

Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

March 2, 2006

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on March 2, 2006. Here is a summary of their discussions.

All candidates in the upcoming Council election were invited to attend this meeting.

From the Registrar

Council approved an application from All West Surveys Ltd. for a branch office in Medicine Hat. Real Comeau will be the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for the supervision, direction and control of the practice.

The Association is pleased to welcome Terry Wywal as its newest associate member. Mr. Wywal is a mapping technician with the Metis Settlements Land Registry and regularly liaises with the ALSA on Metis Settlements Land Registry issues.

Council approved an application to cancel The Cadastral Group Inc. as a surveyor's corporation subject to receipt of a letters from Messrs. Green and Holmlund confirming the cancellation date. Vice-President VandenBrink chaired this portion of the meeting.

Council then approved an application by Focus Surveys Limited Partnership for a branch office in Slave Lake subject to completion of the previous motion to cancel the permit of The Cadastral Group Inc.

Standards Recommendation #1 to the AGM

Council approved forwarding a recommendation from the Standards Committee to the AGM for consideration by the membership.

It is proposed that Part D, Section 5.1.2 (wellsite and public land dispositions) be revised to read as:

An Alberta Land Surveyor performing a survey for the location of wellsites and related facilities in unsurveyed territory shall locate and confirm sufficient monuments to allow the determination of the position of the wellsite and related facilities in relation to the theoretic section boundaries.

Monuments in this section refer to:

- *monuments placed in accordance with Part 2 and Part 3 of the Surveys Act or*
- *monuments shown on Wellsite Traverse Plans on file with the Director of Surveys Office or*
- *Alberta Survey Control Markers directly connected to Part 2 or Part 3 monuments that define the theoretic section boundaries.*

Theoretic section boundaries shall be determined using the Supplement to the Manual of Instructions for the Survey of Canada Lands.

Council asked the Standards Committee to review Part D, Section 5.1.2 of the Manual of Standard Practice as to whether or not ASCMs in unsurveyed territory when not tied to the survey fabric are considered good evidence. After reviewing the issue, the Standards Committee then requested that their terms of reference be expanded to include "review current practices involving the use of the ATS file and the blue book."

The intent of the recommendation is to discontinue the use of the ATS file in determining theoretical section boundaries in unsurveyed territory. Theoretic section boundaries are to be determined by direct ties to the appropriate baseline.

Standards Recommendation #2 to the AGM

Council approved forwarding a recommendation from the Standards Committee to the AGM for consideration by the membership.

It is proposed that Part D, Section 5.8.7 (public land dispositions except license of occupation) be revised to read: "***Make sufficient field measurements to ensure that there are no errors of layout or measurement and show same on plan.***" (New text in bold.)

Council requested the Standards Committee to review this section of the Manual of Standard Practice and make it consistent. The Director of Surveys had wanted the Standards Committee to review this item.

Corner Recordation

Council approved putting the corner recordation index online. The website address will be:

www.cornerrecordation.ab.ca

The Corner Recordation Index was created as an inexpensive easy-to-use vehicle to store and retrieve information about restored monuments. It will be free for Alberta Land Surveyors to upload and download information about restored monuments. It is not intended for re-established monuments.

A demonstration of the Index will be given at the annual general meeting.

Legislative Update

In this session of the Alberta Legislature, amendments to the Engineering Geological and Geophysical Professions Act (to allow registered professional technologists to sit on the APEGGA Council and vote on bylaw), the Architects Act (to clarify its governance of licensed interior designers) and the Land Titles Act (to implement changes to improve the detection of mortgage fraud).

The Association has been asked to comment on proposed amendments to the Land Agents Licensing Regulation and the Land Titles Act Name



Search Regulation. The ALSA has no concerns with either of the proposed amendments.

Minister Mike Cardinal has reappointed Russ Barnes as the public member on the ALSA's Practice Review Board.

The Government of Alberta has developed a long-term labour force development strategy, Building and Educating Tomorrow's Workforce. The ALSA will try to have the government make a presentation on this strategy at the upcoming AGM.

Director of Surveys

Mike Michaud and Geoff Banham attended the Council meeting. The Director of Surveys is invited to all Council meetings in an effort to ensure that there is strong and ongoing communication between the Association and the Director of Surveys office. 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 replied that the current Calgary EDM calibration baseline continues to support calibration of cadastral surveys and will likely do so for a number of years. They plan to continue monitoring the baseline and derive new interpillar distances every five years as part of its commitment to maintaining all the EDM calibration baselines in Alberta. Council has asked the Director of Surveys to request government funding for the establishment of a new baseline.
- The Director of Surveys has revised the "intent and application of Section 9 of the Surveys Act" document (available on the ALSA website in the Member Resources section under Research Papers www.alsa.ab.ca/papers/section9.htm) and the Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association has now endorsed it.

Height Modernization

Council has asked the Standards Committee to research the Canadian Height Modernization Project and make recommendations back to Council. CAPP had asked the ALSA what the impact of this initiative would be on oil & gas sector.

In short:

- a) All agencies (provincial/federal) recognize it is too costly to maintain the existing spirit levelling based vertical network;
- b) The current network is not compatible with GPS positioning;
- c) The current network has a number of systematic errors within it, with distortion up to one metre;
- d) A gravity-based geoid model as the datum will be compatible with GPS positioning, but doesn't require a dense monumented network;
- e) The provinces and the federal government have joined together to fund a consultant to address issues related to implementation of a gravity-based geoid model as the datum (i.e., who will this impact, needs for scientific tools to go between CGVD28 and the new datum, education and communications, cost/benefit, and development of a strategic plan to implement height modernization);
- f) The consultation started in November and will be completed at the end of April/early May.

Real Estate

Purchase Contract

According to the most recent newsletter from the Alberta Real Estate Association, Clause 4.3 of the Residential Purchase Contract was amended to allow the buyer's lawyer to protect the buyer's interest by refusing to proceed with registering the transfer of land until a real property report is produced in accordance with Clause 4.11.

Buried Facilities

Council referred a draft position paper on buried facilities back to the Standards Committee for further work.

The Standards Committee was asked to prepare the position paper because buried facilities have the potential to affect the safety of survey crews as well as the survey fabric in Alberta.

The draft position paper details possible changes to procedures for Alberta Land Surveyors, facility operators and land developers/designers. It also outlines possible changes to legislation and regulations and will likely make a number of recommendations to Council.

Trig-Alta

The Public Relations Committee recommended to Council that the Association establish a math contest similar to Trig-Star in the United States. The purpose of the contest, aimed at Grade 11 students who have completed the Grade 10 math curriculum, is to interest students in the activities and career opportunities available in geomatics. The Association has been working with the Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers Association and three retired math teachers to devise the contest.

It is estimated that the first-year costs to develop and run the contest would be approximately \$20,000; there would also be ongoing annual costs.

Council tabled the motion to approve the contest in order for more research to be done.

Distance Education

Council directed the President of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association to execute a memorandum of understanding on developing national distance learning opportunities for Canadian Land Surveyors.

The purpose of the agreement is to enable a cooperative approach amongst member associations on matters of distance education and shared learning opportunities. The agreement states that member associations will explore the development and maintenance of an Internet portal that will facilitate distance education for Canadian land surveyors.



The CCLS committee will now move forward to investigate distance education opportunities. A previous draft of the memorandum of understanding had been approved by the ALSA Council. However, other CCLS member associations expressed concern about the document committing them to spend money on the project. The current memorandum of understanding does not have any cost implications except to say that a standing committee will develop a budget for ratification by the CCLS board of directors.

University Project Ad Hoc Committee

Stephen Green, David McArthur and Rob Radovanovic will serve on the ALSA's newly-formed University Research Project Ad Hoc Committee. Thank you for volunteering!

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.

SAIT Proposal Update

Alberta's CCLS Director, Larry Pals, will bring forward the SAIT proposal to develop online courses at the next CCLS Board of Directors meeting. Council felt that the SAIT proposal has the potential to benefit geomatics students across the country and, therefore, should be discussed at the national level.

SAIT put forward a proposal to create four online courses to help Board of Examiners 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 Board of Examiners 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 Board of Examiners exams but a method to help Board of Examiners candidates study and prepare for the exams. The online courses may include test bank examples, instructional video clips and a chat room.

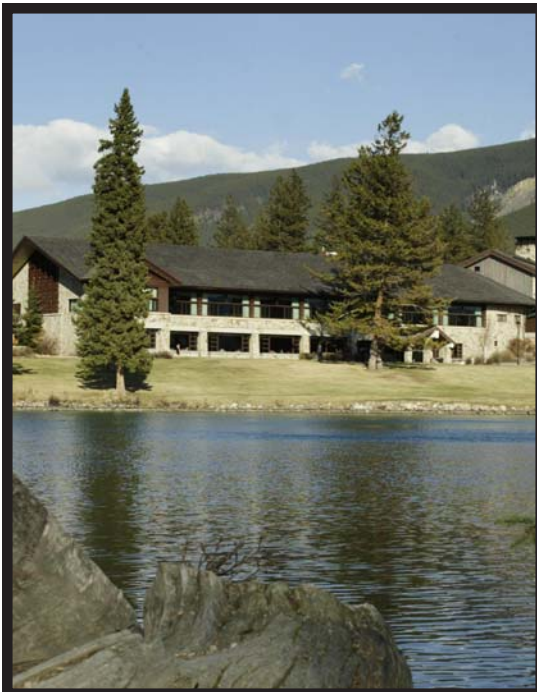
Short Cuts

Council approved an article prepared by the Legislation Ad Hoc Committee for publication in the upcoming issue of *ALS News*. The Legislation Ad Hoc Committee's article is in response to Murray Young's Councilor's Forum article in the September 2005 issue of *ALS News* and Vince Ziegler's concerns regarding the Land Titles Act and the Municipal Government Act.

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association will approach the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors about allowing the ALSA to represent them with Enform on their Chainsaw Safety Certification Committee.

Council unanimously approved funding, not to exceed \$500, for the Historical & Biographical Committee's archives subgroup to purchase software multimedia and digital imaging museum software for the Association's historical collection.

Council has asked the Standards Committee, as part of its 2006-2007 terms of reference, to review if the use of various remote surveying techniques could be used to establish a natural boundary.



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**