



4th AGM of the South African Wetland Society

Wednesday, 21 October 2015

National Wetlands Indaba, Goudini Spa, Worcester, Western Cape

No.	Item	Actions
1	Welcome P-L Grundling welcomed everyone to the 4 TH AGM of the South African Wetland Society.	P-L Grundling
2	Attendance Register and Confirmation of Quorum: All members of the society were requested to fill in the attendance register which was circulated (see Appendix 3).	All
3	Apologies See Appendix 1.	All
4	Minutes of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed and accepted with 1 change: correction: Thabazimbi (Proposed: Paul Fairall and Seconded: Bertus Fourie)	P-L Grundling
5	Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes See addition to the agenda (no 6).	P-L Grundling
6	Additions to the Agenda	
6.1	Quorum Discussion P-L Grundling mentioned that 51% of the members must be present to have a quorum for an AGM. Recommendation: call for an e-mail vote.	
6.2	Reporting Avenues – Society Involvement P-L Grundling reminded the SAWS members that SAWS is not an activist group because SAWS also need to protect the interest of people that are members. Suggestion: SAWS might be the hub of a hot-line no. A discussion followed on aspects of hot-line and the provision of an accredited list of service providers. All agreed that the SAWS is an important network of wetland people to help make the right people aware and by law report matters of concern. SAWS members should report incidences.	
7	Annual Report	All
7.1	Presentation of the Chairperson's Annual Report SACNASP P-L Grundling reported: CEO of SACNASP is favorable towards SAWS but the SACNASP board turned down the request. Wetland Science is not seen as an established field whereas Environmental Science is a cross-disciplinary course. The multi-disciplinary issue of Wetland Science, similar to Water Science and Statistics was addressed in the application. However, they will re-look at the request after restructuring as universities have to conform to new structures and training. SAWS will	

be invited to sit on various committees and other sectors of aquatic sciences as SAWS cuts across various disciplines.

Paul Fairall asked if the nomination of Heather Malan still stand.

P-L Grundling replied: No, SACNASP sent the outcome to the board and own accreditation process or institutional pathways need to be followed. A comment was made: People wait for refereed reports from SACNASP.

WETLAND INDABA

P-L Grundling reported: SAWS members support the Indaba on annual basis. SAWS members signed for funding and took the responsibility for the National Wetland Indaba. Currently SAWS board members are suffering from volunteering fatigue carrying a lot of responsibility. Questions were asked: What role does the Wetland Forums play to help?

Discussion followed on the extensive resources required to organize the Indaba and if it should be combined with SASACS or LARSA/Institute for Landscape Architects. Comment were made that the finances are looking good and therefore the tasks of organizing the conference can be outsourced. P-L Grundling responded that the strength of the Indaba was the low registration costs compared to other conferences and it is a good platform to draw students. Paul Fairall commented: More funding will be gained, once a NPO No is available.

Ideas for next Indaba:

- Open table discussions e.g. workshops to discuss issues
- Large venues are difficult
- Target more specific smaller groups e.g. SASACS + SAWS

WETLAND AWARDS

P-L Grundling said that SAWS are the custodians of the Wetland Awards. SAWS members were involved in making contributions to the Wetland Awards; however, the board felt that the wetland community and wetland society did not respond to the call for nominations. The call was advertised 3 months in advance using communication channels and personal e-mail reminders.

Results:

- 12 Replies received (1 withdrew)
- 1 Foreigner nominee (Not accepted because the person is not a SA citizen)
- 10 nominations (No nomination on science; recommendation had to be made)

Frustrations:

- Difficult to get people to be part of the panel.
- Little participation from coloured community.
- Process of nomination is long – put people off.
- If you do not have a person's CV, it makes the nomination form difficult to complete.
- Panel need the information and evidence to evaluate and make

	<p>a good decision.</p> <p>Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get a group of knowledgeable people to do the headhunt and look across the board. • Ask Wetland Forums to nominate • Advertise also elsewhere in the larger arena of wetland work e.g. SANPARKS/Gov Departments/Science Society. • Explore other avenues (Headhunt and involve Wetland Forums) before we do a Bi-annual event to lift the pressure. • Send in a video clip of the project and short list and CV. <p><u>MARKETING AND TRAINING:</u></p> <p>Comments were made: Society should market itself and Gov and Municipalities need to be pro-active by encouraging their personnel to join and participate. Steve Mitchell suggested that one day training be given at the Indaba for Gov. and Municipality officials.</p> <p><u>MEMBERSHIP FEES:</u></p> <p>Marc Rountree said that this issue will be addressed when PBO is resolved. Heather Malan explained that members will have more value for money regarding the membership fee if they were offered training. P-L Grundling reminded the members that the Indaba registration fees were less for SAWS members.</p>	
7.2	<p>Adoption of the Chairperson’s Annual Report</p> <p>Steve Mitchell proposed that the report be accepted. Seconded by Marc Rowntree.</p>	
8	<p>Financial</p>	P-L Grundling
8.1	<p>Presentation of the Annual Financial Report</p> <p>P-L Grundling presented the Annual Financial Report on behalf of Judith Taylor (see Appendix 2).</p>	
8.2	<p>Adoption of the Annual Financial Report</p> <p>Marc Rountree proposed that the report be accepted. Seconded by Paul Fairall.</p>	
9	<p>Constitution Amendments</p> <p>Refer to point 6.1 Quorum Discussion.</p>	All
10	<p>Working Groups Report Back</p>	Kate Snaddon
10.1	<p>Best Practice Guidelines Delineation</p> <p>Kate reported that she and Craig Cowden drafted guidelines since 2014; Draft is now ready to be circulated to the SAWS members as a position paper. Difficulty to finalize as methods keep changing.</p>	
10.2	<p>Membership & Fund Raising</p> <p>Paul Fairall reported that the NPO and PBO number. has taken too long to obtain. Those number are needed to generate funding. Cannot rely on Gov. money to come through in time.</p>	Paul Fairall
10.3	<p>Provincial Forum Liaison</p> <p>P-L Grundling, Marc de Fontaine and Garth Barns. P-L Grundling asked members to please attend.</p>	P-L Grundling
10.4	<p>SACNASP Liaison</p> <p>P-L Grundling and Heather Malan. Refer to 7.1 SACNASP</p>	P-L Grundling
10.5	<p>Wetland Delineation</p>	Nancy Job

<p>10.6</p>	<p>Nancy Job, Johan van der Waals, Damian Walters and Garry Marneweck form part of the soil working group to give input in the wetland delineation guidelines.</p> <p>Wetland Training & CPD</p> <p>Dean Ollis reported on the work of Michelle Hiesterman. Need a proper working group to roll it out.</p> <p>Kate Snaddon asked if there were specific questions and requests and ended by saying: “The Society is about the members, not the board”.</p>	<p>Dean Ollis</p> <p>Kate Snaddon</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Discussion of Additions to the Agenda</p> <p>Refer to pint 6.1 Quorum Discussion and 6.2 Reporting Avenues – Society Involvement</p>	
<p>12</p>	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next SAWS meeting will be held at the next National Wetland Indaba provisionally set for October 2016.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Closure</p> <p>P-L Grundling thanked all who attended the 4th AGM of the South African Wetland Society and reminded the members to share ideas with the rest of the Indaba participants on Friday at 12:00 (Indaba closure).</p>	<p>P-L Grundling</p>

APPENDIX 1: APOLOGIES

M de Fontaine
G Barnes
J Dini
C Cowden
D Walters
S Taylor
PS Rossouw
D Shale
P Gama

3:12 PM

16/10/15

Accrual Basis

SA Wetlands Society
Profit & Loss
October 2014 through September 2015

	Oct '14 - Sep 15
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Investment Income	2,255.98
Membership Fees	40,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	600,000.00
Total Income	642,255.98
Gross Profit	642,255.98
Expense	
Awards and Grants	3,000.00
Bank Charges	1,304.25
Conference expenses	599,000.00
Insurance Expense	-649.84
Miscellaneous Expense	1,394.00
Total Expense	604,048.41
Net Ordinary Income	38,207.57
Profit for the Year	<u>38,207.57</u>