

## Summary of AGWA's Sixth Annual Members Meeting 27 August 2016

The meeting was chaired by AGWA Steering Committee member Joppe Cramwinckel. The meeting consisted of short reports from AGWA leadership, Q&A with members, and discussions on decision points.

Below are broad-scale takeaways from the meeting:

- Following up on a discussion point from the immediately previous Steering Committee, AGWA has reached a level of reach that it requires a more formal organization and financing structure and should probably become a legal (rather than informal) entity. A task force will be launched in early October to focus on the following issues:
  1. Where should the legal entity be organized?
  2. Should that entity be a foundation or association?
  3. Will this structure make fundraising more straightforward and funding more accessible?
  4. How should we diversify the roles and membership of the steering committee to align with the new structure? Should other aspects of governance also change, including the organization of the core team and hosting / chair relationships?

We already have a list of SC and non-SC members who have expressed interest in participating with the task force. Individuals interested in additional information should reach out to Christine Chan ([chanenvironmental@gmail.com](mailto:chanenvironmental@gmail.com)) and John Matthews ([johoma@alliance4water.org](mailto:johoma@alliance4water.org)).

A second, smaller task force will focus on branding of AGWA projects. Please contact John Matthews if you have questions about this team.

- AGWA's Policy Group has grown in number and influence. COP21 and the #ClimateIsWater Initiative were two major areas of engagement in the past year. The Policy Group will now focus on COP22 and developing its three new workstreams (NDCs, UNFCCC engagement, and policy recommendations).
- AGWA has had numerous successful programs that began or continued in the past year. The World Bank's Decision Tree, Water Climate Bonds Standard, Eco-Engineering Decision Scaling (EEDS), graduate/professional development (AGWA-U), and Collaborative Risk Informed Decision Analysis (CRIDA) were all areas of emphasis. This list is not exhaustive but indicative of some focal areas.
- Online engagement remains a priority. AGWA's two websites ([alliance4water.org](http://alliance4water.org) and [agwaguide.org](http://agwaguide.org)) continue to expand and they receive thousands of visitors each month. They will continue to be one of the main ways we grow our influence as a network.

- AGWA has received many small grants as well as two major funding opportunities for upcoming work (NAIAD and S-MultiStor) that will take place over several years. Grant proposals remain a valuable area of work.
- As a general trend, adaptation is beginning to shift from something that is unique to something that is standard. AGWA works to make adaptation efforts normalized and systematic within institutions.
- A reevaluation of AGWA's core principles and "guiding elements" will help address issues surrounding project selection, planning, and branding.
- AGWA is not a consultancy firm. It is a capacity building organization focused on collaborating, incubating, and communicating knowledge.
- AGWA faces long-term financial challenges. One solution to this may be through formalization as an organization. This was discussed at the SC meeting earlier. A task force is being formed to investigate all possibilities and paths forward.
- Many of the greatest problems AGWA faces are good problems to have that have arisen as we grow in number of members and in influence. AGWA will stay true to its mission statement and remain a member-driven organization.