

Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

June 27, 2006

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on June 27, 2006. Here is a summary of their discussions.

From the Registrar

Council approved an application from **David McWilliam** to be exempt from the provisions of the Association's mandatory insurance bylaw as he is not actively practicing surveying in Alberta.

The Registrar cancelled the registration of **Gary Tronnes** for failure to pay his 2006-2007 membership dues, effective June 23, 2006. **Harold DeWitt** and **Rae Sutherland** were struck from the register as retired members for failure to pay their 2006-2007 membership dues. **Mele Rakai** was struck from the register as an associate member.

Council issued 30-day notices to those members who have not provided proof of professional liability insurance coverage in accordance with Section 65(2) of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association bylaws. Council requested clarification of insurance coverage from several others.

Trig-Alta

Council gave second and final reading to a recommendation from the Public Relations Committee to approve \$20,000 for the first year of a high-school math contest and sufficient funding per annum thereafter to fund the math contest based on a review by Council.

The purpose of the Trig-Alta math contest is to interest students in the activities and career opportunities available in geomatics. The exam allows students to see how the mathematics that they are learning in school is applied in real life.

The exam will be 50 minutes in length (in order to accommodate a typical school period). It will contain a mixture of multiple choice, short answer (numerical response) and written response questions.

The questions, which will be developed jointly by retired math teachers and Alberta Land Surveyors, shall have a survey-related theme – showing how Alberta Land Surveyors use the math the students have learned in a real-world setting.

The exam will be aimed at Grade 11 Pure Math students and based on content primarily included in the Grade 10 Pure Math curriculum.

It is estimated that 2,000 students out of approximately 12,000-13,000 students in any one grade in any one year would write the examination.

Trig-Alta is the next step in promoting careers in land surveying to students (Made to Measure crate, career presentations, University of Calgary first year BBQ, and the University of Calgary Beef and Bun reception being the other components in the overall plan).

Each student will receive something for writing the exam. Any student who earns a certain mark, or over, will receive a certificate. The top five students will receive a cash prize.

ALSA 100th Anniversary Project Fund

Council gave first reading to establishing a 100th Anniversary Project Fund with a starting balance of \$50,000 for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association in 2009.

The Historical & Biographical Committee has been asked by Council to explore the possibility of an ALSA 100th anniversary project. The Committee has had preliminary discussions regarding the possibility of having a statue or monument or cairn or display or painting commissioned to celebrate the 100th annual general meeting in 2009.

The purpose of establishing a fund is to give the Historical & Biographical Committee a framework to consider the possibilities. It does not commit the Association to any specific direction; the Committee would have to come back to Council for approval to release any funds.

As the establishment of a fund is a policy motion, it will come back to the August meeting for second reading. Members are encouraged to make their thoughts known to any Council member or the Association office.

Registration Committee Appeal

Council heard an appeal of a Registration Committee decision pursuant to Section 21 of the Land Surveyors Act and upheld the decision made by the Registration Committee.



LSAS Changes

LSAS is the current system used by Alberta Energy (sub-surface) and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (surface) to monitor, track, and approve activities on Public Land. The system generates Public Land Standing Reports (PLSR) for external clients. The main-frame system uses dated technology and is scheduled to be replaced in 2009. Both departments acknowledge the importance of the system (knowing the status of activities on Public Land) and the reliance by government and industry for orderly land use/resource development. SRD has the re-development of LSAS as its first priority in systems development/maintenance and is working closely with Alberta Energy. The Director of Surveys indicated that he believes the Association and its industry clients need not worry about LSAS replacement and he will endeavor to provide future status updates.

Government/Legislative Matters

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association will be meeting with several cabinet ministers and senior government officials throughout the summer as part of a series of get-acquainted meetings.

Council has asked the Legislation Ad Hoc Committee to review the plan correction process at the Land Titles Office.

The Ontario Government has introduced the Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act which is intended to "break down barriers so that more internationally trained professionals can work in their field." The proposed legislation also includes a provision for a Fair Registration Practices Commissioner who would assess the registration practices of regulated professions and monitor the regulatory bodies' compliance with the legislation.

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association commented on proposed changes to the Timber Management Regulations that would increase penalties for unauthorized removal of permanent sample plots. Council did have some concerns with the proposed wording of the regulations, particularly in regard to the financial penalty and poorly marked plots, and those concerns will be brought forward to Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.

Financial Statements

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association reviewed the April 30, 2006 year-end financial statements and approved the following allocation of reserve funds.

\$17,644 was transferred to the AGM Stabilization Fund. The AGM Stabilization Fund is designed to offset the cost of holding the annual general meeting each year.

The Discipline Revolving Fund was re-set back to \$20,000. At year end, there was a deficit in the Discipline Revolving Fund of \$6,142.

The Public Relations & Communications Fund was re-set back to \$50,000. At year end, the balance in the Public Relations & Communications Fund was \$33,432.

\$2,725 was added into the RPR Index Fund. The RPR Index Fund is intended to be self-funding. However, a dispute over a cancelled contract led to an unanticipated payout of \$2,725. The dispute was not the fault of the RPR Index subscribers.

Short Cuts

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association has been invited to make a presentation to the Alberta Association of the Canadian Institute of Planners "Innovative Futures" annual conference in October 2006. The Association will be submitting a proposal to speak on buried facilities and the need for all parties to work together to minimize conflicting interests and safety hazards.

The Geomatics Engineering Liaison Committee is looking for members to speak at the University of Calgary Kananaskis Survey Camp at the end of August. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Victor Hut at 403-244-7471.

Council has initiated a review of its guidelines for inviting guests and VIPs to the annual general meeting.

Council has invited the Practice Review Board to attend the next Council meeting to update it on the status of the Systematic Practice Review program.

The Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS) has taken over all operations of the Western Canadian Board of Examiners for Land Surveyors (WCBELS). A new web site will be in place this fall. In the meantime, they have set up a temporary web site so that candidates can have access to pertinent information. The CBEPS web site is www.cbeps-cceag.ca.

Mileage Reimbursement and the ALSA Policy Manual

Council gave second and final reading to increase the Association's mileage reimbursement rate to \$0.50 per kilometre. The increase is effective June 27, 2006. The reimbursement rate is consistent with rules established by the Canadian Revenue Agency. Council also agreed to adjust the ALSA mileage reimbursement rate annually to match the rate set by the Canada Revenue Agency.



Council gave second and final reading to amendments to the ALSA policy manual as discussed at the May 30 Steering Committee meeting. The Steering Committee consists of Council and all committee chairs. The updated Policy Manual is posted on the Association website at <http://www.alsa.ab.ca/pdf/policy2005.pdf>.

Committee Volunteers and Action Plans

Committee volunteers were published in the last issue of Council Report. Since the last Council meeting, the following changes have been made to the list of committee volunteers.

- Legislation Ad Hoc Committee Chairman – Len Olson
- Public Relations Committee – Add Chris Chiasson
- Public Relations Committee – Add Scott Partridge
- Public Relations Committee – Add Clive MacKeen
- Discipline – Remove Bruce Beirsto
- Safety – Remove Clive MacKeen and add Laura Curle (Caltech Surveys Safety Coordinator)
- Standards – Remove Tim Harding as Council Liaison and add Murray Young

Many thanks to all those who put their names forward.

Council approved replacing the Public Relations Committee term of reference “investigate advertising through billboards, radio, television, and/or newspaper” with “investigate advertising or promoting careers through various means.”

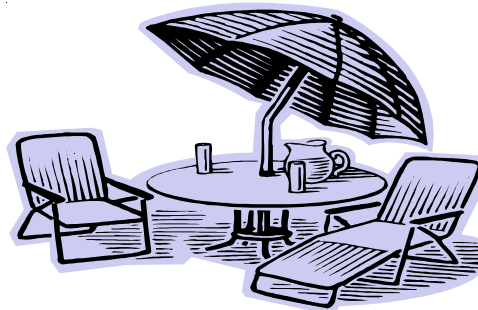
An updated ALSA calendar of events has been posted on the web at <http://www.alsa.ab.ca/pdf/calendar.pdf>.

Important Dates to Remember



- ALSA Office Closed* — July 3, 2006
- ALSA Golf Tournament* — August 18, 2006
- Council Meeting* — August 29, 2006
- Administrative Law Seminar* — August 30, 2006
- President's Tour (Lloydminster, Medicine Hat & Lethbridge)*
September 7, 2006
- Council Meeting — Edmonton Regional Meeting*
September 28, 2006
- Grande Prairie Regional Meeting* — October 3, 2006
- Calgary Regional Meeting* — October 5, 2006
- Field Notes Seminar (Calgary)* — October 25, 2006
- Council Meeting* — November 2, 2006
- Council Meeting*
Christmas Reception (Edmonton) — December 5, 2006
- ALSA Office Closed* — December 25, 2006 to January 1, 2007

Have a wonderful summer!



From the Council and Staff of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association