

## MINUTES OF MEETING FOR



### THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOCIETY OF AQUATIC SCIENTISTS 61<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD on 2 July 2025 13:30 – 16:00

#### AGENDA

##### 1 WELCOME AND OPENING

- Meeting opened by President Wynand Malherbe.

##### 2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

- Attendees present in person and online (approx. 5–6 online).
- Apologies: Eva Pricker, Rory Haschik, Tally Palmer, Bonani Marikazela, Richard Greenfield.
- Names and affiliations recorded via chat.

##### 3 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Agenda was circulated via email. No additions

##### 4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the 60<sup>th</sup> AGM meeting were presented. The minutes were approved by Victor Wepener and seconded by Gordon O'Brien.

##### 5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 58<sup>TH</sup> AGM

1. None.

##### 6 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Membership: 139 active paid, 42 student, ~60 outstanding payments. Stable compared to 2022–2024.
- Membership system: current Jan–Dec cycle problematic; online system considered (cost R20k–R50k annually).
- Journal collaboration: closer engagement with editors Nick Rivers-Moore and Elliot. Report on increased involvement of SASAQs President in meetings with journal editors (Nick Rivers-Moore and Elliot) and NISC. Planned discussion of strategies to improve journal administration efficiency. Exploration of approaches to expand and support the pool of associate editors. Aim: strengthen SASAQs ownership and engagement with its journal at EXCO level.
- Website: modernization planned; integrate conference sites; showcase medals and history.
- Non-profit registration: underway with Department of Social Welfare (3–6 months).
- International links: limited activity with World Council of Fisheries and American Fisheries Society.
- Mentorship: SACNASP programme discussed; requires strong mentor commitment.
- Conference collaboration: discussions with Wetland, Hydrological, and SAMS

societies; aim for joint conferences.

- Thanks extended to Adri for administrative support.

## **7 TREASURERS REPORT**

- Profit for 2024: ~R52,000.
- Retained earnings increased by ~R50,000.
- Annual running costs: R50,000–R60,000.
- Proposal: reinstate Student Travel Grant (R35,000–R50,000, one student annually). Recipient must report back at AGM.
- Honoraria: approved 10% increase.
- AGM approved reinstatement of travel grants and honoraria increase.

## **8 EDITORS REPORT**

- Journal stable with healthy metrics.
- Partnership: SASAqS, NISC (Grahamstown), Taylor & Francis.
- Editorial team rotation ongoing; reviewer fatigue noted.
- Open Access agreement with SANIC institutions.
- Plans: strengthen associate editor support, promote articles via social media, closer ties with SASAqS governance.

## **9 WEB MASTERS REPORT**

None

## **10 COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

No country representatives.

## **11 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

No student representatives.

## **12 CONFERENCES**

No updates

## **13 AWARDS**

Proposal: reinstate Student Travel Grant (R35,000–R50,000, one student annually). Recipient must report back at AGM.

## **14 HONORARIA**

- Honoraria: approved 10% increase.

## **15 BY-LAWS**

No changes.

## **16 CONSTITUTION**

None

## **17 GENERAL**

- Collaboration with other societies emphasized to strengthen scientific voice and funding.
- Declining membership trends noted; combining efforts could re-energize participation.
- Suggestion: partner with SAMS every three years for joint conferences.
- Importance of balancing finances with cohesion.

## **17 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

TBD

## **18 CLOSING**

- Meeting concluded with thanks to participants.
- Duration: 1h 19m.