

AGWA's Seventh Annual Members Meeting
26 August 2017
Stockholm, Sweden

Present:

- Mark Fletcher (Arup), **Moderator**
 - Maggie White (AGWA/SIWI)
 - Diego Rodriguez (World Bank)
 - John Matthews (AGWA)
 - Torgny Holmgren (SIWI)
 - Alex Mauroner (AGWA)
 - Casey Brown (UMass)
 - Martin Shouler (Arup)
 - Cees van de Guchte (Deltares)
 - Laura Vay (Icatalist)
 - Elena Lopez Gunn (Icatalist)
 - Kathryn Pharr (GWF, US DoS)
 - Sarah Freeman (UMass)
 - Cajsa Larsson (SIWI)
 - Katarina Veem (SIWI)
 - Karin Lexén (SSNC)
 - Raha Hakimdavar (NASA)
 - Stephanie Lyons (WaterAid)
 - Sonja Koeppel (UNECE)
 - Martin Kerres (GIZ)
 - Nikki Schulman (Rare)
 - James Dalton (IUCN)
 - Corinne Tromsdorff (IWA)
 - Eric Tardieu (INBO)
 - Al Meghji (Cornell) **remote participant*
-

Agenda:

1. **Opening comments** - *Diego, Maggie, Katarina*
2. **Thanks to the first class of the SC** - *John*
3. **Annual Report & Year Ahead** - *John*
4. **Policy** - *Maggie*
5. **Other programs** - *John & others*
 - Some short interventions by project leaders
 - ① NAIAD - *Elena Lopez*
 - ② Youth/young professionals - *Cajsa/Alex*
 - ③ Knowledge Platform - *Alex, Diego*
6. **Budget** - *John*
7. **Group exercise***

8. **Charter - John**
9. **Discussion of changes, the Task Force role, guiding elements, responsibilities, branding**
10. **AGWA steering committee – John**
 - ① Thanks to those who are leaving the first generation
 - ② Discussion of the size and composition of the SC
 - ③ Discussion on second generation nominees
 - ④ Vote on new SC members

**outcomes included in Appendix A*

MEETING OPENED BY MARK FLETCHER, MODERATOR

1. Opening comments

JM: Initial remarks. This is meant to be an active discussion, open to questions. Co-chairs and representative of the host institution to say a few words.

KV: Happy to take on this role with AGWA and looking forward to working with everyone.

MW: It's been an exciting two years with AGWA to see how it's grown. AGWA is not only a group of thought leaders trying to enact change, but also a family.

DR: It's hard to believe we're in the seventh year of the network. We've advanced a lot in the past few years, including the technical side. It's great to see a lot of new faces here. This annual meeting is our opportunity to hear from you all and get new thinking, new ideas on how to advance. Make sure collectively we have a good view of the future and what needs to be done as a network.

Short round of introductions by everyone.

2. Thanks to the first class of the SC

- Some significant changes over the past year. Said formally goodbye to Sofia and Karin as active managers of Policy Group. Karin is still engaged with the group. Also lucky to have Maggie involved. Three or four years ago had first steering committee meeting. Three year SC terms end today. Thanks to Cajsja and Alex in the Secretariat. Also have part-time contributions from Erin Gooch in US. Thanks to outgoing SC members: Christine Chan, Joppe Cramwinckel, and Bob Pietrowsky. We want to gratefully acknowledge their service.

3. Annual Report & Year Ahead

- The annual report answers whether or not AGWA has an impact. A few highlights:

- Group of AGWA members wrote 5000-word 3-part article on history of climate change policy through GWP.
- Starting in 2014 approached to help create standards for bonds on water infrastructure. Over US \$1bn have been issued using this so far.
- Approached by Morocco to be co-chair for first water dialogue, the first time water was formally discussed with UNFCCC.
- Guiding elements of AGWA expressed through some technical products. One of the first ones, the Decision Tree Framework led by Casey and Diego, published 2 years ago and has expanded into training programs and diversification applications (e.g., water utilities, hydropower). Changing how we think about resilience in an operational sense.
- CRIDA is being picked up and adopted, including through an AIT workshop, even prior to its publication.
- EEDS has been adopted by many institutions, including Mexico's gov't.
- AGWA mentioned in several other organizations' strategies: BMZ, WB, SIWI

4. Policy

- Huge success in getting water into the UNFCCC COP. At the same time, we have fewer people working on policy at SIWI – from 3 to now 2 people.
- Members have stepped up and gone to meetings on behalf of AGWA when we haven't been able to attend. It shows the capacity of AGWA to bring people together and speak on behalf of the organization. It's an unselfish mentality.
- A lot of this started at the annual meeting in 2016 in trying to get a water day at COP22. SIWI brought a strong Moroccan delegation to WWW that year and high level events about bridging SDG agenda and Paris Agreement with water as a connector.
- COP23 has a water day. The COP process is opening up to the new SDGs. Strong will to connect these agenda. This is something that SIWI and AGWA have been pushing, using water as an enabling factor.
- In past year: AGWA Policy Group has grown to 130 members. Only a small portion are policy people, while the rest are technical people with an understanding that policy helps set ground rules for their work. They work with the policy experts to integrate the two sides.
- COP22 had dedicated Water Day and numerous water events, official outcome document came out of Water Dialogue. The Champions said that the water community was one of the more well-structured communities.
- Recognition in the UNFCCC process for what the non-state actors propose as well. This is an innovative and important development.
- Three (or four) main communities in water and climate:

- the ClimateIsWater campaign (secretariat ensured by WWC; AGWA and SIWI on steering committee),
 - Global Alliance for Water and Climate (coordinated by INBO on behalf of the different water and climate alliances)
 - AGWA serves as a third community in the water and climate arena – hosted by SIWI and working on policy and technical know-how.
 - Global Climate Action Agenda (the non-state party process within the UNFCCC that has identified water as one of the priority areas)
- CIW is more about communicating. AGWA has been in charge of policy messaging for them. Four main alliances comprise GafWAC: one each for businesses, basins, megacities, desalination. Another on water, health, and climate is being started by WaterAid. INBO serves as secretariat for water alliances.
 - For COP23 the GCAA has working groups being created to organize Action Day. AGWA is one of the leads on the Water Day. A draft agenda for the Water Day was just submitted.
 - AGWA Policy Group very present at Climate Change Summit in France, which is the preparatory summit for non-state actors. What comes out of this should feed the GCAA and therefore feed the COP. We had a Water Day at the CCS. Maggie and Karin were part of this. The next one will take place in September in Morocco. Each year it goes to the previous COP host. This meeting is for all actors and sectors.
 - We've seen a bridging of the technical and policy sides within AGWA. That's a great deal of the added value of AGWA – in turn providing concrete evidence behind recommendations.
 - Three policy briefs this year: one on NDCs, one on gender issues, and one on oceans and freshwater.
 - Turning a focus to implementation (of SDGs, NDCs, and otherwise) is a vehicle to bridge technical and policy sides. Working more with other sectors would provide more added value, too.
 - Having these two interrelated themes (technical and policy) goes back to the beginning of AGWA. We should work to have a better system to bridge the two sides, especially so our policy work reflects the “unique flavor” of AGWA's technical work.
 - NDCs are not made by water or even climate people, often instead done by foreign ministries. They don't have a strong project basis. It leaves risk and opportunity. Risk is that you can create funding vehicles and policy incentives for whole range of climate-related projects that could be good or bad. Opportunity is that we can think of ways to work within NDC framework to

ensure a connection between global, national, and project goals. That's the reason that AGWA's perspective is essential. Need to demonstrate how to come up with a project that does what it's intended from resilience and water perspective.

5. Other programs

- Starting last year we broke down the technical work into categories of "capacity building" and more "technical knowledge development."
- With capacity building, we need to make sure that the ideas we've been working on get out and get mainstreamed in other institutions.
- EEDS has its first large scale implementation in Mexico starting in Dec. 2016. Workshop in May 2017. To be completed November 2017. Ideas within EEDS have gotten picked up in other programs.
- NAIAD is an EU Horizon2020 project. Launched in Spain in January 2017. Three-year research project on nature-based solutions using a risk framework with a focus on floods and droughts. Nine demo sites in Europe at different scales.
- Water Climate Bonds Standard is now in its second phase. First was on traditional grey infrastructure. Second phase is a supplemental set of criteria for nature-based solutions. Within two weeks it will go to public consultation. Final approval will likely come in Dec. 2017. Altogether around 150 people in AGWA network have been involved.
- Rockefeller Fdtn Freshwater Resilience Strategy involving SIWI, AGWA, UMass, and others.
- S-MultiStor is funded by NL government and headed by IHE Delft team. It's about sustainable water storage systems from an ecological and infrastructure perspective. Centered in Colombia, Myanmar, and Zambia. Project is in its first year.
- AGWA-U started 1.5 years ago. Addresses gap between established water professionals and younger professionals / students. University training doesn't prepare them for climate issues faced in their work. AGWA works with a growing number of universities to facilitate the use of our material in graduate courses.
- Youth and young professional engagement. AGWA is exploring relationships to better engage with existing youth networks to lend our expertise as a resource, potentially leading to internships, mentorships. We're trying to determine what needs exist from this demographic.
- The Knowledge Platform is a WB-funded project to increase capacity towards complementary bottom-up approaches to climate adaptation and risk

assessment. This will be an online hub and resource center to help others learn more about methods in order to upscale their application. It will launch initially in Sept. 2017. We would also like to organize a technical workshop in the future related to this in order to hear about what others are doing in this field. The key here will be to curate these methods and related projects.

- MARACANA is a large grant proposal being submitted in early Sept.
- We're revamping our communication strategy. The newsletter works well, but there are other ways we can communicate our messages. A podcast series is starting modestly. We're interested in new ideas or suggestions in engaging with other audiences/networks.

6. Budget

- Budget for AGWA is complicated because AGWA is not a formal legal NGO. We have different bankers within the network to hold, transfer money.
- Funds are loosely defined into three main areas: core funding (salaries), project funding (task specific and fixed amount), core function (e.g. Knowledge Platform, extension of core activities). Around 15-18 people where AGWA is part of their job description in some amount.
- Several organizations disburse and hold the money. SIWI initially held most of the money. Other funders came in and it is now more complicated. Sometimes funders directly send John the money to a corporation he started for AGWA. It then gets transferred to other parts of the network. Other groups, such as Deltares, serve as funding sources. It is all an accumulation of our informal status.
- New funding partnerships including with Germany for core support and policy work. New funding from the Netherlands coordinated by Deltares. World Bank's KP funding for core support started in May.
- Rough estimate of AGWA's budget to keep running would be at least \$305,000 looking at the past year.
- AGWA has been ahead of the curve for years and we're now in a time of opportunity and potential rapid growth. We tend to do well when seeking project funding. But, that's often time away from core activities. Core funding is always the hardest to find.
- In-kind contributions have been a significant asset of AGWA

7. Group Exercise

- **see Appendix 1 for results of group exercise*
- Capture ideas and suggestions: What risks and opportunities are we not seeing?

- In addition to thinking of what we should be doing, we must first consider our ambitious agenda of upcoming activities. We have COP23 where we're one of the coordinators of Water Action Day. Several activities lead up to the COP: meetings in Sept. of the Adaptation Committee, pre-COP in Fiji.
- We also spoke about providing more support at the national level, including work with the NDC partnership and Water Expert Group.
- Future policy briefs will come out but topics have yet to be determined.
- Adaptation Committee, Standing Committee on Finance, and Nairobi Work Programme connections will continue.
- We should be more proactive in reaching out to the energy sector or city networks to involve them in our work.
- AGWA runs a risk of becoming too diffuse if we try to work outside our core areas of focus. The opportunity is there to get the word out about our work but we shouldn't forget our core work.
- In thinking of bridging to other sectors, we must try to balance the importance of that sector with the resources taken to begin working there. This could be an area with other AGWA members contribute instead of adding more to the AGWA secretariat. This information would still need to feed back into the core of AGWA.
- For policy work going forward, we want to get the water community to get together to talk about water in the climate arena. We want to engage in the climate space. We want "climate-wise water people" to be in the climate arena.
- AGWA started as a reaction to the climate community having no understanding of the technical aspects of water management.
- It's not about the money, it's about doing projects better.
- Keep in mind that policy is happening with or without us at an international level. That's why we want to have an informed dialogue sharing our experience and knowledge.
- Our technical and policy work are very much interrelated. Opportunities involve the project level on how we deliver, and it also includes influencing policy upstream of the projects. AGWA must be active on these two complementary fronts in a coordinated way.
- In part, it's important to think about how we influence the economic sectors, which requires a different level of messaging and approaches. We can help them with the knowledge to make better use of the resource and they can increase their income simultaneously. Water can become an added value resource.

- Water and climate messages are complex issues. We need simple messaging that can influence the right people. In making sure we get things right technically, we can lose sight of this need for simplicity in communication.
- AGWA is the “glocal” perspective – global to local. Bringing people from the local communities in which we work to big events can provide a new perspective – providing a voice at the different scales.

8. Charter

- The Charter is our core document. It’s gone through three major iterations since we formed seven years ago. It underwent a significant revisions 3.5 years ago. Last year’s annual meeting saw a strong need for revisions again, which led to the creation of a Task Force.
- We now have a much more formal looking Charter. We need to discuss this as a whole. And, we need to vote upon some of the recommendations for revision.
- Some of the main topics addressed included how to define an AGWA project as well as branding issues.

9. Discussion of changes, the Task Force role, guiding elements, responsibilities, branding

- After years of discussion, we have a proposed set of guiding elements. They represent our common values and can help define who is a member inside of AGWA.
- The Task Force initially worked to decide whether or not AGWA should undergo formalization as a formal legal entity. They investigated different legal avenues and options in several countries, including Sweden.
- In many cases it would be more difficult to get funding if AGWA wasn’t affiliated with SIWI. In other cases, AGWA wouldn’t get funding because they would have a shorter track record as an independent NGO.
- The decision was made to continue in the same structure while more clearly defining the mandate and relationship with SIWI.
- This is something that will be continually reviewed and revisited as AGWA’s membership grows and needs change.
- **A vote was taken at the meeting on the following changes to the Charter: Guiding Elements, Branding of Projects and Use of Logo,**
- **SIWI acknowledged that they would continue their role as host for an additional three-year term. The members unanimously voted to approve of this.**
- **SC members acknowledged that they would continue for another three-year term: Casey Brown, Paul Fleming, Karin Lexén, Joe Manous**

(replacing seat held by USACE) Diego Rodriguez, Cees van de Guchte, and Maggie White.

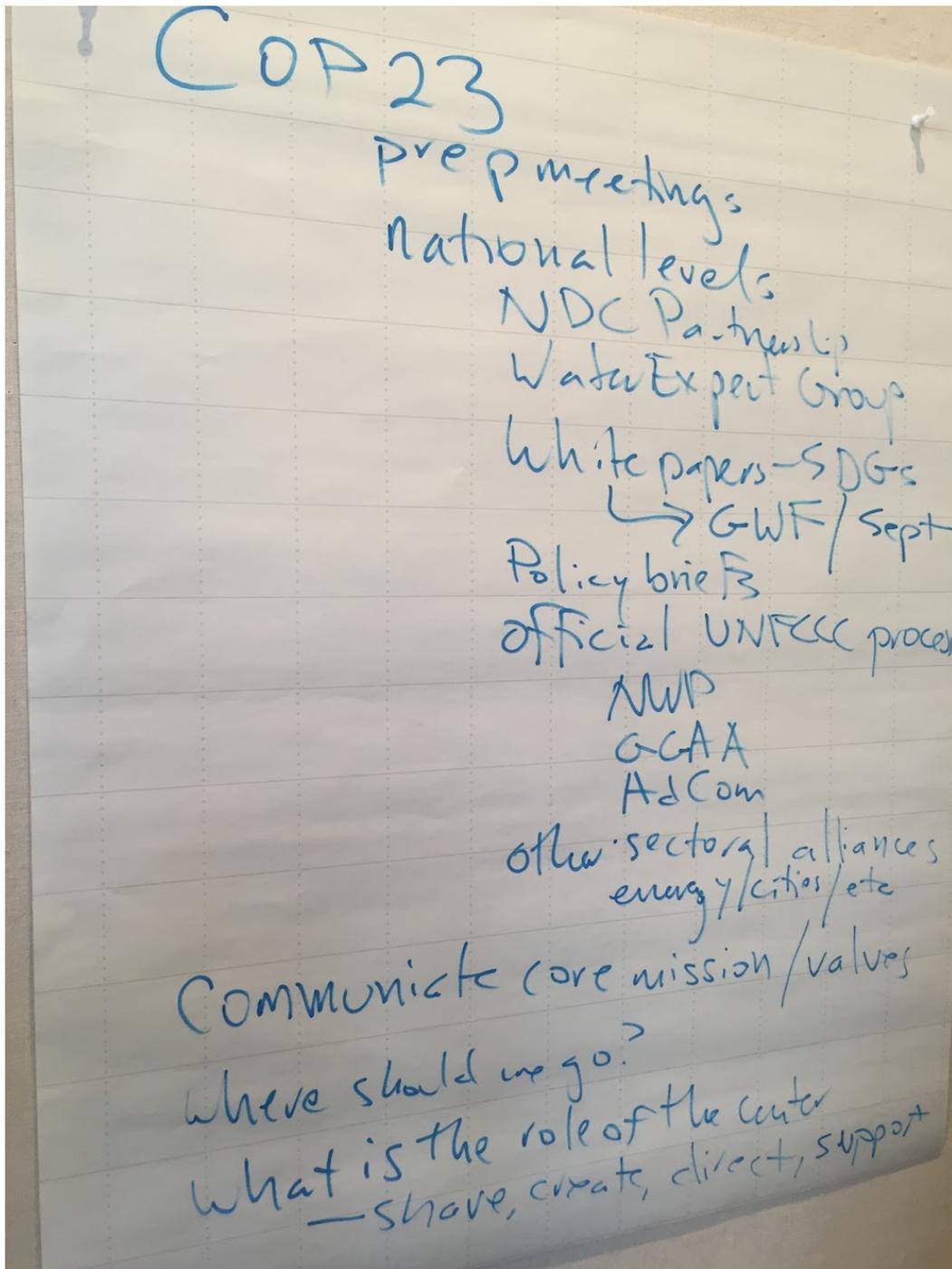
- **Members unanimously approved Diego Rodriguez and Maggie White continuing their roles as co-chairs for their organizations (World Bank and SIWI, respectively) for another three-year term. The hosting institution is one of the co-chairs.**

10. AGWA steering committee

- We have two empty seats on the steering committee after some members chose not to renew for another term.
- Five nominees were put forward for the openings. The names were put to the SC who then make a recommendation at the Annual Meeting.
- The SC recommends Mark Fletcher (Arup) and Louise Whiting (FAO) to take over the two empty seats.
- **Members approved these two nominees, who will now serve on the SC for a three-year term with the option to renew.**

CLOSE OF MEETING

Appendix A - Outcomes of Group Exercise



"climate-wise water people"

- reputational risk

- climate perspective for
water

- approach that emphasizes
water into other areas/fields
issues

- "money is not the outcome"

- doing projects better

cities as issues unit → water wise
cities

project scale, global scale

- ensure integrated

"We" manage the resource, but
we do not use it
- ag, cities, energy,
ecosystems

"Service" orientation to sectors,
policy levels

We are more powerful through
other sectors

We are too complex in how we
communicate simple ideas

link our projects/programs to new
processes (eg, GCF)
NDC Partnership