



COUNCIL REPORT

September 22, 2009

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on September 22, 2009 by web-based conference call as a cost-savings measure. Here is a summary of their discussions.

FROM THE REGISTRAR

Council approved **Axis Geomatics Ltd.** as a surveyor's corporation. **Vince Ziegler** will be the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for the supervision, direction and control of the practice. Gerald Whaley is now the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for Baseline Geomatics Group Ltd.

Council approved a branch office for **Stewart, Weir & Co. Ltd.** in Lethbridge under the supervision, direction and control of **Connie Petersen**. Ms. Petersen abstained from the vote at Council.

CONTINGENCY PLAN UPDATE

The membership under new business at the 2009 AGM asked Council to prepare a contingency plan based on a 25% decrease in iron post and marker post sales.

The contingency plan was circulated to the membership at the end of June.

Post sales for the first four months of the fiscal year are down 11% from budget, adversely affecting the budget by \$20,224.

Council has already implemented \$56,000 in budget cuts. Council will continue to closely monitor the Association's finances but felt that no further action was required at this time.

DUAL REGISTRATION OF SURVEY PLANS

Council continued to discuss and monitor the dual plan registration issue.

Council recognizes that the membership is looking to the Association for the solution and direction.

Unfortunately, this is a situation where simple answers do not exist. This is a situation where the Director of Surveys and Alberta Justice have stated their interpretation of the *Surveys Act*. Some Alberta Land Surveyors have indicated that they have a different interpretation of the *Surveys Act*.

Members are certainly still free to register a public lands plan at Land Titles if they want but, if they do not, then the Director of Surveys feels that only filing a plan with SRD still meets the intent of the *Surveys Act*.

SUBDIVISION BOUNDARIES

At a previous Council meeting, the Director of Surveys circulated an example of a subdivision boundary issue that he wanted Council to address. Mr. Michaud expressed concern that boundary problems could be created if these types of situations are not caught before the plan is registered. Council agreed that they do not want to see boundary problems created. Council directed that the proper establishment of boundaries with respect to adjacent subdivisions be referred to the Practice Review Board for their review and comments and that recommendations be sent back to Council. The Board was asked to indicate if they would publish an Interpretive Bulletin.

**NEW PROCESS
FOR ACCEPTING
DISPOSITIONS**

A new process is being developed to deal with AOAs (Area Operating Agreements) that could fundamentally change how all oil and gas activities are submitted, processed and approved.

The ALSA hopes to be able to be represented at these meetings so that they can be a part of developing this initiative and directly addressing any survey concerns.

**PLAN CORRECTIONS &
JUDGE'S ORDERS**

The Director of Surveys had questioned the legislative amendments to Sections 91 and 92 of the *Land Titles Act* as those sections allow for both the ALSA and the Director of Surveys to be involved. Council agreed that both organizations have a role to play when the practitioner who registered the plan is no longer active.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Council appointed Rob Pinkerton to the GNSS Working Group and Ron McGaffin to the ALSA-ASSMT MOU Implementation Group.

Council accepted Al Flim's resignation from the Boundary Panel with regret.

Council appointed the following members as vice-chairs to their respective committees:

PDC	Iain Skinner	PRB	Rob Scott	Safety	Caroline Anderson
PR	Jennifer Setiawan	Registration	Joe Longo	Standards	Carl Larsen

REPLACEMENT PLANS

The Director of Surveys has proposed a process regarding the possibility of Sustainable Resource Development accepting PLA replacement plans/amendments directly from land surveyors. The ALSA will offer its comments directly to the Director of Surveys on this matter.

**GETTING THE
WORD OUT**

Council unanimously approved an extra-ordinary budget request from the Public Relations Committee for \$3,740 to reprint 25,000 copies of the Understanding Easements and Rights-of-Way brochure.

The Public Relations Committee is already reprinting 25,000 copies of an updated Real Property Report brochure from its existing budget.

The easement and RPR brochures are the two most requested brochures that the ALSA has. This reprint of

these two brochures should last 2-3 years.

SHORT CUTS

CCLS is leading further discussions to enhance labour mobility between the self-governing survey associations in Canada.

Council reviewed an interim report from its consultant concerning how the ALSA handles land surveyors who were trained or licensed in another country. The ALSA received funding from the provincial government to conduct the research.

Council approved a recommendation from the Historical & Biographical Committee to enter into discussions to purchase several antique items for the Association's collection. Payment for these items would come from the Alberta Historical & Educational Foundation for Land Surveying who donated money to the ALSA to offset the costs of the "Making Their Mark" museum exhibit.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN BUSY**ALS Certification**

Council approved forwarding a recommendation to the AGM from the Standards Committee concerning the ALS certification for wellsites. The proposed amendment to the certification corrects the grammar and recognizes that the Director of Surveys office has created its own certification for public land dispositions.

Currently in Manual of Standard Practice***ALS CERTIFICATION FOR WELLSITES AND PUBLIC LAND DISPOSITIONS***

I, _____, Alberta Land Surveyor, of _____, Alberta, certify that the field 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)**Proposed*****ALS CERTIFICATION FOR WELLSITES ON PRIVATE LAND***

I, _____, Alberta Land Surveyor, of _____, Alberta, certify that the field survey represented by this plan is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, was carried out in accordance with the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association Manual of Standard Practice, and was performed between the ____ day of _____, 2__ and the ____ day of _____, 2__.

Alberta Land Surveyor_____
Date Signed_____
Witness (name of witness)**Definitions of Parcel and Boundary**

Council referred proposed amendments to the definitions of "parcel" and "boundary" back to the Standards Committee for further work and clarification. The Standards Committee was also directed to liaise with the other self-governing survey associations in Canada to find out whether they have definitions for these two terms that might be helpful in the ALSA developing its own.

Submission of Monumented Survey Plans

Council removed "liaise with the ERCB (the approving authority for wellsites on private land) to determine the appropriate timelines for submission of monumented survey plans" from the Standards Committee's terms of reference as it was felt that this item has been dealt with in discussions with the ERCB. The term of reference was the result of an amendment to the Manual of Standard Practice in 2008.

Use of LIDAR

Council removed a term of reference from the Standards Committee to develop criteria where LIDAR surveys would be considered unacceptable.