



Annual General Meeting

@ THE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE GROUND WATER DIVISION  
**THE MASLOW HOTEL, 19 OCTOBER 2021, 16:30 – 17:00**

## AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening
2. Acceptance of Agenda
3. National Chair Report
4. Professional Matters
5. Governance Issues
  - 5.1 Independence
  - 5.2 Membership
  - 5.3 Constitutional Amendment
6. Activities
  - 6.1 Achievements
  - 6.2 Upcoming events
7. Executive Committee
  - 7.1 Announcement: Branch Representatives 2022/2023
  - 7.2 Announcement: National Exco 2022/2023
8. Way Forward

Appendix 1: Attendance Register

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### 1. WELCOME AND OPENING

The GWD National Chairperson for the term 2020/2021, Mr Fanus Fourie welcomed all to the meeting. Delegates not at the actual conference were invited to join via the Zoom link. (*\*there was a subsequent challenge to connect meeting delegates via the Conference zoom platform*)

### 2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was accepted without any changes/ additions.

### 3. NATIONAL CHAIR REPORT

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE AGM 19 OCTOBER 2021

Mr Fourie listed and elaborated on the following points as part of his Chairperson's Report to the membership:

- 3.1. **In Remembrance:** The meeting Chair called for a minute of silence in remembrance of the great loss of colleagues in 2021: Laura James (BWA), Rowena Hay (Umvoto Africa), Chris Hartnady (Umvoto) and Louis van Niekerk (GHT Consulting)
- 3.2. **GWD Vision:** Promotion of groundwater; get people involved (engagement), awareness
- 3.3. **Activities for 2021:** 19 Talks, Young Professional involvement, Closer collaboration with the IAH-SA, GAKZN, BWA

4. **PROFESSIONAL MATTERS –reference made to the next day Conference Plenary session 19 October 2021 on SACNASP CPD. (Dr Nicolette Vermaak & Prof Matthys Dippenaar).** *The importance of the Code of Practice, currently being drafted, will also be discussed.*

## 5. GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1. **Independence:** The GWD will pursue its own Tax Number and will thus require an independent audit that will be separate from the GSSA's VAT audit.
  - *Benefits of independence?*
    - Q: Does it outweigh? A: Yes it does and strengthens internal governance. Very important.
- 5.2. **Membership:** It comes down to are you a paid up member or not.
- 5.3. **Constitutional amendment:** A special extra-ordinary AGM will be called for in December to discuss proposed changes. The proposed changes will be made available for review. In summary, the proposed changes would refer to:
  - 5.3.1. *Membership: Incorporate the Code of Practice; Split between Active (paid up) and Non-Active (unpaid membership) fee; Incorporate a membership reinstatement fee*
  - 5.3.2. *Amend the voting process to include online platforms*
  - 5.3.3. *Amend the Operational Structure to incorporate an Executive Committee (EXCO) and Management Committee (MANCO) MANCO = Top 4 positions and Secretariat support and EXCO = Branches, Portfolio, Immediate Chair, Co-Opted members, Affiliated GW Org (IAH-SA, BWA, GAKZN)*

## 6. ACTIVITIES

### 6.1 **Achievements this year:**

- Online CPD Talks had great support with over 300 delegates logged-in at the most attended event. All recordings are also made available on a GWD YouTube channel.
- Awareness initiatives such as
  - Groundwater Kids by Izelda Uses-Mbatha were supported through sponsorship, competitions and awards. Izelda offered Groundwater Science workshops to lower grades that involved the water cycle and groundwater flow models.
  - Translation of Wally and Deanna in RSA languages.
- Member Benefits offerings such as 'Online Active members list, Find a Specialist Database, CPD Certificates for events (free), discount on registration for events, Our Stories and the GWD membership added as a Tender requirement.
- New Website finalised and a bespoke membership management system were initiated. Paid up membership grew by 18% in 2021

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE AGM 19 OCTOBER 2021

- Drove promotion of the GWD through membership advantages, advertising, “My Stories” and opportunities to sponsor Talks etc.

**Meeting Recommend:** GWD should continue its current member growth trajectory and expand its online as well as in-person activities and training initiatives. More student involvement and opportunities should also be pursued in 2022 e.g. Talks

**Angelo Johnson:** As a Young professional representative on the Conference Committee, Angelo took up responsibility for growing the GWD social media presence. He reported that with the newly established GWD LinkedIn page, more than 300 people already joined. The meeting acknowledged and congratulated the YP team on the positive growth and posting content across all of its social media accounts (LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube)

### **6.2 Upcoming events:**

- 6.1. IAH 2023:** The next GWD Conference will coincide 2 years from now with the IAH 2023 conference being hosted in Cape Town. It is anticipated that live speakers will be in attendance. Prof Matthys Dippenaar and Mr Julian Conrad are co-chairs of this initiative and already called together a strong Organising Committee.

## **5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Nicolette Vermaak)**

As the outgoing GWD Vice-Chair for the 2020/2021 term, Dr Nicolette Vermaak took the stage to announce the results of the Election 2022.

### **5.1 Announcement of election results: Branch Representatives 2022/2023**

The following Branch Representatives (Chairs) were voted in for the new term:

- Dr Amy Allwright.** Central Branch Chair. Re-elected
- Mr Etienne Mouton.** Eastern Cape Branch. Re-elected.
- Mrs Oudi Kgomongwe.** Gauteng Branch Chair. Newly elected.
- Prof Ingrid Dennis.** Northern Branch Chair. Re-elected.
- Dr Kornelius Riemann.** Western Cape Branch Chair. Newly elected.

### **5.2 Announcement of election results: National (Manco) 2022/2023**

- Mr Fanus Fourie.** National Chairperson. Re-elected.
- Dr Sumaya Israel.** National Vice-Chair. Newly appointed to Manco. Previous Western Cape Branch Chair.
- Mr Kwazikwakhe Majola.** National Secretariat. Newly appointed to Manco. Previous Gauteng Branch Chair.
- Dr Roger Diamond.** National Treasurer. Newly elected.

The Chairperson congratulated all the newly elected members of the overall GWD management team and also ended the meeting by thanking the outgoing EXCO members for their efforts during their term.

As closing thought to the meeting, the Chair, on behalf of the Exco, thanked the GWD membership for their support, participation and continuous involvement to ensure the growth of the sector and thus the validation of the profession.

Notice and invitations to the follow-up Special AGM to finalise changes to the GWD Constitutions will be distributed and with that announcement the meeting was closed.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE AGM 19 OCTOBER 2021**

**APPENDIX 1: ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

*Signed Attendance (In-person)*

Roger Diamond – UP	Bongeka Maphumulo – NMU	Aarifah Williams - NMU
Fanus Fourie – DWS	Angelo Johnson – GCS	Jared van Rooyen – US
Andries Wilke – GCS	Sisipho Dlakiya – NMU	Akhona Maqhubeka – NMU
Frank Schmidt – BTSA	Sumaya Clarke – UWC	Khuliso Masindi – WITS
Kevin Pietersen – UWC	Lesedi Siplika – MNU	Bamanye Takashe - NMU
Nombuso P Khetsi – Anglo KIO	Nicolette Vermaak – UFS	Nelda Breedt - Aquatico
James Berkland - NMU	Kwazi Majola - DWS	Matome Sekiba - CGS
Oudi Kgomangwe - DWS	Ntsako Alice Mabasa - IUCMA	Elanda Schaffner - GWD

*Attendance (problematic connection)*

Shane Turner – JMA	Amy Allwright - UFS	Duncan Munyai - Pvt
Ernest Sithole		

APPROVED BY NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON: MR FANUS FOURIE

DATE: 24 JANUARY 2022