The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on November 8, 2018. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

From the Registrar
Council approved Ivo Surveys as a trade name for Ivo Nedev Surveying Ltd.

Council approved placing Kin Wong on the register of retired members effective November 1, 2018.

Alternate Funding Questionnaire
Thank you to everyone who responded to the questionnaire on what services the ALSA should spend resources on.

Now, Council is turning its attention to questions on alternate funding/revenue replacement.

Since 2012, the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association has been discussing alternate funding for the ALSA due to declining post sales.

In 2016, Council looked at close to twenty alternate funding ideas and determined that some sort of product fee was the best alternative to raising dues in the short-term.

Council would like your input into the different type of product fee models that Council has been discussing. This is follow-up to the direction from the membership to bring a report back to the 2019 AGM.

The questionnaire will be sent to the membership in a stand-alone email before the end of November.

Director of Surveys/Ministerial Order
Unfortunately, the Director of Surveys was unable to attend this Council meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

However, the ALSA did meet with the Director of Surveys and his team in mid-October to discuss how the ALSA handles the sale of iron posts and marker posts for the membership and the RFP that the ALSA sent out to potential post manufacturers last January.

The Director of Surveys is expected to prepare his own RFP for the manufacture and distribution of posts. The Director of Surveys hopes to be able to announce a new arrangement for the sale of iron posts and marker posts by the time of the AGM.

Minister Shannon Phillips, responsible for the current ministerial order, has acknowledged receipt of the ALSA’s 2016-2018 report on how ministerial order funds were spent and has asked the Director of Surveys to review the report.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association continues to seek proposals from qualified people to help the ALSA prepare a document that outlines the roles,
responsibilities and relationship between the Director of Surveys, the ALSA and ALSA members.

**What to Show on an RPR**

Council approved sending a questionnaire to the membership to ask for your feedback on what improvements should be shown on commercial and residential RPRs.

The ALSA RPR Working Group (RPRWG) is looking for practitioner feedback to collect information from the membership as to what should be shown on an RPR for residential properties.

Through discussion with the RPRWG, it appears that municipalities across Alberta require much more information shown on an RPR that what is outlined in the Manual of Standard Practice.

The RPRWG would like input from the membership to determine if the ALSA should consider separate standards for residential RPRs vs. commercial/industrial RPRs.

**Click here to start the questionnaire.** The questionnaire will be available until November 21.

A separate questionnaire to real estate professionals was spent back to the working group for clarification on messaging, target audience and how the questionnaire will be distributed.

**Alterating Documents Safeguards**

The Standards Committee brought forward a proposed amendment to the Manual of Standard Practice that is intended to provide assurances to Land Titles what safeguards an Alberta Land Surveyor is expected to have in place when wanting to alter a survey plan or document at Land Titles.

Council referred the proposed amendment back to the Standards Committee. Council is asking for greater clarity on what the change is and why it is being proposed and get sign-off from Land Titles.

**Position Papers**

The role of the Future Committee is to oversee position papers prepared by contractors on behalf of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association on surveying, land surveying and geomatics issues.

The Future Committee has already issued an RFP to prepare a position paper on dormant plans.

Council approved a second RFP to engage a qualified researcher (or researchers) to produce in-depth background material regarding the impacts of current legislation regarding adverse possession within the Province of Alberta and to prepare a recommendation to the Council with regards to a position on the matter.

Council directed the Future Committee to prepare a third RFP, this on to prepare a position paper on a coordinate based cadastre. All members will have the opportunity to submit a proposal on this subject.
Pathways to Foreign Credential Recognition

The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association agreed in principle to the model entitled the “solution” as shown in the flow chart provided to us and that it be implemented by the end of March 2019. The agreement is based on the understanding that the associations and its representative will still be involved in the discussions and deliberations towards the approval of the final document.

The overall objective of this project is to streamline the recognition of credentials of foreign-trained land surveyors (FTLS). More specifically, in partnership with the ten provincial land surveying associations and the ACLS, the Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS) and six learning institutions, the ACLS will:

a) Establish a national process to assess the academic qualifications and competence of FTLS; and

b) Create a national single point of entry for FTLS to apply for credential recognition as a professional land surveyor in Canada; and

c) Develop a national bilingual website with information related to credential assessment and recognition processes for FTLS.

This project is funded by the Government of Canada under the Foreign Credential Recognition Program.

The Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS) will carry out the assessment of Foreign Trained Land Surveyor (FTLS) in a separate but parallel environment and process from domestic candidates to be created with its own FTLS Evaluation committee and all other processes. Consensus was also reached on making the national syllabus administered by CBEPS the technical requirements for becoming a Canadian land surveyor.

Diversity and Inclusion

Council gave first reading to a recommendation from the Communications & Public Relations Committee that the following diversity and inclusion statement be added to the ALSA policy manual.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association is committed to a diverse membership that reflects the qualities and differences of the broader population it represents. The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association is equally committed to an inclusive membership that welcomes, respects and values the diversity of members and supports them to actively engage in the association and achieve their full potential.

It is expected that, in the 2019-2020 term, each committee will have a term of reference to review the actions and policies under its sphere of influence to ensure compliance with diversity and inclusion statement.

As the statement is a proposed policy, it will come back to the next Council meeting for second and final reading. Members who have any concerns or comments are encouraged to contact the ALSA office or any Council member.
Award Nominations
Council directed the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association to review its three existing awards (Professional Recognition Award, Outstanding Service Award and Geomatics Award of Excellence) with a view to combining them into one recognition award with specific terms of reference, detailed criteria and a defined vetting process.

Council will also investigate and develop guidelines and criteria for the establishment of a members’ award based on feedback by the membership.

Plan Corrections
Council authorized Greg Boggs, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 882 1230 (Mike Porylo, ALS (Deceased)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

Council authorized Stephen Hyatt, ALS to make an application for an order under Section 91 of the Land Titles Act to vary plans 081 2254 (Michael SexSmith, ALS (Retired)).

Council authorized Huong Nguyen, ALS to make an application for an order under Section 91 of the Land Titles Act to vary plans 092 0935 (John Van Berkel, ALS (Retired)).

Council authorized Kyle Sahuri, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 082 5358 (John Van Berkel, ALS (Retired)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

Short Cuts
Council unanimously approved increasing the Practice Review Board budget from $8,000 to $16,000 for the balance of the fiscal year. The increase is due to an upturn in the number of hearings the PRB is holding with practitioners.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association will not host its annual beef & bun social event with the University of Calgary Geomatics Engineering students due to scheduling conflicts with the student-organized National Geomatics Competition at the school. Instead, the ALSA will become a sponsor at the event. The traditional “career day” event will not be held this either due to the National Geomatics Competition.

Council approved removing “Consider issuing an interpretive bulletin to address monumenting a delayed posting plan when a post cannot be placed” from the Practice Review Board’s terms of reference as the 7-2003 Non-Monumented Survey Plans (Delayed Posting) Practice Review Board Interpretative Bulletin already addresses the matter.

Russ Barnes’ appointment as public member on Council expired last month. The Government of Alberta has asked for feedback on the appointment process and Executive Director Brian Munday will meet with government shortly on this. In the meantime, Mr. Barnes continues to serve as public member.

Thank you to all of the members who wrote to Council to express your thoughts on the cancellation of the ministerial order, alternate funding ideas and other matters.