

Southern African Wildlife Management Association



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2008

PLACE: Mpekweni Beach Resort, SAWMA Conference

DATE: 18 September 2008

TIME: 16h30

MINUTES

Members present:

W. Boshoff, D. Buijs, R.D. Carr, H. Davies-Mostert, W. Davies-Mostert, K. Ehlers, L. Fanayo, X.N. Funda, P. Grobler, R. Guldemon, V. Harley, S. Hattingh, E. Herrmann, L.C. Hoffman, B. James, G.I.H. Kerley, L. Khuzwayo, H. Kilian, J.H. Koen, A. Kotze, M. Landman, C. Marais, E.M. Marais, K. Marnewick, J. Marshal, P. Mundy, G. Munro, H.P. Nel, T. Ott, N. Owen-Smith, D. Parker, D. Peinke, S. Peinke, F. Radloff, B.K. Reilly, G.N. Smit, M. Somers, A. Steyn, T. Steyn, M. Strauss, R. van Aarde, D. van der Walt, LD van Essen, P. van Heerden, M. van Lingen, G.J. van Rensburg, J.A. Venter, L. Watson.

1. WELCOME

Christo Marais, chair person for the meeting, welcomed all members present at the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

The following apologies were received:

M. Bester, M. Cameron, A. Coetzee, A. Delsink, D. Codron, J. Codron, D. Densham, K. de Wet, J. du Toit, N. Fairall, J. Flamand, P. Galloway, J. Gaugris, D. Grossman, C. Haneekom, M. Hauptfleisch, K. Hay, K. Henderson, G. Hughes, T. Hugo, F. Huchzermeyer, M. Kuwong, R. Lawrie, E. Leibnitz, I. Macdonald, M. Markus, R. Mortassagne, R. Pearse, P. Thomson, J. Skinner, P. Odendaal, A. Page Brock, H. Pettifer, D. van Eeden, J. Selier, M. Peel, H. Roux, P. Scogings, J. Stevens, N. Pitts, G. Steyn, J. Thomson, R. Kalwa, R. Randall, C. Scholz, M. Stalmans, D. Macmillan,

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 20 September 2007 at Didima Camp: uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park, which was published in the electronic News Bulletin 2008 on the SAWMA Website was tabled.

Dick Carr proposed the minutes to be accepted; it was seconded by Louw Hoffman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Presidents' Report

Christo Marais reported on the main activities of SAWMA during 2007-2008 and gave an overview of the association since he started serving on the council. The president's report is published in the SAWMA News Bulletin of 2009. See pages 7 & 8 of the SAWMA News Bulletin 2009.

4.2. Journal Editor's Report

The full report is published in the SAWMA News Bulletin 2009, pages (page numbers to be added) The Editor reported under the following items:

4.2.1 South African Journal of Wildlife Research: Outcome of council's further discussions of a suggested name change for the journal.

Michael Somers reported that as instructed at the AGM 2007, council had a discussion in an email meeting on the proposed name change of the journal to African Journal of Wildlife Research. It was felt that changing the name would not influence the impact factor the journal and he referred to two examples of other Journals to proof the point.

Graham Kerley mentioned that it should be reconsidered and suggested collaboration with "African Conservation Biology". The meeting however gave a vote of confidence to the current name and status of the journal and it was suggested that the point be removed from the agenda until council finds it necessary to explore other options or collaborations.

4.2.2 Investigation of electronic publisher options and open access

The editor reported that the Dept. of Science & Technology's plan to create a subsidized open access platform for all SA journals has not yet materialized.

He provided feedback on alternative electronic publishers who were approached during 2008 for possible contracts. There were detailed discussions with Elsevier who turned down a contract with *South African Journal of Wildlife Research (SAJWR)* mainly due to the fact that it would not be an economical viable option for them.

He mentioned that OpenJournals Publishing, an online open-access publisher, also approached him for signing up with them, but it was declined due to high costs.

He reported that he was approached by BioOne.2 to add the *SAJWR* to their 2009 collection. After discussions with council a contract was signed with them in July and full-text articles in issues published in 2007 and 2008 will be included in their collection. He explained that this option would have revenue opportunities for SAWMA and that the contract was non-exclusive.

He also reported that an agreement was reached with SABINET ONLINE to implement a hybrid open access model, by continuing to sell subscriptions of the online issues, while simultaneously making everything older than 24 months available open access online. This would increase visibility of the *SAJWR*.

4.2.3 Outcome of journal full-text found on EBSCO website and possible additional hosting of electronic journal

The editor reported that the matter of the full-text found on EBSCO's website was dealt with and that they admitted earning some revenue with the *SAJWR*. They also offered to license *South African Journal of Wildlife Research* and continue to make it available through their database. This is also a non-exclusive contract. They were approached for a possible contract and paying SAWMA the money owed, but they have not responded. It would be taken up with them again.

4.2.4 Progress of scanning journal back issues and indexing on SAWMA website and SABINET

It was reported that the back issues of *SAJWR* were scanned successfully by the Dept of Meat Sciences (US) and that SABINET was busy indexing and loading the content onto the website.

4.2.5 Editors' Forum for Scholarly Journals

Michael Somers reported that he is serving on the Forum for Scholarly Journals. He said that some changes in instructions to authors and conduct of editors will be done at some stage but the current instructions mostly comply with the existing principles.

4.2.6 Page Charges

The page charges were discussed. It was generally agreed that page charges were too low and that there should be a bigger difference in page charges for members versus non-members. Graham Kerley suggested the Editor should look at page charges of other journals as a guideline. The editor also reported a price increase of 10% in the publication of the journal from 2009, and after that according to the official inflation rate.

He suggested that the editor make a proposal to council with a set of criteria for example members, non-members and authors from developing countries with low income. The main reason for the increase should be not only to pay for the increasing publication costs, but also to generate extra income for SAWMA to be able to support the administration costs to run the association and the editing process.

Michael mentioned that there might be some financial relief to local societies from official sources such as ASSAf.

4.2.7 Journal impact factor

The editor announced that the 2008 impact factor for the SAJWR was 0.82. He explained that the 2008 impact factors were a reflection of the citations in 2006 – 2007 of articles published in 2005, the first year in which the entire journal fell under Michael Cherry's editorship. Rudi van Aarde suggested the editor should identify target groups to submit articles for publication in SAJWR, in order to increase the number of highly cited papers published in SAJWR.

4.2.8 Associate Editors - Changes

Michael Somers reported that Dr Matthew Hayward was appointed as associate editor in June 2008. He also reported that Prof Michael Cherry resigned as associate editor in August 2008 as his work as editor in chief for South African Journal of Science takes up his available time. A replacement will be appointed.

4.3 Treasurer's Report

See the full report in the SAWMA News Bulletin 2009, pages 9-14. The treasurer delivered his report under the following items.

4.3.1 Financial statements for the 2007 Financial Year

Julius Koen reported on the audited balance sheet for the 2007 financial year which shows a Nett short fall of R189.72. He explained that the shortfall was mainly due to a smaller profit made at the symposium in 2007 and the purchase of new accounting software. He reported that a total of R7756.07 was earned from the two investments. Income from membership and subscriptions did not differ much from the previous year. He reported a nett surplus of R31 957.00 was made at the 2007 symposium.

With regards to expenses in 2007, it was reported that general expenses did not increase substantially from the previous year. A small honorarium of R1118.44 was granted to the secretariat at the end of 2007.

4.3.2 Current Financial status

An overview was given of the preliminary financial report for 2008. The main issues highlighted were that the value of the Stanlib Unit Trusts has decreased, membership payments have improved and due to the high number of delegates attending the 2008 conference and sponsorships, the surplus from the event would have a positive impact on the finances.

It was reported that the publication costs remains the biggest expense and membership fees and page fees would have to increase to counter act the 10% increase projected for publication costs in 2009.

4.3.3 Bonus paid to secretariat for 2007 financial year

Julius Koen reported that an annual bonus of R1 118.44 was paid to the secretariat at the end of 2007 (25% of the provisional surplus calculated by 12 December 2007).

4.3.4 Proposed membership fees for 2009

The following increases for membership fees for 2009 were proposed:

Local membership: R260 to be increased to R300
Student membership: R125 to be increased to R150
Foreign membership: 78USD to be increased to 81USD

The proposed institutional subscription fee for 2009:

Foreign: 150USD to be increased to 170USD
Local: R500 to be increased to R575

The meeting accepted the following:

- The proposed rates were accepted.
- The secretariat to conduct a survey of life members and find out who still wants to receive a hard copy of the journal.
- The treasurer and secretariat to draw up a business plan for the 2009 income and expenses in order to start implementing a substantial salary increase for the secretariat to a more competitive level.

4.3.5 Investigation of sponsorship for the Association

Christo Marais reported that he had been driving the process of getting sponsorship with no success and that he would not have the time to take it further. Brian Reilly offered to assist in the drive for funding and investigating sponsorship and suggested that a good start would be to get sponsorships for conferences from local businesses. Graham Kerley also suggested that private game parks would be a good option for approaching sponsorship.

4.4 Newsletter Editor's report

Elma Marais reported that the News Bulletin has gradually changed in format since being an electronic publication since 2007. She mentioned that although the main aim of the publication remains to publish the formal reports of the SAWMA council as well as the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, it is important that members contribute articles and snippets. She thanked Rudi van Aarde for supplying photographs and members contributing to the 2008 Bulletin.

It was agreed that the sourcing of articles should not be the task of the editor and that all members and council should make an effort to contribute to the publication.

4.5 Registration to affiliate with the SA Council for Natural Scientific Professions (S.A.C.N.A.S.P)

Elma Marais reported that Antoinette Kotze attended a workshop on 12 March 2008 with SACNASP. AS a result SACNASP sent her an application form for affiliation with SACNASP as a voluntary association. She submitted the form. She explained that benefits would include recognition of SAWMA as voluntary association for a period of 5 years; a certificate of recognition; and communication regarding natural sciences and related matters. No fees were payable for affiliation.

She also reported that she nominated Brian Reilly on behalf of SAWMA as candidate for appointment to the SACNASP Council. She reported that no feedback has been received on either matters at the time of the AGM.

4.6 Capacity building & transformation: SAWMA membership and symposium attendance

Christo Marais reported that an effort was made to apply for sponsorship to students from the National Research Foundation (NRF) for registration to the 2008 conference. Unfortunately it was too late for the application. Antoinette Kotze informed council in a meeting that 2008 was the last round for such applications. It was proposed that applications for students to attend conferences should come from the researcher's budget. Antoinette Kotze will try and find out what are new funding opportunities for students in the NRF.

4.7 Regulations regarding International bodies/individuals involved with research projects/contracts in the Kruger National Park.

Christo Marais reported that he had a discussion with Harry Biggs at SANParks about the participation of local scientists in internationally funded projects on SANParks land. He reported that SANParks do not have an official rule about it but that it is standard practice that all international projects must have local representation.

5. NEW MATTERS

5.1 Host and venue for Conference 2009

Paul Grobler from University of Free State was appointed to host for the 2009 Symposium. It was provisionally proposed that Pieter Nel and colleagues from North West Parks will host the 2010 symposium and they would make a proposal once they have investigated options.

5.2 Election of Council 2008-2010

A new council for the 2008-2010- period were elected from the nominations received.

President: Julius Koen

Vice-President: Brian Reilly

Treasurer: Louw Hoffman

Councillors:

Daan Buijs, Paul Grobler, Antoinette Kotze, Pieter Nel, Jan Venter

Ex-officio President

Christo Marais

Co-opted Student:

Kelly Marnewick

The secretariat and Editor remains in their positions and were not re-elected.

5.3 Dept. of Forest, Research and Wildlife Management: request for assistance

Before the meeting closed Prof. Peter Mundy of the Dept of Forest, Research and Wildlife at the Zimbabwe National University of Science and Technology, asked for an opportunity to make a request to South African Universities to assist where possible with the placing of students, books, equipment etc. It was proposed that he should put his request in writing to be published in the SAWMA News Bulletin.

Closure

The meeting closed at 18h00 and Julius Koen officially took over the presidency from Christo Marais and thanked him for his contribution to SAWMA over the past decade.