

SOUTH PACIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL RADIOACTIVITY ASSOCIATION

**Biennial General Meeting
Bali, Indonesia
Thursday 8 September 2016**

Agenda

1. Present and Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. President's Report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Issues on Notice
 - Motion to increase membership fees
7. SPERA 2018
8. Election of New Committee
9. Any Other Business

SOUTH PACIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL RADIOACTIVITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Biennial General Meeting Bali, Indonesia 16:30 Thursday 8 September 2016

Present:

A Bollhofer, E Carey, J Courtier, T Cresswell, F Evans, *K Farrawell*, M Froehlich, *A Gedz*, H Heijnis, G Hirth, R Jeffries, M Johansen, R Lal, *K Lin*, S Long, T Loosz, S Marks, P Masque, *S McNeil*, P Medley, S Mullins, I Natetlic, *E Pudjadi*, B Rowling, S Sdraulig, M Thomas, S Tims, *S Thiruvoth*, K Wilsher, A Zawadski

*Names given in italics are not financial members

Apologies:

Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the 2014 meeting were emailed to current members prior to the meeting, additional copies were provided at the meeting, and in the absence of the Secretary the minutes were read out by S Long.

Proposed that the Minutes be accepted as fair record (Doering/Long): Carried

There were no matters arising.

President's report

The president, Andreas Bollhofer, commented on the success of Executive meetings via teleconference and that the executive should continue to use these into the future. The president also reported on the publication of contributions from SPERA 2014 in a special issue of the Journal of Environmental Radioactivity and wished to thank all reviewers for their efforts in helping to achieve this. The president noted that a formal copy of his report was available at the meeting (attached). During the past 2 years the president attended the 40th ARPS and ARPANSA workshops and has encouraged regional network linkages with IUR.

The president also thanked the Secretary and the Treasurer and committee members for their efforts over the last two years.

Secretary's report

In the absence of the secretary, Che Doering, the report provided was read out by Peter Medley (attached). A major issue was the SPERA website replacement.

SL noted we could get a Template website set up and continue it on a commercial site for ~\$1000 per year. There was discussion on the possibility of using Facebook or Twitter – these

would be good for newsletters (HH), but ownership and security of the data (eg member details) was an issue (ST). SL noted the web site should act as a shop front for SPERA.

Treasurer's report

The treasurer, Stephen Long, noted that copies of the report (attached) had been distributed to the members and that SPERA's current financial position was sound. The situation this year has been complex as the conference account has been run through SPERA's account for operational reasons. Details are in the report, which notes a projected loss for the conference of ~\$6600, leading to an overall decrease in SPERA's financial position of ~\$2500. The treasurer also noted the experience with using CVENT for the conference website was excellent.

Issues on notice:

A motion to increase Membership fees was considered. After some debate SL proposed membership fees be increased to \$75 per year, seconded by ST: **Carried**. There is no change to student membership fees (still \$20/year).

A motion was also put forward (SL) for the committee to actively promote the development of a new (template based) website, with the goal of the new site to be available in 12 months, seconded by AB: **Carried**. P Medley will assist with this.

SPERA 2018

The president called for nominations for SPERA 2018. Nominations for a combined ARPS/SPERA event in Melbourne, and for conferences in Perth and Christchurch, NZ, were received. The President asked for a pitch from each group.

Cameron Jefferies, representing ARPS, noted there will be a regional congress in Melbourne on the 20-23 May, 2018. ARPS is a member of the Asia and Oceania Association for Radiation Protection (AOCR). The idea is that SPERA would be one of five parallel sessions. Expect ~400 attendees.

Pere Masque nominated Perth. SPERA has never been held there. He can get some government assistance to hold the conference, and potential for Edith Cowan University and University of Western Australia to contribute. PM proposed an applications course in oceanic studies to link in with SPERA 2018. Would be held in October and expect contributions to be converted to papers as per usual.

Michelle Thomas nominated the University of Canterbury as the next venue for SPERA. They have new labs (following the Christchurch earthquake) and the conference would be held during the term break.

The Spera membership voted to hold the SPERA 2018 in Perth, but noted we should also try to have representation at ARPS, and encourage ARPS to have representation at SPERA.

Election of new committee

In order for a new committee to be appointed, the present executive positions were dissolved in turn and the following committee elected:

President: Emma Carey Proposed/Seconded Bollhofer/Long
No other nominations. Accepted.

Emma Carey then took control of the meeting for the remaining business.

Vice President: Pere Masque Proposed/Seconded Carey/Hirth
No other nominations. Accepted.

Treasurer: Stephen Long Proposed/Seconded Tims/Hirth
No other nominations. Accepted.

Secretary: Tom Cresswell Proposed/Seconded Long/ Heijnis
No other nominations. Accepted.

Committee members: Nicholas Hermanspann Proposed/Seconded Thomas /Tims
Steve Tims Proposed/Seconded Bollhofer/Medley
No other nominations. Accepted.

Any other Business

H Heijnis: Thanked and congratulated the outgoing members, and the conference committee members for the success of a wonderful event in Bali.

S Long: There is a proposal from IUR to make stronger links with SPERA. We should try to hold a future conference in conjunction with an IUR regional forum.

P Medley: Seconded.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 5:55 pm.

SPERA President's Report: 2015-2016

After the successful 13th SPERA Conference in September 2014 in Darwin, Australia, regular meetings via teleconference of the SPERA Executive Committee were held, e.g. regarding the SPERA Special Issue in the *Journal of Environmental Radioactivity* or the location of the SPERA 2016 Conference. Organisation of the 2016 conference by the ARPANSA Conference Organising Committee began early and took much of the members' time, and frequency of teleconferences understandably declined; not helped by my move overseas at the end of 2015. I would like to congratulate the Conference Organising Committee of this year's conference for their ongoing commitment and endurance in organising the 14th SPERA conference in Bali, and also thank the outgoing SPERA Executive Committee, which have so much supported SPERA over the past two years. I recommend the Executive Committee continue to have regular teleconferences, where decisions and changes to the Association are discussed and transparent to SPERA and its members.

SPERA has been very successful over the past two years. We had the SPERA 2014 Special Issue published in the *Journal of Environmental Radioactivity*, which was available electronically within 12 months of the conference and significantly increased the international visibility of our association. Fifteen selected papers were published in this Special Issue and it would not have been possible without the strong commitment of the SPERA Executive Committee and all the authors and reviewers.

SPERA also managed to enforce linkages to the International Union of Radioecology (IUR). After a visit of myself to the inaugural meeting of the global IUR 'FORUM' in Aix-en-Provence, France, in 2014, these linkages were in particular strengthened over the course of 2015 by ARPANSA. The initiation of the IUR Regional Forum Meeting: '*Strengthening Radioecology in the Asia-Pacific*' is a great opportunity for SPERA to be a part of a forum in environmental radioactivity and radioecology research, with a focus on problem-oriented regional objectives and capacity building measures provided by the SPERA member-organisations. Being part of such a regional forum is a great step forward after the MoU between the IUR and SPERA, which was signed by both associations in 2012.

In my role as President of SPERA, I have given presentations at ARPANSA, Melbourne, as part of initial discussions on a Regional IUR Forum, and at the 40th Australasian Radiation Protection Society (ARPS) conference in Canberra, 7 October 2015, to introduce our Association to those who have not heard of SPERA and increase our visibility in Australasia and elsewhere.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as President of SPERA, in particular the dedication, the scientific exchange and friendship amongst the Association members. 2016 marks the 25th anniversary of the Association. I will continue to be a member and hope to stay in contact with all of you in the future.

Andreas Bollhoefer, President 4 September 2016

SPERA Secretary's Report: 2015-2016

1. Journal of Environmental Radioactivity special issue SPERA 2014

Selected papers from the SPERA 2014 conference were published in a special issue of the Journal of Environmental Radioactivity volume 151 (part 3). The Secretary thanks all authors and reviewers for their contributions, as well as SPERA President Dr Andreas Bollhöfer for championing the editorial process.

2. SPERA domain name

Registration of the SPERA domain name spera.org.au has renewed on 11 September 2015 for a period of two years.

3. SPERA website

The possibility of re-developing the SPERA website and moving it from the ANU server to a commercial server was investigated during 2015–16. A number of commercial website developers were contacted, but none were interested in taking on the job for the budgeted amount of up to \$10,000.

The website continues to be hosted on the ANU server and requires someone with access to the ANU server to effectively update it. There is currently one known SPERA member with such access. Transitioning to a commercial server would mean that the website could (in theory) be accessed and updated by anyone if appropriate access permission. This would reduce the risk of the website becoming inaccessible should no one have access to the ANU server in the future.

4. Union of International Associations

The issue of SPERA's inclusion into the Union of International Associations (UIA) was raised at the 2014 BGM by the membership. SPERA has since had its details included in the UIA yearbook, but no active involvement in its round-table meetings.

5. SPERA newsletter

The issue of the SPERA newsletter was raised at the last BGM. There were no newsletter contributions received in 2015–16 and subsequently no newsletters published during this period.

Che Doering
2 September 2016

SPERA Treasurer's Report: 2015-2016

Overview

The SPERA finances for this financial year (and the next) are complicated by the fact that the main accounts are being used as the operating accounts for the SPERA2016 conference. Although not ideal, this was necessitated by the inability of the Indonesian conference organiser to operate an account of behalf of SPERA2016.

Financial Summaries

2015 – 2016 Financial Year:

Opening Balance	\$ 27280.75
Income	\$ 25660.01
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 28256.80</u>
Closing Balance	\$ 24683.96

Excluding transactions associated with the SPERA 2016 conference:

Income comprises:

- 33 full annual subscriptions, at \$50 each

Expenses comprise:

- account fees on the main account (\$120)
- transaction fees on the PayPal account (2.4% + \$0.30 per payment = \$54.12)

SPERA2016 Website

The Indonesian conference organiser was unable to provide a conference website.

The SPERA2016 organising committee had initially hoped to use the main SPERA website for the conference. However, it was found that the current website is difficult to manage by the current personnel.

The SPERA2016 organising committee proposed using a company, Cvent, which specifically provides event websites.

The SPERA executive committee agreed to the cost of \$3000 for the provision of the website. While expensive, this did enable a highly functional website to be rolled out in time to start taking early registrations.

The SPERA2016 organising committee are seeking guidance as to whether this cost should be included in the cost of running the conference.

SPERA2016

As previously announced, the Indonesian National Nuclear Energy Agency (BATAN) is now co-hosting the SPERA 2016 conference in conjunction with ARPANSA.

The financial arrangement that has been struck is that BATN will contribute IDR120,000,000 (~\$12k) to the cost of the combined conference. SPERA will be responsible for all financial arrangements for the combined conference through the Indonesian conference organiser Globalindo. In recognition of its contribution, BATAN is able to register a number of participants to SPERA2016 and the workshop at no extra cost.

Initial budget estimates placed the total cost of the conference at ~\$28000 (excluding the cost of the website). This figure formed the basis of the registration fee. Unfortunately, additional costs were identified after registration had opened.

Currently, the SPERA2016 organising committee is projecting a loss of ~\$6600, including the website cost.

Financial Membership

SPERA has 31 financial members as at July 31. This is a 25% decrease in financial membership compared with this time last year.

SPERA also has approximately 60 non-financial members in its database.

SPERA Website

Recent experience with the current website indicates that we need to move to a website that is easier to use.

Moving to a commercial platform will incur additional, ongoing costs for the association.

A quick online search indicates that this cost would be in the range of \$200-\$400 per year.

Such a cost could be justified simply on the basis that it would enable better communication with members, particularly regarding upcoming conferences.

Subscription Fee

Given that the association is supported by only 30-40 regular members, moving to a commercial website provider would necessitate an increase in membership fees to at least \$100 per annum.

I propose that the registration fee be increased to \$100 per annum.

Stephen Long, Treasurer, 18/08/2016

Certified as a true record of the SPERA 2016 Biannual general meeting

Emma Carey (President)

Per Masque (Vice President)

Che Doering (Outgoing Secretary)

Tom Cresswell (Secretary)

Stephen Long (Treasurer)