The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on November 9, 2017. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

From the Registrar
Welcome Associate Member
Council is pleased to welcome Eric Cote as the ALSA’s newest associate member. Mr. Cote works with Longhorn Geomatics in Calgary was nominated by Alberta Land Surveyors David Thomas and Alex Gorelik.

Exemption from Insurance
Council approved applications from Bryan Bates, ALS and Alex Gorelik, 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.

Application for Surveyor’s Corporation
Council approved an application from Navigation Surveys Ltd. to be registered as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision, direction and control of Marty Robinson, ALS.

Council approved the cancellation of Tronnes Surveys (1976) Ltd. as a surveyor’s corporation effective the date that Tronnes Geomatics Inc. is registered as a surveyor’s corporation.

Council approved an application for registration from Tronnes Geomatics Inc. under the supervision, direction and control of Aziz Dharamshi, ALS. Tronnes Geomatics Inc. will retain the permit stamp number of Tronnes Surveys (1976) Ltd.

Corner Recordation Index
The Association received five proposals to update and maintain the Corner Recordation Index. Council considered each of the proposals and asked the executive director to enter into contract discussions with the winning proponent. As the motion to award the contract did not receive unanimous approval, the motion will come back to the next meeting of Council for second and final reading if satisfactory contract arrangements can be made.

Branch Offices
Council approved a branch office for Global Raymac Surveys Inc. in Edmonton under the supervision, direction and control of Kurtis Popadynetz, ALS.

Council approved a branch office for McElhanney Land Surveys (Alta.) Ltd. in Edson under the supervision, direction and control of Dorin Resek, ALS.
Wellsite Control Plans
Council approved a recommendation from the Standards Committee to send proposed amendments to Part D, Section 5.4 of the Manual of Standard Practice to the AGM for consideration by the membership.

An ALSA member had requested that Council direct the Standards Committee to review Part D, Section 5.4 regarding wellsite control plans. The reasoning was to clarify and update the section due to current technology, dual plan registration policy, and misunderstandings about the exceptions.

The requirements of the existing section are based on wellsite traverse procedures established for surveying with conventional equipment. GNSS equipment is now used to start wellsite surveys and can reach further than the 2 kilometre distance, sometimes connecting the well location directly to the baseline. For comparison, the hybrid cadastre requirements are to have a geo-reference point on monuments within 10km of the survey being performed. It is felt that this distance requirement is suitable for current technology used for wellsite surveys.

The requirement to register a wellsite control plan at the Land Titles Office is also not in line with the Director of Surveys dual registration policy for public land surveys by requiring a second plan to be registered at the Land Titles Office.

Wellsite surveys in Unsurveyed Territory typically meet the requirements of Part D, Section 5.7.3 and Part D, Section 6. Many practitioners therefore feel there is no need to meet the wellsite control requirements within the present Section 5.4 even if further than 2km from an existing survey. This exception in the present section is interpreted differently between practitioners but has effectively eliminated the wellsite control requirements from being followed.

Some practitioners believe there is still value in having wellsite control when entering new areas which are far from existing surveys, thereby making it easier for subsequent surveyors to make connections to the theoretical section fabric. Wellsite control may serve as evidence to re-establish wellsite boundaries if the wellsite corner spikes are destroyed.

The proposed amendment is:

PART D, Section 5.4:
Wellsite Control Plans
Wellsite Control Plans were formerly called Wellsite Traverse Plans or Wellsite Control Traverse Plans. Plans submitted prior to December 1, 1997 are still available from the Director of Surveys Office.

When performing a survey for a wellsite in Unsurveyed Territory, an Alberta Land Surveyor is required to place wellsite control monuments if the wellsite is more than ten kilometres from the monuments required to satisfy Part D, Section 5.2.2.
When placing wellsite control monuments, the Surveyor shall place a minimum of two statutory iron posts not further than 1,000 metres from the wellsite and:
1. Show the wellsite control monuments on the wellsite plan signed by the
Surveyor for registration at Alberta Environment and Parks; or,

2. Meet the requirements of Part C, Section 3.9 if the wellsite plan is not registered at Alberta Environment and Parks.

When performing a survey for a well location in Unsurveyed Territory that does not meet the requirements outlined in Part D, Section 5.7.3 (Wellsite Plan Requirements) on page 54 and in Part D, Section 6 (Other Surveys in Unsurveyed Territory) on page 60, an Alberta Land Surveyor is required to prepare a plan of survey if the well location is more than two kilometres from an existing survey performed in accordance with the Surveys Act.

When performing this survey, the Surveyor shall:
1. Make ties to existing surveys as required to determine the relationship between the survey being performed and the theoretical section boundaries in accordance with the accuracies specified in Part C, Section 1.6 (Wellsite Surveys) on page 14.
2. Place monuments not further than 1,000 metres from the well location.
3. Place a monument at each survey point established.
4. Show this information on a Wellsite Control Plan and submit it to the Land Titles Office for registration as an Establishment of Monuments for Wellsite Control Plan within 180 days of completing the survey.

If the survey for a well location in Unsurveyed Territory meets the requirements outlined in Part D, Section 5.7.3 (Wellsite Plan Requirements) on page 54 and Part D, Section 6 (Other Surveys in Unsurveyed Territory) on page 60, the Surveyor is not required to register an Establishment of Monuments for Wellsite Control Plan at the Land Titles Office.

2020 and 2021 AGMs
Council authorized the executive director to enter into an agreement with Fairmont to hold the 2020 and 2021 AGMs at the Fairmont Banff Springs and the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge.

Council had directed the Communications & Public Relations Committee to recommend future AGM meeting dates and locations to Council.

A subgroup of the committee considered the Association’s meeting space needs (large room for seminar (150) and business meeting (250), separate large room for meals (250) and separate large room for twenty exhibitors and smaller rooms for partners programs, storage, new members breakfast and hospitality suite).

Proposals were received from facilities in Calgary, Lethbridge and the Fairmont properties.

The subgroup discussed having the AGM at convention centres in either Edmonton or Calgary but as they make their money on meeting room space there would be room rental costs associated with this that would have to be passed onto the membership.

Based on when AGMs have been held in a major centres in the past, members tend to attend only for one day or one event.

The criteria used to evaluate the venues was if they had
enough hotel rooms, meeting space and cost of any guest rooms and room rental fees. Based on the recommendations of the subgroup and the debate at the Communications & Public Relations Committee, the recommendation was made to enter into negotiation with Fairmont to hold the 2020 and 2021 AGMs at their properties and continue to look for other suitable venues for future AGMs.

Council accepted the recommendation.

Water Bodies Course
Scott Westlund, through the Professional Development Committee, put forward a proposal to hold an extensive three-day water bodies course which would include a one-day field component.

Council asked for additional details about the course before giving it the green light. Council asked for more details concerning the course’s budget, timing and alternative presentation options.

Alterations to Land Titles Plans
The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association was recently copied on a letter to Land Titles concerning Alberta Land Surveyors being able to make alterations to documents. The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association carefully reviewed this issue and have written a letter to Land Titles requesting a meeting to discuss the issue. Council believes that both Land Titles North and Land Titles South should adhere to the same standards and guidelines to ensure consistency and reduce the need for alterations.

Roles, Responsibilities and Relationship
As mentioned in the previous Council Report, Council and the Director of Surveys agreed to get together to discuss the relative roles and responsibilities and the relationship between the two organizations. The executive director was asked to get proposals from possible external facilitators to assist with helping Council put its ideas together.

Underground Infrastructure Safety Enhancement Act
The Underground Infrastructure Safety Enhancement Act Bill S-229 has passed its third reading in the Senate and is likely to be tabled in Parliament shortly. PSC has been actively petitioning the Senate, the Canadian Common Ground Alliance and Members of Parliament to have some amendments made to the legislation to better protect the public. To this end, PSC is requesting letters of support from the surveying associations to strengthen its position.

Ministerial Order
Council received a response from the Minister concerning the Association’s 2017 ministerial order report (financial statements and delayed posting monitoring report). Council has written a letter back to the Minister to provide clarification to the Minister and ask for a response to the Association’s 2016 recommendations.
Professional Surveyors Canada would like to see the following changes:

**Section 2 Definitions**

**Addition** *Buried Depth* means the vertical distance from the general surface of the ground to the top of any underground infrastructure.

**Addition** *Survey* means surveying by a licenced professional land surveyor to establish the horizontal and vertical position of an underground infrastructure as specified in CSA Standard S250.

**Section 4 Application**

**Addition** Operators installing underground infrastructure must install the infrastructure to a buried depth greater than the ground disturbance standard of 45 cm

**Addition** Operators installing underground infrastructure must survey and maintain records of the placement of a new underground infrastructure and this data shall be shared with the notification centre.

**Addition** Operators installing new underground infrastructure on private lands or where adjacent private lands may be affected by the maintenance of the new underground infrastructure shall cause an easement plan to be registered in the public registry of the jurisdiction of which the installation occurred.

The ALSA Council has written a letter to the House of Commons supporting the position of and the proposed amendments as put forward by Professional Surveyors Canada.

**Council Priority Planning**

Council gave first reading to a proposed policy that would outline how Council establishes priorities each year and how actions on those priorities are evaluated at the end of each year.

The draft policy is available online at [http://www.alsa.ab.ca/Portals/0/PDF/Member_Resources/ALSA_Process_Framework.pdf](http://www.alsa.ab.ca/Portals/0/PDF/Member_Resources/ALSA_Process_Framework.pdf)

The proposed policy will come back to the next meeting of Council for second and final reading. Any member who has any questions or concerns should speak to any Council member or the executive director.

The document attempts to explain in clear simple language:

- What is a professional regulatory organization?
- How does the ALSA fulfill its role as a professional regulatory organization?
- How does the ALSA govern itself?
- What is the role of the Council member?
- What happens at a Council meeting and what kinds of decisions is Council expected to make or not make?
- What is the role of the Council Liaison?
- What are the key decisions that Council must make throughout the year?

**Short Cuts**

Council authorizes Stephen Hyatt, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 071 4629 (Mike SexSmith, ALS (Retired)) as per Section 92 of the *Land Titles Act*. 
Russ Barnes has been re-appointed public member on Council commencing on October 18, 2017 and expiring on October 17, 2018. (Under the Land Surveyors Act, the public member on Council can only be appointed for a one-year period.)

Josh Solomon of Calgary has been appointed public member on the Practice Review Board for a three-year term that commenced on October 18, 2017 and will expire on October 17, 2020.

Forest Technologists into the Alberta Association of Forestry Management Professionals.

The ALSA has no information as to when cabinet might approve the regulations approved by the membership at the special general meeting.

Council directed the Standards Committee to review Part D, Section 9 (Official Surveys) of the Manual of Standard Practice and make recommendations.

Eryn Gibbs was appointed vice-chair (south) of the RPR Working Group.

The Association has been invited to make an RPR presentation to Brazeau County.

Council received a legal opinion on the types of decisions made by the Registration Committee that Council can review. The opinion will be provided to the Registration Committee.

The Ontario Court of Appeal has upheld a lower court’s decision dismissing a class action lawsuit by a group of Ontario Land Surveyors against Teranet Inc., the company that manages the province’s electronic land registration system.

Thanks to the 27 members who responded to the questionnaire regarding the special general meeting format. 93% of the respondents were satisfied with holding the special general meeting online and 92% of the respondents found the voting software easy to use.

Post sales for the first six months of the fiscal year are 120% of budget. The Association’s investments earned 5.1% per annum over the first six months of the fiscal year. The Association continues to hold the line on spending.

Thank you to the members who responded to the recent questionnaire. Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Drake was pleased with the number of responses received. Mr. Drake and Mr. Munday are continuing to analyze the results and will be making a report back to Council.