



Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Central Dredging Association, 9 November 2023, Europort, AHOY, Rotterdam, 17:30-18:00 hours

Present:

CEDA Board

Polite Laboyrie (President)
Dirk Roukema
Rogier Kalis
André Kik
Paul Vercrujse

CEDA staff:

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

Members and guests

23 participants, including all those mentioned by name above.

1. OPENING

On behalf of the Board of CEDA, Mr. Polite Laboyrie, CEDA President, opened the meeting and welcomed the many members and guests to the 45th Annual General Meeting, as follows:

Ladies and gentlemen,

A warm welcome to all of you who join us today for our 45th Annual General Meeting. The last live edition was in 2019 so I am very excited to see you all today. 2022 was a year full of section events, Young CEDA activities, commission and working group meetings.

Before I continue, I would like to spend some time remembering Cees van Rhee who sadly passed away in July this year. Cees was an esteemed member of the board and paper committees for many conferences and WODCON's and we are missing him immensely. We will honour him at a memorial session to be held during the Dredging Days next year in May, but for now, I would like to hold a moment of silence.

There were no remarks raised on the minutes of the previous AGM which were distributed along with the invitation, so the minutes of the previous AGM (24 November 2022, CEDA Secretariat, DELFT, the Netherlands) were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023

Mr. Polite Laboyrie, reported:

Last year, I informed you of the results from the membership survey and this year I am happy to inform you of the following actions that the CEDA strategy commission & CEDA board have agreed on. A lot of these actions have already been done, some are work in progress and some are still under discussion:

- Creating more public / private connections
- Better promote the CEDA online resources through the newsletter.

- Find out what would attract young members to write papers
- Further promote Dredgepoint
- Collect dredging facts which addresses common misconceptions
- Give CEDA a higher profile and give more information on our policy work
- Get more CEDA members to be active

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

- Strategy Commission
- Communications Commission
- Dredging Management Commission
- Environment Commission
- Decarbonisation Commission
- Young CEDA Commission

Under the commissions, we have several active working groups. In 2022, two working groups published their papers: Energy Efficiency and Seafloor integrity.

The following working groups are still active:

- Certification of Sustainable Marine and Freshwater Infrastructure Projects –Recommendations to the board before the end of 2023.
- Adaptive Management – information paper to be published in 2023.
- Subsea Cables Integrity -established in 2022 work in progress
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions – newly established in 2023, first meeting has taken place

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

I am very happy to report that Young CEDA has increased the number of activities and has some new active members. If you are interested to join, please contact Mieke.

Under WODA, the three associations making up WODA (CEDA, EADA, and WEDA) there are three WODA Working Groups:

- WODA Reservoir Dredging Working Group – a paper is due to be published in 2024.
- WODA Safety in Dredging Working Group – checklist will be published soon.
- WODA Working Group on Deep Sea Mining – work is ongoing

In May 2022 we held WODCON, 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. Polite thanked Johan Pennekamp, who was present, for his hard work in organising this conference.

In 2022, work started one of the most important events on our calendar: the CEDA Dredging Days, taking place from 27-29 May 2024 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The theme is Dredging in a changing world, Leading science and business in the dredging industry. The deadline for abstract has passed and the paper and organising committees are working hard to put a great programme together. If you still want to contribute to the content, please get in touch with Mieke.

Our continued co-operation with IADC includes the CEDA-IADC course “Dredging for Sustainable Infrastructure” based on our joint book with the same title. This first live course took place at the end of 2022 and in total we presented 4 online courses and two live courses since 2021. The next live course will take place from 12-14 December 2023 in Abu Dhabi (UAE). More details are available on the CEDA website.

Since the acquisition of Dredgepoint in 2021, a group of volunteers has been working hard to keep the database up to date. We would like to thank them for their efforts. Thanks to advertisement income, Dredgepoint currently provides a small but steady income for CEDA. Also, it has resulted in new corporate and individual members due to the exclusive benefits for CEDA members.

In 2022, Arjan Wijdeveld, Geochemical Expert at Deltares, started as the new CEDA representative for OSPAR in the Working Group on Environmental Impact of Human Activities.

Also, I am happy to report that Marc Sas, retired member from IMDC, is the new chair representing CEDA for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). If you are interested in finding out more about our policy work, please have a look at our website or contact Mieke van Loenen.

As you all probably know by now, Mieke van Loenen officially became CEDA’s General Manager on 1st of January 2022, whilst Anna Csiti continued to work with CEDA, in a part-time management advisory capacity, until June 2022. 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.

Finally, a huge thank you to all of our Corporate Members, old and new, who continue to support our work.

3. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE YEAR 2022

Mr. Polite Laboyrie, reported:

Since Cees passed away, I have temporarily taken over the Secretary /Treasurer tasks. Therefore, I will now report on the financial year 2022.

Membership

At the end of 2022, CEDA had 236 individual members compared to 258 at the end of 2021.

At the end of last year, we had 112 corporate members. One year before that the total number was 110.

As you can see, the number of individual members keeps decreasing, while the number of corporate members is picking up slowly. We are confident that the number of Individual members will stabilize and that the number of corporate members will keep on increasing slowly.

Financial result 2022

Moving on to finances, I would like to remind you that the consolidated financial statement of the year 2022 has been included in the AGM invitation. As you can see, we ended the year with a profit. This is mostly due to the positive results of the World Dredging Conference (WODCON).

With no objections from the room, the Treasurer’s report 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 2022 were:

- Barry Scheeren, Dutch Dredging
- Lana Leijdekers, Boskalis
- Hilmer Kodde, Van Oord

Unfortunately, they couldn't be here so I will read out their report.

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 CEDA staff 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 2022 show a result of € 150.530, compared with a loss of € 18.142 for the year 2021.
- The result increased compared to 2021 and is above budget . Main reason for this increase is the result of WODCON. The higher result is caused by the uncertainty around the number of participants beforehand. Closer to the event the number of participants and contributions increased, which both led to a higher result.
- Bank account balances in 2022 have been checked.
- The annual report and balance sheets have been reviewed, and it was found that the money has been spent properly in 2022.
- 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 digitally since June 2022. This is an improvement.
- There was no addition to the provision for future events although there was a high result for WODCON which will be used to cover future events. We asked whether this is consistent with previous years and the statute.
- 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 2022 and the bookkeeping was accurate. Therefore, the audit committee proposes to discharge the Board of CEDA from their financial responsibility for the year 2022.

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 2022 was accepted.

5. APPOINTMENT OF A NEW AUDIT COMMITTEE

Mr. Polite Laboyrie informed the meeting that Lana and Hilmer 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 1 more member. If you are interested, please contact Mieke van Loenen.

6. BOARD MEMBERS

There are quite a few changes within the board of directors, so I will start with the re-elections. According to the official rotation schedule, the following members of the Board are due to retire in 2023:

- Michael Costaras, Jan De Nul, United Kingdom
- Kathleen De Wit, IMDC, Belgium
- Polite Laboyrie, Witteveen+Bos, the Netherlands
- Dirk Defloor, DEME, Belgium
- André Kik, DE Klop BV, the Netherlands

All above listed members have accepted nomination by the Board for another term. I propose to accept these nominations if the room agrees. There were no objections, so the nominations were accepted.

This is also the moment for me to inform you that I intend to step down as president next year. After more than 8 years of serving as President of CEDA, I believe it is the right time for me to step down from this position.

Let me emphasize that this decision is not because I do not like the role or the work we have accomplished together. On the contrary, I have thoroughly enjoyed being President and I feel privileged to have been part of such a dedicated and accomplished organisation and working together with all our passionate members and their organisations. However, I strongly believe that fresh perspectives and new ideas are essential for the growth and continued success of CEDA.

When I started as President in 2015, I had a clear set of goals in mind, and when I look back I can say that we have accomplished a lot of them. The things we did together have been remarkable, and I am confident that CEDA will continue to flourish under new leadership.

I want to assure you that my stepping down as President does not mean I am disengaging from CEDA. On the contrary, I am committed to remaining involved and offering my support in any way I can. I believe my experience and knowledge of CEDA could still be valuable if needed.

Together, we have built a strong foundation, and I have no doubt that under new leadership, CEDA will continue to flourish.

Talking about new leadership, I have the pleasure to announce that the board is officially nominating Kathleen de Wit, IMDC, Belgium, to be the new president.

I propose to accept this nomination if the room agrees. There were no objections, so the nomination was accepted. Handover will be done at the Dredging Days next year in May.

Last year, Wim Klomp and Jan Vandenbroeck resigned from the board. The following members have been nominated by the board for replacement:

- George Peters, Royal HaskoningDHV, the Netherlands
- Aymeric Hamon, DEMA, France

I propose to accept these nominations if the room agrees. There were no objections, so the nominations were accepted.

A big applause of thanks to the newly elected members, and their employers, wishing them success in leading our association to further great achievements.

These are not the only changes.

Last year I informed you that Claudia Flecken had indicated she would like to retire from the board but she has agreed to remain a member until a suitable replacement has been found.

Other additions on the board, not related to elections are:

- Maurice de Kok, Van Oord, the Netherlands new chair of the Dredging Management Commission
- Jan-Berend Koster, Dutch Dredging BV, the Netherlands, new chair of Young CEDA

A big thank you to Maurice and Jan-Berend for joining the associations leadership team.

Regarding Cees van Rhee, we are hoping his replacement within TU Delft will take a seat on the board and will also take over the secretary/treasurer role. For the moment, Rudy Helmons, Associate Professor will represent the TU Delft on the board of directors. Current board member, Rogier Kalis, will temporarily act as treasurer/secretary.

Furthermore, due to non-payment of membership fees over 2022 and 2021, the board had to take the decision to suspend the African Chapter and therefore Miloud Abudib is no longer part of the board of directors.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business from the room.

8. CLOSING

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