

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



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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014**

PLACE: Pine Lodge Resort and Conference Centre, Port Elizabeth

DATE: 3 September 2014

TIME: 15h00

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**MINUTES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Matt Child, Ken Coetzee, Harriet Davies-Mostert, David Marnewick, Jason Marshal, Susan Miller, Lizanne Nel, Pieter Nel, Dan Parker, Dean Peinke, Michele Phab, John Power, Frans Radloff, Phil Richardson, Anton Schmidt, Jeanetta Selier, Marnus Smit, Michael Somers, Tommie Steyn, Maartin Strauss, Craig Tambling, Minette van Lingen, Willem van Staden, Jan Venter, Graham Kerley.

**1. WELCOME**

The meeting was opened by Prof. Louw Hoffman who welcomed all members present. He handed over to Dr. Harriet Davies-Mostert to chair the rest of the meeting as the president of SAWMA for the next period. He thanked and wished her success with her duties of president for the two years ahead. He also thanked the association and out-going council for their trust and support in him during his period as president of the Association.

**2. APOLOGIES**

The following apologies were received and noted: Julius Koen, Christo Marais, Daan Buijs, Peter Mundy, Ian Macdonald, Emmanuel Do Linh San, Michael Grover, Brian Reilly, Drummond Densham, Peter Scogings, John Hanks, Kobus Bothma.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting (circulated electronically and posted on the SAWMA website) held at Skukuza on 17 September 2014 were tabled. The minutes were accepted by the meeting as correct reflection of the discussions.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013 AND COUNCIL MEETING 2014**

**4.1 Presidents' Report**

**The presidents' report was delivered during the welcome and registration of the symposium.**

Prof. Hoffman reflected on the two years of his term as president as well as the previous years he spent on the SAWMA council. He firstly thanked the secretariat, Mrs. Elma Marais, of the important role she plays in the Association. He reported on the smooth transition for the Journal to a new editor, Dr. Dan Parker, and praised him for the momentum he has given to the journal, e.g. changing of the name that coincides with moving onto an electronic submission system. He emphasised the importance of these necessary changes and other initiatives such as special editions on specific themes on impact factor.

He spoke about the new challenges scientists are facing relating adopting new technologies available and to incorporate it into their teaching methodology. He encouraged established scientists to share and increase their knowledge for example by registering and using "ispot" (<http://www.ispotnature.org/communities/southern-africa>, a site co-managed by SANBI). He also emphasised the role of SACNASP in continuous training for registered scientists and

the opportunities it creates for them to develop and present short courses to others. With that he added the opportunities created for research and training with the growth in the wildlife ranching/ farming industry.

He also focussed on the challenges and importance for SAWMA to interact with the Wildlife farming/ranching community and encouraged the SAWMA council to pursue this interaction as important role-player to ensure that our biodiversity does not suffer from uninformed activities. He also emphasised that although SAWMA as association does not take part in any debate presently being pursued, many of our members are active in these, such as the rhino poaching and horn trade, colour variants, elephant management, biodiversity issues, pollution etc.

He thanked the organising committee of the 2014 symposium for the interesting scientific programme and efforts put in by all for event.

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

**Dr. Dan Parker presented his annual report under the following headings:**

### **4.2.1 Present status of the journal: turnaround time, review process and statistics.**

The editor referred to the editorial in the latest journal issue, volume 44.2. He presented the journal statistics of the previous year in the form of graphs. He pointed out of the average of 43 – 50 manuscripts received per year, 22 are accepted on average and about 46 percent is rejected. He mentioned that efforts are made to restrict the review period to a maximum of two months, but challenges present from time to time. He also emphasised that the most crucial time is that from submission to initial decision and that it is important to decrease this time. He pointed out that according to the origin of the authors who submit manuscripts, the majority are still South African and the smallest number international.

### **4.2.2 Journal impact factor**

The editor reflected on the impact factors of the journal over the past few years. A drop in impact factor in 2013 of 0,294 was improved in 2014 to 0.71. He also showed comparisons with other local journals.

### **4.2.3 Associate editors**

It was reported that Prof. Marthan Bester has resigned as associate editor. The editor thanked him for his period of service on the editorial board.

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

Mrs. Elma Marais reported on the three electronic publication outlets for the journal: SABINET the local host of the journal and association website since 2000, BioOne (since 2008) and EBSCO (since 2012).

She reported that the BioOne contract continues to deliver a vital income stream to the association with a total of \$11 610 received as Revenue Sharing payment for 2013. She also emphasised the benefit of a broader international exposure with the journal being hosted and sold by BioOne. She also mentioned that the agreement with SABINET was still proving to be the best local option as electronic publisher and hosting our website. She reported that royalties from SABINET and EBSCO for 2014 was not received yet.

### **4.2.5 Feedback on Editors' Forum meetings for Scholarly Journals.**

Mrs. Marais reported that the Editors Forum was started a few years ago to create an opportunity for publishers and editors to network and to encourage the standard of publications. She reported that she attended the 2014 meeting in Cape Town and gave feedback on some points which were discussed in the meeting.

- a) one is the payment of taxes on the import of scholarly books and journals which the Academy of Science was trying to fight. After meetings with the minister of Finance, it does not look like VAT will be exempted.
- b) secondly, the forum has mandated the Academy of Science to set up a system of peer reviewing of SA journals. SAJWR was already included in a report of 2 years ago and a report was issued.

Feedback were also given from SciELO SA Platform on open access articles and the role that open access articles play in increased visibility. She reported briefly on presentations on ensuring the quality of journals and the quality of peer review. The issues raised seems to be very similar to the challenges that SAJWR are facing. Lastly the increasing problem of predatory publishers approaching authors to publish in their online journals was mentioned and authors

were cautioned to be careful of such journals, especially journals asking an upfront payment for publication, an unusual fast turnaround time accompanied by minor editorial changes.

#### **4.2.6 Call for review papers**

The editor reported that efforts are made to invite review papers for the journal and he mentioned that a review paper will appear in the next journal issue as well as the Carnivore issue.

#### **4.2.7 Special Journal Issue on Carnivores**

It was reported that a number of manuscripts were already submitted for possible publication in the Special Carnivore Issue, and that the deadline was extended for submissions.

#### **4.2.9 Name change of the SAJWR to African Journal of Wildlife Research**

The editor announced that the official change of the journal's name to African Journal of Wildlife Research will be implemented in the beginning of 2014.

#### **4.2.10 Peer track online manuscript submission and review system for the journal**

The editor reported that the PeerTrack online submission system will soon be tested and customized for the journal. Submissions should be possible by the end of the year or beginning of 2015. All data will be stored on the Allen Press database.

#### **4.2.11 Revised Page charges**

The proposal was that page fees for SAWMA Members should stay R200/page, but that page fees for non-members should be revised. The possibility of upfront payments of page fees was mentioned. Another proposal was made that the SAWMA council should look at a business plan to investigate the impact of doing away with page fees or not.

#### **4.2.12 Authors guide: reference guide, revision period etc.**

The editor reported that the reference style for the journal has been changed to the APA referencing style. A proposal was made that there should be looked at the maximum length of articles to be submitted.

#### **4.2.13 Publishing medium**

It was reported that the number of members preferring to receive their journal in electronic format has increased, but that the number of members requiring the printed copy is still relatively high. The decision was to adhere to the current status quo of sending printed copies to those members indicating that they prefer the printed copy for the interim.

#### **4.2.14 Editorial matters**

Lastly the editor discussed a few editorial matters and changes that he would like to see implemented:

- He suggested that the journal should publish fewer short communications and to consider a separate publication for notes and records. The focus should however remain on the main journal. The meeting agreed that this will be something that could be taken forward and investigated further. It was also suggested to look into what is required to produce such short notes. It was suggested that it should be published online and that a the current editorial board or dedicated person could be responsible for the short notes. An option would be to do it with another journal (African Zoology) as a joint effort. The editor was asked to investigate this further. Separate DOI and ISSN numbers might be necessary for such publication.
- He also stated the importance of revision periods not exceeding 2 months and that it will be strictly implemented.
- Future articles will include the date of the initial editorial decision.
- He also mentioned that a separate ISSN number will be obtained for the online issue, but warned that online does not mean open access.
- He emphasised that turnaround time will be shorter if the journal is published online only.

He was thanked for the new momentum that he is giving to the journal and council was instructed to look into his suggestions and provide feedback.

### **4.3 Treasurer's Report**

#### **4.3.1 Financial statements for the 2013 Financial Year**

The treasurer, Mr. Pieter Nel, presented the financial statements for the 2013 financial year, provided by the secretariat and independent examiner.

**The balance sheet was first discussed:** Receivables of R44 601.28 comprised of mainly of membership fees which were unpaid by end of 2013. He explained that according to the International Reporting Standards which are implemented, all invoices issued in a specific year are considered as income, even though some members will not pay their fees in that given year. Therefore the amount of unpaid invoices of the previous years become the receivables for the following years. Some of the money is retrieved in the next year and some will be written off after a number of reminders.

He reported that the receivables (outstanding invoices) for 2013 was lower than the previous year, and encouraged members to not allow their membership fees accumulate.

He reported that the interest earned from investments and growth on investments was slightly lower than the previous year at about R16 500. The total assets of the association were R384,232.50 (including outstanding invoices of about R45 000) at the end of 2013. He stated that this was an indication that SAWMA is moving much closer to our goal of the minimum accumulated funds (R350 000) needed for our financials to be considered 100% safe.

#### **Income and Expenditure account:**

The treasurer shortly discussed the income and expenditure account: He reported a surplus of R46 244.32 for the 2013 financial year. This was despite a loss of R5000 made at the symposium the previous year due to unforeseen expenses.

The financial statements were accepted and will be published on the SAWMA website.

#### **4.3.2 Current Financial status**

It was reported that a provisional balance sheet will be prepared soon after the symposium, but that all indications were that no unforeseen expenses are expected. He reported that the two issues of the journal was already paid, a salary increase for the secretariat was implemented and that the only other major additional expenses expected for the 2014 financial year would be the implementation of the online submission system.

#### **4.3.3 Proposed membership fees for 2015**

The following fees were proposed and accepted at the meeting:

Local individual members: R390

Pensioners: R200

Local Institutional members: R720

Fulltime Students: R200 (receiving the hard copy)

Foreign individual members: \$108

#### **4.3.4 Membership**

The treasurer reported that the current membership numbers are around 430 members. Only 80 members have indicated to date that they would be willing to give up the hard copy to receive the journal in electronic format. He suggested to continue with the dual option of publishing the journal until the time is ripe to switch over to an electronic journal alone. He emphasised that apart from the paying official SAWMA members there is a big non-member network receiving the SAWMA news and other information who could potentially join the association in future.

It was proposed that the SAWMA symposium should get a broader integrated representation and that more provincial representatives should attend.

In the discussion that followed it was proposed that more members of WRSA and SAHunting should be encouraged to join SAWMA and to send representation to the annual symposia. It was also suggested that effort should be made to

translate scientific information of the journal and the symposium to a more palatable format for non-academic members.

Mrs. Lizanne Nel proposed a separate day at the annual symposium with papers more relevant to managers and wildlife ranchers and for SAWMA to look at ways of getting the industry more involved. Concern was expressed that the wildlife industry is negotiating with government without taking science into account. It was felt that SAWMA should ensure that the industry has access to that science and that barriers should be broken down.

The meeting was reminded that as a learned society, the symposium has always been primarily about sharing science with other scientists. Therefore it remains important that the presentations have a solid scientific basis and not based on opinions and emotions. It was proposed that relevant SAWMA presentations and/or journal (AJWR) articles should be written in popular format for the wildlife industry magazines (e.g. SA Hunt and Magnum). Those articles should have branding with SAWMA and links on the official SAWMA website.

A resolution was made that Mrs. Nel should identify relevant research papers and get permission from the editor to have it rewritten in a more popular form.

#### **4.3.5 Student membership options**

The treasurer reported that SAWMA is currently offering free membership for full-time students and not opting to receive the printed copy of the journal. He mentioned that between 30-40 students have since joined SAWMA as free student members.

The meeting agreed that this initiative should continue and supervisors of students and interns should encourage them to join the association by bringing more students to the symposium.

#### **4.3.6 Donations /Sponsorships received for SAWMA symposium 2014**

Mr. Nel reported that SAWMA received generous sponsorships for the 2014 symposium and thanked the following sponsors for their support:

- ECPTA donated R50 000 towards expenses, covering the gala dinner and the symposium gifts.
- The South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association sponsored a symposium session to the value of R12000 and a student prize.
- Global Suppliers supplied the conference bags
- Graham Beck sponsored the wines for Gala Dinner
- SANParks partially sponsoring the Addo Field trip
- The Centre for African Conservation Ecology, NMMU, sponsored the printing of the programme and some student book prizes.
- BushCam Consulting sponsored binoculars as a student prize
- Titley Scientific and Sun Media also sponsored books for prizes.

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

Mr. Nel mentioned that looking at the current investments, if compared with the previous year, the return on investment earned at Stanlib was 22% and the FNB investment delivered only 3.8%. The interest earned with Marketlink only differs with about 0.3% with the interest earned from FNB.

He also reported that during the electronic council meeting it was suggested that SAWMA look at other short term investment opportunities which offer better interest. Also to re-visit the complete savings buffer and how we want to invest it i.e. using some of the Marketlink account money and adding it to the other investments and maximizing the return.

It was proposed that we draft a financial management policy for SAWMA including Financial Policy on Banking, Payments and other financial procedures. This can be added to the SAWMA constitution. This should be prepared for approval by council.

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

Mrs. Elma Marais reported that the newsletter, SAWMA Matters, remains an important medium for communication and networking tool. She reported that unfortunately she did not get around to publish as many SAWMA matters during 2014 than other years, but the tendency seems to be to send out more regular news snippets as emails and to publish

a SAWMA newsletter every 8 week – 10 weeks. She reminded members to forward all news of relevance to other members on a regular basis.

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

A report was read on behalf of Prof Brian Reilly who was not able to attend the symposium detailing the developments within SACNASP and his role as representative of SAWMA on their council.

It was reported that he attended three council meetings with another one planned for November 2014. There were four registration committee meetings. As chair of the Professional Advisory Committees (PAC) for the fields of practice of botanical and ecological science, 54 applications were reviewed. A number of RPL applications were also adjudicated and relevant reports written and submitted.

It was reported that his term of office was extended for one year pending the re-constitution of the Council by the Minister of Science and Technology whereupon a second four year term will be confirmed with permission of SAWMA.

Prof Reilly has been requested to draft a proposal on the creation of a field of practice of "Conservation Science". Community participation (CPD) for natural scientists are also anticipated. It was reported that the total number of registered scientists at SACNASP has surpassed 6000 during 2014 for the first time.

#### **4.6 Feedback - Cooperation with Australasian Wildlife Management Society.**

Mrs. Marais reported that networking with the AWMS is still on the same level and that the two associations receive news emails from one another. The attendance of Julie Broken-Brow from Titley was a result of this interaction. It was proposed that this point be removed from the agenda and that the networking should be kept on an informal basis. If there are cross conference attending it can be handled when it presents itself.

#### **4.7 SAWMA Honorary award for outstanding contributions: feedback and progress**

Mr Maartin Strauss reported that a document should be finalised soon on this matter. It was proposed that the name of the award should be voted on by members by means of the SAWMA newsletter. It was proposed that this matter should now be finalised and not revisited every year. Maartin was thanked for his efforts.

#### **4.8 Outputs from side events at SAWMA Symposium 2010.**

Mr Pieter Nel reported that the report from side events at the SAWMA symposium in 2010 was published on the SAWMA website. He was thanked for completing the report.

### **4 NEW MATTERS**

#### **4.1 Venue and hosts for Symposium 2014.**

Mr. Marnus Smit proposed an offer for the Northern Cape to host the next SAWMA symposium. A committee of members comprising of the Northern Cape Dept. of Environment and Nature Conservation, SANParks, the McGregor Museum and SAEON has already indicated that they would be willing to assist as local organising committee.

It was emphasised that during the council meeting held in May 2014, it was proposed that an academic institution should be involved in the planning of the academic programme. In this case it was proposed that the Free State University should play this role. Also refer to discussion under 4.3.4 about efforts to involve and encourage the wildlife industry in attending symposia.

### **5. ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2014-2016**

Nominations for new council members were received, followed by an election for general members. Only one person was nominated as Vice-President, Prof. Paul Grobler and Mr Pieter Nel was re-nominated for Treasurer. The new council was announced during the Gala Dinner after the AGM.

President: Dr. Harriet Davies-Mostert  
Vice-President: Prof. Paul Grobler  
Treasurer: Mr. Pieter Nel  
Scientific Editor (Journal): Dr. Dan Parker

General Council members: Mr. Nicholus Funda, Ms. Kelly Marnewick, Prof. Michael Somers, Dr. Frans Radloff, Dr. Craig Tambling, Prof. Louw C. Hoffman (ex-officio)  
Co-opted student member: Mr. David Marneweck

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

The date of the next meeting will coincide with the dates and venue of the next symposium in the Northern Cape which still needs to be determined.

**The meeting closed at 17h30.**