

Closed sessions has been redacted from these minutes

SASKATCHEWAN LAND SURVEYORS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING
March 16, 2023, 1:30 PM via conference call
2022/23 Meeting #11 Minutes

The following members of Council were present:

H.M. (Heather) Bennett, President

R.W. (Regan) Rayner, Past President

T. (Terry) Alm, Public Member

R.A. (Adam) Kraszlany (year two)

J.H. (Jade) McLeod (year two)

S.T. (Stephen) Conway (year one)

B.J. (Brad) Luey (year one)

Others present: Carrie Weir, Executive Director

Absent: T.G. (Travis) Wolfe, Vice President

Action items are indicated by colour for **Council** and **Office**

Meeting was called to order at 1:32

1. Adoption of the agenda – Expenditures related to alignment with Professional Governance Acts was added as item 7.c

Moved by Terry Alm, Seconded by Brad Luey

That the agenda be approved as amended. Carried

2. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes: 2022-02-16 (2022/23 #10) - complete copy for the association's file and one redacted version to be posted on our public website

Moved by Jade McLeod, Seconded by Adam Kraszlany

That the minutes be approved as presented. Carried

3. President's Report

- Heather attended the AOLS and ABCLS AGMs since our last meeting and continued to see a lot of consistency in the discussions and concerns amongst the sister associations.
- There was discussion around retention and recruitment and whether the TOLD program that is underway through CBPES will serve as a pivot. There was discussion about what the target number of surveyors/technicians is in each association. SLSA has not established a target. Members in many associations are struggling to attract enough technicians, as are SLSA members. ALSA engaged Dr. Ballanyne to do a study that looked at both surveyors and technicians and what is needed to support the public. The report, [Demand for, supply of, and diversity among Alberta Land Surveyors to 2033: Changing the narrative](#), is posted on the ALSA website.
- ALSA is not yet under *The Professional Governance Act* (PGA) in Alberta, but it has been re-affirmed that they will be this year or early next. They have done a lot of work to align with the PGA so that the transition will be smooth and are now in a holding pattern.
- A number of motions were presented at the ABCLS AGM with respect to aligning with the PGA. Although they are not one of the many professions under it, they have met with the Superintendent and understand that could change anytime. These motions included changes to the code of ethics and to their governance. Members considered a motion that would delegate the authority to amend bylaws to the Board (SLSA uses the term Council; ABCLS has a Board). After much discussion, that motion was defeated. Some members felt that perhaps they could support it in the future, but were not yet ready to. Members understand the importance of protecting the public, but many feel that is what they have done for the past 118 years of their history.

- PGAs are a trend that lawyers are highlighting and anticipate will sweep across the country. Our sister associations are being affected. We have not heard any rumours of change in Saskatchewan.
 - AOLS had a 3 year celebration of new commissions in which a diverse group of 84 new OLSs received their commissions.
 - ABCLS had fewer new commissions, but are a large association with 342 practicing members currently.
 - Both AOLS and ABCLS have a large portion of their members over the age of 55 and are facing aging demographics.
 - ABCLS members passed a budget with a \$70K deficit, which will use some of their surplus from previous years to fund projects and staffing changes.
4. Matters arising from previous meetings
- a. Notice re. Accretion - [Bill No. 100 — The Miscellaneous Statutes \(Accretion\) Amendment Act, 2022](#)
 - During the Economy Committee meeting on March 7, Mr. Wotherspoon, the Opposition Critic for Agriculture, re-iterated that land surveyors should be consulted along with other stakeholders.
 - The letter approved by Council through email was sent to Hon. David Marit, Minister of Agriculture on March 8.
 - The Bill received third reading on March 8.
 - It was agreed to remove this item from future agendas until we know more.
 - b. Interpretation of SLSA Regulatory Bylaws & Authority to set standards
 - The Executive Committee has referred this to the bylaw committee
 - The Controller of Surveys notified Heather and mentioned at yesterday's meeting that he will be working on two policies "Governing vs Non-Governing Monuments" and "Next Governing Monument Policy". Further to our discussions about having parallel policies, (Controller Policies and Manuals for plans submitted to the Land Surveys Directory; SLSA bylaws for plans that are not) one of these policies will be parallel to SLSA bylaw Article XIII, SECTION 9 (Working between Primaries).
 - c. Public Member – we are awaiting an appointment by the Minister of Justice
 - Heather thanked Terry for graciously staying on Council until a replacement is appointed.
 - Heather shared that ABCLS members put forward a motion to include more public members; not to the board, but spread throughout their committees. This could be achieved through a bylaw amendment and does not require a change to the Act or an appointment by government.
5. Committee Reports as needed
- a. Government Relations Committee – Dan Codling:
 - The committee would like to advance the issue of interests registered against titles, which it put forward as a talking point for the MLA reception.
 - The committee would like to bring a list of concerns forward to the Ministry of Justice staff, followed up by a meeting with the Minister or MLA's. Our thought is that the staff needs to see the message first and review it before it will be elevated to the Minister. We are seeking some direction from Council about that approach.
 - PSC may also be a resource as they have been lobbying federally for years that underground infrastructure needs to be recorded and registered, and depth of cover legislated. Telecommunications infrastructure has been their prime example.
 - Council agreed that the committee should:

- Draft a letter that includes possible solutions rather than simply identifying problems; focuses on public protection; and does not overstep our expertise, mandate, and role. It was noted by the Public Member that, for issues outside of our expertise for which we cannot offer solution, there is an opportunity to provide information that government officials should be aware of and attempting to address it.
 - Send the letter to Council first. It should be addressed from Council on behalf of the Government Relations Committee.
 - Notify OPRA and specifically the Registrar of Titles first before reaching out to other government employees or elected officials.
 - *Stephen, the Council liaison to the committee, will work with the committee on this*
- b. Peer Competency Review Committee – Kristof Dumais: Howard Larson has resigned from the committee.
- c. U OF C Geomatics Engineering Liaison Committee - Nathan Dennison: Nathan provided a slide deck from the U of C GELC meeting which was circulated with the agenda.
- Regan noted that it was concerning that there are only three 1st year students, but the gender split of graduates since 2016 is encouraging.
 - Heather shared that the ALSA undertook a study that looked at the association funding the Cadastral Chair. The study returned a recommendation to directing funding to educational outreach instead.
- d. Nominations – Regan Rayner: Regan has at least one candidate confirmed to let their name stand for election.
- Heather shared that ALSA, ABCLS, and AOLS, in alignment with PGAs, are looking to implement nominations and elections processes that are competency based rather than volunteer driven. Although they all have large memberships to draw from, there are some concerns around the existing challenges finding people to volunteer their time.
6. New Business
- a. There was no new business arising
7. **A Closed Session was held, which is not included in these minutes**
8. Next Meeting: April 20, 1:30
9. Meeting was adjourned at 2:18