

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION  
NATUURBESTUURSVERENIGING VAN SUIDELIKE AFRIKA**



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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015**

PLACE: Horseshoe Inn Conference Centre, Kimberley

DATE: 8 September 2015

TIME: 15h30

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**Minutes**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Beryl Wilson, Willem van Staden, Tommie Steyn, Phenya Tshenkeng, David Marneweck, Hanno Kilian, Michelle Janse van Rensburg, Frans Radloff, John Power, Warren Beets, Julius Koen, Tshifhiwa Malise, Billy Malatji, Leandri Gerber, Ziggy Rode, Kelly Marnewick, Vincent van der Merwe, Dan Parker, Elma Marais, Harriet Davies-Mostert, Riaan Nowers, Phil Richardson, Gus Mills, Paul Grobler, Andrew Cauldwell, Michael Somers, Jan Venter, Henry Mthembu, Henry Pampier, Olga Laisa Kupika, Jeanetta Selier, Lizanne Nel, Carla van der Vyfer, Daan Buijs, Maya Beukes, Otto Beukes, Kristine Teichman, Bogdan Cristescue, Minette van Lingen, Christine Kraft

**1. WELCOME**

The president, Dr. Harriet Davies-Mostert, opened the meeting and welcomed all members present.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Christo Marais, Willem Boshoff, Louw Hoffman, Brian Reilly, Craig Tambling, John Hanks, Graham Kerley.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the 2014 AGM, published on the SAWMA website, was accepted and seconded by Frans Radloff and Paul Grobler.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014 AND COUNCIL MEETING 2015**

**4.1 Presidents' Report**

Harriet Davies-Mostert thanked the Secretariat, Council and Office Bearers for the active role they were playing in shaping the direction of the association. She specially thanked the journal scientific editor, Dan Parker, for the energy and enthusiasm he has put into driving the ongoing development of the journal, by introducing a number of new processes that will make the publication more streamlined. Matt Hayward and Michael Somers were also thanked for spear heading the Special Carnivore Issue, which will pay the way for future special editions.

The Local Organising Committee of the 2015 Symposium was thanked for the interesting scientific programme and the efforts everyone had put into the success of the event.

She emphasized the important role that the wildlife sector has to play in the development of South Africa's green economy. She noted that there were still some critical information gaps that needed to be filled, despite the diversity of the papers presented at the symposium. She also acknowledged the importance of SAWMA as outlet for primary biological research, but expressed a wish to see a deliberate shift towards a more systematic conservation evidence approach and to get the results of research into the hands of decision makers such as ranch owners, reserve managers or provincial or national government. She said that this is necessary to develop effective policy to ensure that wildlife-based land uses can make a positive contribution to the economy, social well-being, and the conservation of our wildlife resources.

She mentioned that SAWMA had almost 500 members, including the 90+ free student members and thanks to effective communication and networking, there are almost 1000 people on the email distribution list.

She reported that the finances were healthy and that SAWMA was in the position of having funds to support projects that the council initiates. She thanked the local organising committee of the conference for securing generous sponsorships to keep the costs down and making the symposium affordable.

Lastly she announced that the honorary award for members with significant contributions to wildlife research and management would be in place to be presented at the 2016 symposium.

## **4.2 Journal Editor's Report**

Dan Parker reported on the achievements of the African Journal of Wildlife Research under the following points:

### **4.2.1 Implementation of the name change for the SAJWR to African Journal of Wildlife Research and communication with relevant organisations.**

Dan reported that the implementation of the name change of the journal and relevant communication to organisations such as DHET, Thompson Reuters etc. were all successfully done and that the effect might be reflected by the impact factor of the following years.

### **4.2.2 Peer track online manuscript submission and review system.**

He reported that the journal successfully moved over to an online submission system. Members were encouraged to register on the system as authors and reviewers. He said that the automatic letters and reminders sent out regularly as well as the recording system was useful to keep track of various processes and that the features of the programme were worth the financial layout so far.

### **4.2.3 Present status of the journal:**

- (i) **Issues published and in production** – The editor reported that two issues as well as an additional Carnivore Issue were planned for 2015. The co-editors were thanked for their efforts to publish the Carnivore issue, which was one of the thickest issues in a long while. He also reported that the October issue was on track.
- (ii) **Turnaround time, review process and statistics:** Dan reported that the average turnaround time in 2014 was 100 days on average, while the online system successfully dropped the turnaround time to about 31 days. He also mentioned that a number of submissions were rejected before it entered the review process. He reported that in 2014 41% of papers submitted were accepted for publication after revisions, but that these figures have dropped in 2015.
- (iii) **Review papers:** The editor reported that a number of review papers were successfully published and he asked that people submit potential review papers which should help with better citations. He also mentioned that the journal impact factor had improved from the previous year.

### **4.2.4 Additional associate editor's appointments:**

The editor thanked the associate editors for their excellent work. He reported that Guy Balme and Mike Perrin resigned as editors and three new international editors, Peter Paulson, Andrew Loveridge and Elissa Cameron were added to the editorial board.

### **4.2.5 Feedback on electronic publication outlets for SAJWR and Royalties earned.**

It was reported that the following income was earned from electronic publication outlets: BioOne: USD9,030.00 plus a surplus share of USD2,742.00. An amount of R21,153.60 was earned from SABINET, the local electronic publisher. The editor reminded members of the delayed open access of the journal and that published papers may only be posted to Research Gate and other outlets after 24 months of publication in AJWR.

### **4.2.6 General editorial matters:**

- (i) **Early access to accepted manuscripts**

Dan mentioned that if authors wanted early online access to articles, it would in future be possible. Such articles would get a DOI straight away, but an upfront fee will be charged. A discussion followed about the maximum length of articles in the journal: It was agreed that there should be increased page charges for articles exceeding the maximum number of pages. It was proposed that the maximum number of published pages should be 15 pages.

- (ii) **Additional observational type online journal:** The editor reported that ZSSA was approached about the possibility of a joint observational type of online journal. The idea was that such short observations would not be reviewed but only edited for style and grammar. Various discussions resulted in Michelle Hamer being positive to use *Bothalia* as such outlet.
- (iii) **Revised Page charges for non-SAWMA members:** The meeting supported revised page charges for non-SAWMA members.
- (iv) **Publication of metadata and datasets in the public domain:** The meeting discussed the submission of metadata or part of it to a central depository platform. The concern was that too much data was getting lost by not being published or recorded. It was agreed that although SAWMA cannot supply such platform, all authors should be encouraged to submit their metadata to a feasible accessible depository and that authors should reference the creator of the metadata basis. Harriet undertook to draw up a list of places where people can send their data.
- (v) **Ethical clearance**  
The editor explained that if research submitted to be published in AJWR was not affiliated to a higher education institution, authors should make sure some necessary ethical clearance steps were taken where applicable. He also mentioned that in the case of post released monitoring of a species it is possible to still apply for ethics and to use the data for publication.

#### 4.2.7 Publishing medium

Dan reported that it was decided to continue with the printed version of the journal until more members prefer a complete electronic journal instead of a hard copy.

### 4.3 Treasurer's Report

#### 4.3.1 Financial statements for the 2014 Financial Year

Pieter Nel showed and discussed the financial statements for the 2014 financial year. He pointed out that additional projects were made possible due to the surplus available. He confirmed that Council had set a reserve goal of about R300 000 in savings as the minimum amount that SAWMA needed to survive in case of a bad financial year and that the association was running close to that goal. He emphasized the importance of the symposium and reported that the sales of the electronic journal, especially via BioOne contributed mainly to the surplus earned in the 2014 financial year.

He reported that publication costs and printing costs of the African Journal of Wildlife research remained one of the main expenses of the association. Although the symposium was another major expense, the symposium budget is always drawn up to accommodate all potential costs involved.

The financial statements were approved by the meeting.

#### 4.3.2 Current Financial status

Pieter gave a short summary of the balances available in the current, savings and investment accounts and listed the main projected expenses for the rest of the 2015 financial year. He reported that there were more than enough available finances to cover the projected expenses.

#### 4.3.3 Proposed membership fees and page fees for 2016

The following membership fees were approved by the meeting for 2016: (The proposed fees remained the same as before, due to the healthy financial status of the association):

Free student membership: (only electronic access to the SAJWR and proof of university registration to be provided)

Local Ordinary Members:	R390/annum
Local Institutional Members:	R720/annum
Student Members:	R200/annum
Pensioners:	R200/annum

Foreign Ordinary Members: \$US 108/annum  
Foreign Institutional Members: \$US 205/annum

#### **4.3.4 Membership data and Student membership**

It was reported that although the total number of SAWMA members were 494, not all were current paying members: 98 was free student members, 17 life members and 5 honorary members.

#### **4.3.5 Donations/Sponsorships received for SAWMA symposium 2015**

The local hosts were thanked for securing the various sponsorships which helped to keep the registration fees affordable and to allow a surplus for SAWMA. All the sponsors, as listed in the programme book of the symposium were thanked as well.

#### **4.3.6 Policy for Financial management of SAWMA and revision of investments**

Pieter reported that he was still working on a financial policy for SAWMA, consisting of procedures on banking, payments and other financial procedures which will be added to the SAWMA constitution after council has approved it. He mentioned that Elma Marais received some input from a financial advisor and confirmed that:

1. as association SAWMA cannot take market risks with surplus money;
2. the advice is to consolidate the surplus funds and to invest at one money market or unit trusts where money would be available within 48 hours if needed. That way risks should be minimal and income will move along with interest rates. This option should also bring higher interest than a savings account at a bank.

#### **4.4 Newsletter Editor's report**

Elma Marais reported that the SAWMA matters, although not being published as regularly as before was well supported by member and encouraged members to keep contributing to the publication. She was thanked for keeping the members informed and for the important role that the newsletter and other circulars, such as job vacancies, were playing in keeping the SAWMA network active and alive.

#### **4.5 Feedback regarding affiliation with South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP).**

Harriet reported that Brian Reilly was nominated again as representative of SAWMA to serve on the SACNASP council and that his appointment was confirmed recently by SACNASP. She also mentioned that he was involved with writing the draft on the creation of a field of practice of "Conservation Science". Community participation (CPD) for natural scientists was also anticipated.

#### **4.6 SAWMA Honorary award outstanding contributions: feedback and progress**

Harriet reported that Maarten Strauss who was driving the process for the SAWMA award was not present at the meeting, but that Council made some inputs in a document presented by Maartin after the previous AGM. The proposals were as follows:

##### **Name of the award:**

The final proposed name for the award was in short **The SAWMA Wildlife Excellence Award** and the long name would be of The SAWMA award for excellence in Wildlife Management or/and Research.

**Purpose:** to recognise individuals within SAWMA who have made a significant contribution to wildlife management and research.

**Eligibility:** It was agreed that only past and present SAWMA members would qualify for the award.

**Type of contribution:** Work done in Southern Africa and not Africa as whole.

**Format:** A framed certificate and a silver medal. Maartin would approach a designer for both.

She also explained the proposed nomination and adjudication process as well as the time frame. She confirmed that the first medal winners would receive their awards at the 2016 symposium and medal winners will be guests of honour at the event. The meeting supported the above suggestions.

#### **4.7 Sponsored sessions at SAWMA symposiums**

Harriet informed the meeting that the idea of a sponsored session linked to the main theme, such as the SA Hunters session, was thoroughly discussed by council. She mentioned that although there were different views,

council agreed that the association need to make a strong link between science and practice. Therefore such sessions would be encouraged, provided that the speakers submit their abstracts to the scientific committee. This offer should be open to other organisations. The discussion that followed also confirmed that such event should very much tie in with the main theme of the conference, should not include personal opinions but must be based on science.

#### **4.8 Sharing Scientific information in popular format for the Wildlife Industry**

Lizanne Nel reported that she was working on actions to bridge the gap between industry and science, by taking some scientific papers in AJWR to write popular articles. She reported that she liaised with the editor of the SAHUNT magazine and the solution that was proposed was to write 'Question and Answer' type articles and that a test run would be done with one article. It was suggested to have website links to the proposed article.

### **5. NEW MATTERS**

#### **5.1 SAWMA policy on the nomination of members to serve on boards**

The meeting discussed the possible endorsement of SAWMA in nominating persons to represent the association. The outcome was that because the association is represented by a group of individuals with a diverse array of views and ideas it was impossible to nominate anyone for represent the association on boards/committees. Therefore no nominations should be made by SAWMA, but that the association would not limit any individuals if they wished to be nominated (by an outside source) for any board/committee.

#### **5.2 Student awards for 2016**

Harriet Davies-Mostert reported that the SAWMA council was working on the idea of having student awards to be implemented in 2016. She explained that student members of SAWMA would be eligible to apply for such awards (with signed approval from their supervisors) and Council would draw up a short list of criteria against which these applications would be assessed. She said the idea was that applications were to be submitted to the secretariat by 30 June each year, with awards handed out at the symposium.

This idea would be developed and implemented by the SAWMA council.

#### **5.3 Formalising and increasing the editor & secretariat honorarium payments**

The meeting was informed that the honoraria paid to the secretary and editor would in future be determined by the President and Treasurer, and would not be discussed with members and that increases would depend on the financial status of the association. She emphasized the important role that both the secretary and editor were playing in the association.

She proposed that it would be amenable to increasing the editorial payments as the editor plays such a pivot role in the main product of the association, as long as the finances would allow that. She also suggested that it should be kept on a per issue basis and to simply increase the amount per issue where possible. She proposed that the process should be made formal by having it written into the constitution as something that becomes formally adopted by council. The meeting supported the proposal of formalizing and increasing the payments and approved that council should have permission to drive the process of increased payments so that it is not discussed publicly.

#### **5.4 T-shirt competition for students**

It was proposed that a T-Shirt design competition should be run amongst the student component of SAWMA. It was suggested that the co-opted student member on council should drive the initiative.

#### **5.5 Venue and hosts for Symposium 2016**

The importance of the involvement of an academic institution in the planning of the scientific programme was emphasized again. Annemie de Klerk volunteered to host the 2016 symposium.

### **6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be during the symposium in 2016.

Meeting closed at 18h00.