# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF IAIAsa

# HELD AT THE LORD CHARLES HOTEL, SOMERSET WEST AT 8:50

#### **ON TUESDAY 28 AUGUST 2012**



#### 1. Welcome

Members were formally welcomed by Stephen Stead (President of IAIAsa, 2011/2012 – Outgoing President). Ms Bronwen Griffiths compiled the minutes of the meeting.

#### 2. Attendance

a. Present

Attendance registers (Appendix A) – 152 signees, 4 additional present (unsigned), total 156 present.

Unsigned but present: Terry Baker (President 2012/2013 – Incoming President)

Ian Jameson (Treasurer 2011/2012)

Jenny Mitchell (Treasurer 2012/2013)

Bronwen Griffiths (Secretary 2012/2013)

b. Apologies

Marita Thornhill (NEC member 2011/2012)

#### 3. 2011/2012 President's Report

Mr Stead requested all attendees to sign the attendance register and then presented his report on the 2011/2012 year including:

- After the previous conference, the 2011 2012 National Executive Committee (NEC) set objectives for the coming year. They all related to our 2015 strategy and are listed below:
  - o To implement the **strategy** but to not try to grow IAIAsa beyond what the members want it to be;
  - o To improve our **systems** to deal with financial matters, complaints, communication, marketing etc;
  - o To maintain & improve the value for money aspect of IAIAsa;
  - To maintain good relations with DEA (EAI&M Strategy);
  - To establishing good relations with EAPASA;
  - o To revamp and redesign the **website** to be able to share information better;
  - To establish a permanent secretariat/directorate for IAIAsa;
  - o To deliver **Continued Professional Development**; and
  - To deliver a state-of-the-art conference.
- The biggest change that took place last year was that this was for the first time, we would be trying out some of the new structural changes proposed in the 2015 strategy. With this in mind, we adopted the slogan, "Go Better to Go Big".

- Knowing that these "few objectives" would not easily be achieved we set off at a brisk pace, and have now set a precedent for having IAIAsa NEC meetings every month.
- Regional Branches form the base of our membership. With this in mind, the appointment of Sue George as Branch Co-ordinator has helped the branches to achieve their individual goals, and has allowed the NEC a clearer idea of what is taking place at branch level. This worked very well. Most branches have achieved the objective of holding a minimum of four events during the year, and some of the larger branches have held many more. Well done to all the branch chairs. There are still challenges as branch chairs and committees are also struggling with capacity issues. Southern Cape has decided to become a satellite branch and Eastern Cape will also continue with this status.
- A key development that has taken place, is that some of the larger branches have started to make connections with the **young professionals** in tertiary education centres. This is a very positive step forward and a critical component of the IAIAsa transformation and growth strategy. This connection with the young professionals is further reinforced by the fringe program at the conference. We have sponsored 50 young professionals to attend the proceedings so that they can start networking with established practitioners, and to ultimately know that IAIAsa is the organisation that you need to join if you want to get connected to the Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) sector.
- Financially, our objective was to improve our systems to enable the organisation to better to deal with financial matters and strategic reporting. Glaudin Kruger and Ian Jamison have worked hard on the transferral of the accounting system to Pastel, and we are well on our way to achieving this goal.
- Our communications and marketing goal was to revamp and redesign the **website**, in order to share information better. We also wanted to increase the visibility of IAIAsa on social media platforms. Achievement of the website goal has taken longer than expected, due to the decision to design the website around the IAIAsa membership database.
- Increasing the visual capacity of IAIAsa on social media has started in conjunction with the IEM goal, where the objective was to unpack IEM best practice. The main focus by Diane Erasmus during the year has been the setting up of the IAIAsa Group on Linked In. This social media platform now has over 350 members. We have started a process of adding IAIA guidelines as discussion documents, as these represent and benchmark international best practice. This new platform has enabled members to have many best practice related discussions and we will continue to do so. To protect our members from spammers, this is a closed group.
- The objective for the Policy and Legislation portfolio was to continue to maintain good working relations with DEA as well as to establish good relations with EAPASA. Gerrie van Schalkwyk continues to successfully represent IAIAsa at the DEA EAI&M Strategy process. In terms of EAPASA, IAIAsa continues to recognise the critical role that this organisation will play as the registration authority and we will continue with our support and our communication.

- Regarding the objective to establish a permanent secretariat/directorate for IAIAsa, noting that the NEC "can't keep up", we have spent a lot of time debating and looking at many different scenarios. At the last Strat Plan session, we made a clear resolution. Terry Baker, the 2012 -2013 President, will give you more details about this in the next letter where she outlines some of the strategic objectives for the 2013 year. However, we have to bear in mind the vital role which Glaudin does fulfil within the organisation, and that the necessary transfer of skills to a full time person will take time.
- The CPD objective is strongly linked to capacity and although we did have capacity to 'Go Better', the realisation was that CPD is strongly associated with 'Go Bigger' and requires more capacity. I believe that we will be able to establish this as a core deliverable in the near future.
- The objective for the Conference was to deliver a state-of-the-art conference, with a fantastic party. The importance of this function is critical as this is our core income stream. With almost 400 people attending this year's conference, we are relieved as this will assist with the plans to increase our management capacity in the coming year. Thanks to Glaudin as conference co-ordinator and to Terry for organising the conference program.
- I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the NEC for all the voluntary time and dedicated effort that you have all put into kick-starting IAIAsa into the new strategic structures. I would like to make a special comment on the work and effort that Marita Thornhill put into the development of the 2015 Strategy; it was a huge task and was very comprehensively undertaken.
- This year Glaudin underwent chemotherapy, and despite discomfort, has continued to operate at a relentless pace as the secretariat. Thank you to Glaudin for all her efforts, and our thoughts and best wishes are with her for your speedy recovery.
- Mr Stead wished Terry and the new NEC all the best in achieving all their strategic outcomes in 2012/2013.

#### 4. 2011/2012 Budget Report

- Refer to the budget presentation included in Appendix B.
- Key points to note:
  - A drop in income year-on-year was noted this was linked to the expected growth not being encountered as for instance a number of members did not renew their memberships across the "double-dip" economic recession period.
  - In terms of the line items included in the budget there were few significant changes noted. One specific change relates to the fact that the newsletters are no longer printed and this line item has thus been removed, this is linked to the upgrade of the website.
  - Integration of branches' budget information feeding into the main IAIAsa accounts was not finalised.
     Delays due to not having information timeously available so as to make.
  - Milestones achieved: Accounting system has been moved to Pastel, with related training and capacity building carried out.
  - Additional / extraordinary expenditures: Legal costs, and, strategy development.

 Even with these extraordinary costs, savings were still made and income was enhanced through good sponsorship of this conference.

#### 5. Vision 2012 / 2013

Mr Stead introduced and handed over to the 2012.2013 President, Ms Terry Baker.

Terry introduced her 2012/2013 NEC team:

- Executive:
  - Stephen Stead Past President
  - Patrick Sithole Vice President and President Elect
  - o Jenny Mitchell Treasurer
  - Bronwen Griffiths Secretary
  - Sue George Branch Coordinator
  - o Marius Marias Membership development
  - o Robyn Luyt IEM Standards
  - Gerrie van Schalkwyk Policy and Legislation
- Branch chairs:
  - Elbi Bredenkamp Free State
  - Dave Cox KwaZulu Natal
  - o Lene Grobbelaar Gauteng
  - Setenane Nkopane Limpopo
  - Mette Rossaak Mpumalanga
  - o Brendon Steytler Eastern Cape
  - o Fabio Venturi Western Cape. and
  - Jan-Albert Wessels North-West

The NEC composition complies with the Constitution as it stands, and includes ability to address the key focus areas identified in the 2015 Strategy.

Terry provided information on the 2015 Strategy highlighting the three (3) priorities, which are (non-hierarchical order):

- (1) Organisational form, structure and capacity (internal focus to association), and
- (2) Strategic alliances between sectors and disciplines (external), and,
- (3) Professional Development (member focused).
  - **Priority 1**: Aim to register IAIAsa as a Non-Profit Organisation and Register as a Public Benefit Organisation with SARS, which would be of benefit to IAIAsa as an entity and to its members in terms of tax rebates. The recommendation is that IAIAsa does not register as a company, as the benefits are not sufficient given the administrative load and costs.
    - To move the Association onto a more professional basis and to drive the vision and its priorities, the NEC has after deliberation decided that the best option is to appoint an Operations Manager (OM). The intention is that this person will be appointed on part-time basis (i.e. 2 days per week for 1 year). The OM needs to have sufficient seniority as one of their function will be to help implement strategy and to drive linkages outside of the Association. The intention is not to open a physical office at this time.

Changes to the IAIAsa Constitution related to the above will be done by postal vote in next few months.

- **Priority 2**: Ongoing focus of maintaining and enhancing links with external organisations, especially the various authorities and critically, the EAPSASA.
- **Priority 3**: CPD has been identified by the members as a need. The imminent requirement to register with EAPASA and maintain EAPASA CPD points makes CPD more critical. This year, IAIAsa will launch a CPD service in the form of endorsing activities as IAIAsa CPD accredited and providing various types of activities. The IAIAsa CPD accreditation cannot be claimed as EAPASA CPD credits at this stage as the EAPASA system has not been initiated yet and IAIAsa is not recognised as an EAPSA accreditor. The IAIAsa NEC, however, believes that there is a need for and value in recognising CPD activities in the interim and continuing the liaison with EAPASA on how to support their implementation. A concerted effort to facilitate the types of activities that will benefit members is also intended.

Ms Baker reported that there are two (2) additional items requiring mention:

- A complaint from an IAIAsa member against another EAP with respect to a perceived breach in professionalism was received by the NEC. The request being that IAIAsa takes action against the complainee. Terry explained that IAIAsa is a voluntary organisation and not a statutory body regulating the profession. The body which regulates the professional conduct of environmental practitioners in South Africa is currently the Interim Certification Board (ICB) for Environmental Assessment Practitioners in South African (EAPSA) which, will be replaced by the Environmental Assessments Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA) once promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act's (No 107 of 1998) (NEMA). IAIAsa is not mandated nor capacitated to play a sanction role in terms of the professional practice of EAPs, and
- Support to young professionals this is a part of ongoing membership programme and is deemed to be
  of critical importance. This issue has been highlighted by the members and will continue to be
  considered.

#### 6. 2012/2013 Budget Report

- Jenny Mitchell noted that the IAIAsa NEC is poised to launch a number of new initiatives, whilst continuing good work carried out to date.
- The proposed 2012/2013 budget was presented as in **Appendix B**.
- The **total budget** required for 2012/20132013 is expected to be just over R900 000-00, which is larger than last for the 2011/2012 year.
- **Highlight changes:** Ongoing finance items such as administration, communication, Glaudin Kruger remains as the IAIAsa Secretariat. The hard-copy newsletter has been phased out. IAIAsa has been called on to take part in wider Strategic initiatives; as such a Strategic budget item has been set aside related to IEM initiatives.

#### • New line items:

- (1) Operations Manager position to provide impetus to implement the strategic plan.
- (2) Branch co-ordinater consolidated amount for branches and an amount to allow the Branch co-ordinator to assist and co-ordinate the branches.
- Income: An income R630,000-00 is projected for the 2012/2013 financial year. This includes income from the 2012 conference, which is well attended, and is conservatively estimated to realise R250,000. Membership fees is the other source of income predicted to be approximately R300,000-00. IAIAsa also

has a call account which currently has an amount of approximately R730,000-00 that results in a small interest income. It is assumed that IAIAsa will facilitates various CPD activities during 2012/2013 that will generate an additional income of approximately R30,000.

- **Proposal:** Ms Mitchell proposed that it is time for IAIAsa to call on its reserves to match the proposed expenses of a maximum possible amount of R920,000. The aim is not to draw-down all of these reserves, but to at all times leave at least a 6 month operational running cost reserves in the call account.
  - o <u>Question</u> Concern about total of draw-down amount.

<u>Answer</u> – Ms Mitchell explained that IAIAsa needs to spend more than the income generated for a limited period of time so that the Association can position itself to generate more in the future. The plan includes growing the CPD function and increasing the professional status of organisation which requires an enhanced membership service. These all have costs. Note that some items are only drawn-down when needed and the specific expenditure will be assessed based on the status of the finances at that specific point. If the various drives and changes don't begin to show returns, the Association can drop back to existing model. It is deemed to be a reasonable risk for potentially high returns. The proposal is to draw-down the call account by a maximum of R300,000, leaving a minimum of R400,000. This presents the worst case scenario as the income is calculated on conservative assumptions.

Question – What the cost implications of registering as a NPO?

<u>Answer</u> – Registering as a NPO has no or very minimal administrative costs (i.e. limited to filling in and submitting forms). Registering as a Non Profit Company in terms of the Companies Act, however, would have costs. A NPO status will improve credibility of organisation and allow us to receive donations.

 Question – Suggested that the NEC is acting in secrecy and not transparently. The membership is being asked to make significant decisions without being provided with any information or warning.
 The membership is therefore not empowered.

<u>Answer</u> – Ms Baker responded that the IAIAsa 2015 Strategy is based on input from members over a number of years. The draft 2015 Strategy document was distributed to all members 2 years ago for comment and registering as an NPO is directly linked to one of the priorities in the strategy. The intention to vote on the decision to register as an NPO was also communicated in the notice and agenda for this AGM. It is postulated that these proposals have been known by members for a long time with ample opportunity to engage with the NEC on any concerns.

• Acceptance of 2012/2013 buget:

The budget as presented (Appendix B) was proposed for acceptance by Jenny Mitchell.

- Accepted John Geeringh
- Seconded Ilse Aucamp
- No objections, thus carried.

#### 7. Proposal for a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO)

- Proposed to follow process to become an NPO Terry Baker
  - Accepted Peter Davies
  - Seconded Annarie Boer

o No objections, thus carried.

#### 8. Other items from the floor

Mr Peter Kantor explained the co-operative relationship between IAIAsa and the ELA and requested that individuals join the ELA.

#### 9. Closure

Ms Baker thanked everybody for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 9:00.

#### ATTENDANCE AT THE 2012 IAIAsa AGM

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Caroline SILA	oet 194 8013	Dog.
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Andrew Rossum4	082 3349627	MC
Nambla Bendi	d739875430	266
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### Vision for 2013

# **Annual General Meeting**

28 August 2012



Terry Baker President (2012/2013)

# Vision for 2012/2013

- · Strategy developed
- · Implementation of strategy
- Structure
  - NPO
  - PBO
  - Operations Manager
  - Constitution
- IAIAsa endorsement CPD
- Continued improvement of branch activities, conference, Best Practice Standards



### **FINANCES**

### **Annual General Meeting**

28 August 2012



Ian Jameson Treasurer (2010/12)

Jenny Mitchell Treasurer (2013/\_)

### Reflection on the past year

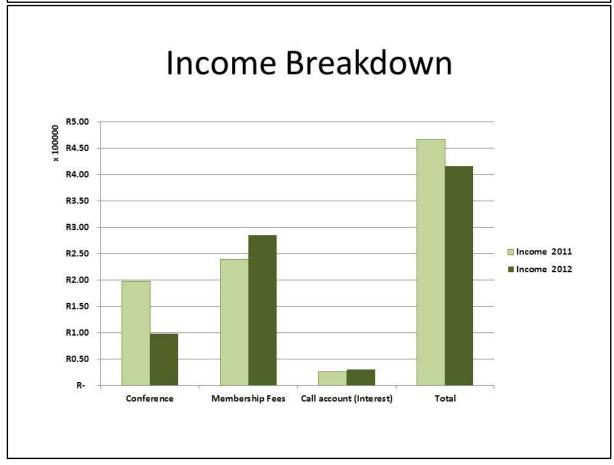
### **Annual General Meeting**

28 August 2012



Ian Jameson Treasurer (2010/12)





### **Deferred Successes**

- Integration of branch accounts with NEC accounts for better visibility.
- Delay in "real time" data projections (membership and conference) for budgeting purposes

### What has been achieved

- Implemented financial management system (Pastel). Audited statements
- Training and capacity development (Pastel support for Secretariat)
- Better handle on expenses (even under extraordinary expenses made during the year) –
   e.g.: Legal costs, strategy development
- Increase in conference sponsorships (for next year's budget)

# Proposed Budget for 2013

# **Annual General Meeting**

28 August 2012



Jenny Mitchell Treasurer (2013/\_)

