The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on February 1, 2018. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

**From the Registrar**

**Exemption from Insurance**
Council approved applications from Garry Bondarevich, ALS, Patrick Boudreau, ALS, Cam Cousins, ALS, and Peter Sullivan, 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.

Council approved applications from Mohamed Abdel-Salam, ALS, Roberta Holtner, ALS and Roger Luard, ALS to be exempted from providing proof of professional liability insurance coverage as they are employed by Natural Resources Canada.

**Retired Membership**

Council approved placing John Stephens on the register of retired members effective February 1, 2018.

**Branch Offices**
Council approved a branch office for Challenger Geomatics Ltd. in Drayton Valley under the supervision, direction and control of Rob Cream, ALS.

**Permit Cancellation**
Council approved the cancellation of the registration of MMM Geomatics Alberta Limited as a surveyor’s corporation.

**AGM Recommendations**

**Modernize Bylaws**
Council approved a recommendation from the Legislation Committee to send proposed amendments to the bylaws to the AGM for consideration by the membership. The purpose of the proposed amendments is to modernize all of the sections and parts of the bylaws.

**PSC Sunset Clause**
Council approved sending a proposed recommendation to the AGM to update the PSC levy sunset clause in the bylaws for consideration by the membership.

**President Appointment**
Council approved sending a proposed recommendation for changes to the bylaws, which would make the president an appointed position instead of an elected one, to the AGM for consideration by the membership.

**Electronic Voting**
Council approved a recommendation from the Legislation Committee to get direction from the membership to amend the bylaws to allow for electronic voting for Council members, bylaw amendments and/or MSP amendments.

**As-built Surveys**
Council approved a recommendation from the
Standards Committee to send a proposed amendment to Part D, Section 5.13 (As-built surveys for disposition amendments and renewals) in the Manual of Standard Practice to the AGM for consideration by the membership.

Establishment of Monuments Plans
Council approved a recommendation from the Standards Committee to send a proposed amendment to Part C, Section 3.9 (Establishment of Monuments Plan) in the Manual of Standard Practice to the AGM for consideration by the membership.

Official Surveys
Council approved a recommendation from the Standards Committee to send a proposed amendment to Part D, Section 9 (Official Surveys) in the Manual of Standard Practice to the AGM for consideration by the membership.

Dispositions Boundaries
Council approved a recommendation from the Standards Committee to send proposed amendments to Part D, Section 5.8.9 (Public Land Dispositions Except Access Roads) and Part D, Section 5.10.5 (Establishment of Disposition Boundaries for Existing Access Roads) in the Manual of Standard Practice to the AGM for consideration by the membership.

Product Fee
Council approved a recommendation from a Council working group to have the membership consider directing Council to prepare and establish a product fee for implementation no earlier than the 2019/2020 Association fiscal year, and that the product fee be associated with a unique identifier with each product prepared, and that the product number be obtainable from the Association directly or in a digital purchasing format. The recommendation is a follow-up to discussions that Council has had to look at alternate funding methods since 2016. It is also a follow-up to the report that the external consultant, MNP, presented to the membership in 2017. In 2017-2018, the secretary-treasurer undertook a new survey of the membership to clearly ask for data from the perspective of each individual land surveyor on the products they individually author.

Non-Mandatory Schedule of Fees
Council approved a recommendation from a Council working group to have the membership consider directing Council to prepare a non-mandatory schedule of fees document based on the results from the membership survey in the fall of 2017. At the 2017 AGM a new business motion was passed for Council to investigate a non-mandatory schedule of fees. As part of a broader survey, the Secretary-Treasurer surveyed the membership to obtain data on general pricing of surveying services in each members' respective market and based on their experience.

Please note that all AGM recommendations (including the specific wording for all motions and the accompanying rationales) will be sent to the membership immediately after the March 6 Council meeting.
2018-2019 Budget Approved
Council approved the ALSA budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year to run from May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019.

Key highlights of the budget are:
- No membership dues increases.
- Late penalty fee to increase from $200 to $500.
- RPR Working Group will have a $1,500 budget. RPR Working Group will also have administrative support for its meetings.
- A new Corner Recordation Index Working Group will have a $1,500 budget.
- $5,000 has been set aside for Council members to hold regional meetings with members outside of Edmonton and Calgary.
- Council approved the establishment of a fund, to be set at $50,000, to pay for the preparation of position papers.
- $10,000 has been set aside to provide legal and financial advice to create the Alex Hittel Foundation. The Alex Hittel Foundation will be established to support cadastral research in Canada.
- $7,500 has been set aside to retain an external facilitator to assist Council in identifying its priorities and preparing a plan for the upcoming year.
- Funds have been set aside to hire a new junior administrative assistant to help with the additional tasks that Council has already identified for the upcoming year and assist with some of the tasks that were no longer being done when the economic slowdown first hit.
- An additional $3,000 has been set aside for a Council meeting and regional meeting in Calgary in October.

Land Titles Update
A working group of land surveyors met with Land Titles to discuss a draft amendment to the LTO Procedures Manual concerning the alteration of survey documents. Land Titles is working on an official announcement to the membership concerning the change.

Another working group of land surveyors will meet with Land Titles to talk about a proposed LTO Procedures Manual revision to reflect upcoming Condominium Property Act Amendments affecting parking stalls.

At the ALSA AGM last year, there was a new business motion "that the Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association consider consulting with LTO to change the format of the downloaded plans from tiff images to pdf format. A pdf format is easier to use and is able to be read on smartphones and tablets." The matter was raised with LTO and they have agreed to speak to their technical people about this.
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. Any decision to retain an external facilitator was deferred until such time as the 2018-2019 Council is in place.

Plan Correction
Council authorized Joe Longo, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 821 0942 (Bob Fulton, ALS (Honorary Life)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

Council appointed Brent Wilson, ALS to make an application for an order under Section 91 of the Land Titles Act to vary plan 6534 JK (Ozzie DeSantis, ALS (Deceased)).

Council authorized David Amantea, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 5746 HN (J.F. Hamilton, ALS (Deceased)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

Council appointed Michael Thompson, ALS to make an application for an order under Section 91 of the Land Titles Act to vary plan 111 1890 (Bill Halma, ALS (Retired)).

Short Cuts
Council accepted, with regret, Barrie Smith’s resignation from the Boundary Panel.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association has been asked to provide representatives to the AER strategic oversight group and the user acceptance group as part of the consultation process for the AER One Stop program for public lands.

Thank you to Bruce Drake for speaking to Brazeau County residents, lawyers, realtors and staff about the purpose and benefits of the real property report.

Thank you to the 38 members who responded to the questionnaire about the iron posts and marker posts. The ALSA is currently compiling the responses and identifying common issues and suggestions.

Council discussed creating an official response to the possible establishment of a hybrid cadastre database and will provide comments to Reid Egger of the Director of Surveys Office.