

AZEF AGM MINUTES

De Stijl Hotel

Gariep Dam

5th October 2010

:No	Item	Responsibility
1	<p><u>Welcome:</u> Patrick O'Farrell welcome all to the 25th Arid Zone Ecology Forum.</p>	Patrick O'Farrell
2	<p><u>Attendance register and apologies:</u> See attachment: There were 30 attendees, and 7 apologies</p>	
3	<p><u>Minutes of the previous AGM (Graaff Reinet 2009):</u> These were circulated by email, are on the web, and there were no issues that were raised.</p>	Patrick O'Farrell
4	<p><u>Finances:</u> <u>Financial report:</u> This reflected the finances of the Year 2009 (Financial year is from 01 January to 31st December) Income received – R254 868.49 Expenses - R234 398.24 (Balance R20 470.25)</p> <p>The Current finances reflected: Income: R27415.00 Expenses: R20574.17 (Balance R6840.83) This was at end of September, with further costs still outstanding, as well as income from payments for registration.</p> <p><u>Closure of Missing Funds:</u> Colleen explained about the misappropriation of funds by a former secretary. She had promised to reimburse AZEF, but has not done so to date. An invoice has been sent to her and we await her response. Further action to be taken if she does not reimburse AZEF.</p> <p>c) <u>Funding:</u> Biota sponsored AZEF greatly, but this has now come to an end, and funding/sponsorship needs to be sourced. Suggested applying to NRF who have sponsored AZEF before, Dr Andrew Kaniki. Timm Hoffman PCU, UCT, offered to channel the money through his Unit as is required for NRF funding. Also possible SAEON sponsorship, Johan Pauw SAEON.</p> <p>d) <u>Constitution:</u> It is on the web. It is has not yet been finalized, and we need to firm up on this matter so that AZEF can register as NPO. It was suggested that all have option of making comments, and that closing</p>	S

	<p>date for comments would be 31st October 2010. To send comments to secretariat.</p> <p>Maitland pointed out that Constitution should be regarded as a “working interim constitution”, which would have to be approved at the next AGM.</p> <p>Andy Gubb (WESSA) said that most NGOs have to update their constitutions from time to time and AZEF needs to check what is required as per regulations.</p> <p>Timm Hoffman (UCT) suggested that as SKEP was very much part of AZEF, we could approach them for closer cooperation and suggest that they might sponsor the odd person’s attendance at AZEF.</p> <p>Abe Koopman (SKEP) indicated that they were having a meeting the following week, and that it would be good idea to send him a letter of request from AZEF.</p> <p>Ute Schmiedel (BIOTA) reported that many government departments were short of funding, and that it would be good to help find sponsorship for government staff participating at AZEF.</p> <p>Emma Archer (CSIR) enquired about the SAEON node for Arid Zones, and that it would be good to finalise venue and dates for the next AZEF soon, and send a personalized invite to Johan Pauw from SAEON.</p> <p>SAEON Arid Zones have a vacancy but they are finding it difficult to fill the post...Person to be based in Kimberley.</p>	
5	<p><u>AZEF Website:</u></p> <p>This is being kept up to date more recently, and very successfully so. Costs have not been too high, but possibly because there has not been an active secretariat earlier this year.</p> <p>Because the web seems to have been used a lot recently, we have requested a report on the usage.</p> <p>The committee were happy for AZEF to have a link with WILD which is the Wild Card Magazine which give benefits to members to visit National and provincial parks.</p>	Patrick O’Farrell
6	<p><u>Farmers @ AZEF:</u></p> <p>Mandy reported that it was difficult to get farmers to attend workshops particularly if they had to pay. If we are to continue to involve them, then preparation must be made EARLY. We did have a farmer and two section officers from the vicinity of Gariep attending with reduced rates.</p> <p>Schalk Louw suggested that maybe we could involve the farmers’ co-ops who might generate some funding for farmers to attend.</p> <p>Mandy suggested we should set up our dates round a farmers’ day so that they could coincide and maybe then get more participants.</p> <p>Simon Todd said that Grasslands Society had a half day at their Forum especially for farmers. Suggested getting a farmer as keynote speaker at AZEF!</p> <p>Lulu de Jager suggested negotiating with farmers at their annual conferences for one or more of them to do presentations at AZEF.</p>	Mandy Schuman

	<p>Maybe take the matter up on a provincial level. Also to get local buy- in when they have regional exco meetings. Maitland suggested appointing a nominee from the farmers association on AZEF committee. It was also important to encourage journalists from farmers' magazines to attend AZEF. Or at least pass on info about AZEF to them to circulate/write up in their farmers' magazines. (Amelia Genis, Jorisna Bonthuys, John Yeld.</p>	
7	<p><u>Date and Venue for next AZEF:</u> <u>Venue</u> - It had been agreed that Nieuwoudtville would be the next venue for 2011, and possibly Mohala National Park, Kimberley for 2012. Much discussion revolved around dates- possibly linking up with various other conferences in the area (e.g. @ Kimberley –there is the Kimberley Biodiversity Association). Schalk Louw (UFS) suggested the above, and also to keep a list of possible venues (e.g. Pofadder). He knows this association and would link up with them. <u>Dates:</u> Need to finalise soon. To check international & local conference dates. It was suggested being held back-to-back after SKEP which is in September at vanRhynsdorp. If AZEF is held in Nieuwoudtville, October is the best month when there is more accommodation after the flower season. No dates were finalized, and this would be finalized asap once venue sourced at Nieuwoudtville.</p>	
8	<p><u>Additional points for Agenda:</u> Relationship with SKEP: This is being strongly encouraged, with Abe Koopman at Springbok and Shahieda Davids at SANBI, Kirstenbosch. A link between SKEP & AZEF webs was approved. Research: Colleen Seymour reported that the Dept of Environment Affairs was developing a strategy for “Dryland Degradation” and they have about R8 million for this research. They are looking for expertise in arid water degradation, mining, deforestation, and are holding a workshop in Pretoria mid November. Anybody interested are welcome to get details from her. There is also some satellite based research looking at land degradation in RSA. Pippin Anderson indicated that we should send a very strong motivation to them that AZEF be very involved with the above research in drylands. Participants were encouraged to email anything to WMP for the web.</p>	
9	<p><u>Election of Steering Committee:</u> Patrick O'Farrell chairperson stepped down. Colleen Seymour stepped down.</p>	

	<p>Marinda Avenant, Maitland Seaman, Philip Desmet, Kirsten Fourie & Rhoda Malgas also resigned from the committee.</p> <p><u>Current Members remaining on:</u> Simon Todd, Clement Cupido, Mandy Schuman and agreed to stay on.</p> <p><u>New members:</u> Pippin Anderson nominated Christy Bragg, and she was approved by all. Abe Koopman nominated Shahieda Davids who was approved by all. Doreen nominated Schalk Louw who was approved by all.</p> <p><u>Other members:</u> It was not certain whether Mirielle Lewarne and Noel Oettle wished to remain on the committee. This would be confirmed with them again.</p> <p><u>Thanks:</u> The outgoing chair thanked Colleen Seymour for all her help. He also thanked Tessa Oliver for all her secretariat help, and Wendy Paisley, new secretariat. Igshaan was thanked for his Audio Visual expertise. Thanks were also extended to the outgoing chair and committee for their inspiring work on AZEF committee. The new committee would meet a little later to appoint the chair, and assign roles to the members.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 2010-2011:</p> <p>At a meeting held later at Gariep, the following persons were nominated in the various roles:</p> <p>Chairperson: Simon Todd for 2010-2011. Vice Chair: Clement Cupido. Treasurer: Christy Bragg Secretariat: Wendy Paisley</p> <p><u>Other Committee Members:</u> Igshaan Samuels Mandy Schuman Noel Oettle Schalk Louw Shahieda Davids Ute Schmiedel</p>	

ATTENDANCE LIST AGM

AZEF @ GARIEP DAM 2010

5th October 2010 18h00:

No	Name	Present	No	Name	Present
1	Patrick O'Farrell		31		
2	Colleen Seymour		32		
3	Wendy Paisley		33		
4	Simon Todd		34		
5	Christy Bragg		35		
6	Maitland Seaman		36		
7	Doreen Atkinson		37		
8	Igshaan Samuels		38		
9	Clement Cupido		39		
10	Mandy Schuman		40		
11	Schalk Louw		41		
12	Priscilla Burgoyne		42		
13	Adriaan Fortuin		43		
14	Abe Koopman		44		
15	LA de Jager		45		
16	Lietsie Coetzee		46		
17	Andy Gubb		47		
18	Tony Palmer		48		
19	Ute Schmiedel		49	APOLOGIES	
20	MT Hoffman		50	Mike Rutherford	
21	Pippin Anderson		51	Tessa Oliver	

22	W Pretorius		52	Philip Desmet	
23	Lindie Smith Adoa		53	Noel Oettle	
24	Betsie Milne		54	Rhoda Malgas	
25	Shahieda Davids		55	Mireille Lewarne	
26	Melvin Swarts		56	Marinda Avenant	
27	Ogidan Gbenge		57		
28	Emma Archer		58		
29	Renielwa Maentja		59		
30	Natasha Gabriels		60		