The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on August 30, 2018. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

From the Registrar
Council approved the registration of a branch office of Benchmark Geomatics Inc. in Okotoks under the supervision, direction and control of Dean Fischer, ALS.

Council approved the registration of a branch office of Compass Geomatics Inc. in Grande Prairie under the supervision, direction and control of John Benere, ALS.

Cancellation of Ministerial Order
As the membership knows by now, the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association was informed on June 27, 2018 by the Deputy Minister of Alberta Environment & Parks that the province is exercising its option to terminate the ministerial order that allows the ALSA to sell monuments. Ministerial Order 54/88A will be terminated effective June 30, 2019.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met with the Director of Surveys at the end of July to discuss the reasons for the termination and their plan for moving forward.

The Director of Surveys told the ALSA that “the efficiency and effectiveness of survey post sales through the Association is not as relevant as it was thirty years ago.” The Director of Surveys explained that the agreement was no longer relevant because the ALSA is not physically distributing the posts to practitioners.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association has sent a letter to the deputy minister requesting a meeting and hopes to receive a positive response.

In the meantime, Council decided on the following course of action:

President Bruce Clark will speak to the membership (“state of the union”) on September 10 via a webinar.

There will be face-to-face regional meetings in Edmonton and Calgary on September 18 and 19.

Council members will organize face-to-face get-togethers in Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Lloydminster, Medicine Hat and Red Deer in September.

Following the face-to-face meetings, the ALSA will send out several questionnaires to the membership looking for your feedback. The questionnaires will ask for your opinion on services the ALSA should be providing to protect the public and your opinion on funding the ALSA.

Council will take the responses to those questionnaires and use it to help develop a budget for 2019-2020 as well as a longer-term financial plan for the
Association. Your feedback will also be used to help craft any recommendations that may need to be presented at the annual general meeting.

Thank you to all of the members of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association who provided their comments to Council and ALSA staff (both collectively and individually) about the pending termination of the ministerial order and what impact it will have on the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association.

Committee Terms of Reference and Volunteers
Council appointed the following vice-chairs:

- Ron Bridges (Practice Review Board)
- Bob Haagsma (Boundary Panel)
- Noelle Diakow (Communications & PR)
- Mark Horneman (Corner Recordation Index Working Group)
- Brad Machon (Future)
- Kelly Erick, Cody Moser (Legislation)
- Chad Finner (RPR Working Group)
- Firas Kattan (Standards)

The Registration Committee still needs to recommend an appointment of a vice-chair.

Council accepted, with regret, the resignation of Danu Vandermark from the Communications & Public Relations Committee.

ACLS History Book Sponsorship
The Association of Canada Land Surveyors (ACLS) has announced the production of its first publicized book.

The prime focus of this ACLS publication will concern the areas of Canada lands, which are relevant to the Association, such as Canada’s oceans, northern territories, national parks and Indigenous lands.

ACLS can only move forward with the production of the book if it has enough sponsorship commitments. Council considered whether the ALSA would help sponsor the book but Council decided to not do so at this time.

Future AGM Locations and Formats
Council asked the executive director to investigate restructuring the format of the AGM (that is, when certain events are held) so that the AGM might be held in more locations and, thereby, the ALSA might get more competitive rates and prices. Mr. Munday will provide a report and recommendation to Council at its next meeting.

Plan Corrections
Council authorized Sara Spence, ALS to make an application for an order under Section 91 of the Land Titles Act to vary plan 762 0307 (Steve Cherwonick, ALS (Deceased)).

Council authorized Ben Giesbrecht, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 5283 KS (C.H. Weir, ALS (Deceased)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

Council authorized Michael Thompson, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 971 2452 (W.H. Halma, ALS (Retired)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.
Council authorized Norman Chan, ALS to make an application for an order under Section 91 of the *Land Titles Act* to vary plan 052 1380 (Warren Barlow, ALS (Deceased)).

**Hybrid Cadastre Standards**
Council added “review the need to add a section to the *Manual of Standard Practice* regarding hybrid cadastre practice standards and provide recommendation(s) to Council” to the 2018-2019 Standards Committee’s terms of reference based on a recommendation from the Standards Committee.

Council added “create a consulting group whose membership is approved by Council with the Director of Surveys Liaison to provide feedback on the wording in Crown Disposition Standards document to ensure that they align with current standards of practice and provide a report to Council” to the 2018-2019 Standards Committee’s terms of reference. As this is a government document, it would not be presented to the membership for approval. As such, Council directed that the consulting group’s membership be approved by Council so that feedback can be provided directly to the Director of Surveys Liaison in a timely manner.

**Project Reports**
Council then gave second and final reading to a recommendation from the Registration Committee that existing Council policy 2015.01.012 be amended to change the reimbursement rate for marking a project report from $25 to $50.

**Short Cuts Lobbyists Act**
The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association will register as an organizational lobbyist with the Government of Alberta. The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association’s mandate is still to serve the public and protect the public interest and does not consider itself a lobbyist or an advocacy body in the traditional sense. However, recent amendments by the government to the *Lobbyists Act* (particularly when it comes to preparing for meetings with elected and public officials) compel the ALSA to register as an organizational lobbyist.

**Financial Statements**
The Association’s review engagement report for April 30, 2018, prepared by the Association’s accountant, was not available in time to be reviewed by Council. The financial statements will be reviewed by Council at its next meeting. The ALSA will then be able to make its biannual report to the minister on how ministerial order funds were spent.

**Foreign-Trained Land Surveyors**
Council reviewed the most recent update from Mike Lee, ALS, the Association’s representative on the Pathways to Foreign Credential Recognition project. Mr. Lee will attend a face-to-face meeting this fall to discuss potential changes to how foreign-trained land surveyors are assessed when they wish to be licensed in Canada.

**Executive Directors**
Mr. Munday attended a meeting with his executive director counterparts from
across Canada last month. Of particular note were the significant changes taking place in professional regulation in other jurisdictions and the increased cost of discipline cases across the country.

**Wetland Education**
Past-president Mike Fretwell attended a wetlands education network this summer. The focus of the group is to identify key messages that Albertans need to hear about wetlands and identify courses and materials available to educate professionals about wetlands.

**AER OneStop**
Early in the year, AER kicked off the *Public Lands Act* architecture build into their new technology platform called OneStop. Since then, the *Public Lands Act OneStop* build has been broken out into smaller projects. AER has created an industry working group for what they refer to as the Phase 2 project of the PLA build. Council member Michael Louie, Victor Hut and Al Jamieson attended the industry group meeting and will report back to Council and the membership on any developments affecting the membership.