

SoBRA AGM Chair	Hannah White
Date	4 December 2019

Hannah White delivered a presentation on behalf of the Executive Committee, acting as current chair and chair for 2020. See supporting slides.

General:

Covered the seven core objectives of SoBRA. Questioned if members are still comfortable with them? No objections.

Society has increased in strength and numbers. Membership – currently 566 members. Increase of approx. 100 in previous 12 months.

More of a focus on early careers in the last two years. Repeat of London 2018 early careers event in Manchester in June 2019. Likely one in Birmingham and with SCLF in Scotland during 2020.

Tatiana Cocerva (Queens University Belfast, SoBRA member) – acting on behalf of SoBRA to raise our social media presence – LinkedIn and Twitter. Twitter @SoBRA_UK. We are trialling a new business page on LinkedIn.

Conferences:

SoBRA was reported at the November Nicole conference to be one of the most importing organisation in the brownfield sector – this is a big positive for us and recognition of our work.

Collaboration – request to members to please raise awareness of SoBRA at any conferences, social media platforms etc.

Representative of SoBRA have delivered presentations at various conferences / groups. Nicole, RemSoc, GeolSoc Con Land Group. Part of various panels and working groups.

Publications:

AGAC – BB award 2019. Also presented on this at Nicole.

Fine tuning DQRAs for the water environment – from 2018 conference.

Top Tips (early careers) documents.

Accreditation: 12% of members are part of the accreditation scheme. Two application windows per year in Jan and Aug.

Summer conference 2019 – risk communication:

Spaces for 80-100. A week before numbers were low at 36 so we cancelled it. It was a topic suggested / requested on feedback forms. Open discussion about why a poor uptake? Feedback was that date simply not convenient, lack of publicity,

Subgroups:

Closed AGAC, GWVAP closed awhile ago. Ongoing – standards, asbestos, VI, NAPL.

NEW - GG / Permanent Gases sub-group –Voted by a show of hands – majority of those at the AGM in favour of a new subgroup. Two members volunteered to lead this. EC to discuss at the January 2020 EC meeting and take this forward.

NEW / Temporary working group - Stats draft guidance (CL:AIRE) likely to replace current CL:AIRE guidance (which would be withdrawn). SoBRA is on the Steering Group and has been asked for comments. Combined feedback so far notes a lack of detail on sampling strategies, how to take samples, defining a sample population, sample densities etc. Members were asked if we, as a Society, wanted to fill this gap and provide such a document e.g. pros and cons of different approaches / methods (with no commitment to necessarily recommend an approach). Barry Mitcheson (represented AGS on the Steering Group, but also a SoBRA member) noted that an early draft did have a section on CSM which could be used as a starting point. Executive Committee to work out how to take this forward – to be discussed further at the EC meeting in January 2020.

Finances:

Audited by Dave Schofield for previous financial year. Requested for a volunteer for next year - Simon Firth volunteered in absence of other hands.

Income 2017-2018 – details on slide.

Next year – what do we wish to do as a Society?

- Build on the accreditation scheme, continue to build membership and voice, reinvigorate subgroups to deliver guidance of the kind that we need, recruit more active volunteers to assist with this, build more links with early careers and educational establishments.
- Summer 2020 conference – juggling the emerging contaminant time bomb – understanding changing perceptions of risk is our draft topic / title. One member suggested bias could be included in this – would need to relate to emerging contaminants – organising group to review this suggestion.
- Simon Firth – does SoBRA need training on applying for accreditation? [Note that Naomi Earl does offer support to applicants, for free, if requested]. Trainers don't get paid so not a commercial activity as this would be on a voluntary basis. Society needs to follow the Charity Commission guidance on such things, which will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and discussed at the January 2020 meeting.
- Barry Mitcheson – raised the general question of if the Society has moved away from being innovative and trying to solve problems. Is this due to market forces? Does the Society need to consider what it is doing and how it approaches current issues.

New Executive Committee members:

Nominations for four new members (to replace those rotating off the Executive Committee) were received. As only four nominations were received, no voting was required under the constitution.

Those appointed are:

Jenny Mullen, Eleanor Walker, Olayinka Ekundayo and Melinda Evans.