

Meeting minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Hydrological Society (Inc.)

Wednesday 29th November 2023, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Auckland University of Technology City Campus

Room WG 403 (changed to 224B)

1. Welcome/Apologies (President - Joseph Thomas)

Apologies: Andrew Fenemor, MS Srinivasan, Charles Pearson, Mike Ede

Minutes of the 60th Annual General meeting

Moved: Louise Weaver

Seconded: Adam Martin

Passed

Matters arising: no

Minutes are approved for sign off for auditing next year.

2. President's Report (Joseph Thomas)

- Conference in Dunedin went great, a small windfall as we didn't have to pay for the venue.
- Sarah and the team from MetSoc did a great job.
- Technical hydrology had a good year; managed to run conference in Napier even though there was the cyclone.
- Any income from the Technical hydrology workshop, we are using it to encouraging tech hydrologists to go to AHA (Australian Hydrographers Association) conference in Australia this to raise more operational hydrologists that we all need.
- Acknowledged and thanked sponsors for their support.
- Especially the sponsorship package with NIWA, which is now regular, which really helps the society to run without worrying about income.
- For this year's conference, it's been great to work with the Australians.

3. (a) NZHS Financial Statements for the 2022/2023 year- including financial position and profit loss for 22/23 operational year. (Treasurer - Mike Ede).

- We are in a good financial position.
- We don't have the finalised audit report yet, but draft is on our website, and they will be virtually the same.

- No question from membership on the annual report.
- Financial slides:
 - Budget is even (the society has always strived to use the sub money for the society administration).
 - Anything else is going into things like sponsorships of students to go to conferences.
 - \$36,990 profit from 2022 conference (thanks to no venue costs).
 - Members funds are sitting now at \$206,305.

Motion: Accept this year's financial report to accept the 22/23 accounts:

Moved: Stephan Beaumont

Seconded: Magali Moreau

Passed

Auditing

Cost for auditors are increasing to \$4,750 plus GST.

An auditor is not required for the size of the organisation, so we want to work with an independent organisation instead without having to go through full auditing process (time intensive and a lot of delays).

(b) Changes to Incorporated Society Act.

There was a change in the Act last year. We have to comply by 2025. The society will be working to transition to the new rules.

As part of our planning, we have to outline what we will do that year and then report on it the following year. This is the main thing we must do under the changed Act. The Royal Society has given us some legal guidelines that they prepared for other societies sitting under the umbrella of the RS.

(c) Society Insurance

We are increasingly being required to have liability insurance for the venues the society is using for conferences every year. Our original cover was for \$3M; for Auckland we had to increase to \$5M.

(d) Administration Contract

We have an ongoing contract with onCue, with a 6-months exit period for either party.

4. Sub review – Mike Ede

We've been able to keep subs and operational expenditure balanced. There is a sub increase of 5 dollars proposed by the Treasurer because of inflation. This as we want to keep the balance between subs and operational expenditure even.

If approved today, it will come into place next year.

Moved: Paul White

Seconded: Lee Burbery

No opposition

The sub increase has been approved.

5. Society administration - update Conny Tschritter/Mike Ede

We employ onCue for admin, webpage support, eCurrent, and membership administration, and get a lot of value for money.

We try to meet twice a year for an admin type of catchup and try to have two more shorter virtual meetings per year.

6. Election of Officers

Editor

It would be good for Richard to stay on for smooth transition.

Richard is ok to.

Nom: Richard Hawke

Nom by: MS Srinivasan

Seconded by: Helen Rutter

Sarah is closing nominations.

Elected unopposed.

There is the potential to maybe have a team of editors (Laura does support, paid position, she does the editing).

Secretary

Nom: Conny Tschritter

Nom by: MS Srinivasan

Seconded by: Pete Davidson

No other nominations for secretary.

Mike Stewart closes nominations.

Elected unopposed.

3 x Exec members (roles currently held by Adam, Rebecca, Sarah)

Nom: Adam Martin

Nom by: Stephan Beaumont

Sec by: Suzanne Gabites

Nom: Rebecca Morris

Nom by: Susie Osbaldiston

Sec by: John Hadfield

Nom: Sarah Mager

Nom by: Louise Weaver

Sec by: Conny Tschritter

No further nominations.

Hisham Zarour closes nominations.

Adam, Rebecca and Sarah are happy to accept nomination.

Adam Martin, Sarah Mager and Rebecca Morris have been re-elected as officers.

Proxies:

Not required as we did not have more nominees than positions.

7. Editorial Update: Current/Journal/books (Richard Hawke – Editor, online)

- Journal will come out shortly.
- Two issues are currently in progress.
- People who give presentations this week are encouraged to send in a journal article.
- Current newsletter is already out or on the way.
- We are doing ok overall.
- Question from Lee on special issue for Canterbury Plains – Helen Rutter responded: work is ongoing.

8. NZHS award nominations: reminder to membership for nominations (Joseph Thomas)

Good to keep awards in the back of minds and put people up.

9. 2024 & 2025 Conference (Joseph Thomas)

- 2024 Blenheim (not a joint conference because we have done two joint ones in a row, also our conferences are getting bigger).
- 2025 New Plymouth or possibly Gisborne

10. Other business

- Royal Society Membership- NZHS members are encouraged to make nominations for fellowships, awards etc.
- The Royal Society is here to help us.
- Murray Close has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society.

11. Matters arising

Mike Stewart had a question on membership numbers of the society: They have gone up by 20 from last year (numbers are in Joseph's report).

Paul White asked about plans for using our funds: We're using it for scholarships, travel grants etc. We are happy for initiatives for people suggesting what they could do like an ebook, book chapters etc. Joseph also said we could support travel to lectures.

Amir: Is the Korean Water Resources Association relationship still going? Yes it is. But this year, they did not send anybody. There are two spots for next year to go to Korea. People can submit an abstract.

Lee: would like to put together a list of sites of hydrological interest and have a Google map type webmap on our website (something along GNS's Geotrips). As an example, Lee mentioned a blue line on the road when you walk down to the Viaduct, which is to show where a stream was originally. We could ask society members for sites of interest. We don't necessarily need to write anything, there is a lot of stuff already there, just needs to be put together and/or linked to.

Lee will put a call out for help, Justin Legg is keen to help and mentioned it would be great to have a Māori comment on that and is wondering how we would engage with local iwi on that.

Louise Weaver: Special edition on Ecosystem and ecosystem services: If people are interested, send her an email if they are keen to support it.

Meeting closed 17:49 pm

Conny Tschritter

NZHS

Secretary

29/11/23