The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on September 27, 2018. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

Opening Notes
Public Member Russ Barnes was not able to attend this Council meeting. He was undergoing open heart surgery in Calgary. Russ’ wife, Lila, reports he is doing well and on the road to recovery.

Council would like to thank everyone who attended the recent regional meetings across the province and all other members who took the time to write in their comments. Your input, ideas and suggestions have been invaluable. Your observations have been discussed around the Council table.

More regional meetings will be scheduled in the future to ensure ongoing discussions between Council and the membership.

From the Registrar
Council approved the registration of Zettel Geomatics Inc. under the supervision, direction and control of Jeremy Zettel, ALS.

Council approved the request to cancel Sovereign Geomatics Inc. as a surveyor’s corporation.

Council approved placing Tim Martin on the register of retired members effective September 1, 2018.

Report to the Minister of Environment & Parks
According to the ministerial order, the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association shall annually provide the Minister a copy of the accounting report showing the revenues and expenditures in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

The report to the minister also indicates how the funds were spent.

Future of Posts
The Director of Surveys was unable to attend the Council meeting due to an all-day training session.

However, the Director of Surveys was asked, via email, what the plan is for post sales after June 30, 2019. The Director of Surveys replied...

To ensure the uninterrupted monuments supply beyond July 1st, 2019, we will be soliciting the request for proposal (RFP) from potential suppliers. We will be seeking your input for formulating the specifications, shipment option etc.

Eventually, pursuant to s.10 (3) of the Surveys Act, it is the Minister who decides, and I am hoping that the announcement would be forthcoming prior to the next AGM.
Member Feedback
Council approved the distribution of a questionnaire to the membership asking about services provided by the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association.

Last year, under the direction of then-President Mike Fretwell, the Association started to embark on an initiative to identify the roles, responsibilities and relationship between the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association and the Director of Surveys.

Council calls this the “3R initiative.”

As part of the 3R initiative, Council would like feedback from you, the membership, about what you see as our respective roles and relationships.

This is a very important questionnaire and participation by all Alberta Land Surveyors is critical as it will help Council determine how services will be offered by the ALSA.

With the pending termination of the ministerial order, your answers to this questionnaire will help Council determine what financial resources are put into different services.

A further questionnaire to the membership on alternate funding was referred to the Alternate Funding Ad Hoc Committee.

Committee Volunteers
Council appointed Roberta Holtner as vice-chair of the Registration Committee.

Council approved the following Standards Committee members as a consulting group to the Director of Surveys Liaison to the Standards Committee (Reid Egger, ALS) to provide feedback on the wording in Crown Disposition Standards documents:

- Nicholas Madarash, ALS
- Michelle Merrick, ALS, Council Liaison
- Paul Deering, ALS
- Ryan Dick, ALS
- Nicholas Dolan, Pupil/ALSA
- David Mazurkewich, ALS
- Hector Muniz, ALS
- Patrick Myette, Pupil/ALSA
- Noah Nichols, ALS

Corner Recordation Index Scope Change
Council approved a scope change for the Corner Recordation Index that will incorporate a fillable form that populates the corner recordation index database. Funds for this scope change will come from the working group’s existing budget.

Future AGM Locations and Formats
Council authorized the executive director to enter into a contract to hold the 2020 AGM at the River Cree Resort & Casino in Edmonton and the 2021 AGM in Calgary (venue to be determined).

A satisfactory contract could not be arranged with Fairmont at this time.

Plan Corrections
Council authorized Kyle Sahuri, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 152 1541 (John Van Berkel, ALS (Retired)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.
Financial Information & Financial Management
Council approved the review engagement report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2018 as prepared by the accounting firm of Collins Barrow. (Collins Barrow in Edmonton will now be RSM Canada effective September 2018.) The review engagement report is now online.

Council received a report from the executive director outlining the financial controls he has in place. According to the policy manual, the executive director must implement a financial management system including bookkeeping and financial reporting functions. The system will allow for the monthly reporting of financial information of value to the Executive Director, the Executive Committee and Council, including monthly income and balance sheet statements and monthly expenditures. The report provided to Council did not outline any new controls or systems but made sure the existing procedures were codified.

Salary Survey & Charge-Out Rate Questionnaire
Council approved the salary survey and charge-out rate questionnaire to the membership in January 2019. The survey and questionnaire were part of Council’s strategic priorities developed shortly after the 2018 AGM.

Young Surveyors Network
Council discussed the idea of creating a young surveyors network to foster more social interaction amongst the newer and younger members of the ALSA. If any newer or younger member of the ALSA is interested, please contact the ALSA office.

Effective, Efficient and Relevant
Council received a letter from the Deputy Minister of Labour (responsible for the Land Surveyors Act) indicating that the government has reviewed the province’s professional regulatory organizations to ensure they remain effective, efficient and relevant. Alberta Labour has determined that the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association is effective, efficient and relevant. “The results of this review recognizes the services that PROs provide in protecting the public interest.... Thank you for providing a valuable service and for your continuing commitment to fulfilling your public role in supporting the safety and public interest of Albertans.”

Dormant Plans
President Bruce Clark and Executive Director Brian Munday met with new Service Alberta Minister Brian Malkinson (responsible for Land Titles) to discuss the ALSA’s concerns about dormant plans and the requirement to get consents from the party requesting the plan registration. It was a positive meeting and there was an agreement to follow up to have more discussions. The ALSA and Land Titles agreed
to form a working group to define the issue and then look for solutions within Land Titles.

Council approved a recommendation from the Future Committee to seek proposals to develop background material on the problem of being unable to register constructed right-of-way plans when one is unable to get the owner of the facility to sign the consent to register a plan. This paper is not limited to Land Titles.

In addition, the ALSA is seeking a recommended solution to this problem to consider when engaging with regulatory authorities on this matter.

Click here for the complete request for proposal.