The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on January 31, 2019. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

From the Registrar
Council approved Genesis Geomatics Inc.’s eligibility to be registered as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision, direction and control of Louis Wang, ALS.

Council approved New Maple Geomatics Inc.’s eligibility to be registered as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision, direction and control of Stephen Hao, ALS.


Council approved the cancellation of Terry Beblow as a retired member effective December 31, 2018.

2019-2020 Budget
Council approved the 2019-2020 budget.

With the cancellation of the ministerial order, expenses were cut while still maintaining the services that the membership identified as important when polled last fall.

Annual dues for Alberta Land Surveyors will increase in 2019-2020 to $2,000. No other dues were increased.

Boundary Panel
The Boundary Panel was given a nominal budget for 2019-2020 to complete any outstanding cases and then take a look at the mandate of the panel and the way cases are prioritized, identifying the type of cases the panel wants to take on, reviewing the process as a whole and doing a complete re-write of the panel handbook with the intent of better protecting the public and using the available funds more efficiently.

Council agreed that the Boundary Panel is valuable and will continue to provide an important service for the benefit of the public even if funding through the ministerial order is gone.

Position Papers
It was agreed that the funding shortfall should not stop the momentum of preparing position papers. $50,000 was put in the budget to replenish the Position Papers Research Fund to cover the cost of two position papers at $25,000 each.

Discipline Expenditures
Money set aside to replenish the Discipline Revolving Fund was increased from $30,000 to $50,000. Council had an initial discussion about how much discipline cases cost and how much they cost the ALSA. Further discussion with the membership will take place at the AGM.

Committee Budgets
Of the eighteen committee expense line items, eight were reduced and four stayed the same. Only six line items increased for a savings of $9,850.

The Practice Review Board budget is increasing due to their need for more face-to-face meetings.
There is the possibility of Council holding short online meetings to discuss routine matters and fewer face-to-face meetings to discuss policy and strategic matters. The ALSA may look into video-conferencing services as an alternative to gotomeetings to facilitate better online meetings.

Mr. Munday was asked to reorganize the budget for 2020-2021 so that the full cost of administration’s time and services is allocated to committees.

**ALSAs Office Space**
Council discussed the possibility of reducing the ALSA office footprint. The ALSA may be able to reduce its office footprint by about 1/3 if a re-configuration could meet fire code requirements. In speaking with the ALSA’s commercial realtor, the ALSA could sublet the 1/3 area for a portion of what it pays in lease costs. However, it may take a year to find a sublease tenant.

Two ALSA staff do not currently work out of the ALSA office and, if they were to leave the ALSA, would likely be replaced by staff based in Edmonton. If that were to happen, and the ALSA were to sublet 1/3 of its space, there would not be enough room to accommodate one additional staff member.

**ALS News**
Council discussed the possibility of ALS News moving to a partially-digital or a digital-only format.

However, it was decided that the savings of not printing and mailing the magazine were minimal and there are benefits of having a hard copy magazine.

Council discussed whether there might be a means to enhance the product to generate more money. There could be dynamic links for advertisers in the online version of the magazine and this may help generate additional advertising revenue.

Could member directory searches could be monetized? It was suggested that the ALSA may need to retain external expertise to help determine whether this could be done and if it would be financially viable.

**Credit Card Surcharge**
Council directed, for the current 2018-2019 budget, that a surcharge be assessed on purchases made by credit card. The surcharge will be in place for the 2019-2020 budget. Members who do not want to pay the credit card surcharge will have the option of setting up an electronic deposit.

**Staffing**
Staff salaries and benefits are down from budget 2018-2019. Staff will be expected to meet all of the usual statutory demands, committee support requirements and the unexpected requests that arise. The Executive Committee stressed the need to cross-train staff on all tasks.

**General Notes**
Of the thirty administration expense line items, 17 were reduced and six stayed the same. Only seven line items increased for a savings of $33,728.

Of the sixteen CCR expense line items, 7 were reduced and six remained the same. Only four line items increased for a savings of $8,011.

**Financial Bylaw Amendments to the AGM Maximum Dues**
Council approved forwarding a recommendation to the 2019 AGM to increase the maximum amount of the dues for Alberta Land Surveyors from $2,500 to $4,000.
Council reviewed the maximum fees allowed under the bylaws as a result of the cancellation of the ministerial order.

The maximum was last increased from $1,200 to $2,500 in 2014.

However, actual dues for an Alberta Land Surveyor remained the same. Alberta Land Surveyor dues were last increased in 2012. In the last ten years, dues have increased by $50.

No other maximum dues under the bylaws were proposed. Council did, however, direct that the ALSA in 2019-2020 look at some sort of tiered dues for surveyor's corporations based on the number of Alberta Land Surveyors employed by the corporation. This concept was most recently looked at in 2014-2015 and Council directed that it be re-investigated.

Cap on Penalty
At the 2018 AGM, the membership approved a bylaw that if an Alberta Land Surveyor, surveyor’s corporation or surveyor’s partnership fails to notify the Registrar of a change in their current mailing address, email addresses and telephone numbers within twenty (20) business days, a fine of $50 per business day shall be payable to the Association.

As the existing bylaw does not have a cap on the amount, the fine could become quite large. In one recent situation, a practitioner did not notify the ALSA of a change in mailing address for one year.

Council agreed to bring forward a bylaw to the AGM to add Section 56(1)(p) which would indicate:

(p). for a penalty under Section 62(2) of the bylaws, a maximum of $1,000 or a lesser sum as may be fixed by the Council.

Financial Policies and Updates
Council gave second and final reading to amending the Association’s financial policies based on the review conducted by the Secretary-Treasurer.

The intent of the amendments is to clean up some wording, clarify some sections and ensure consistency.

References to the ministerial order were removed. The Enhancing Professional Practice fund was eliminated as it had no fund balance and had not been used. The terms of reference for the AGM Stabilization Fund clarified that the fund is capped at $100,000.

The updated policy manual is available [here](#).

Council updated its investment policy statement with its investment advisor, Julie Brough of Logan Wealth Management. The updated statement removes references to the ALSA generating revenue from the sale of iron posts and marker posts. However, there is no change to the asset mix at this time.

In a conference call to the secretary-treasurer and executive director, Ms. Brough indicated that the market should go higher but the first quarter of 2019 is expected to be choppy. There should be reasonable earnings growth in 2019; slower but reasonable.

Alternate Funding
Council approved a recommendation from the Alternate Funding Ad Hoc Committee to ask the membership to approve in principle the concept of a digital stamp as an alternate funding model. If passed by the membership at the 2019 AGM, a detailed proposal, including any bylaw amendments, will be prepared.
for consideration by the membership at the 2020 AGM.

The Alternate Funding Ad Hoc Committee is recommending that a digital stamp be affixed to survey products. The digital stamp would have a unique identifier and the digital stamp would need to be purchased from the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association on a single use basis.

At this time, there are many logistical details to be worked out so that the model would be fair to all practitioners and does not create an unnecessary burden on them. That is why the committee is asking for the membership to approve the concept in principle only at this time.

The Alternate Funding Ad Hoc Committee’s report and recommendation will be published with the AGM reports and recommendations package.

**Director of Surveys**

Council welcomed the Director of Surveys to the Council meeting.

**Regulatory Efficiencies**

The Director of Surveys reported on the regulatory efficiencies initiative. The "AER/AEP regulatory efficiency initiatives focused towards sustaining the public-land based industries competitiveness." The project is being led by AER and AEP regulators but the Director of Surveys is involved as their technical advisor.

A summary is available [here](#).

Input and comments can be provided to the Director of Surveys by February 11.

**Ministerial Order Report**

At its last meeting, the Director of Surveys agreed to provide his report to the minister concerning the ministerial order. The Director of Surveys said he is now unable to provide the report because it contains privileged legal opinions. The report cannot be “FOIP’d.”

Council did not dispute that either party could terminate the ministerial order but expressed its frustration and outrage that MLAs have more information about the termination than was provided to the ALSA and that the MLAs have incorrect information that the ALSA did not have the opportunity to correct or even respond to.

**Post Sales after June 30**

Council asked the Director of Surveys about the government’s plans to sell iron posts and marker posts after June 30.

The Director of Surveys indicated that they are working on an RFP and they are right on track to be able to make an announcement at the end of April at the AGM.

Council replied that the ALSA has repeatedly indicated to the government and the Director of Surveys that they need to make an announcement about post sales much sooner than the end of April and that the uncertainty is costing practitioners who are bidding on jobs now for after June 30 and that the delay is also hurting industry.

**Transition Period**

Council asked the Director of Surveys again about a transition plan to address the reporting requirements under the ministerial order. The Director of Surveys replied that he had agreed to have a transition period and that he would have to talk to someone to find out about a transition.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association represented by Rosalind Broderick, Bruce Drake, Connie Petersen and Brian Munday have had two meetings to date with Alberta Environment & Parks (represented by Scott Milligan, Ravi Shrivastava, Al Flim and
Geoff Banham) to discuss the future of the *Surveys Act* and a better relationship with the Director of Surveys Office. The group is meeting every two weeks and there is still plenty left to do and discuss.

**Adverse Possession**
Council agreed to a recommendation from the Future Committee to retain Dr. Brian Ballantyne as the lead researcher to prepare a position paper on adverse possession.

The Future Committee’s call for research papers into a coordinate based cadastre will be deferred to the Council priorities meeting in May.

Council accepted a recommendation from the Future Committee that
- The use of UAS technology to derive point clouds and orthophotography in surveying today, as well as the benefits of using a professional land surveyor for data collection and processing; and
- The use of terrestrial laser scanners for point cloud derivation in surveying today, as well as the benefits of using a professional land surveyor for data collection and processing...

...be the next two position papers prepared on behalf of the Future Committee.

**Electronic Voting for Council Members**
Council approved a recommendation from the Legislation Committee to amend the bylaws to allow for electronic voting of Council members at the AGM.

The concept of voting electronically for Council members was approved by the membership at the 2018 AGM and the Legislation Committee was directed to put forward a bylaw amendment for approval at the 2019 AGM.

The intent is if Council decides that only paper ballots are to be used, the ALSs in attendance at the AGM would receive a paper ballot. ALSs not in attendance would not receive ballots.

However, if Council decides that only electronic ballots are to be used, both the ALSs in attendance at the AGM and the ALSs not in attendance would receive an electronic ballot.

Finally, if Council decides that both paper and electronic ballots are to be used, the ALSs in attendance at the AGM would receive either an electronic or a paper ballot. ALSs not in attendance would receive an electronic ballot. Allowing for electronic voting and giving Council the ability to choose the voting method will be debated and voted on by the membership at the 2019 AGM.

**Recognition**
Council passed two motions to confer honorary life membership on two retired Alberta Land Surveyors.

The honorees will be recognized at the new member and awards gala on the Friday night of the AGM.

President Bruce Clark has contacted the recipients.

Council gave second and final reading to updated terms of reference for the Professional Recognition Award.

**Looking for Volunteers – Evaluating Foreign-Trained Land Surveyors**
CBEPS is working on establishing a national process to assess the academic qualifications and competence of foreign-trained land surveyors (FTLS). This new process will allow FTLS to qualify for a certificate of completion.
A number of volunteers and semi-volunteers (paid a stipend) are required to make this a success of assessing foreign-trained land surveyors. These are populating the FTLS Evaluating Committee with members of surveying associations; creating a roster of representatives from academia for the role of assessor who reviews all the documentation provided by the FTLS, and in accordance to the requirements, to assess the equivalencies with the Canadian academic system and to compare courses with the national syllabus; and to create a roster of land surveyors members of Canadian land surveying associations who will conduct a candidate interview.

**Expectations**
Volunteers are expected to commit to a minimum of three years and a maximum of five years.

**Training**
A short training session on the processes and expectations will be provided to the Committee via GoToMeeting. As well during that session, members will have ample opportunity to ask questions.

The volunteers for the FTLS Evaluation Committee would decide on the recommendations of the interviewers to accept, reject, or accept with a learning plan the candidate. Most of the work would be done via email with quarterly meetings via web. One person nominated per association would work if the decision is for establishing a rotation. We only need five people total to do this.

The interviewers would be paid $250 for every interview. We expect to have around 70 FTLS applications per year. If we have two people identified - land surveyors at large - per association and there are eleven associations, it looks like each interviewer would be involved in around three or four interviews per year. The time commitment is expected to be around one-to-two hours of preparation - don't forget that an assessor has already reviewed all the documentation and a report will be available - and one-to1.5 hours for the interview. As well there will be some time for drafting the final report although that report is not long and guidelines have been prepared.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Executive Director Brian Munday (munday@alsa.ab.ca).

**Plan Correction**
Council authorized Ben Giesbrecht, ALS to make an application for an order under Section 91 of the *Land Titles Act* to vary plans 822 0344, 822 0345 and 062 1358 (Dave Armstrong, ALS (Retired)).

**Encroachments**
Council approved circulating a letter to a group of real estate lawyers compiled by the ALSA’s RPR Working Group to get their comments and feedback on encroachments.

The RPR Working Group had also brought forward a recommendation on showing areas on real property reports. It was agreed that this term of reference would be clarified for the working group for the 2019-2020 year.
Committee Membership
Council accepted Jason Deschamps’ resignation from the Legislation Committee.

Council appointed Noelle Machon chair of the Communications & Public Relations Committee as the previous chair is no longer under articles.