ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
16 September 2026

International Association of Hydrogeologists

MINUTES OF MEETING

The 2026 Annual General Meeting of the International Association of Hydrogeologists was held at 1715 BST (1815 CEST) on 16th September at the Budapest Congress Centre and online using Zoom. All members of the Association who had fully paid their subscription for the year were entitled to attend and participate in the proceedings. Guests were also welcome to attend. It was proposed immediately prior to the meeting that in the interests of time the tradition of calling for a proposer and seconder for resolutions would not be adopted for the meeting. The presentation slides are available at https://iah.org/members/iah-meetings.

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Dr Teodóra Szőcs (TSz), President of the International Association of Hydrogeologists, welcomed to the meeting 75 members and 6 observers at the venue, and 5 members online. She asked for a moment's silence for members and colleagues who had passed away during the last year.
2. TSz introduced new Executive Manager Tim Besien (TB), who took over from Ian Davey in March 2026. TB introduced the new voting system that would be used during the AGM, an app called Wooclap. Members were invited to participate in the voting via the app. Members could also raise their hands in the traditional manner if they were unable to access Wooclap.
3. TB invited comments on the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17th September 2025, available at https://iah.org/members/iah-meetings and asked for a vote to approve the minutes. The minutes were duly approved, unanimously, by members.
4. TSz was pleased to present the Presidents' Award to Alan Macdonald, long term member of IAH and former IAH Burdon Network Chair (see https://iah.org/about/awards for further details).
5. Jane Dottridge (JDt), IAH Secretary General, described progress with IAH's strategy programme and international liaison activities, with continued engagement to promote groundwater science and influence global policy, including with UN organisations, other collaborations such as the newly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Groundwater Project, and through our Hydrogeology Journal, Strategic Overview and Technical Insight Series. JDt also encouraged all members to complete the ongoing member benefits survey.
6. Other highlights included: the inaugural IAH Distinguished Lecturer Jay Famiglietti gave his first talk '*The emergence of groundwater as the most valuable natural resource of the 21st Century*' during the congress in Budapest, further extension of Hydrogeoday/Hidrogeodía, started in Spain and celebrated in 10 countries in 2026; webinars hosted by IAH, regional, ECHN and the 2nd Pan African Hydrogeology Congress. JDt noted IAH's collaboration with IGRAC on the Discover Groundwater Geostory series.
7. JDt reported on the *Lección Magistral Emilio Custodio*, which started with Dr Jesus Carrera as the first invited lecturer in the 2026 series. IAH has also signed an MOU with UNESCO and is also an official partner of UN Water. JDt acknowledged the work of the Liaison with UN Activities (LUNA) Network as the coordinators of IAH's contributions within the UN,

particularly in the run up to the UN Water Conference that will take place in December 2026.

8. JDt presented two proposed changes to the IAH Rules. The first rule change was an administrative update to change the registered office address in the Rules to reflect the transfer from the address used by Ian Davey to the address of Tim Besien. The second rule change was with regard to dual office holding by IAH Council members; a member elected to the Council as a Regional Vice President, or representative for Early Career Hydrogeologists may not also hold an officer position within an IAH National Chapter. Existing officers are unaffected and a Chapter role may continue temporarily until a successor is appointed. This change was proposed to apply from the 2028 IAH elections onwards. Members voted to approve the rule changes, with 77 members voting to approve, 1 member disapproved and 2 abstained.

   Find out more information about the IAH Rules changes at https://iah.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Council_Mtg_Sept2026_Item7_Changes_to_IAH_rules.pdf

9. JDt presented the Applied Hydrogeology Award (AHA) to Mónica Guzmán-Rojo for her influential work focused on understanding and managing wildfire impacts on groundwater recharge, aligned to IAH's missions and aims, impacting groundwater sustainability and building capacity for future generations.

10. Marco Petitta (MP), Vice President for Science and Programme, reported on IAH's commissions and networks (C&Ns). He described the range of activities covered by IAH's C&Ns and invited all to participate, including those who are not IAH members. MP announced the intention to reactivate the Commission on Hard Rock Hydrogeology, encouraging interested parties to contact him to express interest via vpscience@iah.org. Some changes had taken place in the running of in C&Ns during 2026, including:

    - Burdon Groundwater Network – Kirsty Upton, Cynthia Laar and Farida Boube Dobi new Co-Chairs of the network;
    - Groundwater Resources Classification & Management Network – Closure of the network and activities included within the LUNA network;
    - Commission on Groundwater and Climate Change - New team of co-chairs; Attila Kovacs, Manuela Lasagna, Taha Çapanoğlu and Phebe Olabode as new co-chairs, who will be joining Saulo Vieira and Tibor Stigter.

11. MP then announced that the Distinguished Associate Award would be presented to Dr Márta Vargha, an environmental microbiologist who has highlighted the fundamental importance of groundwater and safe water supplies to human health. She received the award at the closing ceremony of the 2026 congress.

12. Julian Conrad (JCo), Vice President, Finance and Membership, presented the 2025 accounts. Total income for the year was approximately £400K and expenditure was £346K, resulting in a surplus of £54,033. Reserves at the year-end remained sound at £313,050. This is well above the £120K that IAH judges as necessary to be retained for contingencies, and with significant funds available for IAH's charitable activities. Members voted to accept the accounts, with 75 members approving, 3 members disapproving and 2 members abstaining.

13. Members voted to reappoint Locke Williams Associates, Blackthorn House, St Paul's Square, Birmingham, B3 1RL, United Kingdom as the independent examiner of the Association's accounts for the next accounting period and to authorise Council to determine their remuneration. 77 members voted to approve, 2 members disapproved and 1 member abstained.

14. JCo then presented the proposed changes to membership fees for 2027. Due to the increased printing costs of Hydrogeology Journal and cumulative UK inflation of approximately 30% since 2019, it was proposed that a small fee increase for members was necessary for 2027 to ensure the long-term financial stability of the Association. Membership fees for members in low and lower-middle-income countries would not be increased. Online members will see an increase of €1 per year, whilst members with a print subscription will see an increase of €2 per year. Members voted to approve the proposed membership fees for 2027, with 69 members voting to approve, 9 members disapproving and 2 abstentions. More information about the changes to membership fees can be found at https://iah.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Council_Mtg_Sept2026_Item5_Subscription_Fee_Paper.pdf
15. JCo then presented a new initiative to make funds available to National Chapters of IAH via a new event funding form. National Chapters can now apply for up to £1000 of funding, to be used to support the organisation of events in their countries. A draft version of the event funding form can be found at https://iah.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/IAH-National-Chapter-grant-request-form-Sept-26.pdf
16. JCo then announced the recommendations of the IAH Council for the Honorary Members Award for long term members. Carolina Guardiola Albert for her role as President of the Spanish Chapter of IAH, and in particular her long-standing involvement in the coordination and promotion of Hydrogeodía/Hydrogeoday. Peter Malík, President of the Slovak National Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists since 2017. From 2021 to 2025, he served as Europe and Africa Regional Chair of the IAH Commission on Karst Hydrogeology, strengthening international cooperation and advancing knowledge of karst groundwater systems. Finally, Ian Davey, Executive Manager of IAH from 2017 to 2026, who was a driving force behind a period of growth and success for the Association. Members unanimously voted to approve the recommendations for Honorary Members for 2026.
17. TSz informed all that the next congresses would be Guadalajara, Mexico in 2027, Birmingham, UK in 2028 and Nara, Japan in 2029.
18. The meeting ended at 1945 local time. A video of the AGM is available at https://youtu.be/w8M4m427gWc.