The Council of the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association met on November 7, 2019. Here is a summary of Council’s discussions.

From the Registrar
Council approved Axiom Geomatics Ltd. as a surveyor’s corporation under the supervision, direction and control of Kevin Nemrava, ALS.

A former member contacted the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association regarding re-activating his membership as an Alberta Land Surveyor. Council directed the Registration Committee to consider the former practitioner’s request.

Iron Posts Placed at Positions other than Block Corners between 1912 and 1988
At its August meeting, Council reviewed the recommendation for an interpretive bulletin that was put forward during the review of the Surveys Act by Alberta Environment and Parks and the Director of Surveys Office. The Practice Review Board was directed to review this issue.

The request for an interpretive bulletin regarding iron posts placed at locations other than block corners between 1912 and 1988 was discussed during the September 18th, 2019 PRB meeting.

After reviewing the available information provided by the Standards Committee and from AEP/DOS, it was the opinion of the Practice Review Board that an interpretive bulletin should not be prepared regarding the iron posts placed at locations other than block corners between 1912 and 1988.

Each survey will be unique and the found posts will need to be assessed by the practitioner to determine the best available evidence. It was the feeling of the Practice Review Board that this determination was best left to the practitioner’s professional judgement based on the best available information at the time of survey.

It should be noted that through the CCR process and reviews this has not been found to be a common issue.

Council removed the term of reference from the Practice Review Board’s terms of reference.

National Syllabus Review
CBEPS was looking at updating its syllabus similar to the Pathway to Foreign Credentials Recognition project committee model - one representative from each land surveying association and from educational institution with an executive committee.

Council is putting forward the names of Fred Cheng, ALS and Ivo Nedev, ALS to assist with the national syllabus review.

A New Product for Municipal Compliance?
Council had asked the Future Committee to determine if a new product should be developed that incorporates municipal compliance requirements for new construction and infill housing and, if so, prepare draft guidelines for the new product.

The Future Committee discussed the matter and felt that RPRs are usually provided by ALSs practicing within the municipality and they often have regular interactions with the municipality. It was felt that it is reasonable to expect
the local ALSs to adhere to the municipality-specific requests. Council clarified the intent of the term of reference by replacing it with the following direction for the Future Committee:

*Prepare a guiding principles document that outlines the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of Alberta Land Surveyors, the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association, landowners, municipalities, realtors, lawyers, developers and other stakeholders when preparing plans and sketches (i.e.: real property reports, lot grading certificates, development permit surveys, municipal as-built surveys).*

**Coordinate-Based Cadastre Position Paper**
Council gave unanimous approval to a recommendation from the Future Committee to retain Hal Janes, ALS (Retired) and his project team to prepare a position paper for the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association on the use of a coordinate-based cadastre and how it could be implemented on freehold land. From this report, the ALSA will establish a position on the best format, if any, for a coordinate-based cadastre in Alberta.

Funding for the paper will come from the Position Papers Research Fund.

**Communicating with Council – and Making Council More Efficient**
Council gave first reading to a policy to align committee and Council structure with the strategic plan to expedite decision making and maximize resources.

The most significant change to the way matters are dealt with now is that the number of face-to-face Council meetings will be reduced to five per year which is offset by a number of short online Council meetings throughout the year.

The proposed policy is:
- Council shall hold a series of meetings in early May after the AGM in order to orient new Council members, conduct an environmental scan to identify issues, set priority strategic objectives and action items, and establish committees and terms of reference for the upcoming year.
- Council shall ask for committee volunteers after the strategic plan has been set.
- Committee chairs shall participate in an online orientation session.
- Council shall schedule at least five face-to-face meetings each year (strategic planning in May, guest speakers [i.e.: Logan Wealth Management, Land Titles, ASSMT] in August, committee chair update in November, budget in January, Council nominees in March).
- Council shall schedule online meetings every 2-3 weeks at other times throughout the year. These online meetings would be limited to a strict maximum of one hour in length. Anything that is not dealt with at these meetings is deferred to the next meeting. All information items are in a separate file for Council members to review. Council members are expected to have read the information items and may ask questions of anything in the information items but Council members are not to present their information items. The agenda for these one-hour online meetings would be published only a day or two before the meeting.
- Statutory committees shall meet throughout the year and statutory committee members remain in their positions until Council otherwise directs.
- Non-statutory committees shall generally have their first meeting of the term in June and will continue to meet until the following February or March. Non-statutory
committees will generally not meet in April and May.
• The president shall communicate the Association’s strategic plan through a webinar toward the end of May and provide an update to the membership via another webinar in October (approximately six months after and six months before the annual general meeting).
• The ALSA shall hold formal regional meetings in Calgary, Edmonton and Grande Prairie and informal regional meetings in other centres in March to give the members an opportunity to learn more about the AGM recommendations, get an update on Council activities, and ask any other questions they might have.

The draft policy is the result of a new business motion at the 2019 AGM that the ALSA consider holding some meetings each year online. The policy is also part of Council’s strategic objective to formally adopt and improve on the 2018 communications strategy with Council, committees and the membership.

The draft policy will come back to the December 5th meeting of Council for second and final reading. If any member has any questions or concerns with the proposed policy, please contact the ALSA office or any member of Council.

Greater Collaboration
As reported in the August 29th Council Report, the ALSA is working on 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.

Council indicated that the executive directors of each professional regulatory land surveying association should be the association representatives in these collaboration efforts to ensure continuity and consistency. Based on discussions amongst the executive directors, Council agreed that sharing best practices in practice review and continuing education be the first two topics discussed.

Surveys Act Timing: What Do You Think?
Council approved sending a questionnaire to the membership regarding the Surveys Act for their input to update and modernize the legislation.

During the review of the Surveys Act with the ALSA-AEP/DOS Working Group, there were certain areas of the act that were identified as having timeframes that may not be realistic. The ALSA wants to get feedback from the membership to see if there is any consensus and any desire for change.

Adverse Possession
Council welcomed Dr. Brian Ballantyne to discuss the adverse possession position paper he prepared for the Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association and its recommendations. The paper is on the ALSA website.

Council agreed to ask Dr. Ballantyne for a proposal to commission research into Alberta Land Surveyors’ experience with section 69 of the Law of Property Act, when retained either by the possessor/improver or by the true owner of the parcel in order to supplement the research done by the Alberta Law Reform Institute. Council also requested a proposal for Dr. Ballantyne to present a webinar to the membership on this subject in January 2020.
Manual of Standard Practice
Council directed the Standards Committee to bring forward a recommendation in time for the 2021 AGM to remove any section of the Manual of Standard Practice that refers to the product standards of a government agency or department and remove any section of the Manual of Standard Practice that would need to be amended if a government agency or department were to amend their own product standards.

The intent of the direction from Council is that practitioners should know the rules and guidelines of municipal and provincial governments that may have their own direction on what needs to be shown on a survey product for approval purposes before taking on such work. A government may change its product requirements but that does not mean that the Manual of Standard Practice must also change. The ALSA’s survey standards would remain the same.

Surveying Access Roads
Council directed the Standards Committee to work with the government’s Crown Dispositions Standards Consulting Group to explore how to improve efficiencies for surveying access roads.

Short Cuts
Council welcomed Al Flim (Manager, Land Surveys Unit, Surveys Section, Environment and Parks) to the meeting.

Council directed the administration to ask the membership if they have any questions/concerns about changes taking place with AER OneStop as it affects the land surveying profession. The Alberta Land Surveyors’ Association has been trying to get as much information as it can and share it with the membership. If you have questions or concerns with the AER OneStop changes, please contact ALSA Council member Michael Louie who will try to answer your questions, find out where the answers are or ask AER the question.

Council reviewed a first draft of a report from Vice-President Bruce Drake on professional governance for the land surveying profession.

Council reviewed notes from the annual surveyors’ associations executive directors’ meeting.

Council wrote a letter to Professional Surveyors Canada urging it to review a situation where land surveyors in different provinces could be paying different amounts for membership in PSC in 2020. Council will review PSC’s response at Council’s next meeting.

Council reviewed correspondence with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Land Administrators. There is a desire to provide each with other with input and comment on issues we are working on.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE
December 5, 2019

Committee chairs have been invited to attend this Council meeting and provide a mid-year report and get any clarification or assistance that may be required.

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.