
SOUTHERN AFRICA REVENUE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

DATE: 09 July 2014

TIME: 16h30-19h00

VENUE: Knysna

MEMBERS:

Rhode, Michael	President	Knysna	Present
Maphaka, Maboe	President Elect/Gauteng Chair	Eskom	Present
Olivier, William	Imm Past President	Mossel Bay Municipality	Present
Lelaka, Malesela	Past President	Eskom	Present
Louw, Deon	Past President	Drakenstein Municipality	Apology
Gower, Chris	Past President/Eastern Cape	Buffalo City Municipality	Present
De Vries, Paul	W Cape Branch Chair	Drakenstein	Present
Jam, Kgomotso	Eskom Representative	Eskom Representative	Present
Laubscher, Andrew	Bushveld Branch Chair	Greater Tzaneen Municipality	Present
Makulani, Tshilidzi	DWA Representative	DWA	Apology
Mbobo, Pam	Central Branch Chair/AMEU	Centlec	Apology
Muller, Louise	Representative	IMFO	Present
Nkwanyana, Nathi	KZN Branch Representative	eThekwini	Apology
Selowa, Solly	Representative	DWA	Apology
Usurua, Theofilia	Namibia Branch Chair	City of Windhoek	Apology
Bindeman, Rens	Technical Advisor	Revenue Investigations	Present
Zwane, Njabulo	Mpumalanga Branch Chair	Mbombela Municipality	Apology
Venter, Jean	General Secretary	SARPA	Present

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The president welcomed members present and noted the above apologies. The secretary confirmed that a quorum was present.

The president specifically welcomed Ms Louise Muller, the president of the Institute of Municipal Finance Officers to the meeting. IMFO was a founding member of SARPA and the organisation has a constitutional position on the SARPA executive council.

2. READING AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting that was held on 11 March 2014.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND MEMBERSHIP

The council adopted the audited annual financial statements for the year ended December 2013 tabled by the general secretary, and **NOTED** year to date management statements.

Members debated the focus on electricity within SARPA and suggested that other aspects of utility revenue protection should also be pursued with more vigour. The implementation of the new membership fees structure was reviewed and already it has rendered revenue levels nearly double that of the previous year.

AGREED to refer to “Large Utilities” in descriptors for the large membership fee levels.

[Andrew Nkosi, Roberta Govender]

AGREED to strongly increase co-operation with IMFO on training, event content and branch meeting arrangements around the country.

[Louise Muller, Rens Bindeman, Michael Rhode, Branch Chairs]

4. IURPA

The president attended the recent board meeting of IURPA as the Africa representative. The IURPA website has been updated to reflect the president as being the Africa representative. The president then provided a brief overview of the IURPA conference and suggested that in South Africa there should be a strong focus on dedicated revenue protection functions in utilities.

AGREED to report to members on the IURPA conference in the SARPA newsletter.

[Michael Rhode, Dion Abrahams]

5. BRANCH MEETINGS

The Bushveld Branch reported record attendance. There may be merit in also combining IMFO meetings into the meeting cluster which currently includes AMEU and SARPA in that area. Copper theft is on the increase in the region. Good Hope had a smaller than expected meeting. Eastern Cape reported a pleasing thirty two delegates attended their most recent meeting. The Eastern Cape Branch is now chaired by Martin Labuschagne from the Department of Water Affairs. SALGA is also now participating in the Eastern Cape SARPA branch. In Gauteng, the attendance from affiliate companies was very good but more utility members will be welcomed. The meeting was seen as a good success though. The Free State reported a good turnout of utility members. There appears to be merit in clustering meetings in the Free State Northern Cape with meetings of IMFO and Mr Bindeman and Ms Muller will pursue the matter under the general co-operation resolution minuted under finance and membership. The most recent meeting in KZN was good from a content perspective but attendance was down due to the absence of eThekweni members. Mr Bindeman advised of a recent meeting between himself, the secretary and a number of affiliate companies in Johannesburg to better understand the needs of the affiliates and to encourage their support for SARPA events.

6. STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS

Institute of Municipal Finance Officers: It was noted that PwC supported IMFO with venues for branch meetings at their offices around the country and may be prepared to also do this for SARPA events. The next IMFO convention will be in October in Cape Town.

AGREED

- a. That SARPA may participate in a dedicated breakaway session on revenue protection at the IMFO Conference.
- b. To provide a list of branch chairmen contact details to Ms Muller to assist in linking branch operations of the organisations more closely.

[Rens Bindeman, Louise Muller]

Association of Municipal Electricity Utilities: Mr Rhode reported briefly on the organisation. It was noted that Ms Pam Mbobo is now the new representative of AMEU at SARPA. Mr Rhode advised that some AMEU members were of the opinion that SARPA should be merged with the AMEU, and wanted to meet with the SARPA leadership.

AGREED that Mr Olivier will represent SARPA at meetings of the AMEU. The AMEU to be advised.

[Cindy Maree]

ESKOM: It was reported at that meeting that Eskom is looking to increase the use of split metering type systems. Approximately twenty five thousand of these meters were energised recently in Dobsonville, but this was not well received by the local community. Members suggested that much stronger legislation is needed to stop copper theft. The Eskom smart meter pilot project was reported to be well on track using standardised PLC UMSA communication protocols provided by Landis+Gyr.

Power Institute of East and Southern Africa: The secretary advised of a restructuring of activities of PIESA that is in progress which is likely to more broadly engage affiliate members of PIESA into its activities and increase the number of PIESA member events across the continent.

Electricity de France: The secretary advised of a visit to the EDF offices in Sandton to look at increasing support from EDF for SARPA and PIESA. A follow up meeting to be held in the near future.

7. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Mr Bindeman then tabled a written report which was adopted. The matter of how to fully close the loop on providing training to members, offered in terms of the new membership fees structure, was discussed and members were reminded that an important part of the project was that procurement of RP services by municipalities must require training and professionalisation of suppliers, insisted on in tender specifications.

AGREED

- a. To publish the report of the technical advisor to the members.
- b. To arrange a workshop for the executive council, including other relevant stakeholders, to develop terms for a guideline to municipalities, for inclusion into tenders covering revenue protection services.

[Cindy Maree, Dion Abrahams, Rens Bindeman]

8. OTHER MATTERS

AGREED to remove items 13, 14 and 15, respectively dealing with second hand goods act, branch governance and NRS project from the agenda for future meetings.

[Cindy Maree]

Members noted that utility product loss statistics are now also published as per regulation to the financial statements of municipalities and can be obtained from the website of the National Treasury.

AGREED that the president will request non-technical electricity loss statistics from NERSA.

[Michael Rhode]

9. CONVENTION 2015

AGREED

- a. To implement a best paper award at future conventions. Messrs Lelaka, Gower and de Vries to adjudicate for the current convention.
- b. To hold the 2015 Convention in August in Mbombela.

[Melindi Snyman]

10. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

18 November 2014

11. CLOSURE

The president thanked members and closed the meeting.

Thus read and confirmed:

PRESIDENT

DATE