



COUNCIL REPORT

January 27, 2010

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on January 27, 2010. Here is a summary of their discussions.

FROM THE REGISTRAR

Council is pleased to welcome **Ray Heilman** and **Greg Place** as associate members. Mr. Heilman is vice-president of ASSMT and works in Hanna. Mr. Place is a professional engineer and works for Focus in Edmonton.

Council approved requests from **Shaun Ewen, Ashley Large, Clive MacKeen, and Jeff Patton** to be exempted from the provisions of the mandatory professional liability insurance bylaw as they are not engaging in the practice of surveying in Alberta.

Council approved **MPE Geomatics Ltd.** as a surveyor's corporation subject to receipt of additional information. **Michael Thompson** will be the Alberta Land Surveyor responsible for the supervision direction and control of the practice.

Council approved **ACL Surveys Ltd.** as a surveyor's corporation subject to receipt of additional information. **Jeff Olsen** will be the Alberta Land Surveyor

responsible for the supervision direction and control of the practice.

Council approved a request from **Barlow Surveying Inc.** to close their High Prairie branch office and reinstate the LaCrete office as their head office.

Council directed the Registrar to cancel the registration of all surveyor's corporations and partnerships whose renewals remain outstanding on February 1, 2010, following the expiration of a notice to the practitioners.

2010-2011 BUDGET APPROVED

Council approved the 2010-2011 budget.

Highlights of the budget include:

- No increase in any membership dues
- Post sales budgeted to be the same as projected actual 2009-2010 post sales. If post sales improve, a contingency plan with priorities can be created with respect to

where to spend additional dollars.

- Non-statutory committees continue to meet face-to-face once per year.
- Funds allocated for an editor to maintain the Manual of Standard Practice.
- Practice Review funding is a question mark as the Continuing Competency Working Group develops a new program for approval by Council and presentation to the membership.

The 2010-2011 budget projects that \$15,880 will need to be drawn from the Financial Stabilization Fund in order to balance the budget.

Council had some preliminary discussions with the Director of Surveys about re-allocating funds away from the Boundary Panel toward other initiatives, like practice review, that would enhance the professional practice.

**CONTINGENCY
PLAN UPDATE**

Through the end of December, post sales continue to improve but lag behind what was originally projected last March.

Post sales are 90% of budget through the end of December. Council feels that no further budget cuts need to be implemented at this time.

The financial statements projected to the end of the fiscal year may show a surplus due to a stronger than expected return on investments. The Association's rate of return on its investments in 2009 was 8.7%. Council was cautious as rates of return can fluctuate even in a conservative portfolio.

**STANDARDS
COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO
THE AGM**

Council approved sending three recommendations to the AGM for consideration by the membership.

Wellsites Over Two Hectares

The Standards Committee has recommended that Part D, Section 5.12 of the Manual of Standard Practice be changed from two hectares to ten hectares.

The overall intent is to revise the area of wellsites to include larger padsites and/or oil sands sites the currently do not fall under Part D, Section 5.12. The Manual of Standard Practice would then be consistent with the new ASRD Surveys Manual for Public Land Dispositions.

***Definition of Parcel
and Boundary***

The Standards Committee has recommended that the definitions of parcel and boundary be revised.

The proposed definition for parcel is "a defined tract of land for which an interest or right may be granted and registered at the Alberta Land Titles Office, the Métis Settlements Land Registry or Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (Lands Division)."

The proposed definition for boundary is "a line, plane, or curved surface that defines the limit or extent of a parcel or an interest in land, a sub-surface region, or airspace."

***Monumentation
Requirement for
Surface Facility Lease***

The Standards Committee has recommended that Part D, Section 4.15 of the Manual of Standard Practice be added to define a facility surface lease in one location.

The proposed definition is: A facility surface lease may be for a wellsite, installation, or other appurtenance over which the ERCB has jurisdiction and that is associated with the recovery or processing of hydrocarbon-based resources or any associated substances or wastes. An appurtenance may be a plant, battery, compressor, dehydrator, separator, or treater as defined in the *Oil and Gas Conservation Act* or a central processing plant or satellite plant as defined in the *Oil Sands Conservation Act*. Pipeline rights-of-way are required under the *Pipeline Regulation* for hydrocarbon-based pipelines constructed outside a facility surface.

**NEW CONTINUING
COMPETENCY
PROGRAM**

Council received an update from Continuing Competency Working Group Chair Connie Petersen on the initiative to create a new practice review/continuing education program.

It is proposed that each individual Alberta Land Surveyor be subject to a continuing competency review consisting of four components: practice review, education & training, professional association

involvement and other accomplishments.

If deemed necessary, the PRB will direct that a comprehensive review be conducted which will be similar in form to the existing systematic practice reviews.

The Continuing Competency Working Group hopes to get Council's endorsement, at its March 2 meeting, to present the program at the regional meetings and the annual general meeting and get feedback. Council will then consider the feedback and approve a new continuing competency program.

The Working Group intends to conduct beta tests of the new program before the AGM in April.

DIRECTOR OF SURVEYS UPDATE

Council welcomed Director of Surveys Mike Michaud to the meeting and discussed a number of items.

Alberta Law Reform

The Association's proposal to amend the *Surveys Act* remains with the Alberta Law Reform Institute. A response is expected early in 2010.

Subdivision Boundary

The Director of Surveys was concerned about situations where Alberta Land

Surveyors may have created potential problems by not finding sufficient evidence to establish a new subdivision boundary.

The Director of Surveys has agreed to prepare an example which will be submitted to the Practice Review Board for their consideration and a possible Interpretive Bulletin.

Section 92 of the Land Titles Act

Council has agreed to inform the Director of Surveys when it has appointed an Alberta Land Surveyor to consent to a plan correction under Section 92 of the *Land Titles Act*.

Métis Settlements Land Registry Affidavit

The Director of Surveys expressed concern about a recommendation for the 2010 AGM which, if approved by the membership, would add a Métis Settlements Land Registry affidavit to the Manual of Standard Practice.

Mr. Michaud indicated to Council that he would speak to the Métis Settlements Land Registry about the recommendation.

Surveyor's Affidavit

A member suggested to the Director of Surveys that all certifications and affidavits should be replaced with a

signature signed by the Alberta Land Surveyor as a professional.

Council agreed that this is worth discussion and hoped that it would be brought forward at the AGM, under new business, for debate.

Status of Systematic Practice Review and Ministerial Order

The Director of Surveys provided his comments on the proposed new continuing competency program. The chair of the Continuing Competency Working Group, Connie Petersen, has taken his comments back to the group for further discussion.

DELAYED POSTING PLAN MONITORING

Council unanimously approved spending \$12,000 from the Technology Transfer & Education Fund for Alberta Land Titles to upgrade their systems which would allow the ALSA to receive a list of Section 47 delayed posting plans registered each month.

Council was concerned that the current process of logging onto SPIN and manually checking each registered plan each month to see if it is a Section 47 plan or not is inefficient.

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association took on the responsibility of monitoring Section 47 delayed posting plans when the revised ministerial order was signed with the Government of Alberta in November 2008.

BOUNDARY PANEL

Now that the Association has had the Boundary Panel in place for several years and under updated terms of reference for the last year, Council directed that the Association investigate developing a scope of work document to look how the Boundary Panel functions and operates and make recommendations for change.

EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT

The Professional Development Committee recommended to Council that an educational consultant be engaged to clarify and confirm the overall strategy and priorities of continuing education for the Association.

Council referred the matter back to the Professional Development Committee for more clarity and a description of expected outcomes.

WEBSITE FOR FOREIGN-TRAINED PROFESSIONALS

Council approved a recommendation from the Association's report on foreign-trained professionals working as Alberta Land Surveyors.

Council agreed to create a website to inform foreign-trained land surveyors about the entry requirements to become an Alberta Land Surveyor.

Funding for the report and the proposed website come from a \$25,000 grant to the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association from the Government of Alberta's Foreign Qualification Recognition Innovation Fund.

SHORT CUTS

Letters were sent to the new provincial ministers responsible for the *Surveys Act* and *Land Surveyors Act* requesting meetings with them. Letters were also sent to the former ministers thanking them for their efforts on our behalf.

ASSMT asked the ALSA Council to comment on proposed changes to the ASSMT bylaws. The current ASSMT bylaws require that any proposed amendments be submitted to the ALSA Council for comment and recommendations. The ALSA Council had no disagreement with what ASSMT had proposed.

A number of ALSA forms will be updated over the next year and it will be investigated whether these forms can be submitted online.