The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on June 28-29, 2016. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

From the Registrar
Executive Director Brian Munday was appointed acting registrar from June 30 to July 10 inclusive while Registrar Rosalind Broderick is on vacation.

Council approved applications from:
- Cam Foran
- Kevin Grenkie
- Carl Larsen
- Floyd Strochinski
…to be exempted from the provisions of the professional liability insurance bylaw as they are not currently practicing surveying in Alberta.

Council approved Absolute Surveys Inc. as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision, direction and control of Kent Croucher, ALS.

Council approved the registration of a branch office for McElhanney Land Surveys (Alta.) Ltd. in Whitecourt under the supervision, direction and control of Rudy Ng, ALS.

Council approved:
- The registration of a branch office of Compass Geomatics Ltd. in Calgary under the supervision, direction and control of Peter Lund, ALS.
- The cancellation of Millennium Geomatics Ltd. as a surveyor’s corporation effective the date of the registration of 1146584 Alberta Ltd. as a surveyor’s corporation; and,
- 1146584 Alberta Ltd. as the name of a surveyor’s corporation; and,
- The registration of 1146584 Alberta Ltd. as a surveyor’s corporation; and,
- Millennium Geomatics as a trade name for 1146584 Alberta Ltd.; and,
- The use of permit number P219 for 1146584 Alberta Ltd. (operating as Millennium Geomatics); and
- The registration of a branch office for 1146584 Alberta Ltd. (operating as Millennium Geomatics) in Lloydminster under the supervision, direction and control of Brad Pollard, ALS.

Financial Update
Council reviewed the financial statements for the year ending April 30, 2016. The Association’s books have been turned over to the accountant and there will likely be a number of adjusting entries.

For the year ending April 30, 2016, the ALSA had a deficit of $15,599 after funds and investments which was better than the budgeted shortfall of $77,805.

The Boundary Panel had a deficit of $26,663 in 2015-2016 for a two-year deficit of $56,960.
Council approved changing its investment management firm from Morgan Meighen to Logan Wealth Management. The Association’s investment manager, Julie Brough, had recently moved to Logan Wealth Management.

Council spent the second day of the two-day Council meeting discussing alternate funding models for the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association.

Council established the following criteria for evaluating alternate funding models. The criteria were (in order):
- Sustainability
- Ability to generate revenue
- Stability
- Broadly applicable to all members of the ALSA
- Security
- Simplicity
- Time to establish
- Minimal set-up costs

Council then reviewed each of the ideas presented by the membership during open forum at the AGM and the ideas from the Association Finances Ad Hoc Committee in 2014.

From all of the ideas, Council identified the top ten and each Council member is going to flesh out one of the ideas and present their research and findings to the October Council meeting.

**Committee Volunteers**
Council approved the terms of reference and volunteers for each Association committee.

Council made the following appointments:

**Edmonton RPR Working Group**
Kevin Grover (chair)  
Bruce Drake (Council Liaison)  
Rob Cream  
Chad Finner  
Lianqiu Gao  
David Hagen  
Cody Moser  
Ivo Nedev  
Ryan Pals  
Kyle Sahuri  
Piotr Strozyk

**Hybrid Cadastre Working Group**
Nick Madarash (chair)

**Standards**
Garry Schirrmacher  
Valerie Lethbridge

Council appointed the following vice-chairs:
- Practice Review Board (Dwayne Edmundson)
- Registration (Robyn Graham)
- Boundary Panel (Bob Haagsma)
- External Relations (Praveen Mahendra)
- Future (Kevin Grover)
- RST (Marty Robinson)
- Standards (Nicholas Madarash)
- Hybrid Cadastre Liaison (Michal Dudek)
- Edmonton RPR Working Group (David Hagen)

**Committee Terms of Reference**
Council approved terms of reference for the Hybrid Cadastre Working Group. The terms of reference are:

**First Priority**
1. Create checklists for use by government and land survey staff to ensure greater consistency.
2. Develop a frequently asked questions document
3. Create educational materials as needed.
Second Priority
4. Develop a plan correction protocol.
5. Address interpretations of/compliance with the Surveys Act.
6. Update hybrid cadastre standards/guidelines to ensure clarity and effectiveness.

Council approved adding the Boundary Panel’s policy from 2013 on reporting cases directly into the Boundary Panel’s terms of reference. The section on reporting reads: “Boundary Panel final reports shall be available to the membership. The reports are only made available in the MyMember area of the website and are only accessible to ALSA members. Only the written portion of the reports will be made available on the website. A disclaimer will be on the reports to make it clear that the reports are being made available for educational purposes, the recommendations made by the panel are peer-to-peer advice, and the contents of the report are for information only, etc. The reports will be made available at least six months after the report is provided to the affected ALSs.

Consents by the affected land surveyors will be obtained.

Member Demographics
Since January 1, 2016, the number of Alberta Land Surveyors has fallen by eight to 459. The 30-49 age group makes up 45% of the Alberta Land Surveyors while the 60+ age group is 24% of the membership. 45% of Alberta Land Surveyors have had their commission ten years or less. 8% of Alberta Land Surveyors are exempted from the provisions of the professional liability insurance bylaw because they are unemployed.

There are 105 articling pupils in the system, down three from January 1, 2016. 84% of articling pupils are in the 20-39 age group. 14% of articling pupils are not currently working for an Alberta Land Surveyor. 35% of articling pupils have been under articles for 3-5 years.

Since some consequential changes were required to be made to the existing collections policy, the Historical & Biographical Committee took the opportunity to review the policy in total. It had not been reviewed since its inception in 2003. The new policy is shorter than the old policy and pretty much reflects what the committee is doing now.

The policy will come back to the August Council meeting for second and final reading. If any member has any comments on the amended policy, please contact any Council member.

The draft policy is online at http://www.alsa.ab.ca/Portals/0/PDF/Member_Resources/Collections_Policy_Draft_2016-05-22.pdf

Government Relations
Regulation Changes
The government is giving the Professional Governance Unit the go ahead with the Land Surveyors Act regulatory amendments.

The ALSA membership approved amendments to the
Council approved in principle a Designation of Certification Authority agreement with Land Titles and a draft agreement with Notarius, a Quebec-based company that ensures the long-term reliability of your documents, decades after their signature. The agreements will allow Alberta Land Surveyors to submit signed documents to Land Titles electronically.

The ALSA hopes to be able to begin beta testing of this submission process this fall.

**Water Boundary Applications**

Alberta Environment & Parks ADM Graham Statt reported that his department responded to the ALSA’s concerns about the lengthy delays in water boundary applications. Mr. Statt said that they brought in the Alberta Emergency Management Response Team to take a look at the issue and treat it like an emergency by “triaging” the issue.

In six weeks, they have been able to reduce the backlog by 50% and have taken steps to make sure it does not happen again.

The government is making internal changes to the water boundaries application process that will speed up times and hired additional staff.

Alberta Environment & Parks said that they would be pleased to have someone speak to Council or a regional meeting about the changes they have made. They would also be prepared to do an article in ALS News on the same topic.

**Disposition Renewal**

Colin Blair (Director, Provincial Programs Branch Environment and Parks) reported that neither AEP nor AER have made any changes to the disposition renewal process although they are currently reviewing the process. Mr. Blair made a commitment to engage the ALSA before making any changes.

**Director of Surveys Update**

Council welcomed Director of Surveys Ravi Shrivastava to the meeting.

The Director of Surveys provided an update on the hybrid cadastre initiative. The
Director of Surveys commented that the number of rejections seems to be decreasing.

The Director of Surveys noted that there have been some recent non-ALS staffing changes in his office.

Council discussed with the Director of Surveys the role of statutory declarations in the disposition renewal process and different potential options for industry and clients. Council will have further discussions with the Director of Surveys on this issue.

Plan Corrections
Council authorized Adam Pluim, ALS to make an application for an order under Section 91 of the Land Titles Act to vary plans 012 5557 and 002 3824 (Ron Eichel, ALS (Retired)). He is no longer appointed to correct the plans pursuant to Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

Changes to CBEPS Syllabus
The CBEPS Board of Directors received a proposal from the ACLS Hydrographic Surveyor Certification Program Task Force to modify the learning outcomes of subject C12 Hydrographic Surveying and create a new elective subject E2 Advanced Hydrographic Surveying.

This is a result of the feedback the ACLS received from the FIG-IHO-ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) following ACLSs submission for international recognition of its program.

The IBSC mentioned that C12 did not cover enough of the IHO S-5 syllabus. The end results would be that some learning outcomes would be removed from C12 to be added to new subject E2 and more content would be added to E2. C12 also needed to be updated to be in line with the quickly evolving technology in the ocean mapping field.

The CBEPS Board of Directors met on December 8th and passed a motion recommending that all surveying associations adopt these changes to the National Syllabus.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association is not opposed to the proposed changes. Council trusts that the Canadian Board of Examiners of Professional Surveyors has done its due diligence and that the representatives appointed by each member association would have brought any concerns regarding the proposal to the CBEPS table for a full discussion.