

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



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PLACE: ATKV-Klein Kariba Resort, SAWMA Symposium 2012

DATE: 17 September 2012

TIME: 16h20

Minutes

Members present:

Jeremy Bolton, Willem Boshoff, Daan Buijs, Gareth Eloff, Lindie Eloff, André Burger, Shannon Chapman, George (Joe) Chirima, Harriet Davies-Mostert, Sam Ferreira, Paul Grobler, Michael Grover, Robyn Hetem, Louw Hoffman, Bettine Jansen va Vuuren, Amanda Jones, Hanno Killian, Julius Koen, Antoinette Kotze, Marie-Claire Knoop, Alison Leslie, Kelly Marnewick, Jason Marshal, Ulrich Mwimbi, Pieter Nel, Mike Perrin, Christine Pienaar, Frans Radloff, Brian Reilly, Wilfred Seithlamo, Jeanette Selier, Michael Somers, Tommie Steyn Maartin Strauss, Craig Tambling, Tom Tochterman, L.D. van Essen, Roline van Essen, Wouter van Hoven, Minette van Lingen, Jan Venter, Philipp Wesche,

1. WELCOME

The meeting was chaired by the president, Prof. Brian Reilly, who welcomed all members present.

2. APOLOGIES

The following apologies were received and noted: Jonathan Berry, Christo Marais, Emmanuel Doh Lin San, Gavin Shaw, Graham Kerley.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 19 September 2011 at ATKV-Hartenbos Holiday Resort, were tabled.

Prof. Brian Reilly proposed the minutes to be accepted and this was seconded by Mr. Pieter Nel.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011 AND COUNCIL MEETING 2012

4.1 Presidents' Report

(BK Reilly)

Prof. Brian Reilly reported that it had been a quiet year for council in the sense that there were no major problems to address and thanks to the secretariat the day to day administration was running smoothly. He thanked every council member for their support and contributions in various aspects and their participation in decisions.

He expressed concern about the rhino poaching problem that has dominated the news over the past year.

He listed milestones reached by the SAWMA council during the last year:

- The Implementation of an honorary award system, initiated by Mr. Julius Koen: He hoped to have this finalized during the meeting.
- An agreement was reached with the Australasian Wildlife Management Society for closer co-operation. He mentioned that funding will have to be generated/obtained to enable SAWMA to send the best doctorate student presenter to the Australian conference. The AWMS will send a representative to the SAWMA meeting.
- The South African Journal of Wildlife Research is going from strength to strength and the impact factor has increased consistently over the past number of years.
- He states that according to the financial statements which Mr. Pieter Nel will be presenting in his report, the association's finances are still looking healthy, despite the deficit reflected in the 2011 financial year.

Prof. Reilly finished by stating that innovative thinking will be vital for survival in the wildlife management field and more alternative management plans will be necessary for the future. He thanked the members for allowing him the opportunity to be president during the past two years and added that he will remain on council as ex-officio member for the next 2 year period. This was followed by officially handing over his duties as president to Prof. Louw Hoffman who will be the SAWMA president until the annual general meeting in 2014.

4.2 Journal Editor's Report

(M Perrin)

The editor, Prof. Mike Perrin presented his report under the following sub headings:

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

Prof. Perrin briefly explained the review process followed for the South African Journal of Wildlife Research: Once a manuscript is submitted, it is acknowledged and assigned to an associate editor who will recommend reviewers. Reviewers are then approached and once the reviews are received it is sent to the associate editor who makes an initial decision of acceptance after revision, rejection or resubmission. This is confirmed by the Editor-in-Chief before it is communicated to the authors.

He showed a few graphs to illustrate statistics with regards to submissions for 2012. He indicated that there was a slight decline in the numbers of manuscripts submitted until September 2012 in comparison with previous years, but that more manuscripts should be submitted towards the end of the year. He indicated that 27 papers were submitted until September 2012 of which 11 were either rejected or found unsuitable for the journal. The rest are in various stages of review or revision. He mentioned that the rejection rates were quite high as he wants to ensure good quality papers are selected for publication.

He also reported that the turnaround time for manuscripts from submission to initial decision, revision to resubmission and final decision are in general satisfactory. According to the statistics of the origin of manuscripts submissions from the rest of Africa are still low and should be encouraged.

Prof. Perrin reported that due to the delay in publication of 41/2, three issues were being published in 2012. He explained that because volume 41.2 was a very thick copy, volume 42/1 resulted in a much thinner issue. He reported that volume 42/2 was still in progress, but that it should be published by the end of November.

He encouraged members to send papers for publication and emphasized the importance of papers presented at the symposium to be properly recorded and published.

4.2.2 Journal impact factor

Prof. Perrin reported that the impact factor for *SAJWR* has improved from 0.875 to 1.085. He stated that this is mostly as a result of articles published during the time that Prof. Michael Somers was the editor.

4.2.3 Associate editors

Prof. Perrin announced that Prof. Louw Hoffman was a new addition to the associate editors.

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

Prof. Perrin reported that the journal presently has three electronic publication outlets: SABINET the local host, who is also hosting our website, BioOne as well as EBSCO.

He reported that the contract with BioOne continues to be very beneficial: The Revenue Sharing payment from BioOne for 2011 was USD 5 654.00 and a Surplus Sharing payment of USD 1 645.00 was received. This amount has been increasing every year since the association has signed the contract with them.

He also reported that R16 208.00 in royalties from Sabinet Online was received and that the EBSCO royalties have not been paid out for 2012, but has proved to be the least beneficial of the three.

4.2.5 Feedback on Editors' Forum meetings for Scholarly Journals.

Prof. Perrin gave a brief report on his attendance of the Editor's Forum meeting in Cape Town on 25 July 2012:

A national free online e-publication platform, SciELO SA, is proposed by ASSAf (Academy of Sciences of South Africa). It is an electronic data base for SA journal articles. Funding options were discussed e.g. government or a commercial publisher. He mentioned that there was a strong suggestion for a merger of journals with a similar focus to reduce costs and to aid interdisciplinary awareness.

He also discussed the value of value added features, and that after conversations with several editors, it appears that impact factors increase when a journal becomes continental (African) from being regional (SA), although the journal should include material from a wider range of countries.

4.2.6 SAJWR and the ASSAf open access platform

Prof Perrin reported that ASSAf is very eager to place the full text of the SAJWR on SciELO SA, their open access platform. Unfortunately the option for the delayed open access period is only 3-4 months in comparison with the 24 months that currently applies for SAJWR.

The discussion that followed after the editor's report highlighted the following:

Due to SAWMA's agreement with BioOne, Sabinet and Ebsco, all content published during the past two years are sold by them and all the older articles are Open Access. Although all the licences are not exclusive, SAWMA cannot afford to go into agreements with other platforms with open access less than two years. This will result in a loss of income for both SAWMA and the other electronic hosts.

SAWMA has particularly benefited from the connection with BioOne both financially and in terms of impact factor.

The meeting was in agreement for contents of SAJWR to be published on SciELO on the condition that there is a two year delay in open access.

On the other hand the benefit of having published articles available immediately can be beneficial to the authors.

The alternative of approaching a commercial publisher for the journal could be investigated again, but it was agreed to stay with the status quo.

The proposal of merging with other journals was not favoured by the meeting.

Using anonymous reviews was favoured in comparison to an open review process as this could result in more objective reviews. At present SAJWR allows for both options – decided by the reviewers. Special care should be taken to protect reviewers wishing to stay anonymous to the authors.

It seems more inevitable for future authors to pay more towards publishing costs.

With regards to added on features, it was concluded that the SAWMA Matters already covers this aspect partially by conference announcements and book reviews, including vacancies. The editor mentioned that an agreement was reached with Africa Geographic to publicize topics of general public interest that appear in the SAJWR.

Lastly it was emphasized that students should be acknowledged in publications by their supervisors.

4.2.7 Page charges

It was proposed that the current page fees rates stays unchanged at R200 per page for members and R300 per page for non-members. This was accepted by the meeting.

4.2.8 Scope of the SAJWR & inclusion of articles from a wider geographic area.

The editor reported that following a discussion at the Council meeting earlier in 2012, it was agreed that (1) sociological manuscripts should be published in SAJWR, but on the condition that it has a link to the core interest of the journal. Such manuscripts will be individually assessed on merit. (2) Submissions of manuscripts from a wider geographic area (including the whole of Africa, the Arabian peninsula and Madagascar) will be accepted in future and (3) editors should invite more submissions of global reviews relevant to wildlife research and management.

The meeting approved the proposal.

4.2.9 Agreement with African Geographic to write popular articles on SAJWR articles

An agreement was made with the Scientific Editor of African Geographic to supply him with the articles of each issue and then he will select articles to write popular articles for the magazine, to make it available to a larger audience.

4.2.10 Name change of the South African Journal of Wildlife Research to African Journal of Wildlife Research

Prof. Perrin reported that enquiries were made to various role players about the possibility of changing the name of the SAJWR to African Journal of Wildlife Research – this was a proposal made before. He reported that from the various feedbacks, it would seem that the association should only proceed with a name change for the journal, if the IF can be retained or improved. Rebranding the journal will not be without complications, both in terms of administrative paperwork and potential market confusion. Should the association decide to make the change, it will not only need to register for a new ISSN, but will need to amend all of the agreements that we have with individual providers (such as BioOne).

He also stated that a name change will have to be discussed with ISI Thompson first, and that this is a decision that will have to be taken by council. He informed the meeting that it was decided to continue for another year as we are and see if we get more submissions from Madagascar and Arabia.

Highlights of the discussion that followed:

- Should SAWMA consider software such as “Free Ware” for manuscript submissions: The conclusion was that the number of papers submitted does not warrant it at this stage.
- Ways to help increase the Impact factor were discussed:
 - Prof. Louw Hoffman emphasized the importance of referencing papers published in the SAJWR – this can help increase the impact factor.
 - It was proposed that effort should be made to make others aware of new issues published, by sending a list of titles and links to abstracts to relevant people and groups.
- It was proposed to include a section in the journal for “best practice submissions’ – local and international. This should increase the scope of the journal. A proposal was made for the SAWMA council/editorial board to draw up guidelines for the review of such papers. Managers should also be encouraged to submit management notes to the journal.
- The importance of review articles was also emphasized and should increase in the journal.

Final resolution: Council and the editorial board should actively encourage and promote submission of review papers and best management practice papers for the journal.

4.3 Treasurer’s Report

(HP Nel)

4.3.1 Financial statements for the 2011 Financial Year

The financial statement provided by the independent examiner was presented by the current Treasurer, Mr. Pieter Nel. He explained that the over inflated surplus of 2010 was balanced by the deficit of R32 626 reflected in the 2011 financial year.

He discussed the main income and expenses of the Association by going through the income-expenditure account for 2011. He pointed out that the income from royalties earned from electronic publications (mainly from BioOne) has become an import source of income. On the expenditure side he emphasized the biggest expense remains the publication of the Journal.

The symposium in 2011 showed a ‘loss’ because it was decided to reduce students registration fees for the symposium by using the part of the surplus made during 2010. This also lead to bigger numbers of students attending and resulted in a deficit reflected on the financials. The lower student rates were beneficial to SAWMA as more new members were solicited out of the students attending the event. The membership registrations have been kept to a minimum.

Mr. Nel pointed out that due to unpaid membership fees, a number of accounts were suspended in the 2011 year and the unpaid fees were shown as an expenditure which adds to the deficit reflected.

He reported that the interest earned from investments was about R11 500 and the total assets of the association were R281 448.15 by the end of 2011. About R62 300 of this amount were receivables from membership and subscriptions outstanding. He mentioned that during the council meeting earlier in the year it was decided that the aim should be to have a positive balance of about R250 000 – R300 00 to be financially safe.

The financial statements were approved.

4.3.2 Current Financial status

He indicated that the current financial state was healthy in terms of cash flow and assets and the financials should show a small surplus in the 2012 year. He requested that all outstanding payments for membership fees and the symposium fees should be paid without delay.

4.3.4 Proposed membership fees for 2012

Based on the healthy financial status, it was proposed that membership fees remain the same for the third consecutive year. This was welcomed and accepted by the meeting. The fees for 2013 will be as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local individual members: | R 360.00 |
| Fulltime Student members (Local): | R 180.00 |
| Fulltime Student members (Foreign): | R 360.00 |
| Foreign individual members: | US\$ 98.00 |
| Local Institutional Subscribers: | R 680.00 |
| Foreign Institutional Subscribers: | US\$ 205.00 |

4.3.5 Dual price system for membership subscription

A proposal was made by Elma Marais is to implement a new option for members to indicate in which format they prefer to receive the Journal in future. The idea is to keep the fees the same for the first year and to determine the impact on the printing and publishing costs and postage. In the following year a dual price system should be introduced for membership

where members receiving only the electronic copy pay less than the members receiving the hard copy. The meeting accepted this proposal.

4.3.6 Donations /Sponsorships received

Mr. Koen reported that donations received were in the form of book prizes from various publishers and a camera trap. He thanked the sponsors for their contributions.

Ms. Kelly Marnewick made some suggestions with regards to future symposiums:

To create more opportunities of interface between science and management for students. It was proposed that there should be more incentives for students to join SAWMA and that there should be looked at alternative options for subsidizing students' attendance of the symposium e.g. to add an extra day for field trips, or to add a special dinner/function at the event for the students.

The next symposium committee should consider these suggestions.

4.4 Newsletter Editor's report.

(EM Marais)

Mrs. Elma Marais briefly gave feedback on the number of publications of the electronic newsletter, SAWMA Matters during 2012. A special request was directed to all to send contributions for the newsletter.

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

(BK Reilly)

Prof. Brian Reilly provided background about his representation of SAWMA on SACNASP. He reported that there are various committees assigned to specific tasks, each with a chair person where input are made. He emphasized the importance of SAWMA to be represented on this forum as there are an increasing number of people qualifying in the Environmental Sciences and it provides an interface with other groups in SACNASP. SAWMA are also being recognized as association. It was proposed that he continues to fulfill this function and that SAWMA will nominate him as representative for a further term.

A proposal was made to publish a list of SAWMA members who are registered with SACNASP on the SAWMA website

4.6 Closer Cooperation with Australasian Wildlife Management Society (AWMS)

(BK Reilly)

Prof. Brian Reilly reported that following his attendance of the Australasian Wildlife Management Society's Conference in December 2010, a decision was made to encourage and continue interaction and networking between the associations. This resulted in an agreement signed between the councils of the two associations during 2012. Prof. Reilly briefly explained the terms of the affiliation and that it was agreed that AWMS and SAWMA each will appoint an individual to serve as their Liaison Co-ordinator to the other organisation.

It was proposed that Prof. Reilly continues to represent SAWMA on this interface. One the first actions will be to find the necessary funding to enable SAWMA to send the best doctorate student representative to the Australian conference and that Australia will do the same for the SAWMA meeting. Prof. Reilly is tasked to get this into action on SAWMA's behalf.

4.7 Honorary award for members with outstanding contributions in conservation.

(JH Koen)

Mr. Julius Koen made a proposal with regards to the process for the honorary award system which was accepted by council. It was decided that a medal plus a certificate will be issued for the award. A nomination form for candidates to receive this award will be sent to SAWMA members about six months before the Annual General Meeting. An evaluation committee consisting of the President, Vice-President and the Editor was proposed for working through the nominations and to decide about recipient(s) of the award.

A suggestion was made that the name of the award could be determined by asking members to suggest possibilities via the SAWMA newsletter. Someone will have to design the medal.

4.8 Proposal from Wildlife Ranching South Africa for closer co-operation with SAWMA regarding research relevant to game ranching.

(BK Reilly)

Following a proposal from Wildlife Ranching South Africa for closer affiliation with SAWMA, a few aspects and concerns were discussed. Prof. Reilly mentioned that he was busy writing an article for the WRSA publication. He proposed that other members should continue along this line and encouraged members to write popular articles for the WRSA publication. He further proposed that articles relevant to the game ranching industry appearing in SAJWR could be rewritten for the WRSA publication. WRSA should also be invited to send representatives to the SAWMA symposium and vice-versa.

A few members at the meeting emphasized that SAWMA is a conservation organization and that principles of the two organisations are not necessarily the same. SAWMA's relationship should be based on the sharing of information and providing general support.

A suggestion was also made that a list of SAWMA members registered with SACNASP as well as a list of reputable consultants in the wildlife industry should be published on the SAWMA website.

4.9 Outputs from side events at SAWMA Symposium 2010.

(HP Nel)

Mr. Pieter Nel has written a report of the workshop that took place after the 2010 Symposium at Buffelspoort. Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert volunteered to edit his report. Once it has been finalized and approved by the SAWMA council it will be published on the SAWMA website.

4.10 SAWMA's possible role in Rhino Poaching problem.

(SM Ferreira)

Dr. Sam Ferreira provided background on the Rhino poaching problem and dialogue taking place between various parties to address the issue. It was proposed that SAWMA should offer specialist services when required. He informed the meeting of the DEA rhino dialogue which is still taking place. The DEA report will be circulated when it is available.

5 NEW MATTERS

5.1 Possible venues and hosts for symposium 2013.

(All)

Two proposals were made for the next venue: Kruger National Park and Port-Elizabeth/Eastern Cape with NMMU as host.

The meeting opted for Kruger National Park as the next venue for 2013. Tommie Steyn and Sam Ferreira were assigned to co-ordinate the event. It was proposed to have a post symposium excursion and to provide students with an opportunity for interface with management.

The 2014 meeting will be held in the Eastern Cape with Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University as host.

5.2 Nominations for SAWMA council 2012-2014.

The voting that followed the nomination of new council members for the next council for 2012-2014 resulted in the following members being elected:

President: Prof. Louw Hoffman (automatically resumed presidency as previous vice-president)

Vice-President: Dr. Harriet Davies-Mostert

Treasurer: Pieter Nel

Council members: Sam Ferreira, Nicholus Funda; Paul Grobler, Frans Radloff, Prof Brian Reilly (ex-officio), Michael Somers, Kelly Marnewick (student representative)

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at the SAWMA symposium in 2013. Dates to be announced.