



## MINUTES

### AMEU AFFILIATES VIRTUAL MAIN MEETING

#### PLACE

VIA Microsoft Teams

#### TIME

25 January 2022 @ 09:00 – 11:00

Description	Action
<p><b>1. Welcome – Notice convening the meeting</b>            K Rajoo opened the meeting and welcomed all affiliate members, honorary members, committee members, Rens Bindeman (SARPA Technical Advisor) and a special welcome to Jayshree Perhad (AMEU President) and all other attendees to the meeting. She thanked everyone for the time taken to attend the meeting.</p> <p><b>2. Moment of silence – Derek Watson</b>            A moment of silence was held for Derek Watson who passed away on 28 December 2021. Obviously, he was quite well known to everyone, and especially the KZN branch of the AMEU. K Rajoo stated that she would like to take the opportunity to recognise those who have lost somebody within the industry, someone that they may have known, and wanted to acknowledge all of them in the meeting minutes.</p> <p><b>3. Attendance and apologies</b>            50 members attended the meeting including K Rajoo, D Turton, P Padayachee, G Arons, Stan Wilson, G Dick, C Mdwaba, E Senatle, LUH Colleen, T Chetty, E Coetzee, B Wagner, R Bartle, R Bindeman, V Perumal, H Hayes, A Cameron, M Buckner, S Wilson, H Kahari, A Mabena, S Skosana, S Hoohlo, Searle Wilson, T Milne, B Roode, D Henriksen, J Evershed, S Poo, T Maphanga, T Brown, W Vermaak, M Jason, A Sishuba, T Seiphetho, P Machili, F Govender, Y Zeelie, P Ntsekhe, P Li, E Pereira, G Ferreira, M Mokwena, T Mdwaba, S Sigalelana, G Mondli, M Rahner, J Venter, M van Meygaarden, J Burn.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Vally Padayachee (AMEU Strategic Advisor), Hannes Roos and Lomille Modisele ,the WIE chairperson. 58 people declined.</p>	

K Rajoo asked J Pershad if she would like to address the main meeting. She responded by wishing all affiliates present a good morning and stated that hopefully going forward that all municipal members and the AMEU affiliates take the organization to the next level in terms of service delivery and value add. She also added that she wanted the meeting to note her appreciation for all Affiliate members support, both financial and otherwise, especially considering the trying times that all are in. She added that she wished that all have a fruitful meeting.

K Rajoo responded by thanking J Pershad and stated that we do appreciate the sentiments. She added that it was very warming for J Pershad to acknowledge the contributions and the sustainability that has happened throughout COVID and that all members appreciate the acknowledgement.

#### **4. Minutes of previous meeting Proposed / Seconded**

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and K Rajoo asked for a proposer and seconder. P Padayachee proposed and D Turton seconded.

#### **5. Matters arising**

K Rajoo asked J Burn if there were any objections, amendments or anything else that was sent through, she responded that none were put forward.

#### **6. Ad hoc appointment - secretary**

K Rajoo discussed the subject of the ad hoc secretary position. Last year to recap, a notice was sent out after the Affiliates Main Meeting in November 2021 asking for nominations for the co-opted position of affiliate secretary. A nomination was received in respect of Hazel Kahari and we would like to congratulate her on her appointment and welcome her to the Affiliates Committee. J Burn has been filling in as secretary in the interim and will help H Kahari to ensure a smooth takeover. Hazel is from Nyamezela Metering.

#### **7. Correspondence**

No correspondence was received.

#### **8. Memberships**

The amount of paid-up affiliate members for the 2022 year to date is 80. Welcome to the new member, Du Pont.

#### **9. Affiliates Honorary Membership Nominations**

Please send your nominations through for consideration, these are normally awarded at the convention, the criteria for this can be obtained from the AMEU website. J Venter elaborated on the criteria on request from P Padayachee. The Affiliate Honorary

Membership nominations has nothing to do with the AMEU and is considered by the AMEU Affiliates committee members.

## **10. Affiliates Committee feedback**

The 1<sup>st</sup> steering committee meeting of 2022 was held on 18 January 2022. K Rajoo presented the feedback regarding the transformation workshop at the meeting.

K Rajoo gave an overview of the concept of what transformation is and what the aspirations of the committee are. The four main issues were:

What is possible!

What is probable!

What is ambition!

What actions?

The question was about how we go about achieving the transformation which included ownership/responsibility, acceptance, forgiveness, alignment and awareness.

The suggested criteria for AMEU Affiliates steering committee members was also shared with the meeting focusing on diversity, reputation, passion, expertise and time.

K Rajoo also shared the mission and vision of the committee.

The mission statement is as follows.

- Foster good relationships between AMEU Affiliates and Members
- Convey pertinent information concerning AMEU and Industry
- The Affiliates committee must ensure that it serves the best interests and is inclusive of all members.

The vision is as follows:

- Identification of potential committee members for certain key roles
- Mentoring individuals into relevant committee structures and beyond
- Establish a framework

The champion for the transformation project is Paddy Padayachee.

A detailed summary will be shared with the AMEU EXCO for their approval.

## **11. Finance**

The income statement and balance sheet were sent out before the meeting. The bank balances are as follows:

Current Account: R 185 561,38

Market Link Account: R1 945 646,36

Expenditure for the year included an upgraded accounting package and air ticket for K Rajoo up from Durban for the steering

committee meeting and transformation workshop as well as catering on the day. Miscellaneous expenses included a month's subscription to Get4Eyes in order to download a visual report of the survey results which will be shared with members a little later. Also the AMEU was refunded when a company had paid their membership fees over to the AMEU Affiliates bank account.

Total expenses for the year YTD: R 18 115,09

G Arons asked when the portion that the AMEU transfers to the Affiliates in respect of a percentage of membership fees and conference fees. J Burn stated that she could not comment and said it was normally transferred across in December, she asked J Venter to give feedback on the issue. J Venter stated that he could not give feedback either on the amount and would expedite the matter.

**JV**

## **12. Affiliates Golf Day 2022**

A provisional date was booked for 28 April 2022. G Arons thanked N Chetty who was the previous golf coordinator for the seamless transfer of information. A deposit of R30k was paid across to Copperleaf Golf and Country Estate. G Arons suggested another format of only playing 9 holes of golf and asked for comments. He also suggested changing the date as 27 April is a public holiday. It was suggested that the date be moved to early May 2022. H Hayes replied that there would not be any difference in costs when playing either a 9 or 18 hole golf day and asked how many utilities would participate in the golf day. D Turton replied that as the golf day is in Gauteng, one cannot expect a huge turnout from municipalities playing in the golf day. With the current financial situation municipalities are facing, golf is seen as entertainment and travel would not be okayed for that. J Pershad suggested that perhaps focusing on the Business Leadership Breakfast would be a better idea for municipalities to attend.

Within Gauteng, there are three Metros and a number of smaller municipalities that could possibly participate with no real cost to themselves and G Arons asked whether the AMEU President could relay the message about people attending from the Metros and municipalities. It was agreed to keep the format of 18 holes and change the date to mid May 2022. G Arons will contact the golf club and arrange accordingly. J Pershad agreed to relay the message re attendance from metros and municipalities when the invitation is sent out and other networking events could be looked at for other provinces. K Rajoo asked for ideas for other networking events from Affiliate members (either to place in the chat box or to email the secretary with ideas). J Venter stated that we will be going back to physical meetings, and suggested combining 9 holes of golf with a branch meeting as that had been done in the past. G Arons suggested asking municipalities arrange a one on one personal interaction (keeping COVID precautions)

**GA**

**JP**

and hoped that this would happen sooner than the second half of the year.

D Turton brought up the Good Hope branch as an example regarding how they arrange their meetings. They are arranged out of the main city and there is always a braai, events should be spread out amongst all branches. J Venter stated that one will always compete with the digital world so branch meetings will need to have something special arranged to get people there physically. He suggested also arranging a physical tour of different power plants or similar to create interest. D Turton suggested waiting for G Arons to go through the feedback survey and perhaps the results might help in what to do regarding branch meetings.

**ALL**

J Burn stated that many years ago the committee tried to get a golf day arranged for KZN and could not get any interest from anyone, most people want to leave immediately after a meeting. She suggested that D Turton being the branch coordinator bring up the idea at branch meetings to see if there is interest regarding holding a 9-hole golf day combined with a branch meeting.

**DT**

K Rajoo suggested that this be put on as a standing item on all branch meeting agendas.

### **13. AMEU Virtual Convention 2021 Feedback – results of survey**

G Arons presented the results of the survey of the AMEU virtual convention.

The survey was sent out to all Affiliate company mail addresses by the Affiliate Secretary in December 2021. 3 weeks were allocated for responses. All indications point to a number of 26 respondents. Names were not compulsory and some members opted not to provide their names. The responses can in no way be linked to any respondent. The survey response related to two separate matters, namely the conference feedback and affiliate experience.

The summary was that there were mixed reactions from the survey. The conference overall was well received. SWAPCARD would never be recommended by the Affiliates committee for any option in the future and the virtual booths were a failure. Affiliates would possibly consider exhibiting at 'FACE to FACE' future conferences. The question is how many members will attend the convention? The process of registration needs to happen a lot earlier than what it normally would take place. Members need to be registered as soon as possible to allow affiliate members to make a decision about spending a lot of money to bring equipment and build expensive displays if very few members are going to

attend. G Arons suggested that perhaps for the next two conferences exhibitions go back to how they used to be with pullup stands and brochures which would mean minimal costs for exhibitors. Member registration will determine what affiliate members will do as regards exhibition expenditure.

This feedback will also be distributed with the minutes.

K Rajoo thanked G Arons for the report that he presented.

J Venter stated that there are no real surprises as regards the survey and digital booths are difficult to showcase in a hybrid or virtual conference situation. He stated that a physical conference is the way to go and the biggest challenge is member registration as municipalities take forever to register.

The conference has been planned for 2 – 5 October 2022 in Durban. J Venter suggested that because of the risks affiliate companies keep their costs low and not spend too much money on exhibition stands as the conference will be a hybrid one and the challenge is to showcase your stand digitally. The stand will need to be virtual as well as physical to cater for the entire audience and this will be the challenge.

G Arons replied that one needs to check the number of people who logged on for the various presentations and ask is there any difference between that attendance there and at a physical conference. Hybrid conferences if given the option to members – no one will attend the physical conference apart from those based in KZN. He stated that the hybrid option would not be a success – there should be either a physical or virtual conference. Municipalities are financially cash strapped and the question is whether affiliates would spend money with no guarantee of anyone attending the physical conference.

K Rajoo agreed with G Arons sentiments and reiterated the statement re having a face-to-face conference and not having a virtual conference as that works the best for affiliate companies. She also stated that the hybrid conference should not be an option.

J Venter stated that preliminary messaging that has gone out is stating that the conference will be a face-to-face conference but that a challenge might come from municipalities insisting on a hybrid conference as they will not attend a physical one.

K Rajoo asked whether J Venter could give updates as to registrations on a regular basis in order for affiliates companies to make decisions as regards attendance and expenditure.

D Turton asked whether there could be some emphasis on

**JV**

**JV**

<p>attendance at regional meetings, that those go back to the face-to-face type meetings.</p> <p>J Pershad stated that as the municipal financial year end is 31 July, registrations will only happen in August onwards and relevant information would only be available then.</p> <p><b>14. AMEU Convention 2022</b>  Call for papers will be going out shortly. The gold sponsors day held last year drew a large audience and was a huge success and J Venter suggested that the affiliates committee perhaps consider hosting the same type of event before the convention in order to keep the momentum going. There was a deposit paid to the Durban ICC. J Venter will be looking at what is available at the venue in order to maximise space and expenditure for both the conference and exhibition. A deposit was also paid for the affiliates Sunday evening event at the Barnyard at the Casino.</p> <p>J Venter requested feedback on the gold sponsors day. D Turton replied that his company was very disappointed regarding their sponsorship. G Arons stated that the pre day went off very well and suggested that it be packaged differently and would be beneficial for affiliate companies.</p> <p><b>15. Business Leadership Breakfast 2022</b>  The Business Leadership Breakfast was provisionally planned for 2 September 2022. Venue and speaker to be confirmed.</p> <p><b>16. AMEU Executive Affairs</b>  As V Padayachee was unable to attend the meeting, his feedback will be distributed along with the minutes.</p> <p><b>17. AMEU Branch Affairs</b>  D Turton gave feedback on the recent Eastern Cape meeting. Rob Ferrier was appointed chairman of the branch. Johan Knoetze (Ballies) was appointed vice chairman and Peter Badenhorst from BEKA Schröder was appointed the Affiliate representative for the branch.</p> <p><b>18. Distribution of Funds to Branches</b>  D Turton stated that a decision needs to be made in terms of funds that have been allocated for physical branch meetings which were not spent as all branch meetings were held online.</p> <p><b>19. AMEU Awards 2022</b>  Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>20. AMEU Magazine</b>  Nothing to report.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>PP</b></p> <p><b>VP</b></p>
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**21. PIESA**

A board meeting was held mid January and it was reported that affiliate members are not paying their dues or not rejoining PIESA and J Pershad asked that they consider retaining their membership as there is value in being a member. K Rajoo suggested that a reminder be sent out to affiliates stating the benefits of being a PIESA member to encourage them to join. Additional Feedback to be obtained from V Padayachee.

**ALL****JV****VP****22. CIGRE**

Feedback was requested from CIGRE. This will be distributed along with the minutes. The Paris Session will return to its traditional in-person format in 2022. Highlights include an array of events, networking opportunities, a vast technical programme, and a full trade exhibition. See the programme summary at [session.cigre.org](http://session.cigre.org). With a massive 950 Technical papers spanning the end to end power system, 16 Tutorials and much more, this is a must attend event for all serious power system professionals. Registrations are now open! Session 2022 will also be the first to offer some components in digital format if you are unable to attend in person. The general rule is for participants to register with their National Committees. For questions regarding registrations, please contact [registrations@cigre.org](mailto:registrations@cigre.org). For Membership matters, please contact your National Committee or [marie-france.gauvin@cigre.org](mailto:marie-france.gauvin@cigre.org). For Session Technical information, please contact [sylvie.bourneuf@cigre.org](mailto:sylvie.bourneuf@cigre.org).

**JB****23. SABS**

P Padayachee reported that he has requested that Dithaba Jeremiah Mathobela, Acting Senior manager NETFA attend the Affiliates main meeting. If any affiliate member needs details on testing etc they can request Jeremiah's details from P Padayachee.

**ALL****24. NRS**

J Burn had requested the NRS feedback report but had not received this at the time of the meeting, this will be distributed with the minutes.

**JB****25. SARPA**

R Bindeman gave feedback on SARPA regarding branch activities. The first virtual meeting of the year will be held on 10 February 2022 and a request was made for more presentations. A proposal had been put forward to change the virtual meetings to host a hybrid/normal meeting in March 2022 in the Northern Cape. The agreement between AMEU and SARPA regarding meetings need to be looked at.

The SARPA Convention will take place at Swartland municipality on



5 – 6 May 2022 at the Het Vlock Casteel, Riebeeck Kasteel and will be organised by Deon Abrahams. This will be a normal meeting with exhibition space for Affiliates. The call for papers will go out late January 2022 and R Bindeman asked members to email the secretariat if they wish to do a presentation.

**ALL**

The virtual training courses will carry on for the time being although SARPA had held a number of physical training sessions in 2021. Normal and physical sessions will probably be carried out in Malmesbury on 30 March 2022. Belinda ? has invited all municipalities that would like to attend either physically or virtually. The theme of the training is essential infrastructure crimes as this is a problem within the Western Cape, presenters include legal personnel, SAPS, and other relevant stakeholders and the event is sponsored by Malmesbury and Swartland Municipalities. K Rajoo asked whether there was an opportunity for affiliate members to attend and R Bindeman affirmed that there would be and details would be communicated shortly.

Attendance of virtual events has levelled off in 2021. Courses for the next few months have already been scheduled and the dates are on the SARPA website. Quarterly webinars have also been arranged and details are available on the website as well.

Different training sessions have been held regarding sensitising relevant parties (police and legal personnel – judges, etc) as regards infrastructure crimes. SARPA is trying to help a lot of people with regard to this and one of the focuses will be the TID rollover process.

K Rajoo will discuss combing branch meetings together with R Bindeman and D Turton.

**KR**

D Turton stated that combined branch meetings are held in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Free State and Limpopo and he hoped that this would continue going forward. R Bindeman stated that the MOU will be relooked at and hopefully would be signed dependent on the situation that is currently the case.

**RB**

## **26. Women in Electricity (WIE)**

First WIE meeting was held in November 2021 and the committee as elected and roles given to committee members. K Rajoo and V Turton sit on the committee. The next committee meeting will take place on 23 February 2022 and the WIE part on the AMEU website will be updated with relevant information. 2022/23 plan will be discussed at the meeting.

**ALL**

## **27. SAIEE**

P Padayachee reported that the SAIEE conference will take place at Sandton Conference Centre from 27 to 29 (this has been moved to 2023). The AMEU and SAIEE have signed a MOU so there should

be participation for affiliates at the conference. Numerous webinars are available for participation and they all carry CPD points for attendance. J Pershad also stated that meetings were held with the SAIEE regarding hosting a joint series of webinars (6 in total) and the target dates are mid-May on Tuesdays and Thursdays. More details will be shared soon. All affiliate members are invited to register for these webinars. Details can be found on the SAIEE website via this link  
<https://www.saiee.org.za/calendar/calendar.aspx>

**28. E-Bulletin**

No feedback was given at the meeting.

**ALL**

**29. General**

D Turton raised the situation regarding that the criteria for municipal tenders insist on 100% black ownership and companies do not qualify if they are not 100% black owned. This qualification criteria needs to be investigated and taken up at a higher level for clarification

**KR/DT**

**30. Dates for 2022 meetings**

These have been published on the AMEU website. Please visit <https://www.ameu.co.za/ameu-virtual-meetings-2022> to find all the meeting dates.

**31. Closing**

K Rajoo closed the meeting.