

50th Annual Alaska Surveying & Mapping Conference

February 18, 2016

“Key to the Highway: Unlocking the Mysteries of Right of Way Research”

[Assessing the location, width and interest of a highway or road right-of-way can be a bit more complex than just reviewing the readily available plats and deeds found at the Recorder’s Office. In this session, a group of public and private sector professional land surveyors who specialize in right-of-way research and mapping will present guidelines and case studies intended to provide some insight that may assist you with your highway mapping projects.]

1) Moderator:

a) James H. Sharp, PLS, CFedS – *Hattenburg Dilley & Linnell, LLC*



Jim began his surveying career in Connecticut in 1966 working on one of the first DOT contract surveys ever let to the private sector. Arriving in Alaska in 1972 Jim was involved in almost every type survey in almost every part of the state over the next 18 years. Jim became Right of Way Engineering Supervisor with Central Region, Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) in 1990. The next 13 years motivated and challenged Jim to a much higher level of understanding of the rights of the Sovereign. Jim is currently employed with HDL where he leads their ROW Mapping group. He has an AS Degree in Bus Mgt from Mitchell College and many courses in Surveying and Engineering from the Univ. of Conn. and Alaska.

Presenters:

b) Karen F. Tilton, PLS, SR/WA, CFeds – *R&M Consultants, Inc.*



Karen has more than 30 years of surveying experience in Alaska specializing in land titles, property rights and the history of public right of way (ROW) in Alaska. She worked for the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF), Northern Region, both as a ROW Engineer and Title and Plans Supervisor. Since returning to the private sector, Karen has continued to focus on ROW research and mapping projects, primarily under contract to ADOT&PF. Karen has an A.A.S. in Surveying Technology and a B.A. in Geography from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and presently leads the ROW Services Group at R&MConsultants in Fairbanks.

c) Eric P. Fuglestad, PLS – *DOT&PF Central Region Right of Way*



Eric began his surveying career in 1968 on the transit for his father’s summer “vacation” land survey projects. His first employment with the State of AK was as a draftsman with the Div. of Aviation beginning in 1974, followed by a short stint with DOT ROWs in 1976. Apart from a 5 year hiatus in Utah for skiing, school, and work, his land surveying experience has been primarily located in southcentral Alaska. Upon his return to DOT ROWs in 2008, his appreciation for the uniqueness and short history of our state’s highway system has been reinforced by the number of names in the record which he recognizes, either through his father, or personally. This personal connection with a portion of the historical record is the reason for his enthusiasm about his current employment.

d) Rachel N. Shoemake, PLS – *DOT&PF Central Region Right of Way*



Rachel was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska and began her surveying adventure in 2004 when she took an internship at DNR Oil and Gas involving mapping, research, and land records. This sparked her interest to pursue surveying further and she graduated from the University of Alaska with a B.S. in Geomatics and Geology. In 2008, she began working for DOT&PF Central Region Right of Way Department, where she currently works as a Right of Way Engineer, performing a plethora of Right of Way activities. She enjoys researching our state’s history and playing a role in its future transportation and land development.

e) Ryan L. Quigley, PLS – *DOT&PF Central Region Right of Way*



Ryan Quigley is a Professional Land Surveyor with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Right of Way Engineering Section. Ryan drove the Alcan Highway from Minnesota to Alaska in 1997 with everything he owned in the back of his Jeep and graduated from UAA with an AAS in Geomatics in 2002. Ryan has worked for the Department for 13 years where he has developed an appreciation of Highways for their contributions to the Alaskan economy and is grateful for the opportunity to learn how their history is tied so closely to the stories of the people who’ve pioneered them.

- f) John F. Bennett, PLS, SR/WA - *R&M Consultants Inc.*



John commenced his surveying and mapping career with the Alaska Department of Highways in 1972. He retired in early 2014 after 28 years with DOT&PF Northern Region Right of Way, beginning as Titles and Plans Supervisor and ending with almost 15 years as Right of Way Chief. As Right of Way Chief, he managed the title research, surveys, mapping and platting of public and private lands for a variety of DOT&PF highway projects. John is a recognized leader in the research and analysis of historic rights-of-way and has testified as an expert witness in title defense cases. He is a certified instructor with the International Right of Way Association and has co-presented seminars relating to access law and highway rights-of-way in Alaska. He holds an A.A.S. in Survey Technology from the Anchorage Community College and is currently a senior land surveyor with the R&M Consultants Right-of-Way Services group.