The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on March 6, 2018. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

All of the candidates for Council were invited to attend the meeting.

From the Registrar
Exemption from Insurance
Council approved applications from Aaron Clapperton, ALS, Leighton Greenstein, ALS, Greg Stromsmoe, ALS, and Chris Turner, 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.

Retired Membership
Council approved placing Stephen Green and Tony Melton on the register of retired members.

Permit Cancellation
Council approved the cancellation of Allan W. Nelson & Associates Inc. as a surveyor's corporation.

Council approved the cancellation of SarPoint Engineering Ltd. as a surveyor's corporation.

Associate Membership
Council accepted Ken Johnson’s request to cancel his associate membership.

Standards Recommendations
Record Keeping Standards for Electronic Documents
The Standards Committee was asked to develop, in conjunction with Land Titles, policies for record keeping standards for both the electronic and wet ink paper documents registered at Land Titles. The Standards Committee put together a document that highlights the relevant sections of the Land Titles Act and the Proof of Identity and Handling of Documents Regulation. Council accepted the Standards Committee recommendation that the document be published on the ALSA website and in the weekly email to the members.

Integrated Survey Area Boundaries
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.

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 recommendation had previously been approved at the December 2017 Council meeting but was updated to reference that for more congested surveys, such as urban subdivisions, a surveyor should consider a denser reference control network.
Consistency of Linear Activities
The Standards Committee was asked to investigate making the means practitioners use to deal with linear activities that are in both private and public lands (typically PLAs/DPLs and EZEs) consistent. The Standards Committee put forward a recommendation to Council but Council determined that work needs to be done on this item and it will be on the Standards Committee terms of reference for 2018-2019.

Hybrid Cadastre Plan Standards
The Standards Committee asked Council to create a subgroup of the Standards Committee to provide input on standards of practice and plan standards for hybrid cadastre plans. Council decided to ask for further clarification and details before considering the matter.

Hybrid Cadastre Database Position Paper
The concept of a hybrid cadastre database was roughly presented by the Director of Surveys during the ALSA workshops in January 2016 and in the Government of Alberta workshops in September 2016.

In December 2017, the Director of Surveys office informed stakeholders through the ALSA Friday email that they were “developing the Hybrid Cadastre database” and asking stakeholders for comments or concerns they might have regarding this proposal.

The Hybrid Cadastre Working Group convened a prepared a position paper on the value of a hybrid cadastre database and items that should be considered. Council approved the position paper.

AGM Update
Jeff Adair has withdrawn his name as a candidate for Council.

The AGM reports and recommendations are now available online.

The draft calendar of committee meetings and events for 2018-2019 is now online.


AGM registrations are starting to fill up. The deadline for room reservations is March 15 and the deadline for event registration is April 8.

Iron Post/Marker Post Contract
Council had previously directed that the membership be polled on their view of Russel Metals’ performance and that a request for proposal be done for iron posts and marker posts.

Based on the feedback from the membership and the proposals received, Council agreed to renew the survey posts supply agreement effective July 1, 2018. The price for iron posts remains the same. The price for marker posts will increase by $1.35 per post.

Position Paper Research Fund
At its last meeting, Council approved the establishment of a research fund to be used to prepare position papers.

Council gave first reading to add a definition of the Position Paper Research Fund
into the policy manual. The proposed definition is:

The Position Paper Research Fund shall be used to pay subject matter experts to research a topic and prepare a position paper on the matter.

Any position paper or topic must be approved by Council before the Association enters into a contract.

Unless otherwise agreed to, monies shall not be paid to the subject matter experts until such time as the position paper has been accepted by Council.

Each year, Council shall set the balance of the fund at $50,000.

As this is a policy matter, the motion will come back to the next meeting of Council for second and final reading. Any members with any questions or concerns should speak to any member of Council or the ALSA office.

Short Cuts
The ALSA is working with its sister land surveying associations on a salary survey for professional members and technologists. It is hoped that the salary surveys will be ready for distribution to the members in the next couple of months.

The ALSA continues to work with Abacus Datagraphics on a new and improved corner recordation index. The index is currently undergoing administrative back-end testing and a select group of members will be asked to be a part of the user testing shortly.

Council discussed potential changes to the annual certificate that is mailed to Alberta Land Surveyors each year and the “year sticker” that is mailed to surveyor’s corporations each year. Council decided against making any changes.

Many thanks to all of the committees and committee chairs who provided comments to Council on were their terms of reference successful and whether any terms of reference should be removed or changed for 2018-2019. Council reviewed the comments and will consider all of the ideas when the terms of reference are approved by Council after the AGM in May.