The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on October 6, 2016. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

**From the Registrar**

Council approved applications from Justin Plante and Steve Vollick to be exempted from the provisions of the professional liability insurance bylaw as they are not currently practicing surveying in Alberta.

Richard Schlachter was also exempted from the provisions of the professional liability insurance bylaw as he has coverage through the provincial government’s insurance.

Council approved an application from Richard Gauthier to be placed on the register of retired members subject to certain conditions.

Council approved an application to cancel the registration of Robert A. Glidden, ALS and Robert A. Glidden Surveys Ltd. effective September 30, 2016.

**Honorary Life Member**

Council is pleased to announce that it has conferred honorary life membership upon Bruce Gudim.

Mr. Gudim and the other honorees will be formally recognized for their signal service to the ALSA at the 2017 AGM.

**Government Relations**

**Ministerial Order Report**

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association is required to submit a report to the minister every two years outlining how much money has been received from post sales and how the monies have been spent. Council reviewed a second draft of the 2014-2016 report and will review it again at the next Council meeting.

**Section 9 Survey Error Investigations**

Council has received information that the Director of Surveys has started or is considering starting a couple of Section 9 of the Surveys Act investigations.

Council had requested that the Director of Surveys undertake a Section 9 of the Surveys Act investigation back in May 2014 and the Minister has written, in August 2016, to inform the ALSA that there would be no Board of Investigation convened. The decision is consistent with the recommendations from the ALSA Boundary Panel.

**Hybrid Cadastre Update**

Given that we are at the end of ‘Phase 1 - Hybrid Cadastre Implementation,’ the Director of Surveys has asked for feedback from the Council about the progress thus far. Council agreed to provide a written report to the Director of Surveys.

**Statutory Declarations**

The Director of Surveys asked for Council’s position on statutory declarations currently being used for as-
built access roads as well as on LiDAR survey plans. The Director’s concern is, with the current statutory declaration, these plans are purported to have been prepared under the Surveys Act but, in the Director’s opinion, are not.

Council supported the Director of Surveys’ intention to change the statutory declaration. The Director of Surveys committed to providing the change to the Association before it is implemented.

eSignatures at Land Titles
Council discussed the e-signature pilot project at Land Titles.

In the near future, when submitting documents to Land Titles, an Alberta Land Surveyor will scan all required paper documents into one PDF document. The Alberta Land Surveyor creates an e-form, generates and downloads the Land Titles certified PDF document for eSignature.

The Alberta Land Surveyor will then digitally sign the downloaded PDF using the software.

The PDF can only be digitally signed if the practitioner is a member in good standing with the ALSA authorized to submit documents to Land Titles. The ALSA may charge for authenticating that a practitioner is a member in good standing. Council discussed what such a mark-up might be but deferred making a decision until the next meeting.

Finally, the Alberta Land Surveyor creates a registration request, uploads the signed PDF and submits the RR.

Legislation Consultation
The ALSA was asked to provide comments on proposed amendments to the Lobbyists Act, Traffic Safety Act and the Veterinary Profession Act Council had no concerns with any of the proposed amendments.

Wetland Science
Alberta Environment and Parks, in partnership with ten professional regulatory organizations, is in the final stages of approving the Professional Responsibilities in Completion and Assurance of Wetland Science, Design and Engineering Work in Alberta. The purpose of the document is to provide wetland professionals a competency guideline for wetland science, design, and engineering in Alberta under the Alberta Wetland Policy. Professionals wishing to authenticate wetland documents for regulatory submission under the Alberta Wetland Policy should use this document for self-evaluation and to assist in the selection of appropriate contributing professionals. It is the responsibility of regulated professionals to ensure they meet specifications of their professional regulatory organization to demonstrate competence in their practice area. Competency is generally a combination of education and practical experience.

ABC Review
The Government of Alberta has created a new website, boards.alberta.ca, so “Albertans from all walks of life to easily search and apply online for opportunities with agencies, boards and commissions, or “ABCs.” However, the government also announced a changed in the deputy minister responsible
for the ABC review further delaying any announcement about how public members are going to be appointed or re-appointed.

Registration Committee Matters

Updated Handbooks
Council approved an updated pupil handbook and AIT/affiliate member handbook.

The most significant change in the pupil handbook is that, of the two years of articled service, at least eighteen months of training shall be devoted to practical field training, at the party chief level or higher, primarily in cadastral surveying in Alberta, starting in 2017.

Both handbooks contain updated links, reference materials and sample questions.

Extension Request Fee
Council gave first reading to a recommendation from the Registration Committee that the application fee for the first extension request be $500.00 and the application fee for any additional extension requests be $1,000.00.

Currently, there is no fee for articling pupils who request an extension for their articles.

As this fee would be a Council policy, it will come back to the next meeting of Council for second and final reading.

Any member who has questions or concerns with the proposed extension fee request policy should contact any member of Council or the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association office.

Unemployed Articling Pupils
Council directed the Registration Committee to investigate the possibility that, if an articling pupil is unemployed and the pupil provides proper notification to the ALSA, the time while unemployed not count against their five-year articling window.

Increased Budget
Council gave unanimous approval to a request from the Registration Committee that its budget be increased from $15,000 to $42,000 for the balance of the fiscal year.

The increase was necessary due to the legal and other costs associated with a Registration Committee hearing into the good character of an articling pupil.

See page 26 of the September 2016 issue of ALSA News.

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.”

Brian Ball attended the town hall meeting to represent the ALSA. Mr. Ball will do more research into what other municipalities are doing. The ALSA will write a letter to the Town of Morinville ensuring that they do not provide old copies of RPRs to landowners.
Total Coordinates

“Investigate the need for total coordinates on wellsite plans as per Part D Section 5.7.3 of the Manual of Standard Practice and make recommendations to Council” has been added to the Standards Committee terms of reference.

The Practice Review Board asked Council to request the Standards Committee to review if the requirement to show total coordinates is indeed required anymore. Currently, the Director of Practice Review checks total coordinates on Wellsite Plans and it appears that many practitioners do not show the total coordinates.

The requirement to show total coordinates was added to the Manual of Standard Practice in 2009.

Boundary Panel

Council received a strongly-worded letter from a practitioner about a Boundary Panel report and its recommendations. Council did not re-evaluate the survey evidence and information presented to the Boundary Panel but did consider whether the Boundary Panel adhered to its terms of reference or whether the terms of reference need to be changed.

Council recognizes that strong opinions are the hallmark of the land surveying profession and one of its best strengths.

Even when a group of professional land surveyors review survey evidence and try to re-establish a boundary in accordance with the Surveys Act, common law and other boundary-related documents, there will still sometimes be a difference of professional opinion. That is one of the reasons why the Boundary Panel was created.

The Boundary Panel's recommendations are non-binding and should be taken as peer-to-peer advice only.

Council determined that the Boundary Panel's terms of reference are appropriate and no changes are necessary at this time.

ALSA Collections

Council gave second and final reading to amending existing Council policy 2003.01.010 (Historical Collections Management).

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 manual has been updated and is online.

Plan Corrections

Council appointed Jeff Adair, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 142 2743 (John Matthyssen, ALS (Retired)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

PSC Advertising Campaign

PSC has asked for support from all of the self-governing professional surveying
associations for a further national advertising campaign.

PSC is suggesting an investment of the equivalent of $200 per member for this effort from the associations.

In the case of the ALSA, this amounts $94,000 that PSC is suggesting. This amount would be over and above the annual PSC levy sent to Professional Surveyors Canada.

Council declined to participate in the proposed national advertising campaign due to the ALSA’s budget constraints.

Bylaw Amendment for the AGM
Council approved forwarding amendments to Section 32(3) and 32(4) of the bylaws to the AGM for consideration by the membership.

Section 32(3) and 32(4) of the bylaws were added to the bylaws as the ALSA was transitioning from two-year terms to three-year terms for Council members. As the transition is now complete, the sections can be removed.

Committee Volunteers
Council accepted, with regret, Huong Nguyen’s resignation from the Future Committee, Les Frederick’s resignation from the Boundary Panel and Stan Longson’s resignation from the Historical & Biographical Committee.

Short Cuts
For the month of September, iron post sales were 127.6% of budget and marker posts were 61.4% of budget. For the year-to-date, iron posts were 100.9% of budget and marker posts were 88.1% of budget. Post sales were budgeted to be the lowest since at least 1992.

An appeal of Discipline Committee and Council decisions to the Alberta Court of Appeal is scheduled to commence on Wednesday, January 4, 2017.

At the request of the RST Implementation Ad Hoc Committee, Council reviewed the ASSMT Code of Ethics.

Council reviewed the “important notice to contractors and employees” to help preserve survey monumentation during the rebuild efforts in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.