The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on August 29, 2019. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

From the Registrar
Council approved Tulloch Geomatics Alberta Inc. as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision, direction and control of Rocky Annett, ALS.

Council approved the cancellation of the registration of Edward Salmon Surveys Ltd. as a surveyor’s corporation.

Council approved the cancellation of the registration of Morrison Hershfield Geomatics Ltd. as a surveyor’s corporation effective September 30, 2019.

Council approved the cancellation of the registration of NANA Geomatics and Associates Inc. as a surveyor’s corporation effective August 30, 2019.

Council approved a branch office for McElhanney Land Surveys (Alta.) Ltd. in Canmore under the supervision, direction and control of Warren Lippitt, ALS.

Council approved the reinstatement of a retired member as a retired member. The retired member’s annual dues had not been paid on time.

Dormant Plans
Council accepted the dormant plans position paper. The paper was commissioned by the ALSA’s Future Committee.

Council directed that the Practice Review Board create a plan to deal with dormant plans and make recommendations to Council in light of the recent statutory declaration established by Land Titles.

The paper’s recommendations will be addressed as part of next year’s Council strategic plan.

The paper is available on the ALSA website.

Coordinate Based Cadastre – Request for Proposal
Council approved the distribution of a request for proposal to engage qualified researchers to produce in-depth background material on a coordinate based cadastre. The paper should identify stakeholders and discuss the impacts on each if a coordinate based cadastre is implemented within the Province of Alberta.

The deadline for proposals is September 20, 2019.

Partnership in Strategic Governance
Council authorized President Steve Yanish to sign a memorandum of understanding with the ALSA’s sister self-governing land survey associations.

The objective of this partnership is to collaborate between the professional land surveying associations and their respective members to examine current land surveying governance practices and regulations and review the concept of future governance of professional regulation in Canada. The partnership will also promote best practices in surveying and geomatics that are in the best interest of the public.

Maximum Fee Increase
Council was asked to consider amending the fee bylaw so that no fee, due or levy may be increased more than 10% year over year without prior approval of the membership at an AGM or SGM.
In the last twenty years, Alberta Land Surveyor dues were increased in five of those years. In fifteen of the twenty years, there was no dues increase.

In 2002-2003, the dues increase was 9% (from $550 to $600). In 2007-2008, the dues increase was 16.7% (from $600 to $700). In 2008-2009, the dues increase was 35.7% (from $700 to $950). In 2012-2013, the dues increase was 5.2% (from $950 to $1,000). In 2019-2020, the dues increase was 100% (from $1,000 to $2,000).

If there was a 10% increase each year over the last twenty years, the Alberta Land Surveyor dues would be $3,363.75.

Council decided to not bring forward a maximum fee increase bylaw amendment. Council determined that the ALSA has been prudent with its fee increases in the past and that the 2019 fee increase was due to extraordinary circumstances.

**Tiered Fee Structure for Surveyor’s Corporations**

Council was asked to consider amending the fee bylaw to include a tiered fee structure for surveyor’s corporations and surveyor’s partnerships.

The matter was last considered in 2014-2015. Under new business at the 2014 AGM, the membership passed a motion that “Council take into consideration proportioning the fees between ALS full active membership and corporations.

Council decided to not change the fee structure for surveyor’s corporations and branch offices and Alberta Land Surveyors.

In the 2019-2020 budget, the ALSA is projected to generate $134,000 from surveyor’s corporations/partnership dues and branch office dues.

In order to generate the same amount of revenue and based on today’s surveyor’s corporations/partnership fees could be $385 per Alberta Land Surveyor instead of today’s current $1,000 per surveyor’s corporation and $500 per branch office.

Based on this scenario, there would be 79 surveyor’s corporations better off and 33 surveyor’s corporations worse off. The one-ALS surveyor’s corporation would have saved $615 per year. The larger surveyor’s corporations would have paid $5,000 per year more and as much as $8,000 per year more.

**Possible Budget Changes**

Under new business at the AGM, Council was asked to consider putting possible budgetary changes into perspective for the membership in terms of what budget changes would mean to the membership.

Council discussed with Secretary-Treasurer Steven Van Berkel some ideas as to how the budget and the financial statements could be presented to the membership at the regional meetings and the AGM.

**Committee Changes**

Council established an ad hoc committee of Mike Fretwell, Al Jamieson and Michael Louie (Council Liaison) to work with AER/CAPP to reduce red tape in disposition surveys, analyze problems and propose solutions.

This working group is different from the Director of Surveys Consulting Group on disposition surveys in that this new ALSA subgroup will focus on the big picture strategic issues and the consulting
group will pay more attention to the technical and detail issues.

Voting for Council Members at the AGM
At the 2019 AGM, the membership approved amendments to the bylaws to allow Council to determine whether the election of Council members at the AGM would be done via a paper ballot, an electronic ballot or a combination of both.

Council decided that the 2020 election of Council members would be conducted by a paper ballot and that developing a process for conducting an electronic vote in time for the 2021 Council elections would be part of next year's strategic plan.

Committee Member Changes
Council approved the following committee volunteer changes:

- Wendy MacIsaac – remove from the Registration Committee
- Alex Perkins – add to Registration Committee
- Lorraine Hortness – remove from the Corner Recordation Index Working Group

Council also approved the following vice-chair appointments:

- Randy Smith (Practice Review Board)
- Ryder Kiehl (Careers Committee)
- Ryan Man (Communications & Public Relations Committee)
- Nick Madarash (Corner Recordation Index Working Group)
- Brad Machon (Future Committee)
- Greg Hebb (Standards Committee)
- Evan Thompson (Unauthorized Practice Review Committee)

High School Presentations
Council added “investigate making high school career presentations” to the Career Committee's terms of reference.

The Careers Committee's mandate is to promote land surveying as a career to post-secondary school students in Alberta. This focus to recruit students who already have an interest in surveying could be broadened to include students at the high school level that may not even be aware of land surveying as a future career option.

The term of reference aims to expand recruitment to the ALSA while at the same time broadening the young public’s awareness of the practice of land surveying and possible future career paths associated with land surveying.

Towards an Online Degree Program in Surveying/Geomatics
Last fall, CBEPS struck a task force to look into the possibility of offering online or blended university level courses to candidates to the land surveying profession to cover all subjects of the CBEPS national syllabus with the long-term goal of facilitating the setting up of a complete land surveying degree program online.

In response to a letter from CBEPS and ACLS, the Council of the ALSA has indicated it will:

1. support the initiative entitled “Towards an online degree in land surveying/geomatics Future of Education initiative;”
2. appoint someone to sit on the new stakeholders’ team; and,
3. consider making a financial contribution to this project if Employment and Social Development Canada does not fund this project.

Plan Corrections
Council authorized Irwin Natt, ALS to consent to the correction of plans 942 0900 and 021 1148 (Bernie McKenna, ALS (Retired)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

Council authorized Joel Hergott, ALS to consent to the correction of plan 072 7809 (Doug Lunty, ALS (Retired)) as per Section 92 of the Land Titles Act.

Request for a Section 9 of the Surveys Act Investigation
Pursuant to Section 9(2) of the Surveys Act, the Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association has sent a written notice to the Director of Surveys asking for an investigation and report into an alleged error in a survey. The alleged error is in regards to the NW1-47-28-W4M. Council’s request comes after the Boundary Panel completed Case 2015-12 and made its recommendation for a Section 9 of the Surveys Act investigation.

Future AGMs
Council authorized the executive director to enter into negotiations with Fairmont to hold the 2022 AGM in Jasper at Jasper Park Lodge and the 2023 AGM in Lake Louise at the Chateau Lake Louise.

Contracts for the 2020 AGM at the River Cree Resort and the 2021 AGM at the Calgary Hyatt have already been signed. It was felt that the prudent thing to do would be to consider holding the next two AGMs at familiar locations. This will give the ALSA the opportunity to see how well the 2020 and 2021 venues worked before deciding whether go back to Edmonton, Calgary or other urban centres for future AGMs.

Client Names on RPRs
In response to a request from the City of Calgary, Council has directed the Standards Committee to investigate amending the Manual of Standard Practice so that it is not mandatory to show client names on real property reports.

Welcome Government
Council welcomed Reid Egger (Geomatics Engineer, Surveys Section, Environment and Parks) to the meeting. Mr. Egger provided an update on the Director of Surveys Office crown dispositions consulting group.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association has been meeting regularly with Alberta Environment & Parks to discuss possible amendments to the Surveys Act. Council reviewed the direction the working group was taking with possible amendments and expressed their support for the working group to continue.

Over the summer, the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association has met with ministers and deputy ministers of Service Alberta and Alberta Labour & Immigration.

Service Alberta is responsible for the Land Titles Act. Alberta Labour & Immigration is 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. In these meetings, the government has made it clear
that red tape reduction is their main priority.

At the Council of Federation meeting this past July, Premier Jason Kenney said Alberta would explore the possibility of mutually recognizing the credentials of licensed professionals and trades workers from outside the province.

Council received a research article from the NRC Research Press concerning NRCan’s Compliance Program for high accuracy, GNSS services: ensuring compatibility with the Canadian Spatial Reference System. The paper was written by Jason Bond, Brian Donahue, Mike Craymer and Geoff Banham. The paper is online at https://www.nrcresearchpress.com/doi/abs/10.1139/geomat-2019-0001#.XWVTFehKiUk

Short Cuts
The College of Alberta Professional Foresters and College of Alberta Professional Forest Technologists have now merged into the Alberta Association of Forest Management Professionals.

The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association hopes to have a representative at the Industry Steering Committee on Wellborne Survey Accuracy in Calgary in October.

Council received a letter from the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors indicating that they have implemented a new exam system and that the candidates’ success rate so far has increased significantly. ACLS indicated that they are now working on an online, on demand exam system for candidates who do not already have the right to practice land surveying in a province.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE
October 3, 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.