



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

28 JUNE 2017

CTICC: WAS17

## CALL TO ORDER

An annual general meeting of the Aquaculture Association of Southern Africa was held on 28 June 2017 at the CTICC during the World Aquaculture Conference. The meeting began at 18:00 and was presided over by Prof Peter Britz (Chairperson), with Natasha Marshall as Secretary.

## ATTENDEES

*COUNSEL REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:* A. Vosloo (Vice-Chairperson); G. vd Merwe (TroutSA); V. Pienaar (BSFASA); N. James (Tilapia); N. Stallard (MFFASA); Q. Rouhani (Social Economic Development); K. Salie (International Collaboration); R. Krohn (AquaSA);

*MEMBERS PRESENT:* H. Stander; C. Botha; S. Manzira; U. Nermark; L. Ter Morshuizen; T. Keet; N. Dorward (AFASA), K. Rana

*MEMBER APOLOGIES:* J. du Plessis (AFASA); J. Kooij (Catfish)

*GUESTS:* E. Hinrichsen

## APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes from the previous AGM held on 29 September 2015 was reviewed. K. Salie was added to those present at that meeting. The minutes were accepted.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda. Agenda was approved

- Broader representation on AASA council (U. Nermark - Botswana)
- The role of AASA and AquaSA (E. Hinrichsen)
- Taking AASA mandate forward (Q. Rouhani)
- 2019 Conference

## ANNUAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The last two years have seen a significant transition of AASA to a fully-fledged organization responding to aquaculture sector development needs. My thanks to the council members, and administrator Natasha Marshall who have contributed to the expansion of AASA activities.

### ➤ **Polokwane Conference**

In 2015, AASA hosted a very successful conference in Polokwane, hosted by the University of Limpopo. Thank you to Prof Ngoni Moyo and Johan Theron for their sterling hosting and organization, the previous AASA Chair, Roger Krohn, and to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for their generous sponsorship (approximately R500, 000) which made the event possible.

### ➤ **World Aquaculture 2017 (WA17)**

The AASA efforts of the last 10 years to host WA17, which were initiated by former AASA Chair Etienne Hinrichsen, have been a major focus of the last two years and have come to fruition in a co-hosting partnership with DAFF and WAS. This event has hugely boosted the international profile of AASA and the focus of African aquaculture. Thanks to all AASA members who have played a role in this, particularly WA17 co-chair Roger Krohn who negotiated significant support from the DAFF (approximately R3 million) and Henk Stander who sourced nearly R1 million sponsorship from the NRF.

➤ **WAS African Chapter**

Another AASA initiative that has borne fruit is facilitating the formation of the WAS African Chapter. Under the leadership of Khalid Salie, and the partnership with DAFF, the concept has been advocated widely in the African regions and financial support attracted from DAFF to launch the organization. Support from NEPAD and the African Union are being negotiated.

➤ **Operation Phakisa Contract**

Operation Phakisa – is a Presidential project, aimed at developing all aspects of the aquaculture value chain in South Africa, which AASA has participated in since 2014.

AASA has recently signed a contract with the DAFF to channel funding into a number of industry development projects, including the WAS African Chapter formation, aquaculture product market promotion, building capacity for certification of aquaculture products, and monitoring shellfish water quality.

➤ **Government Liaison**

Roger Krohn and Peter Britz have represented AASA and AquaSA in various government forums, particularly the DAFF Aquaculture Value Chain Round Table and Aquaculture Industry Liaison meetings.

Dr Cliff Jones of Rhodes University facilitated an industry research needs workshop for the Department of Science and Technology which may lead to significant research funding for industry driven technology development.

Inputs into meetings and drafts of the Dept Environmental Affairs' NEMBA Alien Invasive Species regulations were made by Nick James (tilapia) and Ilan Lax and Gerrie van der Merwe (Trout). This is an ongoing 'site of struggle' which will significantly affect the future trajectory of aquaculture development in South Africa.

➤ **Aquaculture Bill**

Peter Britz and Roger Krohn have led the AASA inputs on the Aquaculture Bill. This included written submissions, liaison with DAFF, industry workshops, and participation in the NEDLAC Aquaculture Bill Review process as part of the Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) delegation. At NEDLAC, AASA was represented by Peter Britz, along with Gerrie van der Merwe and Ilan Lax from TroutSA. AASA is particularly grateful to AgriSA and their delegated BUSA representative Theo Boshoff who ably led the BUSA inputs in NEDLAC.

The NEDLAC process has concluded with significant areas of disagreement on the Bill content which is of great concern to industry. Thus an ongoing engagement with DAFF and parliament will be required to ensure that an appropriate regulatory framework is put in place.

➤ **AquacultureSA**

AASA facilitated the establishment of AquaSA as an additional body that would represent aquaculture producer organisations to Government. This was deemed necessary as AASA, being individual member based and regional, is not a properly representative structure for South African producers.

The AASA office through Roger Krohn and Natasha Marshall have set up AquaSA as a properly constituted organization with representation from all Aquaculture Associations, visibly, AFASA, TroutSA, Bivalve Shellfish Producers Association, MFFASA and AASA. AASA has been retained as body to represent all non-producers such as academics, consultants and others in the value chain. AASA continues to provide an administration and seed funding for AquaSA. AquaSA has been successful in raising funds for specific initiatives such as the Aquaculture Bill and NEMBA:AIS issue, but these are being channelled through AASA as AquaSA does not yet have its own bank account. A great deal of time and energy has been invested over the last two years to ensuring that the roles of AASA and AquaSA do not overlap, but I think at some stage there will have to be some rationalisation of the two bodies, as our industry is just not big and financially strong enough to support two independent operations and separate secretariats. Practically, it makes sense to continue with a shared administration.

➤ **AASA Administration**

In conclusion, I would like to thank Natasha Marshall our hard-working administrator for all the help and assistance and keeping AASA legal, tax compliant and solvent. Her role is likely to expand into a more of full-time office manager as we move forward.

**ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT**

The audited financial statements for the past financial year were made available for viewing at the meeting. A summary of the income and expenses were shown as follows:

TOTAL INCOME	=	R398 867
TOTAL EXPENSES	=	R195 366
NET SURPLUS	=	R203 501

The average running cost of the AASA office amounts to approximately R95 000 per annum which excludes travel and other expenses.

An annual report is submitted to the Department of Social Development as is the requirement for all NPO's, which includes the financial audited statements and activities of the association.

The main source of income for the association is the bi-annual conferences and membership contributions.

The profits made at the WAS conference will be shared 50/50 with AASA.

**STATUTORY MATTERS**

➤ **Constitution**

No constitutional changes were made.

➤ **Election of Office Bearers**

The following office bearers were elected to serve as representative of the AASA council:

- Peter Britz (Chairperson)
- Henk Stander (Vice-Chairperson)

**AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS**

- Nick Loubser (AFFASA)
- Neil Stallard (MFFASA)
- Gerrie van der Merwe (TroutSA)
- Vos Pienaar (BSFASA)
- Roger Krohn (AquaSA)

**NON-AFFILIATED MEMBERS**

- Nick James (Tilapia)
- Johan Kooij (Catfish)
- Qurban Rouhani (Social Economic Development)
- Khalid Salie (International Collaboration)
- Cliff Jones (Research)
- Leslie Ter Morshuizen (Service Providers)

**NEW PORTFOLIO**

- Etienne Hinrichsen (Newsletter)

(AASA's aim will be to have more frequent communications with members and the wider aquaculture community, especially the small scale farmers. This will include communication via a bi-monthly newsletter, existing AASA facebook page and twitter account and email. Sector specific social media groups can create links to AASA's platforms. Suggestion was made to involve a dedicated student to update the social media platforms. Budget is available for small-scale farmer interaction from DAFF contract. P. Britz will discuss this with DAFF. Q. Rouhani will explore further possibilities and action needed.)

*ACTION: PB/QR/NM*

➤ Matters Arising

○ **Broader Representation on AASA council**

Ulf Nermark from Botswana proposed that AASA investigate the possibility to include the broader aquaculture community more effectively. The AASA constitution provides for broader participation and regional reps can be co-opted and mandated to represent specific regions.

The following key areas of participation between AASA and cross-boarder members were identified:

- (1) Supporting neighbouring countries with resources to AASA's disposal
- (2) Better communication of what AASA is involved with on a more regular basis.

P. Britz suggested more regular communication on current activities AASA is involved in. Sector representatives were encourage to engage more closely with the AASA office in regards to their activities in specific sectors. The AASA office will communicate this to the mailing list and post Sector Reports on the website.

*ACTION: Sector Reps/AASA office*

H. Stander further suggested that AASA should revisit the possibility of sending out quarterly newsletters. E. Hinrichsen volunteered his time to assist with the production of a newsletter.

*ACTION: EH*

P. Britz explained that with the WAS African Chapter formation, DAFF has set financial support aside to fund a secretariat for this purpose. NEPAD in JHB has indicated that they would be prepared to house the WAS Chapter Secretariat. A candidate has been identified.

○ **The role of AASA and AquaSA**

E. Hinrichsen wanted clarity on how to justify AASA's existence, in light of AquacultureSA, the new WAS African Chapter and other entities. He suggested that AASA being a southern African association, should reposition and align itself to SADC for financial support, etc. If AASA has a regional mandate they should consider appointing country champions to represent regions and have active involvement with AASA. AASA should be the southern representative in Africa for WAS. P. Britz commented that AASA is an individual based organisation, not a statutory organisation and it is defined by active contributions by members. It's the net product of individual efforts. U. Nermark raised concerns with AASA's affiliation with AquacultureSA creating the perception of a SA entity rather than regional. P. Britz said that AquacultureSA was established to represent producer organisations from SA and that AASA is not involved. R. Krohn agreed that it's important to not overlap the two associations' functions, but stressed the benefit of AquacultureSA in becoming a member of AgriSA and the invaluable legal assistance already received from them in regards to the Aquaculture Bill. P. Britz reiterated the fact that the two organisations are two separate entities being governed separately with separate mandates, but that the administrative services are shared with the AASA office to save costs.

Challenge ahead is to identify AASA purpose and how to get more people involved with AASA. Q. Rouhani suggested to be more pro-active in encouraging more regional participation. He further suggested a sub-committee to be formed to discuss and formulate strategy on the way forward. P. Britz suggested that this discussion fall under the International Affairs portfolio (K. Salie).

*ACTON: EXCO*

○ **2019 Conference**

Some suggestions were made that the next AASA bi-annual aquaculture conference be held in Durban but with the WAS African Chapter being established, having a pan-african aquaculture conference instead should be considered. AASA is the best equipped to host the first of such events, with involvement from NEPAD as they are prepared to host the WAS African Secretariat in Johannesburg. This is yet another opportunity for AASA to promote itself as a regional representative in Africa.

AASA's proposal to host a 2019 Pan-African Conference in JHB will be made to the WAS African Chapter Secretariat once this is established and together with NEPAD a decision will be made. This event could then be rotated to other regions in Africa thereafter.

*ACTION: EXCO*

➤ **AASA/DAFF Contract**

A contract agreement between DAFF and AASA is being discussed. This contract entails the undertaking and implementation of Operation Phakisa initiatives, addressing market access in aquaculture, development and implementation of public awareness and marketing strategy, training and capacity building of small scale farmer, etc. Roger and Pete are still in discussions with DAFF in this regard and will provide further feedback in due course. A Steering Committee will be formed consisting of representatives from DAFF, AASA, AquaSA and Producer chairs. This committee will decide the way forward. The draft contract will be circulated to all EXCO members.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

A special vote of thanks was given to members involved in various ways during the organising of the WAS conference; Roger Krohn, Henk Stander, P. Britz, N. Vine, N. Marshall. A letter of thanks will also be sent to DAFF for their involvement and financial contribution.

The meeting was closed at 19:45.

Minutes approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN: P. BRITZ

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: