The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on June 27, 2019. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

From the Registrar
Council approved Krawchuk Land Surveys Ltd. as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision, direction and control of Brad Krawchuk, ALS.

Council approved the cancellation of the registration of 1146584 Alberta Ltd. (o/a Millennium Geomatics) as a surveyor’s corporation, effective August 1, 2019 or a later date coincident with the date of registration as a surveyor’s corporation for Millennium Geomatics Ltd.

Council then approved Millennium Geomatics Ltd. as a surveyor’s corporation and authorized the use of permit number P219, previously issued to 1146584 Alberta Ltd. (o/a Millennium Geomatics), by Millennium Geomatics Ltd.

2019-2020 ALS Dues
The Minister of Environment & Parks rescinded the termination of the ministerial order. This means that the ALSA can continue to sell iron posts and marker posts to practitioners at the mark-up specified in the agreement with the government.

Council held a lengthy discussion as to whether or not to rebate some or all of this year’s increase in ALS member dues.

Council decided to not rebate any ALS dues at this time but revisit the matter in January when considering the 2020-2021 budget and more information will be known about post sale trends and a potential new or amended ministerial order.

Investment Management Presentation
Council welcomed the Association’s investment adviser, Julie Brough of Logan Wealth Management, to the meeting.

Last year, when she made her presentation to Council, she indicated that the issues to monitor were:
- Rising interest rates pose increasing risk to economic growth in 2019
- Global economic growth may have peaked
- Trade is the elephant in the room
- Valuation levels imply lower long term average equity returns.

Ms. Brough indicated that 2019 is an unusual economic environment. The important issues are:
- Economic growth continues to slow
- Trade!
- Interest rates – going up or down?

Ms. Brough emphasized that the Association’s fixed income strategy is:
- Rollover bonds as remaining yield-to-maturity declines
- Investigate options at the short-end
- Expect some volatility in bond prices

The equity strategy is:
- Cautiously defensive
- Maintain target asset mix
- Monitor valuation levels
- Balance sheet strength

Council decided to transfer $250,000 from its bank account and short-term GICs into its Logan Wealth Management investment account. Funds from Logan Wealth will still be available on short notice if needed.
More Association Finances
The Association's financial statements for the year-ended April 30, 2019 have been sent to the accountant for review. At this time, the ALSA is projecting a surplus of $240,000 due to investment income of almost $400,000. Investment income was more than 2.5 times what was budgeted.

Post sales were flat to slightly positive compared to last year. There was a small deficit from the 2019 AGM due to a number of last moment room cancellations. Fees and operating revenues were 105% of budget and total expenses were 98.8% of budget.

Making CCR Revenue Neutral
At the 2019 AGM, it was recommended that the Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association consider making the CCR process a revenue neutral process.

The secretary-treasurer conducted the review and concluded that the average comprehensive review costs just over $4,000 and that there are 10-12 comprehensive reviews per year. The costs are declining as Mr. Westlund finds efficiencies in how the comprehensive reviews are scheduled.

It was further noted:
- Provision 4.3 of the CCR Procedures Policy allows for charging for comprehensive reviews. The Practice Review Board considered charging but decided against it. The PRB felt that charging fees might make the process confrontational and take away from the educational focus.
- There would be issues of fairness when setting the rate. If it reflected actual costs, members may debate costs. If it was set as a standard fee, those who entered simple products near major centres may have a concern.
- The potential savings are insignificant compared to the total budget of the association and they do not justify the potential negative impact.

Council concluded that the due diligence required in charging costs is very high. The administrative and legal costs associated with this due diligence are not justified by the savings.

Council accepted the report and agreed that the costs are relatively small and it is better to have a collaborative approach with practitioners when discussing their reviews.

Committee Changes
Council approved the following changes to the list of committee members that came in after the original committee lists were accepted:
- Bruce Clark – add to Historical & Biographical as Council Liaison
- David Hagen – add to Standards Committee
- Mark Hickaway – add to Standards Committee
- Maurice Liboiron – remove from Corner Recordation Index Working Group
- Krista Lovse – add to Communications & Public Relations
- Paddy Marshall – add to Registration Committee
- Phillip O’Connor – remove from Registration Committee
- Thomas Penner – add to Standards Committee
- Kyle Sahuri – add to Standards Committee
- Floyd Strochinski – add to the Boundary Panel
- Vedran Todic – remove from Standards Committee

Council added “by January 2020, develop a guideline for
inclusion in the Manual of Standard Practice that outlines what an Alberta Land Surveyor should do, on a delayed posting plan, when they are unable to place monuments at the coordinate position” be added to the Standards Committee terms of reference. The new term of reference was in response to a meeting with Land Titles that discussed concerns that the Practice Review Board had with Form 11.1 and SUR-2 of the Land Titles Procedures Manual and some practitioners’ interpretations of those provisions.

The Historical & Biographical Committee provided a recommendation on what books and materials should be in the ALSA library. Council Liaison Bruce Clark will work with the committee to refine and clarify its recommendation.

**Acting Registrar**
Council appointed Dawn Phelan as acting registrar from July 18, 2019 to August 5, 2019 inclusive.

Registrar Rosalind Broderick is on vacation during this period of time and Executive Director Brian Munday will be on vacation during much of the same time. The

Director of Practice Review, Scott Westlund, will be available to assist Ms. Phelan if required.

**Welcome Government**
Council welcomed Al Flim (Manager, Land Surveys Unit, Surveys Section, Environment and Parks) to the meeting.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association has met recently with the new deputy minister of Service Alberta (responsible for the Land Titles Act) and the deputy minister of Labour & Immigration (responsible for the Land Surveyors Act). In these meetings, the ALSA explained the role of the land surveyor and their importance to Alberta. The ALSA also encouraged the government to approve the regulations that the membership had approved in a special general meeting in 2017.

The ALSA attended a meet the MLA night hosted by the Alberta Chamber of Commerce.

The ALSA expects to be able to meet with the ministers responsible for the portfolios relevant to land surveying profession over the summer.

Mike Fretwell represented the ALSA as an observer at a meeting between AER and CAPP.

**Charge-Out Rate Questionnaire**
Council approved the publication of the 2018 salary charge-out rate questionnaire to the members.

In January, practitioners responsible for survey offices were asked to complete a charge-out rate questionnaire.

The 2018 charge-out rate questionnaire survey is now available in the MyMember section of the ALSA website for Alberta Land Surveyors. Login and go to My Committees and then click on Alberta Land Surveyor.

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE**
August 29, 2019

Council meetings are open to the membership. Certain portions of a Council meeting may be held in camera for confidentiality reasons.

If you are planning on attending a Council meeting, please notify the ALSA office to ensure there is adequate space.