



Minutes for the 18th AGM of the Constructed Wetland Association

WWT Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, UK, 27th September 2017, 16:30

Present:

Geoff Sweaney	Chair	Wetland Engineering
Clodagh Murphy	Committee member	ARM Ltd
Matt Simpson	Committee member	Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Consulting
Helen Nicholls	Administrator (minute taker)	
Stewart Moir	Committee member	Moir Environmental
John Williams		University of Portsmouth
Alexandra Cooke		Severn Trent Water
Murad J Bino		INWRDAM
David Austin		CH2M
Ben Gersten		University of Cardiff

Apologies for absence:

Geoff Durno	Treasurer	Reeds from Seeds
Catherine McIlwraith	Secretary	Eden Rivers Trust
Tristan Josh	Committee member	Eco-Tech Systems
Rick Hudson		Cress Water Solutions
Chris Weedon		Watercourse Systems

Welcome
Geoff Sweaney opened the meeting and welcomed all.
Minutes of the last meeting
The minutes of the last AGM were approved.
Matters Arising
None.
Chairperson's Report
The chairperson's report is attached. In summary, it covered the following: The past year's projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">12th CWA conference in association with European Waste Water Management in Manchester, UK in October 2016.

- The new model for the 13th annual conference at Slimbridge with educational workshops and presentations
- The signing of a memorandum of cooperation between the CWA and the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) Europe chapter
- New CWA website with active members' pages
- Launch of the CWA design guidelines for small sewage discharges produced in consultation with the Environment Agency (EA)
- Ongoing CPD course in conjunction with CIWEM

Projects for the coming year

- CWA symposium at the SWS Europe 13th annual meeting in Macedonia, April 2018
- Launch of the CWA Accreditation scheme
- Relaunch of the CWA-CIWEM one-day training courses
- Updating the UK constructed wetland sites database

Treasurer's Report

The treasurers report is attached. In summary, it covered the following:

- The CWA currently holds £17000 in the bank account
- 2015-16 reported a loss of £4193 which was anticipated
- 2016-17 currently reports a loss of £1568 which was anticipated

Discussion on the topic of income included the following points:

- A plan to boost annual revenue including a 3-year financial projection would be drawn up
- Revision and availability of the UK sites database would be of interest to universities
- Opportunities to network were of benefit to members
- It is important to articulate the benefits for different categories of member
- The CWA should promote itself as a forum for best practice to water companies

Accreditation

Accreditation arose from a demand on behalf of clients and regulators.

The accreditation process was finalised at the beginning of 2017 and currently 4 members are applying.

Design standard for constructed wetlands to treat septic tank effluent

The case for a design standard arose from a change to the UK regulations for small sewage discharge (SSD) which allowed a discharge exemption for the installation of British Standard-approved package treatment plants. It was felt that this provided an unfair bias against constructed wetlands and that the development of a standard design for constructed wetlands would be beneficial.

The CWA has developed the [CWA GUIDELINES: Constructed Wetlands to Treat Domestic Septic Tank Effluent](#) with the view of getting a design approved for both exemption within SSD regulation and inclusion of constructed wetlands guidelines in building regulations.

SWS affiliation

CWA committee member, Matthew Simpson, is President of the SWS. The CWA has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the SWS and is hoping to spread influence and hold symposia in conjunction with other affiliated wetland associations.

CWA Australasia

The CWA has been contacted by Tom Headley who is interested in setting up a CWA Australasia with other interested partners in the region.

Election of the committee

Catherine McIlwraith stood down as Secretary. Helen Nicholls was elected Secretary on the grounds that this is compatible with the paid role of administrator.

Any other business

Member benefits

The CWA website has a 'Contact Us' facility but the possibility of setting up an open forum for questions and debate was raised. This will be investigated further.

Next AGM

The 2018 AGM will be held in conjunction with the 2018 conference. Date and location to be confirmed.