

**KWA-ZULU NATAL BRANCH**

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**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE EDWARDIAN HOTEL  
IN PORT EDWARD**

**THURSDAY, 26<sup>th</sup> & FRIDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2009**

**PRESENT:**

Sew Harilal	eThekwini
Peter Fowles	AMEU
Rens Binderman	SARPA (present day 1)
Louis Steyn	Affiliates Chairman
Bob Wallis	Merz & McLellan
Cllr. Visvin Reddy	eThekwini (present day 1)
Sandile Maphumulo	eThekwini
Nathi Nkwanyana	eThekwini
Roy Wienand	eThekwini
Veer Ramnarain	eThekwini
Jayshree Pershad	eThekwini
Raj Dhrochand	eThekwini
Deena Govender	eThekwini
Nkosana Ntlekeni	Eskom
Pool Mahadeo	Eskom (present day 2)
Ken Tupper	Abaqulusi
Gerhard Balzer	Umvoti
Rodney Goosen	Newcastle
Mhlengi Sangweni	Kokstad (present day 2)
Sinenhlahla Manqele	Umkhanyakude (present day 2)
Derek Watson	Beka
Brent Killian	Beka
Jason Smith	Beka
Enock Zikalala	Beka (present day 2)
Scott Morrison	Aberdare Cables
Henry Swanepoel	Aberdare Cables
Sipithi Sibeko	Aberdare Cables (present day 2)
Marius Van Der Bank	TIS
Benjamin Bosch	Conlog
Pragasen Pillay	Itron
Scotty Pillay	Alstom
Leon Fourie	PB Power
Ron Millard	PB Power
Harold Hayes	Landis & Gyr
Asaph PHEME	Landis & Gyr
Neil van der Merwe	Kv3 (present day 2)
Dave Mason	Ellies Power Products (present day 1)
Tony Coetzer	ICS
Shyle Greef	ABB
Wendy Long	Elster Kent Meters
Gerald Brown	Megatron Federal (present day 1)
Gary Dawson	Genlux
Muzi Mntungwa	Sengikhona Solutions
Connie Brooks	Protective Structures (present day 1)
Barry Gass	Actom
Peter Strydom	Telesciences
Francois Van Tonder	Innovation Group
Lionel Boshoff	REMS
Danny K	Eason Electric (present day 1)
Silas Zimu	City Power

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Thelma Battiss	General Cables
Ian Lester	Beyond Wireless
Lindy Collins	Beyond Wireless
Sabeer Sheik	Itramas
Alan Palmer	Power Optimisa
Carol Smithwick	A J Charnaud & Co. (present day 2)
Andries Coetzer	A J Charnaud & Co. (present day 2)

APOLOGIES:	Jay Kalichuran	eThekwini
	Ivan Laban	eThekwini
	Dwayne Baker	Umhlatuze
	Bheka Khanyile	Umhlatuze
	Maxwell Mthembu	Msunduzi
	Dragan Vujovic	Umtshezi
	Mark Donaldson	Endumeni
	Rolf Niemand	Ladysmith
	Pradesh Ramsunder	Ladysmith
	Mondli Mavimbela	EDI Holdings
	Kris Yankanna	Aberdare Cables
	Claudia Coetzer	ICS
	Danie Van Wyk	Motla Engineering
	Howard Whitehead	Past President AMEU

1. WELCOME AND OPENING OF MEETING

The Chairman formally opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also welcomed and congratulated Louis Steyn as the Chairman of the Affiliates.

2. NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice of the meeting was duly served.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted.

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved and adopted by Peter Fowles and second by Gerhard Balzer.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at the natal Spa.

Copies of the minutes had been circulated to all members. Minutes were then confirmed as correct and was then proposed by Peter Fowles and duly seconded by Ken Tupper.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

7. REPORT FROM MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Peter Fowles reported back from the Executive Council and Committee meetings that were as held on 1 October 2009 and 11 November 2009.

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### **Executive Meeting**

#### ➤ **Technical Convention 2009**

- Congratulations to NMBM on excellent organization
- Attendance was better than expected
- Letter to Minister of Energy with thanks and accept invitation for delegation to discuss industry challenges
- Welcome to Louis Steyn as new Chairman of Affiliates

#### ➤ **Received Committee and Branch reports**

- Resolved to increase AMEU support for skills development

#### ➤ **Meeting Dates 2010**

- Proposed list accepted subject to discussion with Branches
- Convention dates to be confirmed

#### ➤ **Marketing**

- Sample of jackets and ties to be available at Branch meetings

#### ➤ **Financial Statements**

- Agreed to raise membership and convention registration fees for 2010 by 20%
- Re-enter equity market

#### ➤ **Membership Details**

- Request for updates

#### ➤ **Updates on EDI Restructuring and 2010 WC**

#### ➤ **National Electricity Response Team [NERT]**

- Invitation to PCP WG to present to Mossel Bay meetings

#### ➤ **External Committee Reports**

- ESLC : milestone of 100 NRS standards
- NEAC
- Discussion on the role of SARPA

### **Standing Committee**

#### ➤ **Financial Statements**

- Possible R400 000 deficit
- Lower convention income [fees + sponsorship]
- Slow payment of membership subscription fees

#### ➤ **Budget 2010**

- 20% increase in membership subscriptions and convention registration fees
- Tighter control of costs
- Suggestion to look for other forms of income [training, consulting]

#### ➤ **External Liaison**

- Confirmed that meetings to be arranged with relevant Ministers
- Resolved that small PR committee be established

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➤ **Convention 2010**

- Arrangements proceeding
- Dates confirmed: 27 to 29 September 2010
- Potential venue identified

➤ **Namibian Branch**

- Resolved to encourage

**Legal & Statutory Committee**

➤ **Power Conservation Programme [PCP]**

- Feedback on NERT process
- PCP Implementation issues – legal barriers in Municipalities
- Establishment of Distribution WG

➤ **Supply Chain Management**

- National Treasury training available
- Treasury concerned with procurement of services
- New draft preferential procurement regulations published for comment [close 14 September 2009]
- Request to arrange meeting with Ministers [NT and DPLG]

➤ **Standard Draft Electricity Supply Bylaws**

- NMBM developing new electricity supply bylaws allowing for energy savings, network constraints, devices

➤ **Regulations on Compulsory Norms and Standards [GG 31250 of 18 July 2008]**

- Still no response from DoE for request for meeting to discuss

➤ **Validity of NRS069**

- Services Appeal Board finding
- Referred to NERSA

➤ **DoRA Electrification Funding**

- Release of funds always problematic
- Does DoE have authority to withhold funding?

➤ **Eskom in Municipal Areas**

- Stellenbosch mediation delay (options only)
- Preferable to request amendment of licence
- NERSA – 14 criteria
- Eskom licence only where they had infrastructure
- If financially viable, do it and advise NERSA
- Set up meeting with Eskom management

**Tariffs Committee**

➤ **NMD Rules**

- Charges raised since August 2009
- Connection fee payment up front [National credit legislation and lack of funds]
- Long delays in responding to request for increase in NMD

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- **Homeflex TOU**
  - Approved by NERSA
  - Delay in phase 1 of project due to legal challenge to use of NRS049 in meter tender
  - Eskom project for 10 000 meters – credit/prepayment capable.
- **Renewable Energy Feed-In Tariff [REFIT2]**
  - AMEU participated in public hearing on 3 September 2009
  - NERSA announced new tariffs for CSP, PV [ $>1\text{MW}$ ], biomass (solid), biogas
  - REPA ineffective at present
- **Power Factor Price Signal**
  - Driven by Dist Grid Code – PF reporting
  - Problems with contract enforcement for  $\leq 0.85$  (0.9)
  - Shift from penalty to tariff
  - Discussion paper and technical workshops
- **July 2009 increases**
  - Tariff restructuring – 0.1%
  - Environmental levy – 8.2%
  - Price increase – 23.2%
- **MYPD 2**
  - Process for public comment
- **Small Scale Grid PV Connections**
  - Proposal from Cape Town submitted to NERSA and now acknowledged

#### **Education & Training Committee**

- **AMEU/Eskom Training Standardization**
  - Still little progress with completion of NQF 3 and 4 training material
  - Being developed by Eskom with assistance from Tshwane
- **Electrical Engineering Skills Shortage**
  - Survey to be repeated
- **NTDF and Skills Indaba**
  - Again delayed
- **AMEU Assistance for Training**
  - Possible bursary system
  - Small team to develop some proposals
- **Eskom Training Initiatives**
  - Contractor academy
  - Academy of Learning (Faculties for apprentices, engineering, commerce and financial)
  - Contractor training school
  - ORHVS
  - Reconvene AMEU/Eskom NTT workgroup

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### **Restructuring Committee**

- **Municipal Benchmarking Proposal**
  - Improve core business efficiency - scorecard
  - Request support from municipalities (Metros)
- **EDI Restructuring Progress Report**
  - Emphasis on enabling legislation [only mid 2010]
  - Key customers an issue
  - TLRS agreements – delay by SALGA
  - Continuation of ringfencing projects
- **Reports from REDs**
  - Varying degrees of activity

### **Technical Committee**

- **Smart Grid Initiative**
  - Presentation by SANERI on movement towards intelligent networks
- **PIESA Update**
  - Heavily dependent on AMEU input
- **Green Power**
  - Amatola license granted by NERSA
- **Eskom Generation Plans**
  - Small group to be established
- **2010 ESI Forum**
  - Continued lack of DoE support
  - Good progress by RTTs
  - Only three more meetings
- **Copper theft**
  - Stealing neutral conductors
  - CBI asked to develop device to limit damage
- **Solar Water Heating Conference**
  - DoE developing a Solar Water Heating Act?

#### 8. E-BULLETIN & AMEU NEWS

E-Bulletin articles of interest to be fwd. to Peter Fowles. Max Clark needs articles of interest for the AMEU News. Bob advised that the Municipalities and the Affiliates should check if their contact details are correct on the AMEU website.

#### 9. REPORT FROM THE AFFILIATES REPRESENTATIVE

Bob Wallis did the report back for the affiliates.

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- Presented details of the Technical Convention takes place in September. Details are available on the AMEU website.
- Peter advised the prize for the best safety paper award from a Municipality is R 20 000.00.

10. Presentation by Innovation Group – Solar Heated Geysers

**Presentation can be obtained on request.**

11. Presentation by Beyond Wireless – Increasing Network Visibility

**Presentation can be obtained on request.**

12. Presentation a Demo by Protective Structures

**Presentation can be obtained on request.**

## **DAY 2**

**All the members who attended the dinner enjoyed a very relaxing evening.**

13. Presentation by Eskom - MYPD

**Presentation can be obtained on request.**

14. Presentation by Kv3 – Legislation covering the introduction and/or promotion of renewable Energy into Society.

**Presentation can be obtained on request.**

15. Presentation by BEKA

**Presentation can be obtained on request.**

16. Presentation by Power Optimisa – Voltage Power Optimisation the UK Municipality Experience

**Presentation can be obtained on request.**

17. Presentation by A J Charnaud & Co. – Electric Arc Flash Protection

**Presentation can be obtained on request.**

18. Verbal presentation by Telesciences – Electronic Underground Marker System & Optic Fibre Products for Pilot Cables.

19. Presentation by Actom – Safety Operations on Medium Voltage Switchgear

**Presentation can be obtained on request.**

20. Presentation by ItraMas

**Presentation can be obtained on request.**

21. Remuneration for the Secretary

It was decided that the remuneration for the Secretary for the year 2009 is R 2300.00.

22. Meeting dates for 2010

25/26 March 2010 – Newcastle  
22/23 July 2010  
25/26 November 2010

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23. Vote of Thanks

Peter thanked the presenters, sponsors for their contributions and the delegates for attending. He thanked Ken for his support as the branch chairman for the last two years.

24. Closure

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and a safe journey back home.