

Name of Branch or Division	Anaerobic and Sludge Processes Division	
Period covered	From: Oct 2005	To: Feb 2006
For meeting of Council on	23 February 2006	

Report

Committee:

- The Management Committee was elected at the Divisional AGM held on 11 August 2005 at the Sandton Convention Centre:

Dr H Snyman (Golder Associates Africa (Pty) Ltd.)	Chairperson
Ms F Bakker (Golder Associates Africa (Pty) Ltd.)	Secretary
Mrs H Greben (CSIR)	Newsletter Editor
Mr G Borain (Umgeni Water)	Webpage Design
Mrs E Herselman (Golder Associates Africa (Pty) Ltd.)	Treasurer
Mr A Mbelu (Golder Associates Africa (Pty) Ltd.)	Young Professional
Mrs M Hinsch (Department of Water Affairs and Forestry)	Member
Dr J Maree (CSIR)	Member
Ms M van der Schyff (Mogale City)	Member

The following Regional Chairpersons are currently active:

Prof P Rose (Rhodes University) Regional Chairperson Eastern Cape Group
Mrs B Nel (WSSA) Regional Chairperson Kwazulu Natal Group

Current Membership:

- 319 ASP members (updated January 2005).

Activities for the Period:

- A divisional meeting was held on 25 November 2005. This meeting was used to reflect on the activities of 2005 and plan for 2006.

Future Activities:

- WISA ASP will be co-hosting 9 regional workshops on the development of Volume 3 of the Sludge Guidelines that deals with the Requirements for the on-site and off-site disposal of sludge. We also plan to distribute Volume 1 (Selection of Management Options) and 2 (Requirements for the Agricultural Use of Sludge) at these workshops if they are printed in time. The following workshop dates have been confirmed:
 - 13 March 2006 – Mpumalanga Province
 - 15 March 2006 – Eastern Cape Province
 - 23 March 2006 – Gauteng Province
 - 27 March 2006 – Northern Cape Province
 - 29 March 2006 – North West Province
 - 4 April 2006 – Kwazulu Natal Province
 - 11 April 2006 – Limpopo Province

- 25 April 2006 - Free State Province
- 3 May 2006 - Western Cape Province
- WISA ASP are planning an event in Kwazulu-Natal on Sludge Management Issues Related To Marine Outfalls in the light of the new Policy related to the "Disposal of land derived water containing waste to the marine environment".
- The next ASP Management Committee Meeting is scheduled for 24 February 2006.

Financial:

- ASP is in a sound financial position and shows a positive balance of R 118 027.68 on 1 January 2006.

General:

Dr van Niekerk (Golder Associates) has approached WISA ASP with a proposal to host a 3 day training session on anaerobic digestion and the beneficial use of wastewater sludge in agriculture in the second half of 2006. This proposal will be tabled for discussion at the next ASP Management Committee Meeting is scheduled for 24 February 2006

Attachments: Report on the Joint IWA/WISA ASP Conference on The Management of Residues Emanating from Water and Wastewater Treatment

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Report on the conference:

THE MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUES EMANATING FROM WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa in 9-12 August 2005

Background

The Conference Organising Committee and the International Technical Programme Committee are proud to present this report on the outcome of the conference hosted by the IWA Sludge Management Division and the Anaerobic and Sludge Processes Division of WISA.

The conference had a bumper technical programme with three parallel sessions covering a wide range of topics on the management of water residues. The idea of hosting a conference that focuses on the management of organic and inorganic residues (sludge and brine) emanating from the treatment of water and wastewater was approved in 2003 at the Management Board meeting of the IWA Specialist Group on Sludge Management which coincided with the Biosolids 2003 conference on Wastewater Sludge as a Resource, held in Trondheim. The committee, lead by Prof Ludovico Spinosa (Italy) recognised that wastewater sludge has in the past received much more attention than water treatment residues and other residues such as industrial water treatment sludge and brines. The IWA Specialist Group on Sludge Management and the local WISA Anaerobic and Sludge Management Division joined to organise the first conference that deals with all water and wastewater treatment residues.

The "gamble" paid off as over 90 abstracts streamed in from both local and international participants. Based on these contributions 66 oral presentations and 12 poster presentations were selected. Topics cover all aspects of wastewater sludge management as well as full sessions on potable water treatment residues, mining and industrial residues.

This conference is also unique as a parallel IWA/WISA Conference on Diffuse Pollution is hosted in the same venue. Each delegate automatically receives the conference documentation for both conferences and delegates are reminded that you are not only restricted to the Residues Conference.

Feedback from delegates indicated that they enjoyed the conference and actively participated in the workshops and discussion sessions as well as the social programme.

Conference organising committee

The following people members comprised the organising committee.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dr Heidi G Snyman	Golder Associated	Chairperson
Mr Gordon Borain	Umgeni Water	Treasurer
Mr Meiring du Plessis	Water Research Commission	Technical Programme
Ms Harma Greben	CSIR	Sponsors
Ms Manda Hinsch	DWAF	Technical Tours
Prof Blanca Jimenez	Mexico	IWA Representative
Mr Wally Mayne	WISA	Sponsors and Logistics
Mr Rowan Moss	Scatterlings of Africa	Conference Organiser
Prof Paul Slatter	Dept. of Civil Engineering Cape Peninsula Univ. of Technology	Technical Programme

I would personally like to thank this wonderful team for their tireless efforts to ensure that the conference and post conference technical tour was a success.

International technical programme committee

The following people members comprised the international technical programme committee.

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Prof. Ludovico Spinosa (Chairperson)	Italy – IWA Specialist Group: Sludge Management (Host Organization)
Dr Heidi G Snyman (Chairperson)	South Africa – WISA Anaerobic and Sludge Management Division (Host organisation)
Dr Peter Balmér	Sweden
Prof Steven Dentel	USA
Dr David Dixon	Australia
Prof Michael Dohanyos	Czech Republic
Prof George Ekama	South Africa
Prof Jeffrey Hughes	South Africa
Prof Blanca Jiménez-Cisneros	Mexico
Prof Helmut Kroiss	Austria
Prof Duu-Jong Lee	Taiwan
Dr Johannes Müller	Germany
Prof Hallvard Ødegaard	Norway
Prof Nagaharu Okuno	Japan
Prof Paul Slatter	South Africa
Prof Aarne Vesilind	USA

I would personally like to thank each member of the committee for their time and effort. They assisted the organising committee to develop a technical programme of international standard while still being locally relevant.

Water Science and Technology Publication Committee

The international panel who reviewed the full papers for possible publication in WST consisted of the following individuals:

- Dr Heidi Snyman (South Africa)
- Prof Ludovico Spinosa (Italy)
- Prof Blanca Jimenez (Mexico) – IWA appointed moderator
- Dr Johannes Müller (Germany)
- Prof Duu-Jong Lee (Taiwan)
- Prof Steve Dentel (USA)
- Prof Jeff Hughes (South Africa)
- Prof George Ekama (South Africa)
- Prof Paul Slatter (South Africa)
- Prof Nagaharu Okuno (Japan)

Conference statistics

The following statistics are presented:

- Number of abstracts received: **92 abstracts**
 - 60 International Abstracts
 - 32 Local Abstracts
- Number of oral presentations: **68 oral presentations** included in the technical programme
 - 43 International oral presentations (including 2 invited overseas delegates who delivered keynote addresses and 3 papers that were no-shows due to Flight delays, VISA Problems and Illness)
 - 25 Local oral presentations
- Number of poster presentations: **12 poster presentations** included in the technical programme
 - 10 International poster presentations (Including three no-shows)
 - 2 local poster presentations
- Number of delegates registered for the conference: **272 delegates** (To date, it is still not clear how many of these delegates attended and how many actually paid)
- Number of papers recommended for publication in Water Science and Technology: **33 Papers**
 - 25 International papers (Includes 1 poster paper that was upgraded to a oral presentation)
 - 8 Local papers

Each paper was reviewed by at least 2 reviewers, but typically 3. The review comments were consolidated as detailed in the sections that follow. Where major conflicting reviews were submitted,

the paper was sent to another reviewer for comment. In these cases, the original review comments were revealed to the "new" reviewer.

Financial results

The last financial statement received from the WISA Book Keeper is attached. This shows that a profit of R 47 037.24 was realised. The profit was shared as follows:

- 25% to remain with WISA HO
- 25% to go to IWA-Sludge management
- 25% to go to WISA – ASP Divisional account
- 25% to go to IWA-Diffuse Pollution group

Lessons learned

If someone told me that a conference went without a hitch, they were obviously not part of the organising process or have so little experience in attending conferences that they did not notice the imperfections. If someone asked us to do it again or give advice on what to do differently, we would highlight the following:

- Never, ever, ever underestimate the amount of work and dedication it takes. Be thankful for a good team, they are all volunteers.
- Get someone you can trust with the admin.
- Have a simple registration system with one port of entry to register and pay and update the database daily.
- Have a credit card machine that works on the day of registration
- Pay the conference organiser per delegate that has paid and is attending, not for each delegate that registered (anyone can fill in the registration form)
- Lean heavily on the WISA staff members – We learned that they can take it and do it with a smile.

Concluding remarks

Lastly, I personally want to thank all our sponsors, the Organising Committee and the International Technical Programme Committee for your contributions. Without you, this conference will not be a success. There is also one person who worked tirelessly in the background. She single-handedly handled all the correspondence with the authors, wrote every letter to accept and reject abstracts/papers, chased after authors for full papers, put together abstract book and the content for the proceedings, answered all queries from authors and maintained the communication link between the conference organiser and the technical programme committee. To top it all, she did it for both conferences. We would not have been able to pull it off without Anne Biddlecombe ...thank you Anne.

Heidi G. Snyman (PhD, FWISA,MIWA)
Chairperson of the Organising Committee