The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on September 28, 2017. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

**From the Registrar**

**Exemption from Insurance**
Council approved applications from Dwayne Edmundson, ALS and Robert R. King, 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 currently 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 Corporation**
Council approved an application from On-Site Surveys Inc. to be registered as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision, direction and control of Dwayne Edmundson, 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.

**Corporate Name Change**
Council approved the name change of Helix Surveys Ltd. to Helix Land Surveying Ltd.

**Phase 3: Continuing Competency Review**
Council approved the framework document and procedures policy document for Phase 3 of the Continuing Competency Review program.

The most significant difference between Phase 2 and Phase 3 is that if a land surveyor does not author products, the Director of Practice Review will provide the land surveyor a secondary questionnaire containing additional questions about their practice.

Phase 3 of the Continuing Competency Review program is expected to begin May 2018.

**2017-2018 Budget**
Council considered a request from the RPR Working Group for ten hours of administrative support per month and $2,500 for the balance of the fiscal year.
Council agreed to re-establish the Association’s RPR Working Group this year and decided to try to operate the working group without an administrative assistant to prepare agendas and minutes. (This is the way Association committees operated for many years.)

To date, the RPR Working Group has had just two meetings to try operating without an administrative assistant. Council would like to give this experiment more time to see if it works and if it might be applied to other Association working groups. As such, Council did not approve the motion.

As we get closer to the 2018 AGM, Council will be considering budgets for all committees and evaluating how successful each committee has been in accomplishing their objectives.

There will be an opportunity for Council to reconsider budget and administrative support when planning begins for 2018.

**Director of Surveys**

Council welcomed the Director of Surveys to the meeting.

**Changes to Natural Boundaries**

Alberta Environment & Parks recently announced updated plan submission requirements for changes in natural boundaries.

The intent was to streamline the submission requirements and eliminate the backlog.

The Director of Surveys has asked the ALSA Council for feedback on the updated process. Please email your feedback to [Executive Director Brian Munday](mailto:brian.munday@alberta.gov) and he will collect the responses and provide them to government.

Council agreed that there is no need for a stand-alone water boundaries seminar as there are going to be presentations at the 2018 ALSA AGM on wetlands policy and water boundaries new operational policy.

**Hybrid Cadastre**

The Director of Surveys inquired about using the Hybrid Cadastre Working Group as a resource to answer questions that may arise. Council anticipates that the type of questions that might arise now are going to be sufficiently complex and difficult that they will require time for proper consideration. Council also expects that the type of questions that might come forward are in a gray area where professional land surveyors might have different approaches to answer the same question; Council will want to ensure that any official Association response is endorsed by Council, and can be relied upon by the DOS office as representing Council.

**Office Tour**

The Director of Surveys told Council that he has organized a “day in the life of government” tour of the DOS office and the Geomatics Unit of the Provincial Approvals Section (PAS), on October 11, 2017.

The invitation to this event is open to ALSA articling pupils and their principals (or any other interested ALSs).

There is no cost for this event. Please register in advance for this event as there
is limited capacity, by emailing Reid Egger, ALS at reid.egger@gov.ab.ca with your name(s) and organization by October 5, 2017.

Ministerial Order
Council has asked the Director of Surveys for a response to the Association’s 2017 review engagement report and the 2017 Section 47 compliance report pursuant to the Association’s ministerial order with the government.

Council also asked if the minister accepted the Association’s 2016 ministerial order report.

Roles, Responsibilities and Relationship
Council and the Director of Surveys agreed to get together to discuss the relative roles and responsibilities and the relationship between the two organizations.

Committee Volunteers
Council appointed Mohamed Abdel-Salam to the RPR Working Group.

Council accepted, with regret, the resignation of Geoff Hobbs from the Practice Review Board.

Council appointed the following vice-chairs:
- Bob Haagsma (Boundary Panel)
- Praveen Mahendra (Communications & Public Relations)
- Leighton Greenstein (Legislation)
- Scott Boulanger (Practice Review Board)
- David Amantea (Registration)
- David Hagen (RPR Working Group - North)
- Greg Hebb (Standards)

Special General Meeting
Alberta Land Surveyors voted to pass the proposed amendments to the Code of Ethics Regulation, Discipline Regulation, Examination & Training Regulation and the Professional Practice Regulation under the Land Surveyors Act.

The proposed amendments were approved at a special general meeting on September 26. Tom Gee of Collins Barrow LLP was the scrutineer.

The President has signed a voting certificate for each regulation. The amendments will now go to cabinet to be voted on. At this time, the Association does not have any indication of the timeline for the regulations to go before cabinet.

Short Cuts
Council approved an updated investment policy statement for Logan Wealth Management. There is no change in the policy; only names and amounts were updated. Logan Wealth Management invests conservatively for the ALSA in recognition of Council’s fiduciary responsibility to protect the members’ money.

Council reviewed two letters to the editor for ALS News. Letters to the editor are published in ALS News at the discretion of the editor and may be edited for content and length. Letters to the editor do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association.

The ALSA has been asked to participate on an AER One-Stop working group. There will be training on the AER One-
Stop initiative and there will be an opportunity for the ALSA to provide input on the training needs.

Council discussed the future of FIG (the international federation of surveyors) in Canada now that the Canadian Institute of Geomatics has voted to end its representation on FIG.

Council will poll the membership about the number of products they author as follow-up research to the alternative funding presentation to the membership at the 2017 AGM.

Council agreed to investigate a mandatory seal for sole practitioners.