



COUNCIL REPORT

March 2, 2010

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on March 2, 2010. Here is a summary of their discussions.

FROM THE REGISTRAR

Council approved a request from **Stewart, Weir & Co. Ltd.** for a branch office in Grande Prairie under the supervision, direction and control of **Ryan Gordon, ALS.**

Council approved a request from **Jim Berry, ALS** to be exempted from the provisions of the mandatory professional liability insurance bylaw as he is not engaging in the practice of surveying in Alberta.

Council approved an application from **Laurie Roy, ALS** to be placed on the register of retired members.

Council approved an application from **David McWilliam, ALS** to be placed on the register of retired members effective May 1, 2010. Mr. McWilliam, who is currently secretary-treasurer of the Association, did not vote on the motion. Mr. McWilliam will retain his position as registrar of the Association after May 1, 2010.

CONTINGENCY PLAN UPDATE

Post sales in February were below budget for the first time in three months.

Overall, post sales are 89% of budget through the end of February. 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.

CONTINUING COMPETENCY REVIEW PROGRAM

Council approved forwarding the Continuing Competency Review program framework document and policy procedures document to the regional meetings and annual general meeting for presentation and feedback.

Members who are unable to attend the regional meetings or the annual general meeting will be able to email their questions or concerns to ccr@alsa.ab.ca.

The Continuing Competency Working Group will take the feedback into account before Council approves the new program after the annual general meeting.

STANDARDS RECOMMENDATION TO THE AGM

Council approved a recommendation from the Standards Committee to add references to Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and the Métis Settlements Land Registry in the Manual of Standard Practice where appropriate. The recommendation will be on the floor of the AGM for consideration by the membership.

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 had been expected early in 2010.

***Survey Manual for
Public Land Surveys***

The Director of Surveys will soon be unveiling a survey manual for public land surveys. The manual was developed with input from a subgroup of the Standards Committee.

CAPP Presentation

Council discussed the Director's recent presentation and comments at the CAPP Geomatics Committee.

***Director of Surveys
Liaison Committee***

Council agreed to establish a Director of Surveys Liaison Committee.

The intent of the Committee is to discuss Director of Surveys' initiatives and their short, medium and long-term impact on the land surveying profession, industry and the province and make recommendations to Council. Council shall appoint, by motion, two members from Council, two Alberta Land Surveyor representatives from CAPP committees, and one Alberta Land Surveyor recruited from the general membership. The Director of Surveys may appoint up to three members from the Director of Surveys Office to the Committee.

It is expected that the Director of Surveys Liaison

Committee will address a number of initiatives in the beginning:

1. issues surrounding integrated surveys;
2. possible changes to the Area Operating Agreement (AOA) including a potential move to sketch plans at the application stage;
3. possible investigation of a coordinate based cadastre for public land disposition surveys instead of statutory iron posts.

**PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATIONAL
CONSULTANT**

Council approved a recommendation from the Professional Development Committee to enter into discussions with possible professional educational consultants with a view to hiring one of them to help the Association present better educational material. The Professional Development Committee will need to come back to Council for funding approval.

The intent of the recommendation is to give PDC access to a professional educational consultant similar to what Rose Country Communications does for the Public Relations Committee.

The consultant would develop a plan for

professional development within the Association and assist presenters in making better presentations.

The consultant would have the following terms of reference:

1. Identifying priorities for continuing education subject matter for the next one to five years.
2. Recommending appropriate delivery mechanisms for each subject matter.
3. Working with the Professional Development Committee to identify appropriate presenters for each subject matter.
4. Working with subject matter experts to develop content for each subject matter.
5. Working with each presenter to make each presentation more dynamic, more interesting and a better learning experience.
6. Recommending how frequently each subject matter is to be presented.

New Business Motion #2 at the 2007 AGM was a recommendation that Council appoint to the PDC a professional educational consultant to assist in the development and presentation of future courses.

**ENTERING RURAL
PROPERTIES**

The Association's public member put forward a motion which was passed by Council to:

- Develop a protocol for entering property to be included in the Manual of Standard Practice.
- Develop a "Property Damage Mitigation" document specifically designed for rural resource based surveys.
- Develop a calling card for the above mentioned surveys similar to the existing card for urban applications.

The terms of reference will be assigned to a committee following the annual general meeting.

**PROFESSIONAL
SURVEYORS CANADA**

Council listened to a presentation from CCLS President Denis Blais concerning an initiative to replace CCLS with a new organization called Professional Surveyors Canada.

It was felt that the surveying community needs to build an organization that will unite land surveyors; an organization that will have the mandate to brand the profession and an organization that will clearly

and consistently deliver the message that the profession is critical to society and its goals.

Professional Surveyors Canada will also serve the individual surveyor. Professional Surveyors Canada will be member driven and member focused. It will deliver services to the individual member that are relevant.

In order to fund these initiatives, individual surveyors will be asked to make a contribution. Sometime this year, individual Alberta Land Surveyors will be asked to become an individual member of Professional Surveyors Canada.

Professional Surveyors Canada will also be structured in such a way that it will continue the excellent work pursued by the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors on behalf of the eleven licensing bodies.

The ALSA Council passed the following motion:
...that the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association will endeavour to support Professional Surveyors Canada – géomètres professionnels du Canada

- by joining as a corporate member,

- by encouraging individual surveyors to join as regular members,
- by considering opportunities to assist and support specific programs and initiatives of Professional Surveyors Canada – géomètres professionnels du Canada as they are developed and launched, and
- by actively participating in the Professional Association Liaison Committee.

BOUNDARY PANEL

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association is seeking to retain the services of a consultant on a three-month contract to prepare a report for Council on the Boundary Panel process and make recommendations for change.

The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association established a Boundary Panel to investigate boundary uncertainties and alleged errors in surveys. Although there is anecdotal evidence that there are a number of potential cases, relatively few have been submitted to the Boundary Panel. The Alberta Land Surveyors' Association would like the consultant to determine if there is a reason why few cases are being reported.

The consultant for this project will be expected to review the cases that have been brought before the Boundary Panel and analyze whether the process has been effective and efficient.

The consultant is expected to speak with the chairman of the Boundary Panel, the Executive Director, Boundary Panel members, the Director of Surveys, Alberta Land Surveyors who have participated in Boundary Panel hearings, and others as appropriate, for their feedback, comments and recommendations on the process.

The report to Council must also include recommendations for potential changes to the scope of the Boundary Panel which may include ties to educational programs and practice review.

NEW CBEPS SYLLABUS

Council approved the new core and elective syllabus for the Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors.

The syllabus is in two parts: core items and elective items. All CBEPS candidates will be required to successfully cover all 11 core syllabus items and at least two

elective syllabus items for a total of 13 syllabus items in order to receive a CBEPS Certificate of Completion. This is the same number of syllabus items that is required under the current syllabus and is designed to maintain the current academic standards of the profession.

The concept behind the elective items is to introduce flexibility and diversity into the qualification process while maintaining a core of necessary academic subjects for all candidates to the profession.

The core and electives structure provides flexibility to candidates and coverage for the many technologies and subject areas within the profession.

WHEELER HOUSE

Council approved sending a letter to Parks Canada requesting that the building known as Claremount/Wheeler House in Banff not be destroyed.

A.O. Wheeler was ALS043. He obtained his OLS in 1881, his DLS and MLS, in 1882, his BCLS in 1891, and his ALS in 1911. In 1929, he was made an honorary member of the Dominion Land Surveyors' Association, later

to become the Canadian Institute of Surveying.

In particular, he was active in connection with irrigation and topographical surveys in Southern Alberta, in the Crow's Nest area, and in the Selkirk Range. In 1913, he was British Columbia's commissioner on the establishing of the interprovincial boundary between that province and Alberta.

In 1923-24, he built Claremount (named after his first wife) just off of Mountain Avenue in Middle Springs in Banff adjacent to the townsite.

Parks Canada faces two problems in dealing with Wheeler House: it sits inside a designated wildlife corridor and the home and property have fallen into a state of disrepair.

Council believes there are a number of people and organizations who would be interested in preserving the building in some manner and honouring an important figure in our history.

UPDATED POLICY TO UPDATE THE MSP

Council gave first reading to update a 1997 policy that outlines when a

recommendation passed at an AGM becomes effective.

The policy update became necessary as a result of funding allocated by Council to retain the services of an editor to keep the Manual of Standard Practice in a plain language format.

The revised policy would read:

- *The effective date for motions passed at annual general meetings is the date the motion passed unless otherwise specified.*
- *After the annual general meeting, the Association will circulate an updated Manual of Standard Practice as soon as possible. After the annual general meeting, Council may retain the services of an editor to ensure the Manual of Standard Practice is in a plain language format, update*

hyperlinks and update cross-references.

- *The Executive Director and the Chairman of the Standards Committee shall review the work of the editor to ensure there has been no change in the intent of the Manual of Standard Practice. The edited Manual of Standard Practice will then be provided to Council for approval and then circulated to the membership.*

As this is a Council policy, it will come back to the next Council meeting for second reading. Members are encouraged to provide their input and feedback to any Council member or the Association office.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

A utility company made a presentation to Council concerning the Professional Practice Regulation. Council received the presentation as information and will be discussing the item at its next meeting.

SHORT CUTS

Tyler Hansen was appointed vice-chairman of the Standards Committee.

Council continues to work with Alberta Land Titles to develop a better process that will allow the Association to monitor members' compliance with Section 47 of the *Surveys Act*.

Council received all of the committee reports and AGM recommendations as information.