

AGWA's 13th Annual Members Meeting

Scandic Continental Hotel, Room 6-8
Vasagatan 22, 111 20 Stockholm, Sweden
Zoom teleconferencing option

14:00-17:00 CEST (12:00-15:00 UTC) on Saturday, 19 August

Meeting Chair: Mark Fletcher

Members Present:

In Stockholm: Caroline Black (WRI), James Dalton (IUCN), Tom Dyer (Antea), Pan Ei Ei Phyo (AGWA), Jason Fairbairn (Arup), Mark Fletcher (Arup), Dani Gaillard-Picher (SIWI), Christina Mallin (South Pole), John Matthews (AGWA), Alex Mauroner (AGWA), Tom Panella (ADB), Erica Pann (Antea), Belynda Petrie (OneWorld), Thomas Rebermark (SIWI), Andy Roby (FCDO), Adrian Sym (AWS), Simon Thuo (AGWA), Ingrid Timboe (AGWA), Josh Weinberg (AGWA)

Online: Marvel Luzell (AGWA), Marcelo Gaviño Novillo (UNESCO), Ale Moreyra (UNLP), Junguo Liu (SUSTech), Amanda Miner (Envicom), Nick Boxem (NL Ministry of Infrastructure & Water Management), Flavia Rocha Loures (TNC), Andriy Demydenko (GWP), Guido Schmidt (Fresh Thoughts), Will Logan (ICIWaRM), Yumiko Yasuda (GWP), Pradeep Mohapatra (Udyama), Pallavi Bharadwaj (Society of Exploration Geophysicists), Anthony Slatyer (Water Policy Group), Caroline Figueres (Figueres Consultancy)

Agenda:

- Welcome and opening comments
- Introductions
- Highlights from preceding Board Meeting
- Voting process for open positions
- Financial snapshot: Overview of 2022 financials & current status
- Recap of the past year & ongoing scope of work
- Brief interventions by select AGWA partners
- Group discussion: *AGWA regional representation and/or offices*
- Open floor for member requests or closing thoughts

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. CEST by Mark Fletcher.

2. Introductions

- All present AGWA members introduced themselves briefly, including those in Stockholm and on Zoom.
- Following brief introductions from members, the AGWA Secretariat and several key AGWA consultants introduced themselves further. This included Simon Thuo (Water Tracker), Pan Ei Ei Phyo (Policy Team, WR4ER), and Josh Weinberg (Policy Team, WINZ). Others not present were introduced by the Secretariat.

3. Orders of Business

A. Highlights from the Preceding Board of Directors Meeting

- Led by John Matthews
- Discussions on programmatic shifts at AGWA, overview of the possibility of opening regional AGWA centers. This topic will be discussed later during the meeting.
- Discussions on AGWA's relationship with the Alliance for Water Stewardship and the possibility of cultivating a deeper partnership. The topic will be discussed later in order to hear from members about their thoughts on updating policies and procedures that keep pace with the growth and direction of the organizations.

B. Voting Process for Open Board Positions

- Led by James Dalton
- The Board discussed at length the changing needs of AGWA and the Board's responsibilities, and how that can be addressed as part of selecting new members. This would involve updating policies and procedures to keep pace with the growth and direction of the organization.
- Discussion on possibly bringing in a third-party to help encourage a diverse selection as well as higher engagement. AGWA Members will still vote on the 23 nominees.
- The Board proposed a change in the voting process that would go into effect ahead of this vote on nominees.
- **Motion Proposed:** Voting on any openings on the Board of Directors shall take place virtually instead of in real-time during the Annual Members Meeting. This will take place only after any necessary information on candidates has been shared with AGWA membership to allow for a more informed voting process. Votes are still cast by general AGWA members, but participation in the Annual Members Meeting is no longer a requirement.
- **Motion Status:** Approved
- **Next Steps:** In the next 4-6 weeks, an announcement will be circulated to members that includes more context on the Board's current makeup and needs, as well as background information on nominees. Members will access these guidelines before voting online.

C. Financial Snapshot: Overview of Status and Latest Developments

- Led by Alex Mauroner

- AGWA is conducting its first full audit for 2021-2022 to enhance financial transparency and governance. Audit results will be shared with the board, bookkeepers, and accountants.
- In April of 2023 AGWA transitioned to a new bookkeeping team to review and update accounts and produce regular reports. Alex discussed that there is also a new board committee on funding and budgets. This information can also be found in our 2022 Annual Report.

D. Recap of the Past Year & Ongoing Scope of Work

- Led by Alex Mauroner & Ingrid Timboe
- The [2022 AGWA Annual Report](#) is available on the AGWA website. This document covers the state of AGWA as a network, governance and structure, as well as the projects and programs.
- Alex discussed highlights from the past year: second year of Adaptation Academy program with UNFCCC, UNESCO conference in April of 2023, Water Resilience Assessment Framework (WRAF) with Pacific Institute and others, CRIDA programs with UNESCO, and Water Resilience for Economic Resilience (WR4ER).
- Ingrid shared some examples of AGWA's Policy Engagement such as the UN 2023 Water Conference, AGWA's involvement in 15 events at COP27, participating in the UNFCCC Global Stocktake and Global Goal on Adaptation activities, multiple DRR & climate adaptation reports with UNESCO & Deltares, as well as the Water Tracker for National Climate Planning.
- Ingrid provided an update on the Water Tracker, mentioning their work with 10 countries on climate and water management plans in recent years. On top of FCDO support, new funding from Deltares and the Inter-American Development Bank is helping the WT expand to more countries and enhance the program's scope with consultants and country connections.
- Ingrid covered additional ongoing and upcoming activities at AGWA such as COP28 and her secondment, side events, Water Pavilion and Resilience Hub. Ingrid also discussed the Water Initiative for Net Zero (WINZ), new policy briefs such as an updated WtNDCs, Water Tracker, Asia-Pacific Issues, as well as NBS proposals submitted.

E. Interventions by Select Funders and Supporters

- Led by Mark Fletcher
- Andrew Roby (FCDO) – FCDO and AGWA's relationship has demonstrated some wonderful things in water adaptation. Building strategy through the sharing of free knowledge and information is quite important to the continued success of FCDO and AGWA in their work.
- Caroline Black (WRI/WRAF) – Discussed the aim of WRAF to bring together economic, hydrologic, and social systems using already established water

accounting metrics to create a series of guidance documents to measure resilience and organizational responses.

- Adrian Sym (AWS) – Having a water community to build these relationships has already helped to start to close the gap of how much work needs to be done. He mentioned that they collected a survey from AWS & AGWA members earlier this year that allowed them to see the similarities and differences between our two organizations, where working together can be quite beneficial for both organizations, and their goals.

F. Group Discussion: AGWA Regional Representation

- Led by John Matthews
- Discussion to gather members' thoughts on regional engagement. Do members see value in official avenues of regional engagement? The two countries AGWA is interested in beginning with are Kenya and Mexico, which both have long-time AGWA consultants.
- Deepening of relationships and increasing awareness of AGWA would be extremely beneficial to starting this process.
- AGWA will look into mechanisms for different levels of engagement, weighing the pros and cons of setting up any more formal offices or positions abroad.
- Memberships for AGWA will remain free and function as a connective network.

4. Closing

- The meeting was closed by Mark Fletcher at 5 p.m. CEST.