



COUNCIL REPORT

March 4, 2009

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on March 4, 2009. Council welcomed the candidates for Council to the meeting. Here is a summary of their discussions.

FROM THE REGISTRAR

The Association is pleased to welcome **Coral Bliss Taylor**, **Andy Korsos** and **Katie Seely** as associate members.

Ms. Bliss Taylor is a past president of the University of Calgary Geomatics Engineering Student Society.

Mr. Korsos was president and chairman of the 2008 David Thompson Brigade Society.

Ms. Seely is a 2007 graduate of NAIT.

Welcome!

Council approved a request from **Ed Salmon** to be exempt from the provisions of the mandatory professional liability insurance bylaw as he is not currently practicing land surveying in Alberta.

2009-2010

BUDGET APPROVED

Council approved the 2009-2010 budget. It will be presented to the membership at the AGM as information.

Iron post sales are expected to be down 40% from the last fiscal year. Marker post sales

are expected to be down a similar amount.

Active member dues were raised from \$700 to \$950 per member.

Corporate dues were raised from \$500 to \$1,000.

Branch office dues were established at \$500 per branch.

Articling student and affiliate member dues were increased from \$100 to \$200.

Committee budgets were cut significantly as non-statutory committees will be required to hold almost all of their meetings by online conference call.

Council will hold two meetings by online conference call.

Total salaries are down 6% from the 2008-2009 budget in spite of the need to hire an additional staff person last fall to take on additional responsibilities when the ALSA signed the amended ministerial order with the government.

Significant funds have been set aside for the Boundary Panel as part of the amended ministerial order.

It is projected that membership dues will cover the cost of Association providing core services (Council, Registration, Practice Review Board, Registrar functions as well as portions of public awareness, professional development and standards development).

It is also projected that post sales will not bring in enough money to cover the cost of activities specifically mentioned in the ministerial order (systematic practice review and portions of public awareness, professional development, enhancing professional practice).

DUAL REGISTRATION OF SURVEY PLANS

Council welcomed the Director of Surveys to the meeting. The primary point of discussion was the requirement to register a plan at both Land Titles and Public Lands when a monument is placed.

In 2008, the Association's solicitor provided a legal opinion on the issue as it related to a proposed amendment to the Manual of Standard Practice.

The opinion said, in part, "the Manual of Standard Practice is correct when it states in Part C, Section 3.1 that under the Surveys Act, statutory iron posts are required at all property corners and in section 3.8 that when it requires that where a statutory monument has been established but not shown on a plan registered in the Land Titles Office, the surveyor must register a plan... In my opinion, the fact that the statutory monuments are placed as part of a plan of survey of a disposition under the Public Lands Act does not create an exemption to the requirements under the Surveys Act."

Council was concerned that comments to the contrary had been made.

Council expects that practitioners will meet the requirements of the Surveys Act as interpreted by the Association's lawyer.

Council understands that the Director of Surveys will be speaking with their legal counsel to get their official interpretation of the

legislation and will subsequently put together and provide to the Association for its input amendments to the Surveys Act.

VOLUNTARY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A recommendation that every Alberta Land Surveyor, articling student and affiliate member submit to the Association information regarding their professional development activities during the 2009 calendar year on a voluntary basis will be put to the membership at the upcoming AGM.

The intent of the recommendation is to establish voluntary reporting of continuing education activities undertaken by ALSA members. The information gathered from these reports will be used to establish the amount of continuing education currently being carried out by the membership and may assist the membership in setting minimum standards for continuing education in the future.

NATURAL BOUNDARIES

The Standards Committee has proposed that Part C, Section 4.3 of the Manual of Standard Practice (MSP) pertaining to natural boundaries be amended and

Council has approved forwarding this recommendation to the AGM for consideration by the membership.

The intent of the recommendation is to leave the method of data capture (including the appropriate use of remote sensing techniques) to the Alberta Land Surveyor's discretion but to provide clear direction on the required accuracy of plan data as a function of plan scale.

SECTION 47 PLANS

Council, at the request of the Standards Committee has removed the term of reference to "research the possibility that when the Director of Surveys is requested to grant an extension to the posting requirements under a section 47 plan that, prior to granting that extension, the surveyor who registered the original plan must ensure that steps have been taken to ensure that the original internal control network is still valid and exists." The term of reference originated under new business at the 2007 AGM.

HOURS OF SERVICE LEGISLATION

Council returned a request to make an application for exemption to federal hours of

service legislation back to the Safety Committee for clarification and additional information.

SURVEY INFRASTRUCTURE

Council considered a suggestion from a practitioner that the Association lobby the provincial and federal government to have Alberta Land Surveyors replace lost survey evidence as part of an infrastructure program.

There are many areas that have old lots but no survey evidence left. The cost of re-surveying these lots to re-establish the lot corners can be prohibitively expensive.

Council will be replying that the Association is not a lobbying organization but suggested that individual members pursue the initiative. At some point, funds earmarked for the boundary panel could be applied to this initiative in

some form of cost-sharing arrangement.

ALSA-ASSMT MOU IMPLEMENTATION

Council approved proposed terms of reference for the next phase of the ALSA-ASSMT MOU committee. Having agreed on the basic framework of how field technologists will be certified in Alberta, the next phase will be to estimate the costs of implementing the system and to write down the exact requirements for the various certification categories. This is anticipated to be done over the next year.

THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

Council held a short discussion on the process registering new Alberta Land Surveyors in light of the amended agreement on internal trade and the province's policy on foreign qualification recognition. Council was also concerned about the ability of the

Registration Committee and the staff to manage so many applicants for registration.

MÉTIS SETTLEMENTS

Vice-president Don George and Executive Director Brian Munday spoke to the Métis Settlements Land Registry and the Métis Settlements Appeal Tribunal to discuss the importance of land surveying and the use of licensed land surveyors. Further discussions are likely to take place.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Regional Meetings

Grande Prairie
March 25, 2009

Edmonton
March 26, 2009

Medicine Hat
April 1, 2009

Calgary
April 2, 2009