



Council REPORT

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association

January 29, 2007

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on January 29, 2007.

Here is a summary of their discussions.

From the Registrar

Council directed the Registrar to cancel the registration of any surveyor's corporation or partnership that has not submitted their renewal at February 1, 2007 after the expiration of the written notice unless the practitioner complies with the notice.

Council welcomes **Ian Anderson** as an associate member. Mr. Anderson is an employee of Stantec in Calgary. He graduated from the University of Calgary in Geography and from SAIT in Surveying Technology. Mr. Anderson is currently a Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS) candidate.

Council approved a surveyor's corporation name change from SexSmith Associates Land Surveyors Ltd. to **SexSmith Surveys Ltd.** The permit number, P198, remains the same.

Council approved an application from **Focus Surveys Limited Partnership** for a branch office in Fort McMurray. **Tony Brown** will be the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for the branch office.

Council approved **Cabot Surveys Ltd.** as a surveyor's corporation. **Charles Chiasson** will be the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for the permit to practice.

2007-2008 Budget

Council approved the 2007-2008 Association budget. The key elements the 2007-2008 budget are:

- No increase in member dues.
- Dividend income is up due to a recent transfer of capital into the investment account.

- Post sales budgeted based on an average of the four year average of post sales to consumer price index, employment, rigs drilling and housing start ratios. There are conflicting forecasts.
- Public Relations Committee budget increased due primarily to the new Trig-Alta math challenge contest; Registration Committee also increased due the number of articulated pupils and affiliate members in the system.
- Scholarships increased to \$21,000 as a result of a recommendation to the Public Relations Committee to establish six new scholarships.
- The SPR budget may be affected by the staffing for a new Assistant to the Director of Practice Review.

During its review of the budget, Council asked the Historical & Biographical Committee to review the library (and, in particular, the indexing system and its use) and make recommendations.

Director of Surveys Report

The Director of Surveys was unable to attend this Council meeting but provided the following written report.

- The Director of Surveys Office reviewed information provided by Council concerning a survey error on the plan of a deceased Alberta Land Surveyor and the Director encouraged the Association to take a lead role to resolve this survey error.
- Three Section 9 Board of Investigation cases are underway. The Director is awaiting responses from Alberta Land Surveyors in two cases and awaiting a ministerial order from the minister to appoint board members in the other.

- The Association's proposed amendments to Part 2 and Part 3 of the Surveys Act are being sent to the Alberta Law Reform Institute.
- The Disposition Plan Requirements Chart is being reviewed by a subgroup of the Standards Committee.
- A Director of Surveys Office Think Tank is scheduled for February 13, 2007. Council members, the Director of Surveys, Alberta Professions & Occupations, Land Titles, and the Deputy Minister of Sustainable Resource Development will be in attendance.
- The Director invited the ALSA to participate in a Digital Submissions Review Committee meeting regarding web version of the DIPs and DDIPs files. Council member Tim Harding will represent the Association at this meeting.
- The Director is working with department staff to determine if SRD will be in a position to start accepting LiDAR surveys for wellsite dispositions on a regular basis (outside pilot projects), on the assumption that the membership will approve LiDAR standards at the next AGM.
- Unfortunately, the Director of Surveys will not be able to attend the April 2007 AGM, but will be providing a written report summarizing the office's activities during the last year.

New Scholarships

Council approved the establishment of new scholarships to recognize academic achievement in geomatics at technical schools in Canada. A \$1,500 scholarship will be established at Lethbridge Community College and five



\$1,000 scholarships will be established at SIAST, BCIT, Red River College, Nova Scotia Community College (COGS), and College of the North Atlantic.

The existing scholarships at NAIT, SAIT and the University of Lethbridge will be increased to \$1,500.

The existing University of Calgary and University of New Brunswick scholarships will remain at \$2,500.

Trade Investment & Labour Mobility

Council gave preliminary approval to the group working toward meeting Alberta's obligations under the Alberta-BC Trade Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA).

Under the proposed agreement, a British Columbia Land Surveyor could become an Alberta Land Surveyor by passing the professional exams. The written professional exams would be available on demand. No project reports would be required. The same would hold true for an Alberta Land Surveyor trying to obtain a license in British Columbia.

In April 2006, Alberta and British Columbia signed what is described as a ground-breaking agreement to remove barriers to trade, investment and labour mobility between the two provinces. The agreement will create the second-largest economic region in Canada.

By April 2009, businesses registered in one province will be recognized in the other and labour mobility (i.e. workers' certifications and standards) will also be negotiated for a number of professions and occupations in order to be recognized in both provinces.

The next steps are to meet with government, inform the membership of the impact of TILMA, and continue to work towards a mutual recognition document.

Certification on Wellsite Plans to the AGM

The Standards Committee has recommended that Part E, Section 4, Schedule B, Certification on Wellsite Plans, be amended to clarify when the field work was done and when the plan was signed. It is intended that the date signed would be revised for each revision when no additional field work was required.

Council has approved the recommendation going forward to the annual general meeting for consideration by the membership.

The certification would be revised to read:

Certification
I, _____, Alberta
Land _____ Surveyor,
of _____,
Alberta, certify that the survey represented by this plan is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, has been carried out in accordance with the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association Manual of Standard Practice, and **the field survey was performed between the _____ day of _____, 20____ and the _____ day of _____, 20____.**

Alberta Land Surveyor

Date Signed

Witness (name of witness)

Buried Facilities

Council approved a position paper concerning buried facilities. The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association is concerned that ground disturbance policies and the concern to prevent damage to buried facilities has affected the Alberta Land Surveyor's ability to safely put the iron posts in the ground that mark boundary lines. Without these statutory monuments in place, there may be complaints by

landowners and even the buried facility owners themselves as to the correct location of their property or rights-of-way.

The position paper, which is online at www.alsa.ab.ca/papers.htm, makes the following recommendations:

- Lobby the government, regulatory bodies and facility owners to develop a system to record the position of facilities as they are constructed.
- Educate the government, regulatory bodies and facility owners as to the legislative requirement of the establishment and preservation of survey monuments.
- Develop a recommended method of practice for Alberta Land Surveyors and their staff.
- If there is a case of small survey companies or small clients with no ground disturbance policy developed, then it would be wise and recommended to adopt OH&S procedures as a default, or if safety programs are available, those of your colleagues in the same business.
- The ALSA would consider it standard practice that a land surveyor in the resource sector develop or adopt/adhere to ground disturbance policies in regards to planting survey posts as set forth and agreed to by their clients (oil and gas companies) and the applicable legislation.
- It should be recommended practice that surface locates for buried facilities be done first and confirmed and that no survey post be placed closer than one metre for most buried facilities and five metres for high-pressure oil and gas lines. The licensee of the pipeline and Alberta One Call need to be contacted for any ground disturbance within 30 metres on the buried pipe in accordance with the Pipeline Regulation.

The position paper was developed by the Standards Committee and reviewed by the Safety Committee.

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.

Short Cuts

The Legislation Ad Hoc Committee has been asked to review the Surface Rights Act as the Government of Alberta may be considering amendments to the Act.

Council approved a document prepared by the Safety Committee for the membership concerning confined spaces. The document, along with others, is on the safety page of the ALSA website at www.alsa.ab.ca/safety.htm. It will also appear in the upcoming issue of *ALS News*.

Council has asked the Standards Committee to determine whether total coordinates are required on wellsite plans in unsurveyed territory and make recommendations.

Brian Ross, a Safety Committee member, will represent the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association on the Enform Buried Facilities Locator Committee.

The Association of Canada Lands Surveyors put forth a proposal to establish a national geomatics awards program and sought the support of the ALSA. Council has replied that it is their opinion that the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors is the most appropriate body to be organizing such an initiative.

Third year Geomatics Engineering students at the University of Calgary wrote to the Association to request funding for a student-organized educational trip to Switzerland in February 2007 to meet with important European geomatics companies. Council decided to not support this particular trip.

Upcoming Events & Holidays

Family Day
February 19th

Getting It Right Seminars
Grande Prairie — March 1st & 2nd
Calgary — March 15th & 16th

Exam Preparation Seminar
Red Deer — March 17th

Regional Meetings
Calgary — March 27th
Grande Prairie — March 29th
Edmonton — April 3rd

Good Friday & Easter Sunday
April 6th & April 8th

North/South Hockey Game
Canmore — April 25th

Annual General Meeting
Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise
April 26th, 27th & 28th