

Annual general Meeting for Members (AGMM) #27

Wednesday, June 30 – 2021

Online

I. Opening of the meeting

Everhard Muijzert, President of EAGE opens the meeting and welcomes everyone at the AGMM 2021.

II. Approval of the minutes of last AGMM (Online 2020)

Everhard Muijzert asks to vote of approval for the minutes of the AGMM of 25th June 2020 (online). Voting can be done on this platform using instructions listed in the email received.

III. Interview President and CEO

Marcus Arthur welcomes Marcel van Loon back to the office. Being back at the office feels good in terms of connecting with each other again. Remotely joining the meeting is the President Everhard Muijzert. Everhard comments last year's presidency year was mainly home. Marcel thanks Everhard for his 6 year's of service and commitment to the Association of which 5 years as Secretary Treasurer and last year as President. He also thanks the entire board for their services.

Many disruptions took place over the past year. One of the positive developments is that EAGE was able to become more specialist in online deliveries. Good conferences were created with great attendance in NS and the annual. Everything was done in house that required a lot of flexibility and creativity. More progress was made in line of wishes of the members. Several projects were developed at a rapid pace: EAGE online learning platform, new EAGE website, more online journals.

Everhard had an ambitious goal of broadening the scope of EAGE's focus to an Association for all subsurface geoscience and engineering related disciplines. Marcus asks why this was important now and what the status is in terms of the progress towards the scope?

EAGE is home to many different subsurface, geoscience and engineering topics. The traditional O&G and NearSurface are proof of that. However over the years more disciplines have been developed: in recent years there is a lot of focus on energy transition driven by climate change interest. EAGE's board recently adopted a statement on climate change which can be found on the website. It will come to a focus point later this year with the United Nations COP26 Conference. Various groups are publishing roadmaps including the international energy agency; they recently published an ambitious roadmap on how to get to net carbon neutral energy system. Proposals encompass a very big change in the

energy system. These road maps are outphasing O&G investments however still a lot of interest and new topics related to subsurface geoscience: CO2 storage, gastro-hydrogen conversion, mining (lithium, copper), rare earth element mining, possible sea level rise. EAGE has been developing technical communities who can capture these various topics.

Marcel comments that as a multi disciplinary geoscience organisation, energy transition was already existing many years even before COVID-19. Most successful event on this topic is the GET conference which will be held in Strasbourg. The event and the scope will grow bigger in the near future. Decarbonization and energy transition community started in 2019 and doing very well, also for non-members.

To the question what EAGE is doing to support their members in these difficult times Everhard answers the hardship program is ongoing. People who have lost their jobs or are in between jobs, can apply for reduced membership fee and keep in contact with the Geoscience world. Prices of online courses have also been lowered.

A gradual opening is happening especially in Europe. To the question as to what would be the outlook for the remainder of the year as it relates to in-person meetings, Marcel answers: Due to the vaccination program things are opening up towards a positive outcome. Field lab events are initiated. Europe is preparing for holiday season. Big events are planned after the summer: NearSurface in France and Annual in Amsterdam. The rest of the year looks hopeful.

Hybrid formats of events and fully online events will still be done in the future although looking forward, a large part of the world wants to go back to normal, have workshops, brainstorm sessions. Smaller meetings can be done online. Education online has proved to be working really well.

Marcus thanks Everhard for his service to EAGE the past 6 years and asks what he remembers most fondly over his time with EAGE and what advice he has for incoming board members. Everhard says last year was quite challenging and disappointing. at the same time. He enjoyed working together with a wide range of people, different disciplines, different nationalities and cultures. It has provided him with opportunities to travel to different events and locations around the world. The advice he would like to give is: keep an open mind, meet many people and go to different events where EAGE can be promoted.

- IV. A warm welcome to new incoming board members: Dirk Orlowsky (President), Jean-Marc Rodriguez (Vice-President), Peter Rowbotham (Publication Officer), Lucy Slater (Chair O&G Geoscience Division) and Yohaney Gomez Galarza (Vice-Chair O&G Division).

V. **Secretary Treasurer report & annual accounts 2020**

Pascal Breton presents Board updates and starts by thanking everyone of EAGE for their commitment and support past year. A big thanks to the outgoing board members Ingrid Magnus, Peter Sues and Everhard Muijzert.

2022 new membership fees:

No increase has been applied past 20 years although costs are increasing. To maintain the membership benefits & association support as well as ensuring long-term financial future for the association, the new fee structure will be as follows:

Regular membership 80,- (membership hardship discount applicable)
Retired membership 40,- (membership hardship discount applicable)
Student membership 25,- (membership hardship discount applicable, 1st year membership fee waiver also maintained)

To mitigate the impact, the economic hardship support will have a 50% reduction.

Fees will remain low compared to other international societies and students will not be affected; no increase will be applied for them.

Treasurer's report:

Financial overview 2020

2020 results were severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

- operational result of the association improved due to cost savings
- the investment portfolio recovered towards year end.

The Association focused on maintaining membership service level and was committed to maintain (reduced) Fund spending. EAGE Holding took the largest hit but managed to maintain a healthy cash position.

EAGE Funds 2016 the Board decided to spend 5 million euro in 5 years from the reserves for:

- Education
- Support (travel grant, free registration, local chapters)
- International cooperation (Geothermal Association)

Up to 2020, 3.268k euro was spent (703k in 2020). For 2021 and on, 1.783k euro is available. The EAGE Green Fund spent 12k euro. EAGE Student Fund Foundation spending was 166k euro in 2020.

Profit & Loss account 2020

The loss in EAGE Holding shows almost 1.9 million. This is mainly due to write off of intangible fixed assets and tax latency; only about 0.5 mill is linked to loss from economic

activities. EAGE Holding received up to 1.4 mill in COVID-19 subsidies from the Dutch government in 2020.

Operational results:

comparison 2020 with 2019 we see a decrease in membership revenue due to the crisis in the industry and lack of in-person events. Reduced costs from 888k euro in 2019 to 669k euro in 2020. This was a result of cost reduction where possible and lack of in-person events to organise.

Result EAGE Holding:

- result impact (due to COVID-19 pandemic and cancelling almost all physical events): loss of almost -1.9 million
- investment results 19k in 2020 vs 609k in 2019
- adding all spending in EAGE Funds total loss is almost -2.9 million for 2020

Balance sheet as of 31 December

2020 shows a decrease in reserves of almost 3 million compared to 2019. With an amount of 8 million in reserves, the organization is still healthy. Decrease is mainly due to reduction in EAGE participation because of depreciation and lack of events. Other assets remain stable.

Financial Outlook: 2021 and beyond

The road to recovery starts in 2021. A lot depends on the ability to operate our Annual in October. As successful shift has been made towards online and hybrid business models.

EAGE subsidiaries reduced overhead costs with 1 million euro.

Continued dutch government economic support (wages, fixed costs, taks); wage and fixed costs support up to Q3 – 2021 is approx. 1,5 million euro.

2021 and 2022 steering on break-even (ex. fund spending)

The Association aims to be frugal yet innovative.

VI. Request for approval of annual accounts, discharge of the Board for management of the Association in 2020

This can be done in this online environment. Final reminder will be sent during the Q & A.

VII. Q & A

Caroline le Turdu (Membership & Cooperation Officer), Dirk Orlowsky (incoming President) and Remco Bax (CF&OO) also joined to answer questions.

Q1: In the Secretary Treasurer report for 2019 it was stated that vision 2025 needs to be revised due to COVID, was this revision completed and when will it be shared with the membership?

Answered by Everhard Muijzert:

It delayed the ability for revision indeed, this will be looked at again in the next board meeting in September during the Near Surface Conference. Move to digital events and energy transition will be part of it.

Q2: Does this increase in membership fees mean EAGE will not be increasing the fees in the upcoming years?

Answered by Pascal Breton:

We try to keep the fees as accessible as possible and do our utmost to maintain the fees for the future.

Q3: What is EAGE's position on the proposed merger of the SPE-AAPG?

Answered by Dirk Orłowski:

It is an interesting development in terms of becoming more multidisciplinary especially for the energy transition.. EAGE has embraced this already for a number of years.

Q4: You mentioned hybrid events; what will this look like?

Answered by Caroline le Turdu:

Many members already had the chance to attend the online events last December. Testing of both technical program and exhibition. A similar platform will be available for those who choose to connect to conferences online this year.

Q5: what steps are being planned to recover the financial losses over the last 2 years?

Answered by Pascal Breton:

The losses in the Association and results of activities in the Holding are looking good. Gradual recovery will take place this year. The reserves of the Association are stable. It is important to keep our members engaged in virtual activities and hybrid events.

Q6: With the new membership fees in place, will we see return to full access to EarthDoc for all members?

Answered by Everhard Muijzert:

Following the introduction of the new EarthDoc platform the access to the archive was based on the number of membership years. It was decided not to change this. There are no limitations for students, they will have full access to EarthDoc.

Q7: What is the reduction in membership due to not holding physical events?

Answered by Caroline le Turdu:

There has been a decrease in membership the last couple of years however not too drastic, around 20%. Lot of effort was made in online/hybrid events and creating new communities to keep the membership engaged.

Q8: Can you expand on other liabilities which increased significantly in 2020?

Answered by Remco Bax:

These are actually more or less internal movements between the Association and the Holding. When having a certain amount of cash both organisations will have to pay negative interest. Payments have been delayed coming from the Association to the Holding for services, to reduce the amount of interest that has to be paid to the banks.

Q9: Would you envision to have the EAGE 2022 annual a hybrid event or 100% in person?

Answered by Marcel van Loon:

The annual will be hybrid in Amsterdam in 2021; depending on the experiences of this event 2022 hybrid version will be considered. Circumstances in Europe and the rest of the world will be considered as well. If hybrid will become the future is being monitored.

Q10: Many talented students want to be in touch with EAGE but are unable to make such a connection. Do we have any plans to extend activities in Iran?

Answered by Caroline le Turdu:

We do not have immediate plans for upcoming conferences or in person meetings. However we are keen to connect with members and students. EAGE is offering membership fee waivers and welcoming new EAGE student chapters. Setting up a student chapter is great way to establish a good connection with EAGE.

Q11: What is EAGE doing to make events possible if travel restrictions are still in place?

Answered by Everhard Muijzert:

The next half year the major events will run either as hybrid or online events. Depending on how the situation develops, there will be more focus on onsite and hybrid presence, depending on the local situation of the countries. Continuous developments on online offerings is being done to enable all members from all over the world to join these events.

Q12: Do you expect a drop in membership as result of fee increase?

Answered by Dirk Orlowsky:

Such drop will be minimal. Those who are unable to pay can apply for the hardship programs.

Q13: How can I apply for membership fee support and is this something available to everybody ?

Answered by Caroline le Turdu:

The support will be available through the CMC hardship program application on the EAGE website (membership). Based on the personal situation CMC committee will check everything and determine if the support can be granted.

Q14: Will the chapters who are unable to travel to Amsterdam, be able to participate in the Geo quiz online?

Answered by Marcel van Loon:

Both a physical and online part will be developed for the Geo quiz so everyone has the opportunity to participate.

Q15: Apart from membership fees and conference fees, what other ways do EAGE get funding and are there investments?

Answered by Pascal Breton:

Membership fee and conference fee are very important. More hybrid and virtual activities need to be developed. Income is expected from activities of the Holding as well as the investment portfolio looking good, which will lead to good results.

Q16: In a hybrid event context, will it be possible for members to contribute to its success, for example by participating (...) remotely? Is there a plan B in case of a resumption of the pandemic?

Answered by Caroline le Turdu:

EAGE will do her utmost to make sure members that cannot be present physically will be able to participate and be included in hybrid events. It was tested the entire last year, and will continue and learn from it.

Q17: In the future, can we look forward to being able to choose between alternative candidates for the EAGE officers?

Answered by Everhard Muijzert:

Finding candidates is not always easy. Reaching out to EAGE (through number of surveys and email) is always possible if anyone is interested in board or committees positions. When supported by a number of members it's possible to join the ballot.

Q18: Can I have clarification on what hybrid events entail?

Answered by Caroline le Turdu:

This question is being discussed in the board how to possibly interact with the new members. Hybrid will be physical and online and depends on what we want to achieve. Typical workshops are difficult to organise online. Full digital events were done presentation online from all over the world. There will be a mix and will adapt as we move on.

Q19: Are we still attracting students and what percentage is our student membership?

Answered by Everhard Muijzert:

Students are involved in EAGE attending the online events. New students are still coming in. When in person events start again next year, we will know how many exactly we have.

Q20: I find that EAGE has a local chapter in Nigeria; how is EAGE keeping in touch and creating values for members there? What are the membership drive efforts in Nigeria and in Africa as a whole?

Answered by Caroline le Turdu:

The Local chapter has been there since 2018 and is still alive and organizing events. Anyone interested please reach out to the LC on the EAGE website and get involved.

Q21: What will in person meetings look like and what can I expect?

Answered by Marcel van Loon:

It's not clearly outlined yet however the Near Surface and the Annual will take place this year as planned. Health instructions and regulations of the local country will be followed. Most likely scenario at this point will be: in case people are not vaccinated a test will be executed. It is still not clear if the masks need to be worn.

Q22: Is EAGE merging with SEG and if not why not?

Answered by Dirk Orlowsky:

SEG is a sister society in the USA; merger will not be the case. EAGE is the only one with European roots. Apart from EAGE's own identity, a different perspective on many key challenges, impacting the geoscience community, we believe we have developed an independent, distinctive and multidisciplinary approach and have no reason to change this strategy in which a merger will only be a distraction.

The Q&A section is being closed.

VIII. Announcement of the voting results

Approval minutes 2020: 93% in favor, 6% abstain

Approval of Annual accounts and discharge of the board for management 2020: 95% in favor, 5% abstain

Both are therefor concluded.

IX. Closure of the meeting

Everhard Muijzert expresses his thanks to all the members, fellow board members for the faced key challenges as well as to all EAGE staff who worked on all the meetings.

Coming back to the earlier question about the number of students Everhard says the current amount of students is 22% of the membership. Dirk Orlowsky will now take over the role as President. Everhard wishes Peter Sues and Ingrid Magnus all the best and thanks them for their effort as board member. A special thanks to the team and everyone who worked behind the scenes. Next AGMM will be during 2022 Annual conference 5 - 9 June in Madrid.