The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on August 25, 2016. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

From the Registrar
Council approved Navis Geomatics Engineering Ltd. as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision, direction and control of Scott Partridge, ALS.

Council approved MR Geomatics and Engineering Ltd. as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision, direction and control of Alexei Spivak, ALS.

Council approved Gulla Geomatics Inc. as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision, direction and control of Floyd Strochinski, ALS. Subsequent to the Council meeting, Mr. Strochinski decided to not register the surveyor’s corporation.

Council approved Hunter Wallace Surveys Ltd. as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision, direction and control of Grant Wallace, ALS.

Council approved the registration of a branch office for Vector Geomatics Land Surveying (Alberta) Ltd. in Calgary under the supervision, direction and control of Jeff Gibson, ALS.

Honorary Life Members
Council is pleased to announce that it has conferred honorary life membership upon Norm Mattson and Stan Longson.

Both long-standing members and past-presidents will be formally recognized for their signal service to the ALSA at the 2017 AGM.

Financial Update
Council approved the April 30, 2016 review engagement report as prepared by the Association’s accountant.

For the year ending April 30, 2016, the Association had a net operating loss of $1,748. After expenditures from the funds and the Boundary Panel, there was a loss of $44,132. The Association had net assets of $4,422,280. The Boundary Panel had a two-year operating loss of $56,960.

Council will review a draft report on how the iron post/marker post funds were spent in accordance with the requirements under the ministerial order.

Council welcomed Julie Brough of Logan Wealth Management to its meeting to introduce the company and speak to national fiscal and economic policies in the global economy and the long-term outlook for equities, bonds and oil & gas. Logan Wealth Management is the Association’s new investment manager.

Council will meet in Banff in November to do a closer evaluation of ten alternate funding models. The meeting will be held in Banff to offset the Association’s shortfall in its contract to the Banff Springs Hotel for the 2016 AGM.

Monument Preservation in Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
Council directed that a letter be sent to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
because of concerns that demolition activities are putting the legal survey fabric at risk.

**Town of Morinville and Compliance Certificates**
The Town of Morinville has announced that, effective January 1, 2017, it will no longer issue compliance letters and, as an alternative, suggest the use of title insurance “in combination with existing services the Town offers to aid in comprehensive due diligence.”

The Town is holding an information session on September 21. Brian Ball will represent the ALSA at the meeting and Council will send a letter to the town. All Alberta Land Surveyors who work in the area are encouraged to attend the meeting.

**Government Relations**

**Regulation Changes**
Council approved the Examination & Training Amendment Regulation, Professional Practice Amendment Regulation and the Discipline Amendment Regulation based on the approval of the membership in 2013 and 2014. Government will receive feedback from stakeholders and it is hoped that the regulations will be approved by the end of 2016.

**Land Titles Changes**
The ALSA met with the Deputy Minister of Service Alberta (responsible for Land Titles) to discuss the growing delays in getting plans and documents registered. The deputy minister indicated that staff has been taken to reduce the delays although it will take some time to bring new people up to speed.

Council thanks all the members who volunteered to be part of a Land Titles pilot project. There were 14 volunteers and Council selected five to be a part of the pilot project on the basis of company size and urban/rural locations. The ALSA hopes to be able to begin beta testing of this submission process this fall.

**Assessing Foreign Credentials**
CBEPS has asked the ALSA to appoint a person to a CBEPS committee to “improve entry with foreign credentials into the surveying profession in Canada.” Council appointed Brian Ball to represent the ALSA on the CBEPS committee.

**Plan Corrections**
Council appointed Les Frederick, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 072 4256 (Chris Alcock, ALS (Former)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

Council appointed Ben Giesbrecht, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 042 4379 (Dave Armstrong, ALS (Retired)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

**Committee Volunteers**
Council accepted, with regret, Rick Gauthier’s resignation from the External Relations Committee.

**Registration Committee Review**
Council reviewed a decision of the Registration Committee to not extend a pupil’s articles. Council reserved judgement.

Council requested a legal opinion from its lawyer as to the statutory authority of Council to review such decisions of the Registration Committee. Section 21(3) of the Land Surveyors Act reads, “An applicant whose application for registration has been refused by the Registration Committee may, within 30 days after receiving a notice of refusal and the reasons for the refusal, request the Council to review the application by serving on the Registrar a written request for review by the Council setting
out the reasons why, in the applicant's opinion, the applicant's registration as an Alberta land surveyor should be approved." The Registration Committee did not refuse or defer an application for registration but declined to extend a pupil's articles pursuant to Section 16 of the Examination & Training Regulation.

As the review of the Registration Committee decision took up a great deal of Council's time, the Director of Surveys did not speak to Council at this meeting and a number of other agenda items were deferred until the October 6 Council meeting.