



Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

November 2, 2006

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

From the Registrar

Council welcomed **Stephen Clark** as the Association's newest associate member. Mr. Clark was nominated by Alberta Land Surveyors Phil O'Connor and Roger Ross. Mr. Clark graduated from the University of New Brunswick in survey engineering in 1997.

Director of Surveys Report

The Director of Surveys attended this Council meeting and a number of topics were discussed.

The Director indicated that he felt that students needed to be better educated with respect to water boundaries prior to becoming Alberta Land Surveyors or even articling students. Council will ask the Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors and the Geomatics Engineering Liaison Committee to look into the matter for a long-term solution. The issue shall also be forwarded to the Professional Development Committee for a short-term solution. A natural boundaries seminar is scheduled for Thursday April 26 at Lake Louise during the annual general meeting.

Council and the Director of Surveys discussed correcting plans and survey errors when a member is deceased. See "Deceased Members."

The Director encouraged the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association to be proactive with respect to the integrated surveys initiative. However, Council has decided to wait for more

information. See "National Standards on Integrated Surveys."

The Director expressed concerns about several disposition plans and provided Council with several examples. The concerns included the use of monumentation, change in location of the disposition and the use of sketches. Council has asked that the Oil & Gas Ad Hoc Committee to investigate.

Deceased Members

Council has forwarded the findings of a detailed field inspection that was conducted by Systematic Practice Review on behalf of the Practice Review Board to the Director of Surveys. During the course of an SPR, a practitioner passed away before a plan could be corrected.

Systematic Practice Review's findings have been forwarded to the Director of Surveys. The Practice Review Board felt, and Council agreed, that the issue could not be ignored since it has been uncovered. The Director of Surveys agreed to look into the matter.

Council has now asked the Legislation Ad Hoc Committee to review the legislation that deals with situations where the Alberta Land Surveyor is deceased and corrections are required to the surveyor's plan.

National Standards on Integrated Surveys

CCLS provided a website link to solicit association opinion on the national standards for integrated surveys and an initiative to create a set of integrated tools to process conventional and georeferencing observations. A separate questionnaire has been circulated through the Friday mailing to

individual land surveyors for their feedback.

The Council developed answers to the six questions on the online questionnaire. Council indicated that the ALSA may support national standards for integrated surveys in principle. However, there are many questions concerning costs and the details. It would be difficult in some parts of Alberta to do integration.

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association may also support the development of georeferencing tools if georeferencing becomes mandatory. If tools are to be developed, the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association would like to see them developed in Canada instead of Europe as proposed.

MapWorld Forum

Council gave first reading to spending \$1,000 from the Ambassadors Reserve Fund to help offset some of the costs for eight University of Calgary students to attend the MapWorld 2007 Forum in India in January 2007.

Map World Forum gathers internationally renowned speakers in the geomatics sector to speak on various topics of international relevance through seminars, workshops and social gatherings.

As part of the recent contribution Mr. Seymour Schulich has donated to the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Calgary, a fund has been allocated to compensate 75% of all direct and indirect costs of educationally enhancing field trips. It is up to the students to investigate possible donors to cover the extra 25%. The total cost for approximately eight students to attend is projected at



\$20,000.00 (including airfare and accommodation). The Schulich Fund will cover \$15,000.00 of that. The Geomatics Engineering students are hoping that the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association can make a small contribution towards their cause in promoting Canadian geomatics internationally.

As the motion was not approved unanimously, it will come back to the December 5 Council meeting for second reading. Members are encouraged to contact a Council member or the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association office with any concerns or questions regarding this motion.

Graduate Studies Scholarship

The Graduate Studies Scholarship has been awarded to Abdel-Rahman Muhsen of the University of Calgary for his research on developing multimedia land record systems.

Mr. Muhsen is a computer scientist graduate from the University of Jordan. He has also worked for an ESRI exclusive distributor in Jordan as a GIS Technical Support for two years. This gave him the chance to work very closely to people in the Department of Land Survey. Mr. Muhsen hopes that, by the end of his study, he will have better understanding to cadastral survey issues which will allow him to enter into management positions in the land & survey sectors.

By the end of this research, the following deliverables will be submitted:

1. A cadastral data model that incorporates multimedia data;
2. a multimedia land record system as a desktop solution; and
3. an assessment document in which the above two deliverables will be analyzed and evaluated.

Mr. Muhsen's research is already supported by the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association by a grant to the University of Calgary through the Cadastral Research Fund.

Safety Committee Website

Council approved publishing an article developed by the Safety Committee on the ALSA website concerning the legal requirements in Canada and Alberta for a joint health safety committee. There is also a link to a website that would assist an organization in developing a joint health and safety committee.

The ALSA safety page is at <http://www.alsa.ab.ca/safety.htm>.

Council also accepted, with regret, the resignations of Alberta Land Surveyors Mike Fretwell and Albert Rachynski from the Safety Committee.

RPR Brochures

Council unanimously approved reprinting 25,000 real property report brochures at a cost of \$5,048.

The same number of brochures was re-printed at the same time last year and all of them have been circulated thanks to a successful mailing to realtors and municipalities.

Train the Trainer

Council unanimously approved a request from the Professional Development Committee to train five to ten more people to be able to present the Getting It Right seminar. The cost will be \$7,000 for the training and \$2,000 for subsistence for the participants.

The train-the-trainer session will last two days. The first day will present the theory and background of adult learning; teach strategies to build strong working relationships; and teach techniques and tips to make the learning environment positive. The second day will be the hands-on component and participants will be videotaped so that they may learn from watching themselves present.

The Getting It Right seminar is presented three times every year and is consistently sold out.

If you are interested in attending the Getting It Right Train-the-Trainer seminar, please contact Executive Director Brian Munday at munday@alsa.ab.ca.

Centennial Logo

Council approved a bold logo to be used in conjunction with the Association's 100th annual general meeting in 2009 in Banff.



The logo will be primarily blue and features a modern stylized one-zero-zero.

The ALSA's existing logo will remain in place for all normal business and continue to be the logo that represents the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association. The centennial logo will be used to celebrate the Association's centennial.

Short Cuts

The next meeting between the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association and the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors to discuss our obligations under the Alberta-BC Trade Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) will take place in Edmonton on November 30.

Minister of Municipal Affairs Rob Renner has indicated that there will be opportunities for the ALSA to provide comments on suggested amendments to the Municipal Government Act when the legislation is next reviewed.

CMHC has indicated that they are not proceeding with a specific title protection initiative. After consulting with numerous industry stakeholders, CMHC was unable to garner a consensus among the industry on a common approach to managing title-related risks.



It was reported that Natural Resources Canada was discontinuing paper topographic map production as of January 2007. The federal Conservative government, however, reversed the previous Liberal government decision and paper topographic maps will continue.

Minister of Human Resources & Employment Mike Cardinal has reappointed Lawrence Kluthe as the public member on the ALSA Council.

Council has asked the Professional Development Committee to consider the Geomatics Industry Association of Canada parcel mapping initiative as a possible topic for a regional meeting.

Important Dates to Remember



ALSA Office closed in lieu of Remembrance Day
November 13, 2006

GPS Seminar (Edmonton)
November 24, 2006

Council Meeting and Christmas Reception
(Edmonton - ALSA Office)
December 5, 2006

Media Training Seminar
(Edmonton - ALSA Office)
December 6, 2006

ALSA Office closed for
CHRISTMAS
December 22, 2006 (at noon) to
January 1, 2006 (inclusive)