

## Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting of the Central Dredging Association, 24 November 2022, online

### Present:

#### **CEDA Board**

Polite Laboyrie (President)  
Dirk Roukema  
Mark Lee  
Daan Rijks

#### **CEDA staff:**

Mieke van Loenen (General Manager)  
Linda Adams (Secretary - Minutes)

### Members and guests

## 1. OPENING

On behalf of the Board of CEDA, Mr. Polite Laboyrie, CEDA President, welcomed members and guests to the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, as follows:

Ladies and gentlemen,

A warm welcome to all of you who joined us today for our 44th Annual General Meeting. After two years of online meetings, we have been able to see each other live again on numerous occasions. WODCON, commission meetings and section events. One of the lessons learned is that face to face meetings are very important. However, online meetings are a great addition to the mix and can sometimes be considered more efficient and cost effective. This AGM is an example of that.

Before I continue a few practical issues. If you have questions, please feel free to put them in chat. Linda and Mieke will keep an eye on them. Please keep your sound muted but please feel free to keep your camera on.

The minutes of the previous AGM (29 September 2021, CEDA Secretariat, DELFT, the Netherlands) were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

## 2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021/2022

Mr. Polite Laboyrie, reported:

Dear CEDA Members and Guests,

Last year's AGM took place during the Dredging Days. Originally it was planned as an in-person event, but, unfortunately, due to covid, the decision had to be made to hold a virtual event instead. Quite a few of our new ideas could be implemented, but not all obviously. It has been decided that the next Dredging Days will take place in the spring of 2024. The format originally planned for 2021 will be used as a basis for this event.

In 2021 we continued working on WODCON, which was held in May this year, in Copenhagen. I am happy to report that the event was a huge success. With 400 participants, 35 exhibitors and 15 sponsors, all coming from a total of 22 countries, it was a wonderful post COVID reunion of the dredging community with a lot of great content and plenty of networking opportunities. The financial result was also very positive enabling CEDA to continue its activities and implement new ideas in the years to come.

As part of the exercise to rethink CEDA’s strategy and business model, a survey was held to understand whether the activities that CEDA undertakes, and the outputs that CEDA provides, are what you want and need. It was also an opportunity for us to hear your new and innovative ideas for how we could do better and do more for our members. A total of 116 submissions were received. Thank you to those that have contributed. Results showed that 72% of the respondents viewed CEDA as good or excellent value for money, only 4% thought the value was poor. The survey showed that the most important benefits of CEDA membership were networking, business development and informing the dredging community of the latest developments within the industry. Dredging Days and National Section events were also much appreciated. What also came out of the survey was that CEDA should be more visible, provide more public/private connections and do more on sustainability. The CEDA strategy commission will discuss these new ideas and make suggestions to the board on how to move forward.

CEDA currently has 6 commissions plus Young CEDA, which report to the CEDA Board.

- Strategy Commission
- Communications Commission
- Dredging Management Commission
- Environment Commission
- Educational Activities Commission
- Decarbonisation Commission

The last commission, the CEDA Commission on Decarbonisation (CCD) was established at the end of 2021. The CCD will act as a platform to collectively and regularly gain and share insight on how the dredging industry may be fueled in, say, 15 years’ time, and what this would mean in practice. This insight will contribute to developing policies and/or deciding investments in future times.

Under the commissions, we have several active working groups:

- Soil Investigation - A CEDA information paper has been published in April 2021
- Certification of Sustainable Marine and Freshwater Infrastructure Projects –Recommendations to the board before the end of 2022.
- Energy Efficiency – information paper to be published at the end of 2022.
- Seafloor Integrity – information paper to be published at the end of 2022.
- Adaptive Management – information paper to be published in 2023.
- Early Contractor Involvement – established in 2022.
- Subsea Cables Integrity – established in 2022.

There is also a joint PIANC-CEDA-IADC Working Group on environmental windows

During WODCON XXII in Shanghai, China, in 2019, the three associations making up WODA (CEDA, EADA, and WEDA) decided to set up WODA working groups to jointly address topics of common interest. Currently there are three WODA Working Groups:

- WODA Reservoir Dredging Working Group
- WODA Safety in Dredging Working Group
- WODA Working Group on Deep Sea Mining

In the fall of 2021, we published a joint study “Financing Sustainable Marine and Freshwater Infrastructure” with IADC and our finance partners. We also presented a well-attended panel discussion at CEDA Dredging Days 2021 and we set up a CEDA Working Group on Certification of Sustainable Marine and Fresh Water Infrastructure Projects. The Working Group has conducted many interview and what became clear is that the need for certification is present but that CEDA is not necessarily seen as the right body to conducted the certification since we could not be seen as independent. The Working Group is currently working on creating a report with suggestions to the board on how to move forward.

*CEDA AGM 44, 24 November 2022, online*

Our continued co-operation with IADC included the developments of the CEDA-IADC course “Dredging for Sustainable Infrastructure” based on our joint book with the same title. Over the last two years, we presented 4 online courses. The first live course will take place from 13-14 December 2022 at the HR Wallingford Head Office in Oxfordshire (UK). There are still a few places available so we encourage you to sign up.

Also based on the book “Dredging for Sustainable Infrastructure”, CEDA and IADC have published a series of factsheets.

- Environmental Monitoring 2020
- Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials 2021
- Creating a Sustainable Marine and Freshwater Infrastructure 2022
- Models and Modelling for Dredging 2022

In 2021 we extended our service to members by acquiring “Dredgepoint”, the huge online database of dredging equipment. A group of volunteers is keeping the website up to date. The visitor statistics are steadily growing.

In November 2021, during Europort, we added a new event to our event palette: the CEDA Innovation Pitch Talks. In two afternoons 24 CEDA corporate members gave short, 15-minute presentations on a great variety of topics including groundbreaking challenging project and innovative products. Different from other CEDA conference presentations, by design, these innovation pitch talks may promote the company itself and/or products and/or services delivered. Even though the Dredging Days are currently not connected to Europort, we will continue to participate in Europort and organise CEDA activities during the show.

The collective knowledge of the CEDA membership has helped it to remain a well-respected and independent authority on dredging. As such, CEDA regularly gives expert advice to government and international regulatory bodies on issues related to dredging. Our aim is to ensure that any legislation pertaining to dredging and hydraulic construction, as well as disposal or placement of dredged sediments, is based on sound technical and scientific knowledge, takes account of best practice, and is ultimately workable. As an impartial organization, CEDA does not engage in lobbying. We attend relevant meetings of these bodies, provide expert comment on draft documents, submit technical, scientific documents, and contribute to working groups, drafting groups and debates.

We are currently active in the following international organisations:

- London Convention
- OSPAR
- European Commission (MSFD, WFD)
- International Commission for the Protections of the Danube River (ICPDR)

On a national level, the UK section plays an active role in the development of relevant UK legislation. Through WODA, we are an observer at the International Seabed Authority (ISA) since this year.

I am happy to report that that Arjan Wijdeveld, Geochemical Expert at Deltares, will be the new CEDA representative for OSPAR in the Working Group on Environmental Impact of Human Activities. Unfortunately, we have not yet been successful in the search for a new chair of the MSFD Navi group. This is also a very important position to CEDA and its members so please think carefully if you know anyone suitable for this position.

In 2021 we started the search for new staff as both the general manager and the secretary were approaching retirement. Mieke van Loenen became CEDA’s General Manager on 1st of January 2022, whilst Anna continued to work with CEDA, in a part-time management advisory capacity, until June 2022. With Mieke’s help, we concluded the search for Yvonne Duivenman’s successor in January 2022 and Linda Adams started to work at the CEDA Secretariat in March 2022.

As always, I want to thank all of our members who volunteer their time and expertise to support us in the various commissions, working groups, and international bodies. Also a big thank you to those organisations who give them the space to do that.

CEDA AGM 44, 24 November 2022, online

Finally, a huge thank you to all of our Corporate Members, old and new, who continue to support our work. Without you we would not be the successful association we are today.

### **3. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE YEAR 2021**

Mr. Polite Laboyrie, reported:

Unfortunately, Professor Cees van Rhee, Delft University of Technology, Secretary /Treasurer of CEDA couldn't be with us today to report about the financial year 2021. I will therefore present his report to you:

#### **Membership**

At the end of 2021, CEDA had 271 individual members including 4 students, 6 starters, 17 retired members and 5 lecturers at colleges or universities. At the end of 2020 we had 320 individual members, 49 members more. At the end of last year, we had 110 corporate members. One year before that the total number was 108.

When you look at the membership numbers over time, you can see that the number of individual members is decreasing every year, while the number of corporate members – with some small fluctuation - remains more or less steady.

#### **Financial result 2021**

Moving on to finances, I would like to remind you that the consolidated financial statement of the year 2021 has been included in the AGM invitation. As you can see, we ended the year with a deficit. This is due to the following:

- Higher staff cost: Replacement Anna started in October 2021, so there were three staff members in the last couple of months. This was not budgeted for.
- Purchase of Dredgepoint website: This purchase was not originally budgeted for.
- The Dredging Days made a higher loss than expected but this loss was taken from the special reserves.

And this concludes the report.

There were no objections and therefore, the Treasurer's report 2021 was accepted as a true record of CEDA's finances.

### **4. REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Members of the Audit Committee for the financial year 2021 were:

- Ronald Rutgers, Port of Rotterdam
- Barry Scheeren, Dutch Dredging
- Nicolas Hibert, DEME

The committee's conclusions were presented by Nicolas Hibert. The full written report is appended to these minutes.

Mr. Polite Laboyrie thanked the members of the Audit Committee for the excellent work that they had done on behalf of the members scrutinising CEDA's finances.

There were no objections and therefore, the Audit Committee report 2021 was accepted.

The Audit Committee for the year 2021 was discharged.

### **5. APPOINTMENT OF A NEW AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Polite Laboyrie informed the meeting that Barry Scheeren (Dutch Dredging) had volunteered for the Audit Committee next year and, on behalf of the CEDA membership, he expressed his gratitude for that. We are, however, looking for 2 new members. If you are interested, please contact Mieke van Loenen.



*CEDA AGM 44, 24 November 2022, online*

## **6. BOARD MEMBERS**

According to the rotation policy, no members of the Board are due to retire in 2022. However, the following three members have indicated they will be leaving the board, so we are currently seeking replacements for:

- Claudia Flecken, Port of Hamburg, Germany
- Jan Vandenbroeck, Societe Dragages, France
- Wim Klomp, Royal HaskoningDHV, the Netherlands

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **8. CLOSING**

Mr. Polite Laboyrie, thanked all participants for attending and closed the meeting.

## CEDA audit committee book year 2021, report

From: CEDA Audit Committee: Barry Scheeren (Dutch Dredging)  
 Nicolas Hibert (Deme)  
 Ronald Rutgers (Port of Rotterdam)

Date: 19 October 2022

Status: Final

The main role and responsibilities of the CEDA audit committee include:

- to review the annual report and to check the integrity of the financial statements of CEDA : has the money been managed and spent in line with the budget and serving the purposes of CEDA.
- to review significant financial reporting: the books, bank accounts, etc. to determine the physical existence of figures in the ledger.

The (former and current) CEDA staff, Anna Csiti, Yvonne Duivenman, Mieke van Loenen and Linda Adams, assisted the Audit Committee in the above tasks.

The main significant findings of the audit committee in relation to the financial statements are:

- The statements of revenue and expenditure for the year 2021 show a result of €-18.142 (excluding a withdrawal of €15.020 from the provision future events), compared with a result of €+4.658 for the year 2020. The amount taken from the provision future events is the negative results of the Dredging Days. This has been agreed by the board of directors.
- The result decreased compared to 2020 but is in line with budgeting.
- The result of Dredging Days was lower than budgeted because it was an online event.
- Bank account balances in 2021 have been checked for one bank accounts there was a minor difference.
  - ABN AMRO current account 42.26.74.176 Report was €44,556 but on the bank statement €44,576
- The annual report and balance sheets have been reviewed, and it was found that the money has been spent properly in 2021.
- Bookkeeping is accurate. There is a clear overview. A number of invoices and other documents were checked and found to be properly processed. Documents are filed as hard copy. It is our recommendation to digitalize the administration next time (e.g. don't print the financial mutations but export to Excel and scan the documents).
- We give in consideration to add the budgeted amounts in the financial statements, but only when it is the wish of the users of the financial statements.
- The website was delivered in 2021 but only the amounts paid in 2021 are now costs in 2021. The costs paid in 2022 (€6.000) should also be costs in 2021. This is adjusted and now fully is in the costs 2021.
- In 2022 an amount was received from "van Heck" (28-01-2022). This amount was for 2021. It was unclear whether this amount was processed in the administration and if so in which year. This is adjusted and now is in the revenue 2021.
- We found that some costs are booked including VAT and some are booked excluding VAT. This is dependant whether the costs are for VAT activities or not. We did not/could not verify this further.

### Conclusions

The audit committee reviewed and checked the annual report and balance sheets. It was found that the finances were managed appropriately in compliance with the budget for 2021 and the bookkeeping was accurate. Therefore, the audit committee proposes to discharge the Board of CEDA from their financial responsibility for the year 2021.

On behalf of the CEDA Audit Team 2021,

Barry Scheeren, Nicolas Hibert and Ronald Rutgers.