

CIWEM | Metropolitan Branch Annual General Meeting 2021

Tuesday 26 October 2021 | 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Virtual event via Zoom

Minutes of the CIWEM Annual General Meeting 2021

1. Attendance

Present:	Robert Forsyth (RF)	Katherine Woppard
	Yannis Alexiou (YA)	Mark Futter
	Umair Alam (UA)	Rami Kremesti
	Suzanne Blackman (SB)	Alice Pistolesi (AP)
	Claire Barnes	Ataur Rahman
	Fredrick Mukonoweshuro (FM)	Jack Southon
	Barbara Woods (BW)	Terry Fuller (TF)
	Michael Cox	Molay Bhadra
	Mariusz Cieslak	Kevin Clarke
	John Stoker	Mike Tregent

Apologies:	Iain Stevenson
	Tom Dix
	Ataur Rahman
	Kelvin Reay

2. Welcome and introduction (RF / UA)

- RF provided the welcome to the 2021 CIWEM Metropolitan branch AGM.
- UA summarised the housekeeping
- RF thanked UA and ran through AGM agenda, including apologies.

3. Minutes of previous AGM and matters arising since previous AGM (RF)

- The meeting of the last AGM which took place on the 14th December were circulated by CIWEM in advance of this AGM and were accessible during the meeting for reference purposes.
- RF confirmed that neither himself or the current Honorary Treasurer (SB) had received any queries from the general public and non-committee members. In addition, this year there were no new nominations received.

4. Chair's report (RF)

- We have had a very successful series of events this year with national and international outreach and high attendee figures in the 100+ for several events held.

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- Special thanks to AECOM for hosting an event on flood risk and drainage in April, Jack's thought-provoking event on suicide prevention by design in May, Kelvin's ever-useful routes to membership event in August, and Tom's event which looked at the Environment Agency's plan on achieving net zero.
- Many thanks to the committee for arranging these fabulous events and to the external speakers.
- Forthcoming 2022 Met Brach events are likely to include smart technology (to be arranged by Rami/Umair), wet networks (to be arranged by Fred) and pollution and environmental event (to be arranged by Alice and Suzanne).
- The Urban Drainage Group's virtual annual conference and expo is taking place between the 9th to 11th November.
- RF encouraged attendees to take a look on the CIWEM event page and look over CIWEM COP26 page which provide a clear summary of what COP26 means to CIWEM.
- Rob thanked CIWEM Head Office for all their support this year with arranging CIWEM Metropolitan Branch online events.

5. Treasurer's report (SB)

- SB provided an update on the branch financial governance for 2021. Expenditure = £0, income = £0, balance = £0.

6. Honorary secretary's report (SB)

- SB ran through key statistics of the demographic report, which included:
 - Total branch membership has increased since Oct-2020, from 1354 to 1391, with the majority of members from England, but there has been a growing number of members from Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man since 2020.
 - International members have remained constant (~3%) since 2020, with most residing in Ireland, Australia and New Zealand.
 - The gender balance has increased from 36% female in 2020 to 37% female in 2021.
 - There has been an increase in Student and Chartered members in 2021 but a slight decline in Associates. The change in age range membership from 2020-2021 saw the biggest change in the upper and lower age brackets (18-24 and 75+) which both increased.

7. Report on CIWEM headquarters activities (BW)

- Events
 - 2020 was 125 years of CIWEM with many events organised but these had to switch to online. BW thanked the branch for going virtual, especially the very well received chartership talks. The Met Branch also provided a good range of talks on themes relevant to COP15 and COP26, looking at the climate and ecological emergency. Recordings of past events are available on the website as well as details of upcoming events.
 - The preliminary session of COP15 was postponed to May 2022 but interesting discussions have already begun on the topics
 - It is the COP26 in Glasgow next week, where the environmental photographers of the year winners will be announced. There are a series of talks for COP26 entitled 'Let's talk' (BW

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provided the link) with contributions from various chairs and branches to see what different people want to get out of COP26. Branches are all taking part and putting pledges forward so think about what you want to do to help climate eg less red meat, less waste, less travel by car. We can all contribute but need governments and big organisations to step up to the mark.

- Flood and Coast 2020 was held as webinars and 2021 as a digital event,. We are hoping it will be an in-person event in 2022 in Telford in June.
- Membership team
 - It has been a busy time for the CIWEM Membership Team as they went digital in 2020. Professional reviews were held online and this will likely be a feature going forwards.
 - The early careers network is becoming more active – anyone interested in joining should get in touch (BW provided the link)
 - The mentoring platform has been set up to link mentors with mentees (BW provided the link)
 - Webinars on membership have been held, including by the Met Branch. Webinar recordings are available online
- Awards
 - Environmental Photographer of the Year: 2020 photo award couldn't go ahead but this year is its 14th year and the winner will be announced at COP26.
 - 2020 Young Environmentalist of the Year award went to Ariane Coelho Brotto who does a great deal despite being so young, and is an inspiration for future talent coming through. 2021 entries are open until 10th December.
 - UK Junior Water Prize – The 2021 winner was Junghong Huh with his paper entitled 'Selection of Water-Purifying Bacteria and Development of a Dissemination System Using Vessels to Improve Water Quality of Rivers'. The 2020 winners were Sofia Wright and Joe Thompson from Liverpool Life Sciences UTC with their "Hydro-Filtricity" project, designed to combat water pollution from household wastewater.
 - 2021 Jamie Margetts' Bursary in Urban Drainage Engineering awarded to Eleanor Maxfield for research into SuDS retrofit opportunities in South Wales– modelling of natural flood management measures
- Learning & Development
 - L&D team busy – went digital in 2020. Instructed courses on urban wellbeing and sustainability. They have been awarded training contract to develop a property flood resilience course.
- Barbara thanked the Metropolitan branch for all their hard work over the last year and is looking forward to the upcoming year

8. Question to past chair (RF / YA)

- Rob asked Yannis (Past Chair) - could you spare us some thoughts on how we as individuals and groups achieve a better tomorrow?

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- Yannis responded: Time to think about this more seriously than ever before – working for 30 years but we are gradually reaching a dead-end so good to get young people involved with their fresh ideas and inspirations. But this means that it is also a good time to be involved and that we all need to be thinking about carbon for the whole scale of projects rather than small individual elements.

9. Election of Officers by Nomination and Seconds

- RF showed list of officers and called for a proposer and seconder for all Officers Members.
 - FM stated he was happy to be the proposer
 - AP stated she was happy to be the seconder.
- RF called for a proposer and seconder for the Non-Officer Members.
 - SB stated she was happy to be the proposer,
 - UA stated he was happy to be the seconder.
- No abstains or objections were raised to the proposed roles. Roles were elected.

10. Any other business

- Get involved with your branch and CIWEM as a whole as much as possible.
- Terry Fuller – over 100 webinars by branches so thank you to Met Branch for their support.

11. Date of next meeting

- RF proposed that the 2022 AGM will take place in the middle or end of October.
- SB to send out an availability poll when BW confirms available options.