recently established policy.

Council approved the application to cancel Pro-Site Surveys Inc. as a surveyor's corporation. Bernie Rachansky, ALS and Alberta Surveying Services Ltd. has agreed to assume full responsibility for any outstanding land surveying work and complete any unfinished projects of Pro-Site Surveys Inc. Mr. D. Rae Sutherland has now been placed on the retired member register.

Council approved the application to cancel Baseline Geomatics Ltd (P154) as a surveyor's corporation. Baseline Geomatics Group Ltd (P227) was established as surveyor's corporation in April 2004.

Council approved the application to change the name of Eclipse Planning, Geomatics and Engineering to Eclipse Geomatics & Engineering Ltd. The permit number remains the same.

2006-2007 Budget

Council approved the 2006-2007 budget for the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association. Highlights of the 2006-2007 budget, which takes effect May, include:

- No increase in member dues;
- \$10,000 transferred from the AGM Stabilization Fund to ALSA revenues;

- Post sales budgeted based on an average of the four year average of post sales to consumer price index, employment, and housing start ratios;
- Funds for the library increased to obtain current texts required by the board of examiners and educational institutions;
- Scholarships includes \$2,500 for scholarships to be approved later by Council based on the recommendation of the Public Relations Committee;
- Public Relations Committee funding increased to reflect greater activities outlined in the new public relations plan;
- Sharon Stecyk to reduce her time to three days per week. One full-time person to be hired to handle additional administrative and other ALSA responsibilities.

Director of Surveys

Mike Michaud and Ron Cote attended the Council meeting. The Director of Surveys has been invited to all future Council meetings in an effort to ensure that there is strong and ongoing communication between the Association and the Director of Surveys office. At this first meeting, the following items were discussed:

- The Association sent a letter to the Director of Surveys requesting that the Government of Alberta establish a new Calgary EDM calibration baseline. The Director of Surveys office is currently reviewing the letter.
- Council expressed concern with public land disposition "sketches" which appear to look like land surveys and show more detailed information than is normally shown on sketches. The Director of Surveys spoke with his staff about this issue.

- Council member Victor Hut represented the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association at a Public Lands meeting to discuss the initial requirements of a plan checking application. "The application is currently being considered as part of a new electronic submission process for oil and gas dispositions. The goal is to create an external application that enables surveyors to submit their digital plans/files and have them checked for common errors that delay the application submission process of their clients." Mr. Hut will continue to represent the ALSA at future meetings.
- Council has forwarded the issue of Section 47 plans to the Practice Review Board. There remains concern that Alberta Land Surveyors are not meeting the legislative requirements of Section 47 of the Surveys Act.
- The Oil & Gas Ad Hoc Committee has been asked to investigate the perception from the Director of Surveys that iron spikes and iron bars for dispositions are being ignored by Alberta Land Surveyors. The issue arose as a result of the Director's report to Council regarding full monumentation on public land dispositions.
- Council and the Director of Surveys discussed the intent and application of Section 9 of the Surveys Act and the role of the Association's new Boundary Resolution Program in the process.

Cadastral Research Fund

Council gave second and final 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 top-



ics 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 has proposed a research program that 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). Possible topics that may be proposed are listed below.

However, 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.

Volunteers Required

Council is seeking three Alberta Land Surveyors to serve on the newly-formed University Research Project Ad Hoc Committee.

The purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee is to work with the University of Calgary Department of Geomatics

Engineering to develop and discuss possible research subjects for the Cadastral Research Fund (see above).

If you are interested in serving on the Ad Hoc Committee, please contact Executive Director Brian Munday at munday@alsa.ab.ca or 1-800-665-2572.

David Thompson Bicentennials

Council gave unanimous approval to contributing \$5,000 to become a major sponsor of the David Thompson Bicentennial launch at Fort Edmonton Park.

The North American David Thompson Bicentennials is a three-year continent-wide public and private sector heritage awareness partnership. This partnership will commemorate the character and accomplishments of prominent trader, naturalist, surveyor and map-maker David Thompson as a means of examining our evolving collective relationship to place and history in North America over the past two hundred years.

The North American David Thompson Bicentennials will take place on a continent-wide basis between 2007 and 2009 inclusively. Follow-up regional commemorations are also being planned in association with specific bicentennials of David Thompson related events during the years 2010 and 2011.

Commemorations will take place anywhere in North America and England where individuals, cultural organizations, service clubs, communities, businesses, tourism operators, industries or national, provincial, state or aboriginal governments would like to reaffirm their region's history and future by exploring the evolution of our relationship to the North American continent since the fur trade.

Standards Committee Assignments

Several members contacted the Association expressing the opinion that the MSP Part E, Section 4, Standard Affidavits (Certification on Wellsite Plans) is not clear with respect to

whether the field work completion date or the surveying process completion date should be entered into this certification. It was felt that this confusion may lead to potential liability. Council has asked the Standards Committee to review this section of the Manual of Standard Practice and make recommendations back to Council.

Council asked the Standards Committee to review Part E Section 2 of the Manual of Standard Practice (natural boundaries) in regards to Section 89 of the Land Titles Act and consider if changes are required to the Manual of Standard Practice and/or Land Titles Office Procedures Manual in regards to change of a legal description.

Appointments

Andrew Miles will be the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association's representative on the CCLS Distance Education Steering Committee.

Council has sent a letter to Alberta Human Resources & Employment that Russ Barnes be reappointed public member on the Practice Review Board.

John Wallace has been appointed the Association's representative on the CAPP Resource Access Committee.

Council appointed Bob Conacher of Crape Geomatics to the Association's Safety Committee. Council also approved the appointment of Greg Murphy to the Safety Committee, replacing Curtis Henrie.

Short Cuts

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association continues to investigate allegations of unauthorized practice by non-Alberta Land Surveyors. A new telephone directory, called the PBC Business Finder, was published in Edmonton and contained the names of several non-Alberta Land Surveyors listed in the "Surveyors-Land" category. Each firm has been contacted and they have been asked to sign an undertaking confirming that



they are not engaging in the practice of land surveying and that they will have their name removed from the "Surveyors-Land" category.

The Western Canadian Board of Examiners approved three further exemptions for NAIT in addition to the three previously approved. The Western Canadian Board of Examiners will

be merging with the Canada Lands Surveyors Board of Examiners and will be known as the Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors.

Council has asked the Legislation Ad Hoc Committee to review the Municipal Government Act as it relates to the subdivision of land; and

review the Subdivision and Development Regulation and make recommendations back to Council.

Council approved an additional \$1,000 budget for the Professional Development Committee for the balance of the 2005-2006 fiscal year for a total allocation of \$4,500.



Alberta Land Surveyors' Association Annual General Meeting and Convention

**April 20 to 22, 2006
Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge**

**Deadline for hotel registration
March 19, 2006**

**Early Bird Draw
March 31, 2006**