The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on November 2-3, 2016. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

Council held the meeting at the Banff Springs Hotel. The meeting was held at the Banff Springs Hotel in exchange for the hotel not assessing penalties against the ALSA for not meeting its minimum contracted room nights and food & beverage spending at the 2016 AGM in April.

Steven Van Berkel took the oath of office as the new Council member replacing Scott Partridge.

From the Registrar
Council approved applications from Jacques Dupuis and Jennifer Rosenkranz to be exempted from the provisions of the professional liability insurance bylaw as they are not currently practicing surveying in Alberta.

Council approved an application from Jerry Quinlan to be placed on the register of retired members effective January 1, 2017.

Alternate Funding Models
Council has been investigating alternate funding models for the ALSA. At the present time, the Association’s three main sources of revenue are membership dues, post sales and investment income.

Post sales are down 46% from the long-term average and investment income can be unpredictable.

The ALSA has cut expenses. In the 2016-2017 budget, expenses were cut 10%. Non-core expenses were cut and emphasis was re-focused on the ALSA’s statutory and regulatory responsibilities.

At its June meeting, Council compiled all of the funding ideas suggested by the membership at the AGM and the ideas put forward a few years earlier from the Association Finances Ad Hoc Committee. Council debated each idea and selected nine for further exploration.

A Council member was assigned to prepare a short summary of each idea and assess whether the idea would be sustainable, stable, secure and broadly applicable. Each of the ideas was presented to the rest of the Council members on November 3rd for presentation, questions and answers and more debate.

Council has directed that the Future Committee investigate the longer-term funding ideas of a digital cadastre, a buried facilities database and a geographic information repository.

Council also directed that a request for proposal (RFP) be sent out to request a business plan. Council has an outline for an alternate funding model but requires an external person or organization to do the necessary research to flesh out the details, address the logistical matters and develop projected revenues and expenses.
The alternate funding model is essentially that, when an Alberta Land Surveyor (ALS) authors a product, the member would pay a fee to the ALSA to authenticate the product.

Council decided to not investigate any other alternate funding models at this time.

**Government Relations**

Council approved the final version of a report to the Minister of Environment & Parks as required under ministerial order 27/2008. The ministerial order is the document that allows the ALSA to sell iron posts and marker posts. Under the order, the ALSA must submit a report every two years outlining how the funds were spent.

The report is on the ALSA website in the MyMember section.

The Director of Surveys had asked for feedback from the Council about the progress of the hybrid cadastre to-date. Council has sent a letter to the Director of Surveys. The letter is on the ALSA website in the MyMember section.

There is no further information from the government about the approval of the amendments to the three regulations under the *Land Surveyors Act*.

Council discussed the e-signature pilot project at Land Titles. The contract with the third-party service provider is ready to be signed.

The Canadian Senate tabled the *Underground Infrastructure Safety Enhancement Act*. This bill creates a federal underground infrastructure notification system that requires, among other things,

- operators of underground infrastructure that is federally regulated or that is located on federal land to register that underground infrastructure with a notification centre and provide information on it;
- persons planning to undertake a ground disturbance to make a locate request to the relevant notification centres; and
- operators of registered underground infrastructure, as a result of the locate request, to mark the location of the underground infrastructure on the ground, provide in writing any other accurate and clear description of the location of the underground infrastructure or indicate that the ground disturbance is not likely to cause damage to the underground infrastructure.

**Marketing of Professional Services**

Council approved sending a recommendation from the Standards Committee to the AGM for consideration by the membership.

The recommendation deals with amending Part B, Section 2 of the Manual of Standard Practice. The intent of the recommendation is to break
the existing guidelines into two sections with one specifically dealing with Marketing of Professional Services and the other specifically dealing with Advertising of Fees.

The recommendation is to amend the Manual of Standard Practice as follows:

Section 2: Marketing and Advertising Guidelines

2.1 Advertisements
Marketing of Professional Services

Advertisements shall:
An Alberta Land Surveyor, Surveyor’s Corporation, or Surveyor’s Partnership may promote professional services, provided that the marketing:
- be in good taste;
- be in the best interest of the public;
- be factual, and contain no false or inaccurate information;
- not be self-laudatory;
- not harm the dignity, integrity, and honour of the profession;
- not be misleading by containing a misrepresentation of fact or creating unrealistic expectations; and
- make no reference to price or fees for professional services.

2.2 Advertising of Fees
An Alberta Land Surveyor, Surveyor’s Corporation, or Surveyor’s Partnership may advertise fees for their services provided that:
- The fees are reasonably precise for the professional services offered.
- The method of determining the fees shall be disclosed when requested.
- They clearly indicate any fees or costs that will be charged in addition to the advertised fee (ie. disbursements and applicable taxes).
- They do not create unrealistic expectations.

Extension Request Fee
Council gave second and final 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.

Prior to approval of this policy there was no fee for articling pupils who request an extension for their articles.

Integrated Surveys
Council approved amending the Standards Committee’s terms of reference for integrated surveys. Instead of referring to a specific section of the Manual of Standard Practice, the term of reference will now read: “Review 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).”

Discipline Decisions on ALSA Website
Council gave first reading to a policy for publication of professional discipline matters and complaints.

The policy would read:
1. Any published discipline decision in ALS News in the past five years will also be published on the public side of the ALSA website on a “discipline and
complaints” web page. (Note: Decisions will be published on the website on a go-forward basis when the policy becomes effective.

2. If a discipline decision is older than five years, then the decision is removed from the website.

3. If there are any restrictions against a practitioner (i.e.: can only practice with a mentor), then this information will be published on a “discipline and complaints” web page.

4. The ALSA will publish a numerical summary on the web page of any complaints being investigated, under mediation or scheduled for a hearing. This would be similar to the Discipline Committee report provided to the membership each year.

The reason for the policy is that the public expects complete transparency and openness from professional regulatory organizations. The public wants to know that professional bodies are effectively regulating its members and not hiding misconduct.

Other professional regulatory organizations in Alberta and other land surveyors associations in Canada publish their discipline decisions on their website or, in some cases, on national legal websites.

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

As this policy will come back to Council for second reading, any member who has questions or concerns with the publication of professional discipline matters and complaints policy should contact any member of Council or the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association office.

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The ANBLS sister associations (including the ALSA) have written a letter offering support and a willingness to work with the ANBLS to come up with solutions that will allow them to manage their association at a lower cost.

ASSMT AGM
The ALSA Council agreed to invite ASSMT to hold its 2017 AGM in Jasper at the same venue as the ALSA’s AGM and attend the ALSA’s social functions and seminar.

The ASSMT Council had suggested that the two organizations do something to coincide with the ALSA AGM.

The ALSA Council felt that it could be a positive initiative and help offset some costs for both organizations.

Details will still need to be worked out.