The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on March 8, 2016. The candidates for Council were invited to attend this meeting. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

From the Registrar
Council approved applications from:
- Jason Coates
- Ryan Delaurier
- Rick Gauthier
- Bruce Gudim
- Paul Hatch
- Stephen Hyatt
- Leanne James
- Doug Lunty
- John Stephens
- Mark Sutter
- Metin Timocin

...to be exempted from the provisions of the professional liability insurance bylaw as they are not currently practicing surveying in Alberta.

Council approved placing
- Stan Longson
- Doug Lunty
- Irwin Maltais
- Rob Scott
- Don Tomkinson
- Dave Williams

...on the register of retired members.

Council is pleased to welcome Jason Attwood of Grande Prairie as an associate member. Mr. Attwood was nominated by Alberta Land Surveyors Greg Boggs and Andrew Miles.

Council approved Accelerated Surveys Ltd. as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision direction and control of Donald McKee, ALS.

Council approved Action Surveys Ltd. as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision direction and control of Lianqiu Gao, ALS.

Council approved Newport Land Surveys Ltd. as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision direction and control of Horatiu Caraba, ALS.

AGM Recommendations
Council forwarded a recommendation from the Standards Committee that the Manual of Standard Practice be amended to define a dormant plan and who is responsible for the dormant plan to the AGM for consideration by the membership. The recommendation arose at PRB meetings when reviewing practitioners’ responses to the current definition of dormant plans and the number of plans having dormant status.

Council forwarded a recommendation from the Standards Committee to the 2016 AGM that the membership provide direction to the committee to remove the hyperlinks from the Manual of Standard Practice so that a recommendation could be brought forward to the 2017 AGM.

Council approved the AGM reports and recommendations package for the 2016 AGM.

Council discussed what committees would be in place in 2016-2017 so that the ALSA
could encourage members to volunteer for those committees.

Council discussed concerns about attendance at the upcoming AGM. Council wanted to encourage the membership to stay at the Banff Springs Hotel as the ALSA may have to pay for any unused bedrooms anyway.

**Government Relations**

Christina Gray is the new minister of labour and minister of democratic renewal (*Land Surveyors Act*) and Stephanie McLean is the new minister of Service Alberta and status of women (*Land Titles Act*).

Andre Corbould, former deputy minister for the department of jobs, skills, training and labour has been appointed deputy minister of environment and parks. Jeff Parr has been appointed deputy minister of labour. Mr. Parr is the former deputy minister of labour and immigration in Manitoba.

The ALSA has sent letters of congratulations to each of them and has followed up with their offices to request meetings.

After extended delays to get three regulations amended, as approved by the membership at past AGMs, there is reason for optimism that the amendments could be presented to cabinet this spring.

Bruce Clark, Kevin Grover and Brian Munday continue to have a number of regular meetings with Alberta Land Titles, the Law Society of Alberta and Notarius to discuss the authentication of digital signatures.

The ALSA met with the acting ADM, Policy and Planning Division, Alberta Environment and Parks to discuss water boundary concerns and the length of time needed for review.

David Thomson, ALS and Executive Director Brian Munday continue to attend meetings with the government and other professional regulatory organization to discuss the government’s criteria for sign-off on regulatory wetland reports.

The ALSA will continue to meet with the Alberta Association of Forestry Management Professionals to discuss common concerns.

Council approved sending a letter to the City of Edmonton to discuss lot grading certificates and showing information relative to a boundary.

**From the Director of Surveys**

Council welcomed the Director of Surveys to the meeting.

In a letter to the Director of Surveys dated February 3rd, “Council reiterated its strong support for the principles and concept of a hybrid cadastre. The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association once again asked you to delay removing the pilot project label from this initiative. It is the Association’s perspective, however, as indicated in our November 12 letter, that removing the “pilot project” label would send a signal to clients that outstanding issues and concerns have been resolved when, in fact, they still exist.”
The Director of Surveys replied that no show stopper with the hybrid cadastre had been encountered and that all indications support that the hybrid cadastre is an alternative to conventional surveys.

“Following the end of the pilot, there will be a three to six month transition period typically designated as a grandfathering period. Some of the identified issues can well be addressed during that time. As always, my team and I are willing to work with your members but unfortunately that cannot be treated as a precondition for the removal of the pilot.”

Council had asked for the establishment of three working groups:

1. That a working group of Alberta Land Surveyors and representatives from your office and AER reconvene to review, discuss, and if and when necessary, update the hybrid cadastre guidelines. It is critical that land surveyors in private practice provide you with their perspective and their practical experience so the guidelines are meaningful complete and up-to-date. We expect that the comments from the advisory group would be taken seriously.

2. That a working group be established with representatives from the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association, the Director of Surveys Office and AER to develop standard checklists and processes.

3. That the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association and the Director of Surveys Office form a working group to meet and discuss the establishment and benefit of your proposed coordinate database and that this be done in a collaborative fashion.

The Director of Surveys replied that he would be willing to have a working group that would help him develop questions and answers to the hybrid cadastre guidelines.

The Director of Surveys was open to a checklist working group.

The Director of Surveys was not prepared to discuss a coordinate database at this time.

Al Jamieson will speak on the ALSA and the hybrid cadastre at the National Surveyors Conference in Edmonton on May 4th.

AER Disposition Plan Content Requirements
Council expressed concern that the new AER disposition plan content requirements were effective immediately with no time to adjust to them and no highlighting of what had changed. The Director of Surveys office thought that there might be some form of grandfathering provision but that was not known at this time.

Buried Facilities
Council approved the establishment of an ad hoc committee comprised of Hector Muniz, Kris Ritchie and Dirk VandenBrink be established to develop a transaction record to be presented to the Alberta Common Ground Alliance and to continue to work with the ABCGA with regards to ground disturbance standards.
The second draft of the proposed Underground Infrastructure Safety Enhancement Act (previously Senate Bill S-233) has been posted for a 25 day public comment period closing at midnight EDT 28 March 2016. Using this form, please submit all comments, questions and feedback by email to damagepreventioncanada@gmail.com or by fax to 403-531-3703 using the subject heading “COMMENTS - Underground Infrastructure Safety Enhancement Act.” All submissions will be provided to the Underground Infrastructure Safety Enhancement Act Team for consideration in drafting the final version of the bill.

The ad hoc committee will scrutinize the draft and submit appropriate comments.

Registered Survey Technologists
Council provided direction to the RST Implementation Ad Hoc Committee that the ALSA Council would review any decision made by ASSMT Council and if there are no extraordinary circumstances, direct the ALSA Registrar to add the applicant to the RST Registry.

Automatic Resubmission of Project Reports
The Registration Committee had recommended that when a marker does their preliminary review of a project report and determines that it is deficient in certain areas that the project report is returned to the pupil and no further marking be done.

Council delayed consideration of automatic resubmission of project report criteria until the Registration Committee brings forward its implementation plan for project reports based on the Articling Pupil Ad Hoc Committee report.

Areas of Concern
Council accepted a report from the Practice Review Board outlining common areas of non-compliance. A number of the identified concerns have been forwarded to the Director of Education for continuing professional development seminars.

The Practice Review Board had also provided a sample professional examination question to the Registration Committee through Council.

The Practice Review Board had been asked by Council to prepare an interpretive bulletin on encroachments but, on further review, Council has forwarded the issue to the Standards Committee to define encroachment and make recommendations for change.

Advertising Guidelines
Council directed the Standards Committee to review the Association’s advertising guidelines and guidelines from other professions and sister associations and make recommendations.

Plan Corrections
Council appointed Mr. Les Frederick, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 142 5546 (Lyall Pratt, ALS (Honorary Life)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

Council appointed Mr. Eryn Gibbs, ALS to make an application for an order under Section 91 of the Land Titles Act to vary plans 921 2355, 931 0681, 941 0889 (Kirk White, ALS (Former)).
Council appointed Mr. Adam Pluim, ALS to consent to the correction of plans 002 3824 and 012 5557 (Ron Eichel, ALS (Retired)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act. The draft 2016-2017 ALSA calendar of committee meetings and other events is now available on the ALSA website.

Council appointed Mr. Adam Pluim, ALS to make an application for an order under Section 91 of the Land Titles Act to vary plan 052 3653 (Jules Brassard, ALS (Deceased)).

Council appointed Mr. Michael Thompson, ALS to consent to the correction of plans 002 3824 and 021 4012 (Bill Halma, ALS (Retired)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

**Short Cuts**
GeoAlliance Canada is hosting an event in Calgary as “an opportunity to benchmark where we are nationally, determine the metrics of our success, and map out a way to meet our targets by pooling our energy and resources, undertaking collaborative projects, and making targeted investments in key initiatives.” President Greg Boggs is planning on attending this event.