

Life Sciences Building, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town
02 November 2018, 15:15 – 16:15

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1. WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

The 2017/18 National Chairperson Dr Matthys Dippenaar welcomed all attendees to this Special/ Extraordinary GWD AGM called for 2018. He expressed his appreciation that the

membership in attendance constituted a quorum and that the proceedings thereby will be accepted as formal and in line with the GWD Constitution.

There were attendees that unfortunately did not sign the attendance register.

Formal Signed Attendance noted:

Mr Dylan Blake	Dr Kornelius Riemann
Mr Immo Blecher	Ms Elanda Schaffner
Dr Matthys Dippenaar	Mr Mark Schapers
Mr Fanus Fourie	Ms Helen Seyler
Mr Zaheed Gaffoor	Mr Luke Towers
Ms Candice Lasher-Scheepers	Mr E Maswanganye
Mr David McGibbon	Mr J Twahirwa
Dr Meris Mills	Dr Jannie Weitz
Dr Jaco Nel	Mr Andries Wilke
Ms Marlese Nel	Mr S Davey

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved but the meeting also agreed to shorten discussions and focus on priority matters on the table.

3. REVIEW 2018

Dr Dippenaar referred to the GWD Annual Report booklet that was distributed to the membership via email and as availed on the GWD website. This Annual report reflected on Membership, Finances and Activities of the Division for the period May 2017 – July 2018.

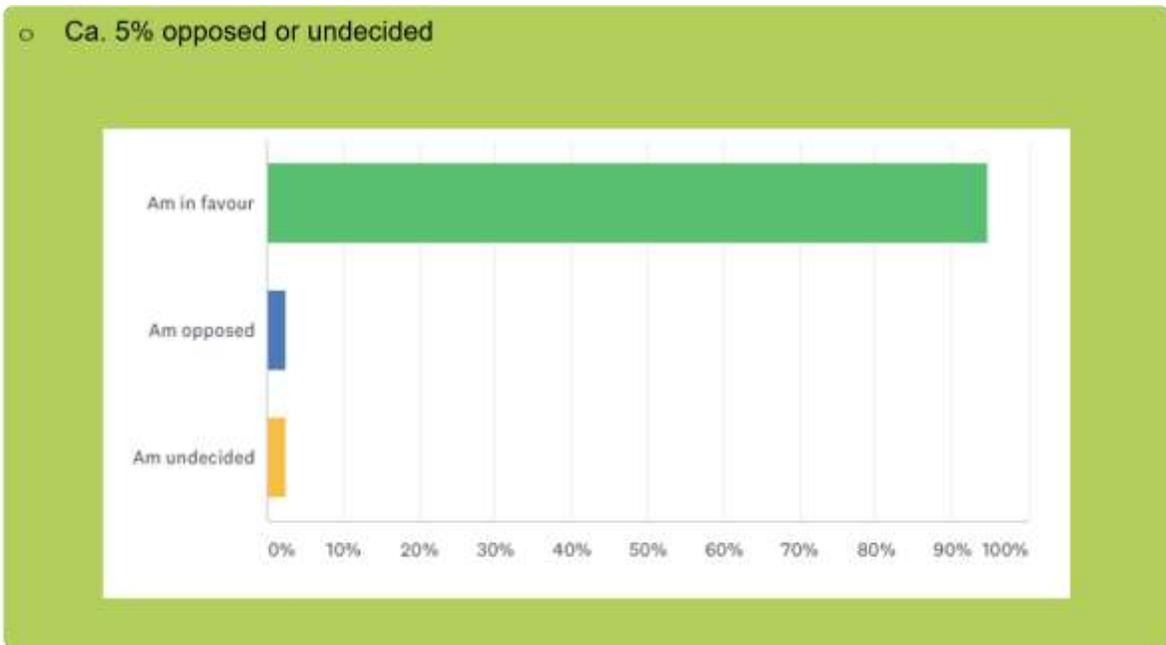
4. PROFESSIONAL MATTERS

4.1 Resolution to become SACNASP VA: OUTCOME OF MEMBERSHIP VOTING

4.1.1. The GWD has resolved to become a recognized voluntary association (VA) with the South African Council of Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP), implying that we will accept responsibility for the ethical and professional matters related to the professions of hydrogeology, geohydrology or groundwater science (all used synonymously and interchangeably).

4.1.2. An online voting poll was opened for sixty (60) days prior to the AGM, accessible to all members, and all paid-up members were allowed a single vote.

The following results (40 members) were recorded:



4.1.3. The majority outcome in favour was tabled.

- Some issues, emphasised by members, were:
 - GWD should be strict about professional membership of GWD; many mentions of non-competent persons conducting work
 - Governance by likeminded professions seen as positive; GWD to promote professionalism and ethical conduct
 - Legal standing queried; to be emphasised
- Concerns/ oppositions recorded were:
 - Redundant as GSSA already does this.

In addressing this concern, Dr Dippenaar reminded attendees that the GSSA membership is optional, even though the GWD is a division; if GSSA continues to handle GWD professional matters on its behalf, the GWD will need to eventually enforce GSSA membership.

4.1.4. A discussion about Professional Registration with SACNASP followed.

- Currently new GWD/ SACNASP members are encouraged to register under EARTH SCIENCE as then SACNASP applications will be evaluated by the GWD.
- GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES applications will be evaluated by GSSA.
- ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES and WATER RESOURCE SCIENCES' applications will be redirected to the respective professional committees not involving GSSA or GWD.

A member present noted that his application to be registered under GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES had been rejected as per the requirements for SACNASP to have Geology as a 3rd year/

honours level qualification. Dr Dippenaar agreed that this is currently the case with many professional registrations and a valid requirement.

Members were reminded that SACNASP does not govern the profession; it governs your qualification and vocational experience – (it governs your CV), the GWD should become the visible authority with the mandate to govern the profession through, for instance, best practise.

4.1.5. **Resolution:** The GWD membership majority voted in favour of the process for registration as a VA with SACNASP and support all related functions and responsibilities that this may result. A quorum (10 members) present at the Special AGM as per the Constitution of the GWD, unanimously in favour, resulted in the Resolution being passed.

4.2 Code of Practice (CoP)

4.2.1. Dr Jaco Nel asked the meeting sardonically “How many dry boreholes make you a geohydrologist”. It was met with much mirth but brought to home the challenge to define competence within the groundwater field.

4.2.2. The Institution will need to define competence that form part of the Constitution and can thus be validated and defended in any court of law. But it should be restricted at SACNASP.

4.2.3. Dr Kornelius Riemann stressed the two most important aspects that should be addressed by the Code of Practice:

- Defining what constitutes a Groundwater scientist. E.g. there is a difference between a hydrogeologist and a geohydrologist that must be defined. For the purpose of inclusion, the term ‘groundwater scientist’ will be used.
- What qualifications & practical experience are required (from our perspective)
 - In terms of acting as a groundwater scientist, what is your ethical qualification you put out? That is more difficult as all groundwater scientists have different qualifications and different backgrounds in different areas with different expertise requirements. It is complicated to adequately describe the quality of work or range in areas of work.

4.2.4. Dr Dippenaar agreed and said that it makes practical sense that you as Groundwater scientist choose your Field of Practice and then focus on your profession by choosing your field of specialisation that does not bring your competence in question. You should technically just not practice in the field you are not qualified or experienced in.

4.2.5. **After much deliberation about the urgency of having a CoP on the table, the meeting agreed to utilise the next event in Stellenbosch (IAH MAR course, 10-12 April 2019) and have a formal workshop around a draft CoP.**

4.2.6. The aim is to finalise a draft that can be send to GWD membership before the Conference 2019 in October.

At the Conference, it is envisioned that the first approved CoP must be presented.

Dr Riemann, the GWD EXCO representative Yazeed van Wyk, together with the team that volunteered at the previous AGM 2017 (and new volunteers welcome) will lead this initiative. *The Secretariat will call for voluntary participation when the meeting is formally announced.*

4.3 Code of Ethics / Code of Conduct

4.3.1. The GWD prescribes both to the GSSA & SACNASP Codes.

4.3.2. Dr Chris Hartnady reiterated that these Codes are in place to protect the PUBLIC, ENVIRONMENT and PROFESSION, as well as the CLIENT.

SACNASP rules are clear that if you do not agree what your client asked you to do; you have to inform the client.

4.3.3. Dr Dippenaar agreed and noted that the GWD Code of Practise (CoP) will in turn also aid in protecting the CLIENT from malpractices and give us a tool to arbitrate internal disputes.

5. LOOKING AHEAD

5.1 GWD Succession Planning / Professional Portfolio

5.1.1. The GWD Constitution calls for bi-annual elections for Chairmanship of the Division and its Branches. Thus, succession planning and continuity becomes a matter that the GWD EXCO must attend to in order to ensure that the momentum, relevance and execution of vision stays within the organisational memory.

5.1.2. The GWD wants to table a proposal to have a Past-Chair seat on a formal GWD Professional Portfolio. Other institutions e.g. IAH and GSSA follow a similar practice, although rather in an advisory role and not necessarily formally in a professional portfolio.

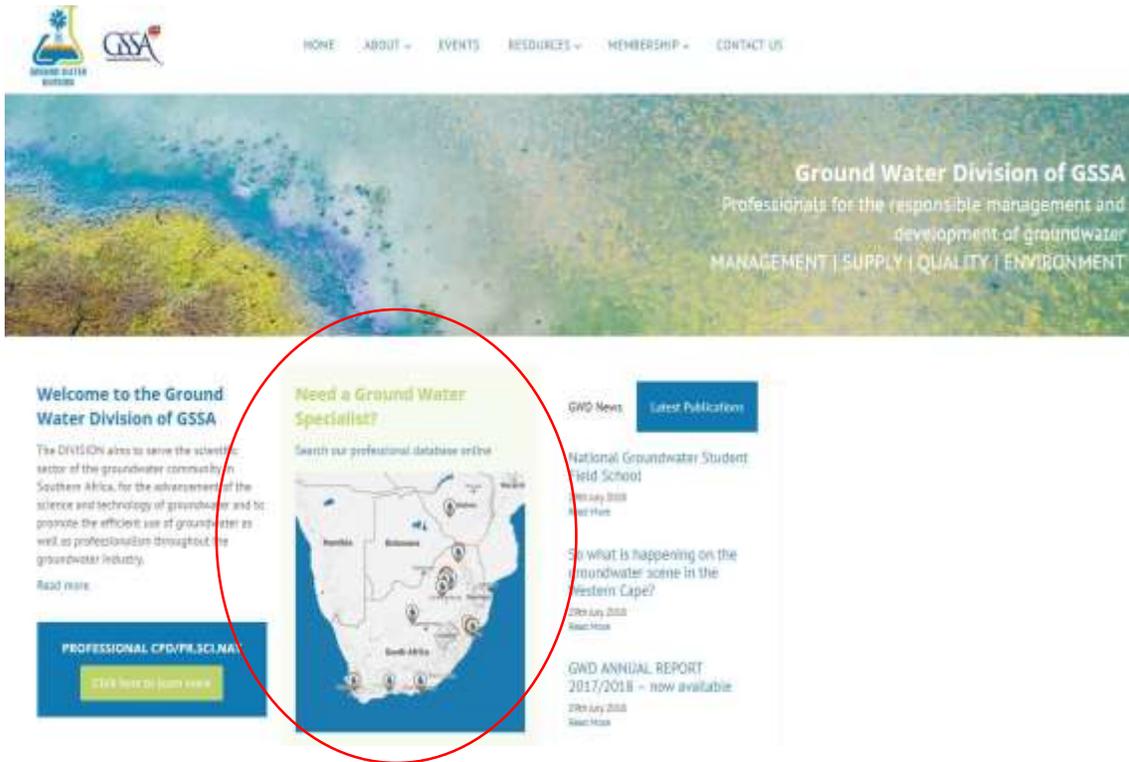
This matter will be kept on the Agenda for future discussion.

5.2 Website

The GWD gears itself to launch its new site together with the call for abstracts to be opened for GWD Conference 2019. Professional members that wants to be listed on the Professional database (that have not yet submitted their details) were invited again to complete the following link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/g1mZRc9E4ciQhza2>

Frontpage Example with database display:

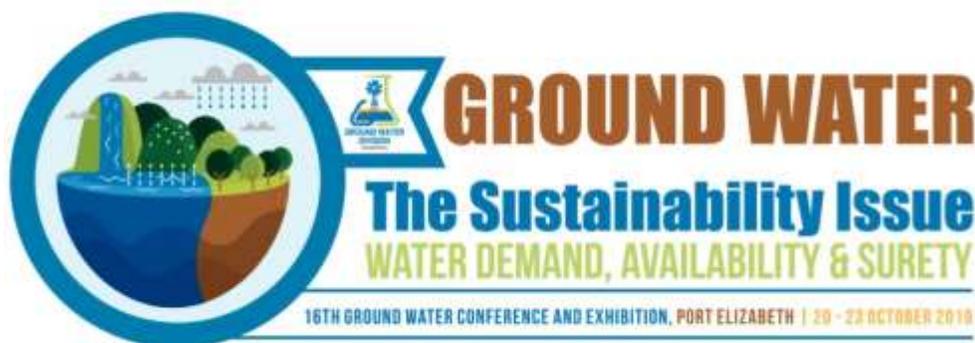


5.3 Industry events / GWD Business Plan 2019 (extract from Draft)

Dr Dippenaar referred to the following events for membership to take note of (see insert below). *(All Branch Chairs will need to submit their planned events/ dates for 2019 by mid-December to allow for adequate operational planning.)*

Looking Ahead 2019		GROUND DIVISION	
Event	Date and hosting branch/Coordinator	Coordination Items	Comments
IAH MAR course	10-12 April 2019 Stellenbosch	IAH Coordination GWD Support	CPD Event
Industry & Honours FS 2018	June 2019 WCape	Combined event	Delegate fees Student Sponsorship CPD event
IAH Spain	From 22 to 27 September 2019, the 46 th IAH Congress will be held at the Trade Fairs and Congress Center of Málaga (FYCMA) in Málaga, Spain	Will not clash with Conference	
Conference 2019	22 to 24 October 2017 Eastern Cape	Gert Nel / Eunice Goossens / GWD National	Schedule pending CPD event
Darcy Lecturer 2019	Requested for Conference 2019	MD will look into Speaker/ topic	John Dorothy, Phd https://www.groundwater.org/getinformed
LIMPOPO event	2019 Possible Contamination course?	EXCO /Duncan	Planning CPD event

5.3.1 GWD 2019: Current Working Conference Theme, Date & Time



5.3.2 CPD

The GWD aims to host events to meet CPD requirements for the sector. Since early 2018, GWD has SACNASP privileges through which we are able to accredit sector events. Applications for CPD can be communicated via the secretariat for the attention of the Professional Committee.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 6.1. Dr Dippenaar reminded all that promised papers for the **South African Journal of Geology special issue on "Southern African Hydrostratigraphy** – must please reach him no later than the end of November.
- 6.2. Dr Hartnady and his associate invited all to look out for the **Call of Abstracts** that will be issued shortly for the:

[International Congress on Geoethics & Groundwater Management: Theory and Practice for a Sustainable Development](http://www.geoethics.org/events) to be hosted in Porto (Portugal) on 21 – 25 October 2019. A joint event IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics and IAH - International Association of Hydrogeologists – **Read more on <http://www.geoethics.org/events>**

7. CLOSING

Dr Dippenaar formally closed the meeting, thanking the GWD Western Cape Branch Chair, Dr Jaco Nel and Marlese Nel for their generous hosting and invited all participants to enjoy the refreshments.