

**MINUTES OF MEETING FOR
THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOCIETY OF AQUATIC SCIENTISTS
54th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD on the 28 June 2017 @ 15h30
Birchwood Hotel, Boksburg, South Africa**

AGENDA

1 WELCOME AND OPENING

President **Nico J Smit (NJS)** welcomed everyone to the 54th AGM of SASAqS. **NJS** commented that we are heading for our 60th AGM

2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attending: see the attached attendance list.

Apologies: B. Madikizela, F de Moor, A Whitfield, A Oldewage, M Graham, J Adams (and her group), M Ntuthuko, C Thirion, H James, H Roux, V Wepener. W Vlok and M Coke.

3 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

3.1 The WRC RDI Roadmap workshop that was held concurrently was added for feedback from **W Malherbe**.

3.2 The upcoming EXCO election in 2018 was added.

3.3 A communication on the International Congress of Zoology was added by **C van Dyk**.

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGENDA

NJS asked for any comments or matters that arised from the minutes of the 53rd AGM in 2016. The minutes of the 53rd Annual General meeting were accepted as a true reflection of the proceedings. Proposed by **Gordon O'Brien** and seconded by **R Greenfield**.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 53RD AGM

5.1 **NJS** brought up the registration with SAVC for research facilities especially regarding ethics. **Richard Greenfield (RG)** was involved as SASAqS representative. A document was circulated regarding holding facilities, **RG** made comments, sent to SAVC but no response as yet. SAVC requires a Veterinarian to do any procedure with fish – major issue as it is not practical to take a long a veterinarian into the field – financial and practical reasons. In order to do procedures you need to do an animal handling course – **NJS** circulated flyer of NWU course that was recently initiated. NWU co-opted Paul Fouche, David Huchzermeyer, Louis Du Preez, and Che Weldon to develop course. It is registered at NWU as a short course and ethical clearance from the university animal research ethics committee have been received. NWU accredited the course. Next step will be to be accredited with SAVC and SACNASP

CPD registration as well.

Olaf Weyl congratulated NWU and **NJS** on the course. He mentioned it is a stumbling block that was known but no one ever did anything about it. Well done for NWU taking the lead.

RG – big stumbling block was knowing what an invasive procedure is. Help with this will be good in terms of the SAVC. **Olaf Weyl** indicated that even tagging is invasive. **NJS** explained the course and a trial run, what was learned on the course, operation, wound gel etc.

R Wasserman enquired about the cost of the course. **Olaf Weyl** enquired about accommodation availability.

5.2 **NJS** also brought up the World Fish Migration Foundation and SASAqS involvement in World Fish Migration Day (WFMD) and SA Swimway programme.

G O'Brien gave feedback. WFMD in 2016 – proposed establishment of SA Swimway programme with SASAqS support of the program. Society will be involved with the WFMD 2018 and the flag of the WFMD was given to SASAqS by Herman Wanningen in 2016. WFMD is on 18 April 2018 and SASAqS encourages people to get involved and organise events - events will be worldwide.

Progress on the Swimway programme was a workshop / discussion session with various stakeholders. Projects have been established in this programme and the programme will serve as a communication platform for the Swimway programme.

NJS emphasised it is that we look at healthy rivers and not just fish.

6 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NJS indicated that each portfolio will report on their activities during the year.

7 TREASURERS REPORT

SASAqS Financial report 2016/2017

RG reported on the financial report of the society.

RG indicated SASAqS is in a really in a good position and briefly explained the financial statements and expenditure. Funds that were outstanding were due to members that have not paid yet. The annual conferences keep the society healthy. **RG** also explained the travel grant that is awarded every year.

He indicated that EXCO is investigating the use of Paypal for international members to pay their membership fee into. However, SASAqS would need to open a FNB account as it is the only way to access the PayPal money.

Comments from the floor:

Olaf Weyl voiced disappointment that we have such a low number of applications for the travel grant. He is surprised that we are not inundated with applications. **RG** – mentioned that D Lemley was given it twice. **Jeff Hean** asked if there are any funding for Postdocs. **NJS** indicated that there was a discussion previously and postdocs are not allowed and that it is for only PhD initially but now MSc are welcome to apply so as to attract more applications. **Gordon O'Brien** was surprised that none of his students applied. **NJS** indicated that supervisor should know about applications as the form includes a section they need to complete.

Sya Buthelezi thought Paypal was agreed upon already and asked if accounts should not change to FNB. **RG** – Paypal will be up and running soon.

Treasurers Report was accepted - proposed by **Olaf Weyl** and seconded by Prof **JHJ van Vuren** and **Ryan Wasserman**.

NJS – thanked **R Greenfield** for his contribution and **R Greenfield** thanked **Adri Joubert** for her role.

8 EDITORS REPORT

SASaQs Editors report 2016/2017

NJS apologises for **Mike Coke** not being here. Mentioned his health issues.

NJS read the report and highlighted certain aspects.

Olaf Weyl indicated the record is 17 people to ask before getting a reviewer.

W Malherbe is sending out the Table of Contents for each issue.

NJS asked members to make time and do not say no to review papers as we need them.

Comments:

Olaf Weyl commented on predatory journals; Good guide for younger researchers / students – for each paper you publish you should review a minimum of 2 papers as you can learn a lot from reviewing papers. **Olaf Weyl** mentioned he found it incredibly helpful in his career to review papers. **NJS** agreed.

NJS – thanked **Jenny Gon** for all her hard work during the years. Retired in Dec 2016 but no new publishing editor. **Mike Schramm** currently doing final checks before proofs.

NJS brought up succession of the AJAS editor. **Nick Rivers-Moore** is currently a co-editor. Prof **JHJ van Vuren** has also agreed to get involved as a co-editor. No details yet but for the first time we have names on the table that are willing to assist. **NJS** – thanked Prof **JHJ van Vuren** and **N Rivers-Moore** for their availability.

NJS thanked **Mike Coke** for all his hard work during the years. Sends his best wishes regarding his health.

Comments: **Gordon O'Brien** indicated access to the journal comes with the full paid up membership. Email **Wynand Malherbe** if you have issues with access as he will contact NISC.

Acceptance of the editor's report: Proposal – **Mike Silberbauer**; Seconded – **Rob Hart**.

9 WEB MASTERS REPORT

<http://www.riv.co.za/sasaqs>

www.sasaqs.org is available as a new website according to **M Silberbauer**. It should automatically redirect to this address from the old one but he was still looking into this.

The user profile is the same as last year. If there was more interactive students with our own domain name it will increase the site visits.

NJS – thanked **Mike** for his hard work on this.

10 COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

NJS – no representatives but keep it up in case someone in the future is willing to help.

11 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Anrich Kock presented the activities of the students – mainly NWU students. There was a movie night, river clean-up, student competition and the challenge is to get students involved from other universities.

Comments:

Anrich Kock was thanked by **NJS**. It was discussed last year too – students need a representative at each university and then they have to organise themselves. Important to get organised at each university and to gather support from universities. All universities to get involved and present next year.

Rob Hart – endorses doing it all on the same day. **Wynand Malherbe** mentioned that July was river clean up month.

Sya Buthelezi indicated that students should involve DWS in the cleanup. He also indicated that you should look at involving the community in clean up i.e. High schools or primary schools. **NJS** said that was a really good proposal to involve schools. **Anrich Kock** indicated that Midvaal Water Company were also involved in the NWU cleanup.

11 CONFERENCES

2018 Conference

Hosted by SAIAB. **Olaf Weyl** will start to get on with organising. He is in favour of having it on the coast as the time in Grahamstown difficult with arts festival.

2019 Conference

No planned place or organisers to date – discussions with University of Limpopo.

2020 Conference

No planned organisers yet

12 AWARDS

NJS – on behalf of the vice-president indicated that the gold medal will be awarded tonight. And the two travel grants that is awarded. There will also be awards for student poster/oral presentations.

13 HONORARIA

NJS brought up the honoraria for **Adri Joubert** (finance) and **Mike Coke** (AJAS editor). **Mike Coke** indicated he will gladly give half of the honoraria to the other person that will alleviate his workload as editor. **NJS** indicated we increased the honoraria every year up to R33 000 per year. **NJS** proposed that we do not take anything away from **Mike Coke** but rather add money for the co-editor in proportion to his work load. This will potentially prepare us better for future. **NJS** proposed to keep Honoraria and provide additional honoraria in proportion of work load for the co-editor.

Olaf Weyl and **Rob Hart** supported that proposal.

14 BY-LAWS

15 CONSTITUTION

NJS discussed the two changes that was made to the constitution – honorary membership and the paragraph added to wind up the society needed for Public Benefit Organisation registration and also the tax clearance certificate from SARS.

16 GENERAL

16.1 WRC RDI Roadmap. **Wynand Malherbe** presented brief feedback on the WRC RDI roadmap and where SASAqS members can get involved in this.

Comments:

Rob Hart – in the Limnological Society of South Africa (LSSA) days the Society put pen to paper to provide a motion to send to government departments. He enquired if that does still exists? He indicated that he wonders about some of the directions that research is taking and if the society have a way to push the questions in to the right direction.

NJS indicated that stakeholder engagements is the way to go. Two years ago there was a huge push at a workshop but then no feedback was received. There have been letters sent before for other issues as well. But the key is that we must participate in these stakeholder engagement workshops. SASAqS sends emails to people to encourage them to go. The general opinion is that there is a drift away from ecology and basic research. Important point that **Rob Hart** raised.

16.2 International Congress on Zoology will be hosted in Cape Town in July 2020. **Cobus van Dyk** is on the organising committee. There will be a call for sessions that will come to SASAqS and he encouraged the society to be a part of this.

Olaf Weyl indicated this was a big conference and would there be a consideration as a sub theme at the conference? Or that SASAqS may be run back to back. **Richard Greenfield** indicated that SAMS will also be in the same year and that we should include **Janine Adams** and that she knows about it.

16.3 EXCO elections – nominations will go out in April or May 2018. **NJS** indicated that it is a great experience to be part of the EXCO. It can be a very enriching experience.

17 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Olaf Weyl will communicate the next date for the 55th SASAqS AGM.

18 CLOSING

NJS closed the meeting. Thanked **Richard Greenfield** (UJ) and his team for the organising the current conference!! He also thanked **Wynand Malherbe** for taking the minutes.

Signed

Vice President (V Wepener)

Date

Accepted

President (N Smit)

Date