The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association met on May 17-18, 2016. Here is a summary of Council's discussions.

From the Registrar
Council approved applications from:
- Jeffrey Gibson
- Tyler Hansen
- Roberta Holtner
- Roger Luard
- David McArthur
- Robert Morrison
- Jerry Quinlan
- Arthur Tarapaski

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

Reid Egger was also exempted from the provisions of the professional liability insurance bylaw as he has coverage through the provincial government's insurance.

Council approved placing
- Rod Buchko
- Murray Ingalls
- Fred Rogers
- Christy Thompson
- Dennis Tomkinson

...on the register of retired members.

Council accepted, with regret, the resignations of Alberta Land Surveyor Don Hanson, retired members Steve Fediow and Len Leiman and associate members Jorge Gonzalez and John Piea.

Council approved a branch office for Caltech Surveys Ltd. in Spruce Grove under the supervision direction and control of Jeremy Zettel, ALS.

Council approved Velocity Group as a trade name for Velocity Geomatics Inc.

Committee Terms of Reference & Volunteers
Council approved the terms of reference and volunteers for each Association committee.

The complete list of terms of reference and volunteers is available online at: http://www.alsa.ab.ca/Portals/0/PDF/Member_Resources/Reference_Material/Policies_and_Positions/20162017_Policy_Manual.pdf

Council established two new committees. The first one is the Edmonton RPR Working Group. Its terms of reference are:

1. In conjunction with realtors and real estate lawyers, determine what improvements should be shown on a real property report to facilitate a real estate transaction and make recommendations to Council.

2. Determine if a new product should be developed that incorporates municipal
compliance requirements for new construction and infill housing and, if so, prepare draft guidelines for the new product.

The second new committee is the hybrid cadastre working group. This committee will be a joint working group with the Director of Surveys office. The terms of reference are to be determined.

Council has asked the Registration Committee to investigate what a reciprocal labour mobility agreement with the signatories to the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) might look like and make recommendations to Council. According to honorary member Brian Ballantyne: The purpose of the TPP is to liberalize trade and investment, in both products and services. Specifically, it ensures “that trade in services is facilitated” reasonably by domestic regulators and that “licensing requirements do not create unnecessary service trade barriers.”

Canada suggests that “Canada's service industry will benefit from improved market access commitments in New Zealand in sectors such as professional services (e.g. integrated engineering, legal, urban planning and landscape architectural services).” I suspect that similar benefits are being trumpeted for Canada’s service industry in the other ten countries.

The calendar of committee meetings and other events is online at: http://www.alsa.ab.ca/Portals/0/PDF/Member_Resources/2016-2017%20Calendar%20(Updated).pdf

Financial Update & Alternate Funding

Prior to any adjustments made by the accountants, the ALSA will end its April 30 fiscal year-end on budget with some funds having been transferred from the Financial Stabilization Fund.

Marker posts were 76.0% of budget for the year and iron posts were 96.9% of budget for the year. For the fiscal year, the Association saw a net increase in its investments of $72,441 – a positive increase but not as big of an increase as in recent years.

Council will hold a two-day meeting in June so that it can devote a substantial amount of time to reviewing all of the alternate funding ideas put forward by the membership at the AGM and other ideas that have arisen from time to time.

The intent of this discussion will be to determine the criteria for reviewing the ideas and then narrowing them down to the most promising ones so that they can be fleshed out and more detailed research conducted.

Business Arising from the AGM

Council made the bylaws approved by the membership at the 2016 AGM. The latest version of the bylaws is online at http://www.alsa.ab.ca/Portals/0/PDF/Member_Resources/Current_Acts_and_Regulations/20160517_Bylaws.pdf

Council considered the new business motion to request the Director of Surveys provide
the government’s legal opinion related to disposition surveys and the Surveys Act for Council’s review. President Fred Cheng will speak to the Director of Surveys about receiving the legal opinion.

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association considered the new business motion to ask the Director of Surveys for his help in having the Land Titles Act regulations changed to exclude the collection of the mapping fee for the registration of monument plans at Land Titles but decided to not pursue discussions with the Director of Surveys on this matter at this time.

The new business motion that Council consider replacing any reference to a Government of Alberta approval agency in the ALSA Manual of Standard Practice to a generic reference to the appropriate approving authority was added to the Standards Committee’s terms of reference.

The new business motion that Council consider assigning the Standards Committee with developing a standard for AEP’s statutory declaration with respect to disposition renewal of PLAs was added to the Standards Committee’s terms of reference.

The new business motion that Council direct the Standards Committee to review Part C, Section 7 (Integrated Surveys) of the Manual of Standard Practice to consider the addition of a reference to “integrated survey area boundaries” and to ensure that the methodologies described reflect the modern survey methods in use (for example, the use of GNSS) was added to the Standards Committee’s terms of reference.

During the discussion on defeated Recommendation #2, it was suggested that the call for additional nominations be held the day before the elections and that this could be done without a bylaw change. Council approved establishing calling for additional nominations the day before the elections as special rules for the meeting.

**Government Relations**

The ALSA is no longer working with a government relations consultant due to budget cuts.

The ALSA continues to wait for the government to approve amendments to the Examination & Training Regulation, Professional Practice Regulation and Discipline Regulation as approved by the membership at the AGM in 2013 and 2014. The ALSA continues to push to get the regulations approved.

The ALSA is in the process of reviewing draft agreements with both Land Titles and Notarius with regard to the authentication of digital signatures. Curtis Woollard of Land Titles spoke about the initiative at the AGM.

Council approved the Professional Practice Standard for Wetland Science Design and Engineering with the clarification that only Alberta Land Surveyors may engage in the practice of land surveying. The draft standard was developed by the ten professional regulatory organizations, including the ALSA, and the provincial government.
The ALSA’s request to exempt Alberta Land Surveyors from contacting Alberta One-Call every time a practitioner looks for an iron post was rejected. The Alberta Common Ground Alliance understood the profession’s challenges but could not justify an exemption.

Connie Petersen is working with the Alberta Real Estate Association on a project to resolve issues regarding property measurement discrepancies.

From the Director of Surveys
Council welcomed Director of Surveys Ravi Shrivastava, Geoff Banham and Acting Director (Provincial Programs Branch) David McKenna to the meeting.

Council and the government representatives agreed on the establishment of a new hybrid cadastre working group. Specific terms of reference are to be determined.

Council raised concerns with the response time to deal with water boundaries issues. The government has added six new staff (two recent hires and four from other areas) to do a blitz to bring the wait times down to six months from twelve months. The government’s hope is to be able to reduce the backlog and also through learning to reduce time going forward.

The Director of Surveys said that government and the ALSA should work together to review how water boundaries are assessed and whether Alberta Land Surveyors can be empowered to play a greater role in the assessment.

The Director of Surveys will be reviewing the ALSA’s ministerial order with the government sooner rather than later.

Council discussed the status of the Edmonton-area ASCM network. The provincial government is not planning to add any more ASCMs.

Council discussed the status of the EDM calibration baseline in Calgary. The provincial government does not intend to replace or repair the Calgary EDM calibration baseline.

Plan Corrections
Council appointed Andrew Cammaert, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 971 1081 (Harold DeWitt, ALS (Former)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

Council appointed Wayne Wesolowsky, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 832 0927 (L.O. Olsen, ALS (Honorary Life)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

Short Cuts
Council directed that the ALSA review its communications plan for ALS News, the Friday Email and the ALSA website to ensure that the ALSA is receiving the best possible value. Watch for a questionnaire to the membership coming out soon.

Council considered making a donation to the Red Cross in support of Fort McMurray fire relief efforts. However, Council decided that the ALSA would not make a donation as the ALSA is a not-for-profit regulatory organization. The ALSA will, at its next meeting, consider other ways that the land surveying profession can
contribute to the re-build efforts.

In January, Council had reviewed a proposal from an author who intends to write a book on *Surveying the Great Divide: the British Columbia/Alberta Boundary Survey 1913-1924* as part of Canada's 150th birthday celebrations. Unfortunately, Council had to turn down the author's request for funding due to the economic conditions in Alberta at this time. There is a possibility that grant money might be available for this project and, if so, the ALSA is prepared to make an in-kind donation.

Al Jamieson spoke on behalf of the ALSA at the National Surveyors Conference about the profession's perspective on the hybrid cadastre. The Canadian Institute of Geomatics plans to publish papers based on all of the presentations for a thematic issue of the journal *Geomatica* for September this year.

The Canadian survey associations have had a number of discussions recently about CBEPS and its role moving forward in setting a syllabus and providing examinations. The ALSA Council will review the materials and discuss CBEPS at Council's June meeting.