

**MINUTES OF MEETING FOR
THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOCIETY OF AQUATIC SCIENTISTS
55th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD on the 27 June 2018 @ 15h45
Cape St Francis Resort, South Africa**

AGENDA

1 WELCOME AND OPENING

Former president **Nico Smit** welcomed everyone to the 55th AGM of SASAqS (2018) and declared the meeting official.

2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attending: See the attached attendance list

Apologies: Wynand Malherbe; Anrich Kock, Helen Dallas, Christa Thirion, Wilson Mhlanga

3 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGENDA

Nico Smit (NJS) asked for any comments or matters that arose from the minutes of the 54th AGM in 2017. The minutes of the 54th AGM were accepted as a true reflection of the proceedings. Proposed by **Gordon O'Brien**, and seconded by **Olaf Weyl (OW)**.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 54RD AGM

- **NJS** informed that the registration of SASAqS as Public Benefit Organisation at SARS was successful, after a lengthy process.
- **NJS** stated that the Paypal account for international members has been successfully opened.

6 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NJS reported on the different portfolios for the duration of his term as president, 2015 – 2018: Ideas stated at the start, to achieve during the term:

6.1. Activities: Hold a conference every year

We have experienced in the past that skipping a conference has a major impact on membership, and that it should not happen in the future.

6.2. Membership

NJS stated that since **Petrie Vogel (Savetcon and ABevents)** started organising the conference in 2011, data for attendance and membership numbers are available and can be plotted.

The influence of the SAMSS conferences (every 4 years) was clearly visible between the attendances of the 2017 SASAqS conference and this year's conference with 165 delegates, of which 86 are students.

NJS thanked **OW** for incredible conference attendance 2018 and the funding arranged for students.

- Aim to always have 150 full members - attained since 2013
- Aim to always have 50 student members – attained since 2015

6.3. Awards

NJS indicated that the general thought is that the awards are a great idea since previous award members are still with the society, even the three 2016 gold members are still participating in conferences. The 2018 awards will be presented at Gala dinner tonight. Congratulations to Prof Bate for his incredible contribution to science (not attending this year, will award the medal in 2019)

Student travel award for 2018: 6 applications – only two qualify – **NJS** asked the AGM to award two travel grants again for 2018? The **AGM** accepted.

6.4. Management

NJS indicated that the management is in a stable condition and achieved the following during the last few years:

- Updated by-laws to include student travel award
- Updated the constitution with a dissolution clause for registering as a PBO
- Registering as PBO and being able to receive tax clearance certificate
- Created a Paypal account (for international members and contributions)
- Negotiated with NISC regarding member's journal fee, with a positive reaction: Paying less over to NISC thus no drastic increase in membership fees, **NJS** urged next council to do the same.

6.5. Finances:

NJS stated that money is used in sustainable manner, and that it would be great to always keep the finances fluctuating around R400 000.

6.6. Journal

Impact factor of our journal: increased to 0.706 (2018), **NJS** congratulates everyone involved with this achievement.

6.7. Council 2015 – 2018

NJS thanks everyone for their support and indicated that the reports show success of society moving forward. The major event was the retirement of our AJAS editor, **Mike Coke**. **NJS** thanked **Mike** for incredible contribution to journal. His official retirement will be at the Gala dinner.

6.8. Council 2018 – 2021

President: **Victor Wepener**

Vice-Pres: **Olaf Weyl**

Honorary Treasurer: **Richard Greenfield**

Honorary Secretary: **Wynand Malherbe**

Honorary Co-Editors: **Cate Brown/ Nick Rivers-Moore**

Co-opt editor: **Mike Silberbauer**

NISC, Editors and council to discuss **Mike Coke** nomination for **Mike Silberbauer** as co-editor (for 20h per month). **Mike Silberbauer** to retire in 18 months' time and can't commit to co-editor before that time.

Nick Rivers-Moore has been working with **MC** for a good amount of time and this will facilitate a smooth transition to the new editors. Accepted by **AGM** as new council.

NJS hands over to **Victor Wepener (VW)** to continue the AGM.

VW thanked **NJS** for his successful term and urged to keep his involvement.

7 TREASURERS REPORT

SASaqS Financial report 2017/2018 – RG

- **Richard Greenfield (RG)** reported on the finances of the society. **RG** indicates that the society is in a healthy financial position and explained some financial statements and expenditures. The total balance is down from 2016 due to outstanding money:
 - 2017 conference made a profit and was used as deposit for the 2018 conference.
- Overall the current financial situation of the Society is healthy.

- Paypal account – The current balance \$9.03, and to reduce transfer cost, will be deposited to the FNB account when it is deemed that there are sufficient funds for the transfer.
- The PayPal account will attract more international members, and reduce unnecessary costs, since the cost of credit card facilities amount to too much.
- Membership:
 - 50 new members in 2018
 - 5 cancelations
- **RG** urged student members to stay full members after graduation.
- Treasurer's report was accepted - proposed by **Prof JHJ van Vuren** and seconded by **OW**.

8 EDITORS REPORT

SASAqS Editors report 2017/2018 – Mike Coke (MC)

MC reflected on his term as honorary editor from when he was originally appointed for 4 years and ended up working for 20 years. **MC** stated that there will be no written report, but the following numbers can be reported on:

- From 1999 there have been 2054 submissions. Of these 79 rejections (withdrawn by authors; After review authors felt it was not worth publishing; Submitted after resubmission date, authors did not ask for reopening; Paper was not within the scope, not African but from Iran, Turkey.)
- Of these submissions there were 1824 publications
- Vol 43(1) for 2018 has already been published.
- **MC** thanked NISC for their contribution of the contract.
- Vol 43 (2) in press – contains a short note by **MC** (first paper after 35 years, regarding a new shrimp species.
- The main focus remains to serve aquatic science in Africa.
- Vol 43 (3) will be published in Sept 2018 – already two thirds full.

The editor determines acceptance of papers, however when the associate editor accepts without editor's approval, the articles go straight to the publishers. This means it was not seen by **MC**, and thus not up to **MC** standards.

MC said he was proud of the language he produced during his time as editor of the journal, but it has been said that the standards are too high.

To the new editor: keep your standards high, accept only if the work is readable by international standards.

MC states that internationally recognised scientists have not published in AJAS due to the low impact factor (IF), but that the IF will not change if internationally recognised scientists do not publish in the journal.

MC states that the journal has never had a first author article by an international recognised scientist.

MC said that he always pushed people to do their promised work.

MC states that the journal is valuable.

MC handed a journal manuscript to **VW** and stated that it is up to the society to keep the journal alive.

9 WEB MASTERS REPORT

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

Website is still up and running. **Mike Silberbauer** states that it was down a few days last week.

VW thanks **MS** for updating medals and the website. He encouraged people to forward photographs from conferences, etc. to update the website.

10 COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

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

11 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Anrich Kock is attending a Diatom conference in Germany.

VW encouraged students to be more involved – arrange annual get togethers themselves, suggested maybe one night during each SASAqS to hold a student event. The LOC's student's responsibility to organise. Good example this year with the student function.

Needs representatives from each university and the students need to organise activities themselves...

11 CONFERENCES

2019 Conference – University of Limpopo (Prof Luus-Powell). In 2001 the annual conference at Die Eiland was a highlight.

2020 Conference

No planned place or organisers to date – ExCo will sent email to encourage regions

2021 Conference

12 AWARDS

VW mentioned that the awards will be awarded at gala dinner – there is a Silver medal award.

VW suggests since profit from this conference is approximately R 90 000, and the 2017 outstanding money, around R150 000 should be deposited into society's account. Therefore, **VW** suggested to award two travel awards to students.

Suggestion accepted by **OW** and seconded by **NJS**.

OW states that it is a good investment since students move on to become members.

13 HONORARIA

VW brought up the honoraria for Adri Joubert (finances) and that editors will be compensated appropriately. He will first speak to everyone involved to determine amount and will be confirmed by the council.

Mike Coke asked about honoraria for **N Rivers-Moore**: **VW** stated that **N Rivers-Moore** received his honorarium based on a pro-rata handling of manuscripts. NR-M confirmed receipt by email.

14 BY-LAWS

15 CONSTITUTION

16 GENERAL

16.1 Nomination and voting for Executive Committee

The Nomination of new Executive members dealt with in point 6,8

16.2 African Journal of Aquatic Science

MC stated that **N R-M** should be reimbursed for his contribution of 18 months. Points will be taken up with members and NISC.

- Amendment to NISC / AJAS authorship policy
- AJAS Editor and co-editors
- Co-editor remuneration

16.3 SACNASP CPD points – Mark Graham

Mark Graham did not attend. A meeting of SACNASP will be held at the end of July. **VW** said there are 240 registered aquatic scientists. Keep members updated of the meetings and points. Conference should contribute number of points towards registration.

16.4 SER conference – Bonani Madikizela

Bonani Madikizela said the SER conference will be in Sept 2019 and urged members to attend. He indicated that 1500 people attended conference in Brazil. **VW** asked to forward info to SASAQs regarding SER 2019.

Any additional points raised by the meeting

17 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Date of 56th SASAQs AGM – communicate ASAP towards the end of 2018

OW: suggested one week before school holiday. **VW**: time for exam results for academia, will be discussed

18 CLOSING

VW closed the meeting. Asked members to attend Gala.

Signed _____
Vice President (V Wepener)

Date

Accepted _____
President (N Smit)

Date