Section 36 (RSA 2000 - was Section 32 previously) of the Surveys Act indicates that boundaries are defined by the monuments placed for the purpose of the survey being conducted. Any survey that intersects or places monuments on a boundary can never change the position of the original boundary. These monuments may, however, provide evidence and perhaps even “best evidence” as to the location of the original monument. Consequently, when required for a subsequent survey, a practitioner is still required to locate or re-establish the position of the (Part 2) section or quarter section monument. Extent of search (i.e., Fd. No Mk.) and method utilized to re-establish position of the section limit defining (Part 2) township monuments (i.e., bearing and distance shown from found road widening monuments) shall be clearly shown on the practitioner’s plan of survey.

Commentary

Dating back to 1959 and over the ensuing years, there have been several different procedures deemed acceptable in lieu of actual intersections while conducting a road widening survey.

It was allowable, when surveying a boundary parallel or approximately parallel to a section line, to monument the position defining an “intersection” with the section line by using either the theoretical township angle or a perpendicular offset from the original section line. Consequently, the monuments shown on the majority of road widening plans are seldom on the actual section line but rather merely a reference post to the original (Part 2) section or quarter section monument. Where actual intersections are not made, multiple road widenings tend to further compound the problem.

It is the opinion of the Practice Review Board that on road plans surveyed prior to 1959 which do not show bearings to monuments on the section line being paralleled, the practitioner would be justified in assuming that a perpendicular offset was utilized. For plans surveyed subsequent to 1959, the practitioner can assume that the theoretical township angle was utilized, unless shown otherwise on the plan.

See Sketches (4)

Figure 1 — Monument Re-Establishment, Road Widening Plan Surveyed Before 1959

Figure 2 — Monument Re-Establishment, Road Widening Plan Surveyed After 1959

Figure 3 — Subdivision
Figure 4 — Subdivision

This interpretation was approved by the Practice Review Board of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association at its meeting on January 16, 2002. Feedback from the membership is invited, and should be addressed to the Chairman, Practice Review Board, at the ALSA, #1000, 10020 - 101A Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5J 3G2 (Fax: 1-780-429-3374; E-Mail: info@alsa.ab.ca).
GOVERNMENT ROAD

ALLOWANCE

FD. NO. Mk.
NE Sec. 22
Re-est.
Pl. 1.

N.E. Sec. 22

35'15'8.30"
80'6.67

SURVEYED BEFORE 1959

ROAD

N.W. Sec. 23

35'15'8.30"
80'6.67

FD. NO. Mk.
1/4 Sec. 22
Re-est.
Left NO Mk.
Road

S.E. Sec. 22

35'15'8.30"
80'6.67

FD. NO. Mk.
N.E. 15

S.W. Sec. 23

FD. NO. Mk.
N.E. 15

Figure No.

1.0

Title
Monument Re-establishment
Road Widening Plan
Surveyed Before 1959

1/28/02

NOT TO SCALE