

Record of the 18th Meeting of the General Assembly (19 December 2025)

On 19 December 2025, the General Assembly of the Global Network of Water Museums met online, starting at 2 pm CEST, to discuss the following Order of Business:

1. Opening of the meeting and appointment of the Chair
2. Approval of the Record of the last General Assembly
3. Ceremony to thank the outgoing 'founding' Board members (2024–25).
With musical interlude by Andrea Vettoretti 'The Voices of Water' / 'Breath of Water'.
4. Presentation and appointment of the new members of the Management Board (2026-27)
5. Status of 2025 Annual Membership Contributions (received until Nov. 30th)
6. Approval of the membership fees – year 2026
7. Approval of the Forecast Budget 2026
8. Ongoing projects and planned activities
9. Main outcomes of the 6th Int. Conference of Water Museums in Brasilia (4-8 Nov.)
10. Winners of the Water Film Prize 'Back to Our Future': presentation by Linda Lilienfeld
11. Discussion on the renewal of the WAMU+NET Charter
12. Welcome and introduction of new WAMU+NET members
13. Suggestions from the members and closing of the meeting

Members who are present (in presence online):

Institutional representatives:

Ahmed Sara, Living Waters Museum, India; Bangde Yang, Baiheliang Underwater Museum, China; Bernardi Massimo, MUSE Science Museum of Trento, Italy; Bovolato Luis Eduardo, Brazilian Water Museum, Brazil; Calvi Benigno, Martesana Ecomuseum, Italy; Croitoru Victor Lucian, Water Museum 'Leonida Truta', Romania; El Mandour Abdennabi, Musée Mohamed VI de la Civilisation de l'Eau au Maroc 'Mohammed VI', Morocco; Eulisse Eriberto, Water Museum of Venice, Italy; Fernandes Ruben, Parque das Águas, Águas e Energia do Porto, Portugal; Fioretti Francesco, Hydra Multimedia Museum of Marmore Waterfalls, Terni, Italy; Fusco Fabiana, University of Udine, Italy; Gatti Giovanni, ADEP / Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy; Herrerias Gisela, Museo del Agua 'Agua para Siempre', Mexico; Javadian-Zadeh Mohammad, Yazd Water Museum, Iran; Kabir Farah, Kalapara Water Museum, Bangladesh; Lee-Niinioja Hee Sook, Subong Aqua Flores, Indonesia; Maruškić Kulaš Margarita, Aquatika, Karlovac, Croatia; Moors Eddy, IHE Delft, UNESCO C2C, The Netherlands; Rebelo Apolinario, International Water Memorial, MINA/ADEP; Samuel Manoj, Water Resources and Heritage Museum, Khozicode, Kerala, India; Schultz Ellen Freedman, Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, Philadelphia, USA; Scoullous Michael, HYDRIA Network, Greece; Singha Sushmita, Water Museum of Udaipur, India; Tang Lijing (Vivian), Lingqu Canal Museum, Xing'an, China; Tosi Antonio, TE.AM Study Center for Territory and Environment, Naples, Italy; Yongming Chen, National Water Museum of China, Hangzhou, China.

Individual members: Boselli Vladimiro, Italy; El Moujahid Omayma, Morocco; Jeffers Olivia, USA; Kerr-Wilson Ian, Canada; Parolin Pia, Germany; Pypaert Philippe, Italy.

Members who are not present (justified absentees):

Institutional representatives:

Almenar Cubells Francisco, Tribunal de les Agues de la Vega de Valencia, Spain; Basile Federico, INFEA Network for Environmental Education, Messina, Italy; Becker Christoph, Historisches Klaerwerk Krefeld, Germany; Boaretto Emanuele, Y-40 The Deep Joy and Spa, Montegrotto Terme, Italy; Bolognesi Andrea, Water Factory of Bologna, Italy; Braun Ralf, Water Museum of Bavaria 'Haus am Strom', Germany; Bresciani Carmela, Ecomuseo delle Judicarie, Italy; Brivio Gianfranco, Ecomuseo Adda di Leonardo, Italy; Buisman Jurjaen, Museum Geelwinck, The Netherlands; Chong Cao, Yellow River Water Conservancy Museum, Inner Mongolia, China; Capaldo Stefania,

Federalberghi Terme, Roma, Italy; Castro-Henriques Mariana, Museo de l'Agua, Lisbon, Portugal; Catt May, Royal Pump Room Museum, Harrogate, United Kingdom; Cernelic Kroselj Alenka, The Posavje Museum Brežice, Slovenia; Crowe Deirdre, Water Museum of Ireland; Damon Betsy, Keepers of the Waters, USA; Deme Alioune, Musée des peuples de l'Eau, Dakar, Senegal; De Laet Hilde, Hidrodooe Pidpa, Belgium; De Vries Sandra, Healthy Danube Network-Danube 4all, Austria; Dodiță-Farcaș Daniel, Casa Apei / House of Water, Romania; Dragone Simone, Milan Water Plant; Italy; Chu Mr., Museum of Drinking Water, Taipei, Taiwan Frangin Claude, Water in Lyon and the Cornish Pump, France; Galeazzo Lamberto, MAAP Environmental Archaeological Museum of the Waters of Padua, Italy; Gargano Massimo, ANBI, Italy; Guzman Gutierrez Jorge Octavio, Museo Vivo del Agua y Biodiversidad del Macizo Colombiano, Colombia; Haliori Keti, World Water Museum, Greece; Hendrik Aude, Brussels Sewer Museum, Belgium; Horvath Istvan, Duna Museum, Hungary; Hügli Regina, One Body of Water, Austria; Hulshof Harry, Water Museum of Den Bosch / Kring Vrienden van 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands; Iamiceli Marco, Paese dell'Acqua, Sassinoro, Italy; Iovine Raffaele, Water Museum of Naples 'Lapis', Italy; Jacome Paula, Yaku Parque Museo del Agua, Ecuador; Jiroušková Šárka, Historical Wastewater Treatment Plant, Czech Republic; Karels Ron, Broekerveiling Water Museum, The Netherlands; Kiselinov Nicola, Water Museum of Ohrid, Macedonia; Landi Fabrizio, IDRO-Ecomuseum of Ridracoli / Acque di Romagna, Forlì-Cesena, Italy; Laurent Cloe, Musée de l'Eau et de la Fontaine, Belgium; Lauri Sandro, GHJN, National Conservation Awareness Centre, Malta; Loredana, Aquatim, Romania; Lili Liu, Water Culture Museum, North China University, Zhengzhou, China; Lynge Hein David, Grundfos Museum, Denmark; Londinsky Nicolas, Musée des Egouts, Paris; Malparte Stefania, River Navigation Museum of Battaglia Terme, Italy; Manyaka Daniel Theophile, Musée de l'Eau de Siga-Bonjo, Cameroun; Manzo Moreno Joana, Museo Interactivo del Agua 'Iurhekuá', Mexico; Marchi Luca, The Valley of Mills, Castelnuovo Magra, Italy; Marquisio Caceres Adriana, OSE Water Museum, Uruguay; Martinez Torres Osvaldo, Albear Aqueduct Museum / INRH, Havana, Cuba; Mikolji Yelka, Green Earth Alliance, USA; Mira Pontón Mauricio Josè, Ecoparque de la Biodiversidad COP16, Colombia; Mizzan Luca, Natural History Museum of Venice, Italy; Mortandello Riccardo, Museum of Ancient Thermalism, Montegrotto Terme, Italy; Ottaiano Giuseppe, MUMAC Multimedia Museum of Campania's Waters, Naples, Italy; Pagano Fabio, Campi Flegrei Archaeological National Park, Naples, Italy; Pansera Sonia, Museum of the Rice Fields, Rivers, and Rural Landscape of Mantua, Italy; Poelina Anne, Martuwarra Fitzroy River, Australia; Qiangsheng Shan, The Oujiang Boat Fellowship Museum, Lishui, China; Rashad Salim, Safina Projects, Iraq; Razzini Andrea, The Aqueduct Museum of Venice / Veritas, Italy; Rodes Javier, Museos de Mequinenza, Spain; Rovira Pujol David, Museu de les Aigües, Spain; Said Al-Mesnad Fatima, Kahramaa Water Awareness Park, Qatar; Samoura Alassane, Musée de l'Eau de Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; Sciarra Marco, The Well of the Quarry, Italy; Schwartzstein Judith, Catskill Water Discovery Center, USA; Serra Giménez Eudald, Museu de l'Aigua i el Textíl, Spain; Steffenini Mauro, The Columban Pilgrim's Water Way, Italy; Tardani Roberta, Pozzo di San Patrizio, Orvieto, Italy; Topcu Ercan, Isum Istanbul Su Müzesi, Turkey; Travers Daniel, Canadian Museum of Water, Midland, Canada; van Beek Peter, Biesbosch Museum Eiland, The Netherlands; van Melis Elise, Haarlemmermeermuseum De Cruquius, The Netherlands; Van Pee Lode, The Nile Institute, Rwanda; van Staveren Martijn, IHP-HWRP Netherlands National Committee, The Netherlands; Vignarca Roberto, Natural Reserve 'Pian di Spagna e Lago di Mezzola', Italy; Wang Xianping, Yellow River Museum, China; Widadi Ismail, Mandala Mathika Subak Museum, Indonesia; Wieriks Koos, Netherlands Watermuseum, Arnhem, The Netherlands; Wundsam Karin, Water Adventure Mini-Danube, Austria; Xiang Cui, Museum of the Grand Canal, Liaocheng, China; Yavari Mendez Luis Fernando, Centro Cultural de l'Agua Saguapac, Bolivia; Yiping Li, Hohai University, China.

Individual members: Boyle Michelle, Ireland; De Vries Sandra, Netherlands; La Spada Giuseppe, Italy; Leone Manfredi, Italia; Lessa Joana, Portugal; Ruf Thierry, France; Wilmott Christopher, UK; Zheng Xiao Yun, China.

The External Observer: Amani Abou, Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO.

The GA video recording, power point presentations and all documents referred to in these minutes are available at: <https://www.watermuseums.net/activities/general-assemblies/>

1. Opening of the meeting and appointment of the Chair

Eriberto Eulisse opens the meeting and gives the floor to Eddy Moors, President of the Network, to chair the meeting. Eddy Moors greets all participants and notes that this is his last General Assembly as President, as he is reaching the end of his 6-years mandate. He then gives the floor back to Eriberto, who outlines the agenda for the day. Also the director recalls that the project 'The Voices of Water' was recently included in the prestigious Virtual Science Museums (VSM) of UNESCO.

2. Approval of the Record of last General Assembly

Eriberto Eulisse shortly presents the Record of the last General Assembly, which was circulated in advance among all members for review and validation. The record is unanimously approved.

3. Ceremony to thank the outgoing 'founding' Board members (2024–25).

With musical interlude by Andrea Vettoretti 'The Voices of Water' / 'Breath of Water'.

The outgoing Board members, being also the founding members of WAMU+NET, are formally thanked during a special ceremony accompanied by a musical interlude by the music composer and guitarist Andrea Vettoretti (WAMU+NET's designated water ambassador 2025). The guitar piece he plays is titled 'The Voices of Water' (from the album 'Breath of Water'): it was launched at the prestigious Teatro La Fenice, in Venice, in December 2025. A photo slideshow follows, featuring images from various WAMU+NET highlights held over the past 6 years (including events organized in Venice, Paris, Valencia, Marrakech, Trento, Brasília, etc), as a tribute to the outgoing Board members. Then, a conversation takes place with Andrea Vettoretti, who explains that his musical work aims to narrate different stories connected by a common element: water. His new album includes sounds collected by different water museums around the world. Andrea confirms that, should any museum be interested, all recorded water sounds from his new album are available for free for them. A second album, dedicated to relaxation, will be released soon.

Eriberto Eulisse once again thanks all outgoing Board members and gives the floor to the outgoing president, Eddy Moors, who in turn also thanks Eriberto Eulisse for his work during the last 6 years. He expresses confidence that the new Board members will carry out their role successfully and that the outgoing members will continue to support the network. Eriberto Eulisse then invites outgoing Board members who wish to speak to take the floor: Sara Ahmed, Michael Scoullous, Lucian Croitoru, and Ian Kerr-Wilson, who shortly recall their contributions and WAMU+NET achievements

4. Presentation and appointment of the new members of the Management Board (2026-27)

Eriberto Eulisse announces the names of the candidates to be elected as new Board members. He notes that 12 expressions of interest were received by the deadline of December 2nd. As there were two candidates from India and two from Morocco, the outgoing Management Board proposed to select only one candidate for each country, to keep geographical balance, as follows:

| | Country | Gender | Candidate | Museum / WAMU+NET member | Region |
|----|----------|--------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Belgium | M | Philippe Pypaert | Individual member | Europe |
| 2 | Brazil | M | Rebelo Apolinario | ADASA Brasilia | Latin America |
| 3 | China | M | Chen Yongming | National Water Museum China | Asia |
| 4 | Germany | F | Pia Parolin | Individual member | Europe |
| 5 | India | F | Sushmita Singha | Jal Water Museum Udaipur | Asia |
| 6 | Iran | F | Ely Raeae | ICQHS Unesco Cat. 2 Centre | Asia |
| 7 | Italy | F | Fabiana Pica | TE.AM Naples (*) | Europe |
| 8 | Morocco | M | Abdennabi El Mandour | Musée de l'Eau Mohamed VI | Arab Countries |
| 9 | Portugal | M | Fernandez Ruben | Aguas do Porto | Europe |
| 10 | US | F | Ellen Schultz | Philadelphia Waterworks | North America |
| 11 | - | - | Vacant position | - | |

The 10 Board members preselected by the outgoing Board and who are available for nominations are highlighted above. After discussion, the General Assembly unanimously approves their appointments. An eleventh position (as provided for in the Charter) remains vacant. This position has been intentionally left vacant; should none of the newly appointed members wish to serve as Executive Director, that role may be filled by another member who has not yet been elected.

Eddy Moors welcomes the new Board members and highlights the importance of diversity within the Management Board. The newly appointed members take the floor to shortly introduce themselves. Philippe Pypaert (Belgium) mentions that he retired last year from UNESCO. Being one of the founding members of WAMU+NET in 2017, he is finally willing to bring his experience to support the growth of the network. Elham Raee (Iran) greets the Assembly and expresses her appreciation for being part of the network and contribute to its developments being already a member (UNESCO Cat.2 Centre) of the UNESCO Water Family. Sushmita Singha (India) greets everyone and notes that she has contributed to the definition of the SDGs, stressing consistently the importance of water. She expresses her interest in supporting project development and fundraising activities. Apolinario Rebelo (Brazil) expresses his gratitude for being part of the Management Board and for the opportunity to contribute to WAMU+NET projects. Ellen Schultz (USA) greets the Assembly and thanks the outgoing Board members. She highlights her particular interest in water education and notes that she can contribute with her expertise and experience to the network in this field. Pia Parolin (Germany) introduces herself as a scientist and biologist who has conducted research on water for many years; she greets all participants and expresses her willingness to support WAMU+NET in developing the new Charter. Fabiana Pica (Italy) presents the institution where she works and expresses her hope to facilitate collaboration among institutions at both local and international levels. Director Eriberto Eulisse takes the floor and outlines the necessity to extend the mandates of the current president and director until February 2026, to ensure the organization's operational continuity. Specifically, the following is proposed: Extension of both President's and Director's term, until a successor is appointed by the new Board. This appointment shall be formalized during the first meeting of the new Board, scheduled for February 2026. The Assembly, having noted the reasons presented, unanimously approves the proposal.

5. Status of 2025 Annual Membership Contributions (received until Nov. 30th)

The director reports that, as of 30 November, there are 21 unpaid (pending) membership contributions for 2025, corresponding to a lack of income of approximately € 10,000 (about 20% of the Network's institutional revenue from members). The director recalls that, only upon payment of the annual membership fee, partner museums are entitled to use the UNESCO logo alongside their institutional logo. Additional benefits include international visibility within the WAMU+NET network; free use of exhibitions (*The Water We Want*, *The Voices of Water*, and others). Eulisse also reminds the Assembly that, according to Bylaw No. 3, in the case of two consecutive years of non-payment and in the absence of a response, the 'silent member' is invited to withdraw from WAMU+NET. Accordingly, the members concerned receives a formal letter to close the membership.

6. Approval of the membership fees – year 2026

Eriberto Eulisse presents the proposed membership fees for 2026, explaining the different categories of membership, including provisions for institutions from low-income countries to keep ensuring accessibility and inclusivity.

7. Approval of the Forecast Budget 2026

Eriberto Eulisse presents the forecast budget for 2026, highlighting efforts to combine different sources of funding in order to ensure financial sustainability. He expresses gratitude to the Province of Trento for supporting additional operational costs and for covering his salary paid by the province of Trento to work as WAMU+NET Executive Director. Thanks to various EU projects, several staff

members have been hired, including: Irene Leonardelli, Giada Tognon, Lucio Bonato, Monica Benettazzo, Lucrezia Gigante, and Massimo Giacometti. Starting in 2026, a new staff member, Fiorenza Tisi, will join the WAMU+NET team. Her salary will be covered by the Province of Trento thanks to an agreement recently signed.

8. Ongoing projects and planned activities

Irene Leonardelli presents the activities planned for the first six months of 2026:

- January: field research activity in the oasis of Douiret-Sbaa, Morocco, to support the local community in developing an Oasis Ecomuseum
- February: Soil Art Tales: 1st Exhibition in Porto, hosted by Serralves. This is developed in the frame of the EU-funded project SoilTribes. It features the work of 4 artists on soil biodiversity
- March: Development of 5 new case studies on AHTs for the Virtual Science Museums of Unesco and one Digital Tour in cooperation with the Musée de l'Eau, Burkina Faso
- 26 April: Deadline for 6th Youth Contest TWWW
- April: Soil Art Tales: 2nd Exhibition in Rome, hosted by ANBI and Città Metropolitana Roma
- May: Exhibition "Water Dream Memory" during the Venice Art Biennale. Hosted by the UNESCO Venice Office, it features the work of 3 artists in residences hosted by WAMU+NET members. Exhibition developed in the context of the EU-funded project AQUAMOTION
- June: Sassinoro/S.Croce Sannio: Launch of the Interpretive Centre on the Tammaro River (co-designed by Paesi dell'Acqua & WAMU+NET)
- June: Pilot action on the Extended Museum of the Acheron River in Souli, Greece (co-designed by WAMU+NET for the AQUATIK EU project). A study visit, with 25 participants from 10 countries will explore the practice of establishing an extended water museum

9. Main outcomes of the 6th International Conference of Water Museums in Brasilia (4-8 November)

The conference focused on the role of indigenous and local communities in climate adaptation and the development of "extended museums" for safeguarding water heritage. Furthermore, the winning entries of the "Back to Our Future" short film contest—organized in cooperation with *Let's Talk About Water*—were presented at the conference and subsequently showcased at COP30 in Belém, significantly enhancing the network's visibility in global water governance forums. Eulisse shares a group photo from Brasilia and a short video produced by Pia Parolin, highlighting key moments of the conference. He provides a brief overview of the content and discussions of the different days and sessions, summarizing the main insights and outcomes of the event.

10. Winners of the Water Film Prize 'Back to Our Future': presentation by Linda Lilienfeld

Eriberto introduces the Water Film Prize, focused on ancient hydrotechnologies. The award ceremony took place in Brasilia, and a video of the event was screened during the session.

Linda Lilienfeld joins remotely from New York to greet participants and to highlight the importance of WAMU+NET members screening films that promote water awareness. She emphasizes the power of films to raise awareness about water and environmental issues. All prize-winning films will be available on the Let's Talk About Water website.

11. Discussion on the renewal of the WAMU+NET Charter

As discussed in Brasilia, Pypaert briefly presents ideas to renew the Charter. It is necessary to draft a new Charter to reflect the latest developments of WAMU+NET; the significant growth in membership and activities indicates that the current document, drafted in 2018-9, is now outdated. A Working Group — also involving former Board members — will be established to develop WAMU+NET's new institutional foundations, with the goal of completing legal registration by 2026. The renewal will be based on two key questions: what is the difference between the institutional activities of WAMU+NET and its projects? Who implements them? With the new Charter, it will be fundamental

to emphasize the distinction between ordinary management and activities (led by the Secretariat) and thematic projects, which should be carried out by working groups led by different WAMU+NET partners. In this frame, the Board responsibilities must include: overall strategic planning and budget, nomination of the CEO, steering of ordinary activities, approval of thematic WGs, and external representation. Other activities will have to be implemented by WGs and volunteering members.

12. Welcome and introduction of new WAMU+NET members

Irene Leonardelli presents the new museums members that joined in the last 6 months, including:

1. Water Culture Museum, North China University (Zhengzhou, China)
2. Yellow River Water Culture Museum (Bayannur, Inner Mongolia, China)
3. Centro Cultural del Agua SAGUAPAC (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia)
4. The Columban Pilgrim's Water Way (Bobbio, Italy)

The new Individual Members: Jeffers Olivia (USA); Manfredi Leone (Italy); and Parolin Pia (Germany).

13. Suggestions from the members and closing of the meeting

It is understood that, should no new Board member be willing to serve as Executive Director, Eriberto Eulisse will act as 'ad interim' CEO pending the approval of the new Charter. This arrangement would ensure operational continuity at no cost to the network, leveraging his current secondment from the Province of Trento (in-kind contribution confirmed through March 2027).

Since there is no additional point to discuss, the meeting closes at 16:15 CET. Eddy Moors thanks everyone once again and wishes everyone happy holidays!

Ala-Venice, 19 December 2025

The President
Eddy Moors

The Executive Director
Eriberto Eulisse