The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on August 31, 2017. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

From the Registrar

Exemption from Insurance
Council approved applications from Marty Robinson, ALS and Xianglei (Lei) Wang, ALS to be exempted from the provisions of the professional liability insurance bylaw as they are not currently engaging in the practice of surveying in Alberta.

Note: As always, an Alberta Land Surveyor may be exempt from the provisions of the mandatory professional liability insurance bylaw if they are not engaging in the practice of surveying. A practitioner who is practicing land surveying but not signing plans must still provide proof of professional liability insurance. A practitioner who is practicing surveying but not land surveying must also provide proof of professional liability insurance.

Application for Surveyor’s Corporations
Council approved an application from Cleanline Geomatics Ltd. to be registered as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision, direction and control of Mark Theuerkauf, ALS.

Council approved an application from Horizon Land Surveys Inc. to be registered as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision, direction and control of Lei Wang, ALS.

Council approved an application from Intrepid Surveys Inc. to be registered as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision, direction and control of Adam Berg, ALS.

Note: As always, although a surveyor’s corporation may be approved by Council, it is not registered until all of the fees have been paid, proof of professional liability insurance has been provided, a digital permit stamp has been approved by the Registrar and any other outstanding conditions have been met.

Retired Member Applications and Cancellations
Council gave second and final reading to a policy motion regarding retired member applications and cancellations.

If an Alberta Land Surveyor makes an application to be placed on the register of retired members or an application to cancel their registration within thirty days of the annual fees and levies becoming payable (April 30 of each year), then the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association will not charge that year’s Alberta Land Surveyor annual fees and levies and only charge the retired member dues and levies (if applicable) as long as the retirement or cancellation is effective prior to June 15 (the date the annual certificate expires).

If an Alberta Land Surveyor practices after June 15, the Alberta Land Surveyor must pay all annual fees and levies. There is no refund.

If an Alberta Land Surveyor’s retirement becomes effective between June 15 and April 30 of the following year, the member will not be assessed retired member dues for that term.
Special General Meeting

Council has called a special general meeting pursuant to Section 21 of the bylaws of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association. The purpose of the special general meeting is to vote on amendments to the regulations under the Land Surveyors Act.

The special general meeting will be held online on Wednesday September 27 at Noon MDT.

There is no cost to attend the special general meeting but you must register by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday September 27. Register for the special general meeting by clicking here – https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1627413933471367425

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. (View System Requirements)

Alberta Land Surveyors will vote electronically on the proposed amendments. You will receive a separate email with the link to direct you to the secure website to cast your vote.

The agenda will be:
1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Amendments under the Land Surveyors Act
3. Council Update
4. Open Forum
5. Business Arising from Open Forum
6. Adjournment

Director of Surveys

Council welcomed the Director of Surveys and John Conrad (Executive Director, Provincial Programs Branch, Environment and Parks) to the meeting. There were three items on the agenda.

Changes to Natural Boundaries

The Director of Surveys informed Council that an “Updated Plan Submission Requirements for Changes in Natural Boundaries” document would be published.

He said that the document should have been communicated to the membership before it took effect but he has no control over that.

The Director of Surveys said that there had been an unacceptable backlog in the water boundaries area and a new process was developed so that files are looked at sooner. The Director of Surveys reported that there is no backlog now.

Fort McMurray

The Director of Surveys provided an update on the Fort McMurray resurvey and informed Council that an announcement would be distributed to the membership.

Hybrid Cadastre

The Director of Surveys informed Council that the hybrid cadastre standards had not materially changed and he did not see any major issues with them. He said that the hybrid cadastre FAQs and seminars helped.

The Director of Surveys said that their next step is developing a database. The ALSA has not been asked for help with the database at this time.

Welcome

Council congratulated Mr. Conrad in his new position. Mr. Conrad is the Director of Surveys’ immediate superior. Mr. Conrad said that he has always been impressed by surveyors and is learning more about the community of practice. He said that his office and the ALSA will always be able to sit down and talk when needed and that he looked forward to working with the ALSA.
Committee Volunteers
Council appointed Mathieu Bourgeois, Cam Foran, Bill Pang, Drew Stodalka and Bob Wallace to the RPR Working Group.

Council accepted, with regret, the resignation of Garry Schirrmacher from the Legislation Committee.

There was no decision on Editorial Board appointments. More volunteers are needed.

Committee vice-chairs were not appointed at this time. Not all committees have put forward a vice-chair nominee.

Review Engagement Report and AGM Budget
Council approved the review engagement report as prepared by the Association's accountant, Collins Barrow, for the financial year ending April 30, 2017.

The ALSA ended the year with a surplus of $276,848 due to stronger than expected return on the Association's investments.

Council approved a budget for the 2018 AGM to be held April 19-21 in Jasper.

The AGM budget is little changed from 2017 although some prices will need to rise to keep up with the increasing cost of food and beverage.

The ALSA has contracts in place for the 2018 and 2019 AGMs. The Communications & Public Relations Committee has not made any recommendations to Council for an AGM in 2020 or beyond.

Corner Recordation Index
Council approved distributing a request for proposal to ALSA members and other interested parties to re-develop, modernize and maintain the corner recordation index as the current corner recordation index website no longer works.

Plan Correction
The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association appointed Michael Thompson, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 821 0088 (Robert Riley, ALS (Former)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

Short Cuts
Council directed the Executive Committee to draft a plan for Council's consideration as to how the Association's strategic plan will be used as a framework for decision making and direction.

Council received as information a draft questionnaire to get a greater level of detail of the volume of the types of surveys that practitioners do. Council will ask each Alberta Land Surveyor (as opposed to each office) to complete the questionnaire. It is expected that the questionnaire will be open to the membership by the end of September.

Council discussed the future of the chair in cadastral studies and land tenure at the University of Calgary and, in particular, its ongoing funding.

Council received a report from Vice-President Bruce Clark who attended a “marketing the profession” for the Canadian self-governing survey associations and Professional Surveyors Canada in Toronto last July. Any potential actions arising from this meeting will be discussed by the survey association presidents at the upcoming provincial AGMs.

A member appealed his discipline decision, which had been upheld by the Alberta Court of Appeal, to the Supreme Court of Canada. The application for leave to appeal was dismissed with costs.
Council received the GeoAlliance Canada two-year strategic plan as information.

Alberta Data Partnerships has asked for input from a small group of Alberta Land Surveyors concerning a potential new product it is considering. Council put forward several names and Executive Director Brian Munday will coordinate a meeting.

The ALSA is hopeful that the public members on the Council and Practice Review Board will be appointed/re-appointed by cabinet soon.

Council noted that the Canadian Institute of Geomatics had voted to end its representation on FIG (the international federation of surveyors).

Since 2009, the ALSA’s traveling exhibit “Making Their Mark: the Land Surveyor’s Role in the Peaceful and Orderly Development of Alberta” has been at 18 locations with over 55,694 visitors, 60 groups, 986 students, 158 school groups and two schools reported. The story line of the exhibit relates to the Alberta school curriculum, especially to Social Studies programs dealing with Western Canada.