The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on December 7, 2017. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

From the Registrar
Exemption from Insurance
Council approved applications from Gordon Linnell, ALS, Derrick Lipinski, ALS and Roger Luard, 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.

Branch Offices
Council approved a branch office for Meridian Surveys ( Alta) Ltd. in Edmonton under the supervision, direction and control of Dagen Deslauriers, ALS.

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. Council gave second and final reading to the proposal. Final wording on the agreement is pending.

Integration
Council approved a recommendation from the Standards Committee to send proposed amendments for changes to the Manual of Standard Practice regarding integration be forwarded to the AGM for consideration by the membership.

In 2003 and 2004 the Director of Surveys (DOS), the Director of Systematic Practice Review (SPR), and the Standards Committee looked at ways to improve the membership’s understanding of, and compliance with, the requirements for integration of Plans of Survey.

Subsequently, a letter to the membership from the DOS and an article by Lyall Pratt, ALS (at that time the Director of SPR) were published in the December 2004 issue of ALS News (available on the ALSA website). No changes were made to the MSP regarding integration other than a revision of Part D, Sec. 2.2.5 in 2009 to use and show Grid NAD83 (Original) or NAD83 (CSRS) coordinates for Section 47 (Delayed Posting) plans. More widespread use of GNSS and confusion amongst some practitioners regarding the former MISAM boundaries and some other wording in the MSP lead to the introduction of a New Business Motion at the 2016 AGM that the Integrated Surveys portion(s) of the MSP be reviewed.

Recent changes in methodology and standard practices used by practitioners regarding integration are not reflected in the present wording within the MSP. This affects not only the integration standards themselves but also the standards for Section 47 plans. Confusion exists...
amongst some practitioners regarding the former MISAM boundaries and other integration details.

The intent is to update the MSP to reflect present practices and methodologies and to provide clear direction and standards for integrated surveys and Section 47 plans into the future.

The proposed amendment is on the ALSA website.

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

Council gave Mr. Westlund and the Professional Development Committee the green light to enter into an agreement with a professional presenter to customize a three-day water boundaries course for the ALSA. The course is to be presented in several locations over the next six years.

**Council Priority Planning**
Council gave second and final 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 policy is available online.

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?

**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. Council considered a proposal from an external facilitator to assist with helping Council put its ideas together. The proposal will come back to the January meeting of Council for second and final reading. If any member has any questions or concerns, they should contact any member of Council or the executive director.

**Plan Correction**
Council authorized Troy Motz, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 771 0967 (W.H. Jones, ALS (Deceased)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

**Alterations to Land Titles Plans**
The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met with Land Titles concerning Alberta Land Surveyors being able to
make alterations to documents and plans.

Land Titles agreed to prepare draft examples of what is material/non-material changes for inclusion in their procedures manual. Land Titles will circulate the first draft to everyone who was in attendance at the meeting for comment and feedback.

Council directed the Standards Committee to investigate what assurance the ALSA can provide to Land Titles that there are safeguards in place if a land surveyor attempts to alter a survey plan or document? This may include codifying a definition of “agency” or “expected process or guideline when making an alteration.”

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.

**Welcome Director of Surveys**

Council welcomed the Director of Surveys and his new immediate boss Scott Milligan (acting executive director, planning branch, Environment and Parks) to the meeting.

The Director of Surveys informed Council that the air photo library may eventually be relocated from downtown Edmonton to the west end. The move may result in a small delay in conducting research because of a longer time to retrieve the air photos.

Council had 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. The Director of Surveys appeared to have a different interpretation of certain sections of the ministerial order and new Acting Executive Director Scott Milligan heard both sides of the discussion, recognized that it needs to be a team effort and agreed that a separate stand-alone meeting would be helpful so there is more time to get all of the issues on the table and find appropriate solutions.

The Director of Surveys informed Council that he has prepared a hybrid cadastre “from Ravi’s Desk” article for the membership in the Friday Email.

Council agreed to write a letter to the Director of Surveys to invite one of his ALS staff to be a regular member of the ALSA Boundary Panel with all of the rights and responsibilities as any other Alberta Land Surveyor on the panel.

**Alternate Funding**

Thank you to the members who responded to the recent questionnaire. Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Drake was pleased with the number of responses received.

Council appointed Council members Bruce Drake, John Lohnes and Ryan Pals to work to develop a recommendation.
for a product fee for presentation at the AGM.

Messrs. Drake, Lohnes and Pals were also tasked with investigating a recommendation for a non-mandatory schedule of fees for presentation at the AGM.

Iron Post/ Marker Post Contract
The Association’s current agreement with Russel Metals expires shortly.

Council directed the Executive Director to poll the membership to see if the members have any concerns with the current quality, service and distribution of the monuments.

Council further directed the executive director to put out a request for proposals to supply iron posts and marker posts to the Association and its members.

Pathways to Credential Recognition
CBEPS, through the ACLS, was successful in getting funding from the Canadian government to undertake a project entitled Pathways to Credential Recognition of Foreign-Trained Land Surveyors. Its goal is to improve the entry process for foreign-trained professionals into the surveying profession in Canada.

The specific objectives of this project are:
1. Establish a national process to assess the academic qualifications and competence of foreign-trained professionals.
2. Establish what a Canadian central point of contact for foreign-trained professionals to obtain information and apply for credential recognition as a professional land surveyor in Canada would look like.
3. Establish the steps required to determine what a normalized way for foreign-trained professionals to provide documentation on prior education or experience would be.

Each Canadian self-governing land surveying association will provide in-kind service.

Short Cuts
The next Administrative Law seminar will be held in May or June 2018 once the new committee members have been appointed after the AGM.

The Land Titles electronic signature pilot project has been delayed as Land Titles works on a digital process for their plan examiners.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association expressed its support for consumer protection legislation. However, the ALSA also indicated its belief that legislation, regulations and policy are better when everyone—including the professional regulatory organization such as the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association—has the opportunity to collaborate and key stakeholders are consulted. The ABVMA was not consulted on the amendments to its legislation.