



7th AGM of the South African Wetland Society

Monday, 8th October 2018 at 17h15 pm

National Wetlands Indaba, Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre, Kimberley, Northern Cape Province

No.	Item	Action
1	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kate Snaddon (KS) welcomed everyone to the 7th AGM of the South African Wetland Society. 	
2	Attendance Register <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All people present at the meeting were requested to fill in the attendance register that was circulated (see Appendix 1). The SAWS membership cost was included in the Indaba registration fee which means that all conference delegates are now SAWS members. 	
3	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Appendix 2 for a list of apologies. 	
4	Minutes of the Previous Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KS reviewed the minutes of the previous AGM, noting specific actions arising. Piet Louis Grundling (PG) proposed that the minutes be accepted; seconded by Betsie Milne (BM). 	
5	Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was suggested at the AGM 2017 that an information brochure about the work of SAWS should be produced, especially for distribution at the Indabas. This has not been done, but should be an action point for next year. Discussion on designated secretariat to deal with the SAWS admin. KS mentioned that the SAWS is not at that point financially to do so yet. 	New Board
6	Additions to the Agenda (discussed under Item 13)	
6.1	Society for Ecological Restoration conference in Cape Town in September 2019	
7	Links between SAWS and the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There's been discussion around the possibility of the SAWS making stronger links with the International Chapter of the US-based SWS. Arnold van der Valk (AV) was invited to speak on behalf of the SWS. AV gave background of SWS and mentioned that the society is there to promote wetland science. He emphasised that the SWS is not strictly focussed on research only as the name suggests. It boasts around 3300 members from across the globe and hosts two scientific journals. The SWS is currently on a mission to internationalise, and the society aims to do this by: 	AV, KS, (with Ian Bredin and Fred Ellery)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing new chapters e.g. in Africa (none in Africa so far), ○ Having more memorandums of understanding with other wetland societies e.g. Ramsar Bureau, and ○ Developing more technical sections e.g. remote sensing, wildlife, etc. ● There are three mechanisms that could facilitate a link between SAWS and SWS. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SAWS becomes the African SWS chapter; ○ Become an “affiliated society” within SWS. SWS are not as yet clear on exactly how this would work, but SAWS would pay a membership fee to SWS on behalf of its members, and members would then have access to a sub-set of SWS benefits (not including the journal, which is very expensive to produce). Ongoing discussions are still needed. ○ Create a consortium of wetland societies across the world. ● The SWS is open to creating a link with the SAWS and are asking for input and opinions. KS opened the floor for any questions (Q) or comments (C): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Q1: PG mentioned that in 2008, these discussions around linking SWS and SAWS stopped because of (i) the cost for a South African to join an international Society, and (ii) the name “Scientist” in SWS creates the impression that the Society is purely research focussed and, in South Africa, many non-scientists are part of the SAWS. PG asked if there had been any progress on this. ○ A1: AV emphasised that the SWS does not only include scientists. It has a vast membership base from various public and private sectors and organisations. AV highlighted that SWS is more than just a research focussed society. ○ Q2: KS mentioned that the fees to join the SAWS and SWS are roughly the same (approximately R300). Maybe an arrangement could be made to increase SAWS fees marginally, to include membership of both. ○ A2: That sounds like an affiliation model whereby the SAWS is affiliated with SWS and South African members don’t pay SWS directly. However, SAWS would have to pay the SWS a certain amount in order for SA members to have access to the resources that SWS offer. ○ Q3: Donovan Kotze (DK) highlighted that whilst the SWS has a vision to grow an African chapter, the SAWS is still focussed on South Africa. ○ A3: KS agreed and added that there is also talk of expanding SAWS into the SADAC countries. ○ C1: Alanna Rebelo (AR) mentioned that she was part of the European chapter for a while and said that it would be great to showcase what South Africa is doing on wetlands. AR suggested to maybe hosting one of the SWS conference in South Africa. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ C2: Damian Walters (DW) mentioned that a combined rate of R550 (i.e. combined total of SAWS and SWS membership annual fee) is not a lot of money. ○ C3: Nancy Job (NJ) suggested that everyone should have a look at the SWS website to get an idea about the organisation is about. ○ C4: KS suggested that AV write up a document with a proposal and then KS would distribute it with SAWS. KS invited AR to be a part of this ongoing conversation. AR accepted. ○ C5: Philip Frenzel (PF) mentioned that it is important to keep the SAWS identity if talks continued to merge with SWS. KS agreed. 	
8	<p>Annual Report KS presented the annual chairperson's report.</p> <p>8.1 Presentation of the Chairperson's Annual Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Society membership has grown from 166 in 2017 to 178 in 2018 (pre Indaba). All the following membership numbers were pre Indaba. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The SAWS membership cost was included in the Indaba registration fee which means that all conference delegates are now SAWS members. ○ Ordinary: 155 (141 in 2017) ○ Students: 23 (21 in 2017) ○ Organisations: 12 (13 in 2017) ○ Composition: mostly consulting firms, 15% government or related organisations, but very students ○ Members from all provinces, with the highest number from Gauteng, followed by Kwa-Zulu Natal and then Western Cape. ○ We need to focus on broadening our membership. ● Focus areas in 2017/2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Admin/Finances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All the admin (fees, membership and secretariat) is done on a volunteering basis. KS thanked those that have assisted with this. ▪ Auditing of financials in order to be compliant for SARS in respect of being a NPO ▪ Financial reports prepared for 2015, 2016, 2017 and recently 2018. ▪ Can now apply for Section 18a certificate for fund raising. Gary Marneweck has played an extensive role in getting SAWS to the point of being able to apply for this, and ensuring that SAWS is compliant with SARS. ○ Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Society communicates via various channels: emails, twitter and Facebook. 	New Board

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The likes have grown from 652 in 2017 to 943 in October 2018. We should see +1000 likes by this year. ▪ Facebook is still an excellent medium for posting job opportunities as well as training courses. These two aspects see the greatest ‘likes’ and ‘shares’. ▪ The Portal Discussion Forum page is trundling along with almost zero interaction by users. However, it is still well used for posting links to documents for adverts and training courses where more information is required to be attached. ▪ General feedback from Society members is that they are very happy with the communications we do send through to them even though they don’t say so via return email (most responses are from speaking to people directly). ▪ KS thanks Marc de Fontaine for his continued efforts for running the communication channels. ▪ SA Wetland Society Website: This site is kept up to date with current information by the Trustees as well as the contact details for the Secretariat. ▪ My SA Wetland Society Forum: This was a new initiative in 2017 to provide a space for Members Only of the SAWS. It was designed on the same lines as the Discussion Forum, providing information pertinent to members e.g. updates on working groups of the Board. Unfortunately, there has been very little uptake on this site. ▪ Provincial Wetland Forums Website: It was originally designed to create a platform for each of the provincial forums to post information relating to meeting dates and venues as well as agendas and minutes of meetings. Unfortunately, the uptake has dwindled over the past few years. Forum secretaries are encouraged to send meeting dates. <p>○ Liaison with Provincial Forums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SAWS has helped launch the Northern Cape Wetlands Forum. ▪ There has been good communication between the Society and various Forums. ▪ Forums communicating well with their membership: WCWF, NCWF, MWF and GWF. ▪ A reminder to please cc Marc de Fontaine (SAWS secretary) on all Forum communication. ▪ A CPD incentive for attending Forum meetings: ½ point per meeting. ▪ The Society can offer their bank account for managing the Provincial Forum funds (if needed) – with each Forum being a cost centre, ring-fencing 	<p>Forum chairs</p>

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	<p>funds for the Forum's sole use. A small annual admin fee would be requested in return.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wetlands Indaba <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The SAWS assisted with the Indaba, especially financial support (deposit loan) and student sponsorships through the WRC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRC sponsored 5 students • SAWS sponsored two interns • WCWF sponsored two students • KZNWF donated money towards the SAWS as thanks for supporting the 2017 Indaba in KZN. ▪ KS suggested for the steering committee organising an Indaba to create a 'lessons learnt' document to pass onto the next Forum who is hosting the Indaba. ▪ The SAWS included the membership in the registration for the 2018 NWI. ○ Wetland delineation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The draft Delineation Guideline was sent out for comment. Comments were supposed to be submitted by 8 October 2018 by send an email to fourien@dws.gov.za ○ SACNASP CPD website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The SAWS has been registered as a Voluntary Association (VA) on the CPD website ▪ The role of the VA's in CPD is: (i) it is driven by and managed by peers, and (ii) it is not meant to be about compliance, but more about professional development. ▪ Random spot audits will be done by SAWS. ▪ Slow uptake of SACNASP registration, but KS encouraged people to sign up and register. ▪ Would like to add wetland ecologist category, however continuous discussions need to be had. ▪ A minimum of 5 CPD points are needed per year across all three categories in a 5-year cycle i.e. a total of 25 points per 5 year cycle. ▪ A list of recommended list of activities (with a suggested number of points) has been developed and will be sent out to all members. ▪ SACNASP is trying to understand why there are so few scientists (542 out of a total of 11000 registered scientists) registered on the CPD system. What are the constraints? ○ Liaison with Government and networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invitation to join the Freshwater Ecosystem Network (FEN) 2018. ○ Research and universities 	<p>Northern Cape Wetland Forum</p> <p>All</p> <p>Dean Ollis, KS</p>

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8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encouraged to make use of the WRC portal which contains various reports/articles focusing on wetlands ▪ Search.wrc.org.za • Going forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased membership base from NWI 2018 ○ Create stronger links with the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) in their drive to internationalisation their Society ○ Support the Wetland Networking and Training Programme for Southern and East African Countries (with SWS) ○ Reminder of the Society of Ecological Restoration 2019 (with the WRC) ○ Reminder to nominate your peers for the SAWS wetlands awards ○ Reminder to register with SACNASP and make use of the CPD points system ○ Aim to increase student and government membership <p>Adoption of the Chairperson’s Annual Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairperson’s Report was accepted by Damian Walters. Seconded by Lulu van Rooyen. 	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>New Board</p>
8.3	<p>General discussion around the Chairperson’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
9	<p>Financial</p> <p>9.1 Presentation of the Annual Financial Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >R50 000 in the account • Audited each year and auditors are happy. • KS suggested sending the financial report to the members after the audit. • 2018 Annual Financial Statement ready for signing. <p>9.2 Adoption of the Annual Financial Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annual Financial Report was accepted by Piet-Louis Grundling. Seconded by Donovan Kotze. 	<p>KS</p>
10	<p>Election of Trustees for the period 2018 to 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS informed the meeting that there had been 6 nominations for the new SAWS board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adam Texeira-Lite, ○ Lulu van Rooyen, ○ Philip Frenzel, ○ Shaddai Daniel, ○ Tumisho Ngobela and ○ Donovan Kotze. ○ Katherine Taggart nominated herself as the 7th member. • No election process was necessary according to the constitution. All the nominees accepted their nomination and were announced as the new SAWS board for 2018-2020. KS mentioned that 3 members can be co-opted onto the board according to the constitution. 	<p>New board</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS, Dean Ollis (DO) and Piet Louis Grundling are willing to be co-opted on the board. DO is willing to be co-opted for the CPD points. • Nancy Job (NJ) suggested having a better voting system (maybe a similar protocol to SWS) for the next term whereby it is advertised for a longer period of time. KS mentioned that the provincial Forum secretaries were emailed to distribute the nominations forms. KS suggested sending out the SAWS constitution to the mailing list. • PG thanked KS for doing a great job as the chairperson and urged forum members to support their provincial forums. 	KS (and new chair)
11	Constitutional Amendments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	
12	Working Groups Report Back <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done within the Chairperson's Report. 	
13	Discussion of Additions to the Agenda	All
13.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A restoration conference in September 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bonani Madikizela (BM) shared that the Society for Ecological Restoration will be hosting a conference in Cape Town between 22 and 27 September 2019. The theme is restoring land, water and community resilience. BM encouraged individuals and organisations to submit proposals by end of November 2018. For more information, please visit the official website: https://ser2019.org/. KS further invited involvement and welcomes any fieldtrip suggestions. 	
14	Next Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS announced that Limpopo will be hosting the 2019 Indaba and that the next SAWS AGM will be held there. 	
15	Closure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS thanked everyone for attending the 7th AGM and closed the meeting. 	

Appendix 1: Attendance Register

See attached.

Appendix 2: Apologies

Marc de Fontaine

Dean Ollis

Denise Schael

Phumelele Gama

Gary Marneweck

Fiona Eggers

Craig Cowden