

**MINUTES OF
THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOCIETY OF AQUATIC SCIENTISTS
56th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD on 3 July 2019 @ 16h00
Protea Hotel Marriott Zebula Lodge, South Africa**

AGENDA

1 WELCOME AND OPENING

Victor Wepener opened and welcomed the AGM.

2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Every one to complete form and indicate apologies. Apologies received: N Smit, N Rossouw, M Holmes, J Adams, M Silberbauer, B Madikizela

3 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions.

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGENDA

Victor Wepener went through the minutes. Jo Sara proposed that the minutes are correct and Wilmien Luus-Powell seconded the approval.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 55TH AGM

Administration – SARS, CSD, bank letters

CPD points

6 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The presidents report was presented by Victor Wepener.

Jo Sara indicated that social media and website should be improved upon. Mike Silberbauer is retiring so not sure what the status of the website hosting will be in future.

Olaf Weyl indicated we need someone to do it and run it.

Wynand Malherbe indicated that we will be opening a Twitter account for the AJAS journal to promote the articles on social media. Students will be responsible for running the Twitter account.

7 TREASURERS REPORT

SASaQs Financial report 2018/2019 was presented by Richard Greenfield indicating that the society was in good stead. The report was accepted by the meeting.

8 EDITORS REPORT

SASAqS Editors report 2018/2019 from Nick Rivers-Moore was presented – a few ideas and questions from SASAqS was raised.

- Journal Impact Factor: 0.75 (5-year impact factor: 0.765)
- Published 360 pages: 28 original research, 1 review article, 8 short notes, 1 opinion piece, and a corrigendum.
- 52.8% of submitted manuscripts were rejected
- Acceptance: average, 21.2 days
- Rejection: average, 78.1 days. Major revision = 110.4 days
- The majority of manuscripts reached a decision: 30 days
- Disparity between the subject material of submitted manuscripts versus the number of AEs per topic, at times a heavy workload for certain AEs.
- Challenging aspect relates specifically to a need for additional AEs who are able to handle water quality topics.
- Receiving a large number of papers dealing with water quality in “region X” over 6-12 months sampling.
- Within the scope of AJAS - largely descriptive manuscripts rather than breaking new scientific ground - we are currently reconsidering their applicability for AJAS

Victor Wepener pitched an idea of a Bulletin for the descriptive work that is being published in AJAS.

9 WEB MASTERS REPORT

Mike Silberbauer sent through the website hits graph and showed how it spikes during conferences or just prior. Website is still: <http://www.riv.co.za/sasaqs>

A suggestion was to maybe look at updating the website.

10 COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

None

11 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Anrich Kock gave feedback on the student activities that happened at NWU in the year.

Nico Wolmarans indicated that it should be more consistent.

Olaf Weyl indicated that the American Fisheries Society had a yearly student social at the conference. It was suggested to use social media and the website to involve more people and student in the activities.

12 CONFERENCES

2020 Conference

At NWU for 2020 on the campus. Many members and funders commented on the affordability of the conference and as such we moved it to a university campus for first time in 20 years.

Irene Barnhoorn – question of timing and clashes with ZSSA.

2021 Conference – University of the Free State

13 AWARDS

2019 – Student Travel award and SASAqS medals. The student travel award was presented. Medals will be presented during the Conference gala dinner.

14 HONORARIA

No increase for 2020

15 BY-LAWS

No matters

16 CONSTITUTION

No matters

17 GENERAL

17.1 Administrative arrangements – Wynand Malherbe gave feedback on the SARS, CSD, and bank letter processes.

17.2 Conference venues – need to consider the costing of future conferences. This is due to potential sponsors commenting on the rising costs associated with conference venues.

17.3 Matters arising from EXCO - None

17.4 Additional points raised by the meeting

- Wynand Vlok raised the issues discussed during the workshop on application of biological assessment tools and the steps that will be taken. A letter will be sent to DWS / DEA listing the outcomes and concerns raised about the conditions in WULA / EIAs.
- AFS agreement was presented by Olaf Weyl and Brian Murphy and approved By the members.
- SASAqS representatives on EFTEON and SACNASP board was discussed.

18 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Will be arranged during the 2020 SASAqS conference

19 CLOSING

Victor Wepener closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their contribution.

Signature list with about 41 names removed from on-line version of minutes