

## MINUTES OF MEETING FOR



### THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOCIETY OF AQUATIC SCIENTISTS 59<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD on 27 June 2023 17:00 – 18:30

#### AGENDA

##### 1 WELCOME AND OPENING

Prof Richard Greenfield opened the meeting and expressed his apologies for starting the meeting late.

##### 2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted. Helen Dallas, Wilbert Katje

##### 3 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Water Research Commission was added under general.

##### 4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One editorial correction suggested by Michael Silberbauer

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

1. The society has decided to not join the American Fisheries Society. SACNASP professional advisory committee members new members Tatenda Dalu and Byron Grant were accepted by Aquatic Scientists field. WRC rejected a three-year funding application but did sponsor R120 000 for funding for student in 2023. The society is very thankful for this.

##### 6 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SACNASP wants a Day One skills list for registration in Aquatic Scientists field of practice. Workshop was attended by Richard and Wynand. There will be a request for a workshop or round robin to finalize these skills required. A second meeting was setup to register a field in Big Data Computing but there were other fields which stated there are several other field which have overlap. There is a need for further discussion to determine where this speciality will lie

##### 7 TREASURERS REPORT

Ryan Wasserman was unable to attend and requested Richard to present the report. Richard stated there were nine membership cancellations, currently 138 members, student full members paid up 5. Full active base of 153 members. There are 35 unpaid members for 2023, outstanding fees from 2022 and therefore we have 50 unpaid fees. This has resulted in funds being lost as NISC still requires payment for those members. There was a loss of R26 000 in running accounts. A new set of medals were purchased which will last a few years, tax clearance numbers were paid for and obtained and the honarium were increased for financial and editor fees since 2022. Richard stated the fee was increased to R550 and of that R490 is paid to NISC for their fees which is a negotiated lower rate. Conference attendance is very important and does assist in covering other costs. More profit made

allows for student travel bursaries. The investment account did turn a R7 000 profit and is requested to be kept for a rainy day. Richard opened the floor. Victor Wepener suggested we take it up again with NISC since universities are subscribing to journals and open access is free, therefore it costs the society money which can be used for student bursaries instead. Richard stated the editors report will also show not as many South Africans are publishing. Mathew asked whether people should be offered an open access option. Victor clarified that universities are subscribing and South African universities can publish open access for free. Richard agreed that the exco should start the discussion with NISC. Wynand Vlok asked what the impact would be if we don't publish in the journal anymore, would the journal stop publishing. If the journal is given up it will be giving up a journal that was built up over several years. Richard agreed that this is an important question and does need to be considered. Dana Grobler stated that since the society is so important, we should not be as concerned by a R50 000 loss. Richard stated this was for several reasons but it is still of concern and bursaries should be at the forefront of the society. Victor stated the old journal model is outdated and needs to be discussed as the funds can be better utilized for the members. The financial report was accepted.

## **8 EDITORS REPORT**

SASAqS Editors report 2022/2023 – Nick Rivers-Moore sent through a voice over PowerPoint and attended the meeting virtually. There were no questions to Nick. Richard pleaded to the members to please accept and complete reviews in a timely manner in order to keep the journal running at a high standard. Albert Chikona stated that one of the challenges is that authors do not recommend reviewers and this makes it much easier for the managing editor to get reviewers to accept a review but also cautioned against recommending colleagues or friends.

## **9 WEB MASTERS REPORT**

Richard presented the Web Masters Report. <http://www.riv.co.za/sasaqs> - Dr Michael Silberbauer stated everything is in order and the membership fee payment option could be updated for online payments. Saisha is currently running the Twitter and Instagram pages and posting society and publication updates. Anja Erasmus has been posting throughout the conference.

## **10 COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

No country representatives.

## **11 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

No student representatives.

## **12 CONFERENCES**

### 2024 Conference –

The City of Joburg will be supporting the society and become a sponsor to the conference which will be hosted in Johannesburg.

No suggestions or takers for the 2025 and 2026 conference were identified.

## **13 AWARDS**

## **14 HONORARIA**

Richard Greenfield indicated awards will be handed out at the gala dinner.

The honoraria was not increased at the meeting due to losses. A request was made that if profits from the 2023 conference are sufficient then less than 10% increase could be incurred and this was supported by Dana Grobler, Wynand Vlok and Gordon O'Brien.

## **15 BY-LAWS**

## **16 CONSTITUTION**

This remains unchanged and changes still in progress within the exco, any suggested changes will be communicated via email to be round-robin. This was supported by Victor Wepener, Dana Grobler, Wynand Vlok and Gordon O Brien.

## **17 GENERAL**

. Wynand presented the Threatened or protected species (TOPS) list for organisms in South Africa which was found not scientifically correct and was since retracted. There was a request made to please share this updated list if you come across it. Wynand Vlok requested we start looking at the current list to be proactive as a society to avoid tight deadlines. Jackie Dabroski stated the list will be used in other screening tools and frogs for example are in terrestrial and not aquatic theme and this also does not make sense.

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

25 June 2024 16:00 – 17:30

## **18 CLOSING**

Richard Greenfield thanked the society for their inputs and the LOC for all their hard work. The meeting was closed.