



## Waterways Watch Society

Tel: (65) 6396 6768

Email: [contactwws@wws.org.sg](mailto:contactwws@wws.org.sg)

Website: <https://wws.org.sg>

Address: 4876 Beach Road Singapore 199587

**Date:** 29 September 2024, 2pm

**Venue:** Waterways Watch Society HQ (Kallang)

**Time:** 1400hrs to 1630hrs

**Attendees (67):** Anqi Li, Aung Kyaw Moe, Boon Whye Toh, Catherine G Suarez, Casey Ng Wei Wen, Chong Ked Poon, Chong Keng Wai, Choo Vincent, Daphne Mari Llorente Condecido, Dam Dieu Phuong, Deborah Sia, Diane Neo Shuen Ni, Eddie Lee Wai Seng, Eugene Heng Chin Hien, Edwin See, Foo Lih Yee, Gan Kong Nam, Gappe Jennifer Alfonso, Genevieve Yip, Goh Chia Chia, Goh Kenny, Goh Pei Kie, Gwen Lim Hwee Koon, Ho Lijean, Ho Wan Xuan, Hsieh Qiu Shong, Huang Leng Cheng, Jenny Yap Siaw Hui, John Tan, Kam Hin Shing, Kam Kian Lee, Kheh Kim Chong, Kiang Leong Feow, Kyaw Kyaw Linn, Lai Ching Wee Ben, Lam Yeat Mean, Lau Seng Kiam, Lee Yit Seong, Leong Hon Wai, Lim Chee Yong, Li Zhimin, Lin Jie Ng, Loh Ai Wah, Louis Kong, Loh Yew Kwong, Mary Grace Rodrigo Feria, Mary Jesamin Cepeda, Mariline Palinta, Michael Lye, Ng Ngai Lab, Ng Shiang Nee, Ng Xin Tian, Patrick Xu Yi Qing, Rohan Chitrakar, Roy Lee Pak Pui, Sim Chia Way Telly, Sim Chia Yeong Kelvin, Sonny Soe Tint, Tan Chun Hao, Tan Hwee Shan, Tan Jui Ming, Tan Li Lian, Tay Ji Qin, Tay Soon Nghee, Victor Kok, Victoria Lee, Wang Chee Boon Patrick, Yvonne Tan Hui Juan

AGM 2024 has a total of 47 voting members. A voting quorum can be formed and AGM 2024 can be officially commenced.

### **Opening Speech by Mr Eugene Heng**

Mr Eugene Heng, CEO and Founder of Waterways Watch Society, welcomed and thanked all members who attended this year's AGM physically. Eugene shared that we completed a total of 387 programmes this year (an overall increase of 6.6% from the previous financial year) including both corporate and school programmes. This year, we also actively participated in



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many corporates' environmental initiatives and national events - namely Marina Bay Sands (MBS), BNP Paribas, JPMorgan Chase, Infineon, Singapore World Water Day and Go Green SG.

Eugene also pointed out an increasing demand for safety boat services. The society completed a total of 329 safety boat services this year. The Society expects to see an increase in the demand in the coming year as well.

Eugene also extended his appreciation for the society's sustainable sponsors and new sponsors like North West Community Development Council (NWCDC), Goldman Sachs, West Pharmaceutical, Mitsubishi Electric Asia Pte. Ltd, Clean the World Foundation and Sands (Drop by Drop Initiative), and Tides Foundation. In particular, the society would like to thank Mitsubishi Electric Asia Pte. Ltd. for also sponsoring our internship programme and the new container office for Punggol Office. The Society is always looking for more sponsors and donors to support our cause.

In the realm of membership, the Society welcomed a total of 206 new members from April 2023 to March 2024. On average, the Society welcomes 12-20 new members every month. A total number of 2755 environmental patrols were conducted, amounting to a total of 8,467 hours of voluntary environmental patrols this year, mostly during the weekends at Marina, Punggol and Lakeside. A total of 2653 members rostered themselves over the 12-month period.

Eugene also took this opportunity to advocate for more senior citizens to join our cause and participate in our clean-up activities on weekdays and weekends. As of today, over 35% of our members are over 50 years of age. In fact, about 15% of them are above the age of 60 years old. The environmental patrols coupled with active outdoor sports (such as cycling, kayaking, pedal-boating) allows seniors to socialize and stay active while doing their part for mother nature.



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Eugene also shared disappointing news this year, as we saw a significant increase in the amount of litter collected and in particular, an increase in plastic litter. Statistics collated from our records shows a substantial increase of litter collected - an increment of 15% for Marina, 78% Punggol and 80% Jurong/Lakeside when compared with the previous year. The amount of plastic litter collected rose by an astonishing 200%, while Cans and Glasses saw an increase of 60% and 40% compared to the previous year respectively. There is certainly more work to be done in Public Hygiene Year 2024. The Society

Eugene emphasized that recycling is an important agenda of our Sustainability mission. This year the Society introduced three specially-designed Recycle Bins at our PMO (Plastic, Metal & Others) corner. Members and participants are highly encouraged to sort the litter (washed and clean) that they have collected into the different bins after they return from their patrols and programmes. Recycling remains a tough mission for Singapore's society as a whole, but we believe that a small step goes a long way. The key code to the PMO bins was shared with all members present.

### **Passing of AGM 2023 Minutes by Ms Victoria Lee**

Mr Philip Ng (member) proposed and Mr Toh Hui San (member) seconded the passing of minutes. All present were unanimous in favour of approving the minutes. There were no abstentions or objections raised by any of the members present.

### **Review of April 2023 to March 2024 by Mr Low Joo Kek**

President of Waterways Watch Society Mr Low Joo Kek shared that the Society has successfully renewed our Institutions of Public Character (IPC) status which we hold since 01 January 2014. The next renewal will be due on 30 November 2025 according to local regulations.



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Joo Kek also extended his warm welcome to the society's new sponsors, including Mitsubishi Electric Asia Pte Ltd, who have generously contributed to our new container classroom at WWS Punggol Branch and our internship programme.

Joo Kek also commended our operations team, who has skillfully managed our programmes despite staffing challenges. Joo Kek also extends his heartfelt appreciation to every facilitator member for your commitment in helping us navigate the challenges of the past year.

Joo Kek reminded the society to be mindful of the challenges that lie ahead, including economic uncertainty and escalating costs. Joo Kek believes that the team will work closely together to navigate these difficulties with determination and innovation to continue delivering impact services to our community.

### **Review and Passing of Accounts from April 2023 to March 2024 by Ms Victoria Lee**

Ms Victoria Lee, Vice-President of Waterways Watch Society shared the overall performance of the society for the financial year April 2023 to March 2024. It is noted that there is a reduction in voluntary donations this year, as we no longer enjoy the Tote Board Dollar for Dollar Fundraising Support. The society managed to gather new sponsors to fund our programmes this year, resulting in the increase of sponsorship income.

With the increase in programmes, the Society also saw an increase in the expenses this year, namely on manpower and staff cost. No issues were raised by any of the auditors.

Mr Huang Leng Cheng (member) proposed and Mr Lee Yit Seong (member) seconded the passing of the Financial Accounts. All others present were unanimous in favour of approving the



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Financial Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024. There were no abstentions or objections raised by any of the members present.

### **Punggol Office Updates by Mr Low Joo Kek**

Mr Joo Kek shared that the Punggol Office has been established for 9 years and is still operating well with both weekday and weekend patrols. Joo Kek thanked our dedicated Punggol volunteers who have come forward to help run the Punggol Office together.

Joo Kek also highlighted that the Punggol team observes an increasing trend in the number of members joining the branch. The Punggol team conducts boat and bike patrols weekly.

### **Lakeside Office Updates by Mr Louis Kong**

Mr Louis Kong shared that the new Jurong Skateboard Park was opened on 2 April 2023. Jurong Leaders have gone down to do a recce of the place, but deemed unsuitable for member patrols to be conducted there due to concerns over safety. Louis also highlighted that though we have 634 members registered at Lakeside, there are only 106 of them who are active. The Society hopes to see more active members in the coming year. Louis also shared about the re-alignment of the pontoon (for Catamaran) at Jurong Office.

### **Updates in Committee Members by Mr Eugene Heng**

Treasurer Ms Loh Ai Wah and Assistant Treasurer Mr Tan Chek Kian have chosen to step down for the next year due to work commitments. The Committee has agreed and commenced voting and selection for Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer in this AGM. The nominees for the Treasurer



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and Assistant Treasurer were presented. All present were unanimous in favour of approving the new Committee 2024/2025, as follows:

<b>President</b>	Mr Low Joo Kek
<b>Vice-President</b>	-
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ms Woei Shyuan Lee, Victoria
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Mr Gan Kong Nam
<b>Secretary</b>	Ms Goh Chia Chia
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	Ms Ng Shiang Nee

Mr Aung Kyaw Moe (member) proposed and Mr Kenny Kam Kian Lee (member) seconded the updates of committee members as a Group. There were no abstentions or objections raised by any of the members present.

### **Future Plans and Introduction of new members in Admin Team by Mr Eugene Heng**

Mr Eugene Heng shared that the society received an anonymous donation of S\$200,000. The society is intending to use this funds to acquire 2 new boats designed like WWS #8 and WWS #9 2 new engines (YAMAHA). The delivery ETA is in November 2024 (total cost estimated at S\$40k). We will also be purchasing one new pedal-boat for Punggol and two new ones for Kallang (Total cost estimated at S\$46k). On top of this, we will be purchasing 2 new tandem bicycles and maybe 4-6 new folding bicycles to replace the old ones (Estimated cost of S\$10k). The balance amount will be used to fund our operating expenses for the current financial year.

Eugene also introduced four new stations for our new wet weather programme activity in the space beside our admin office. The society is also exploring to curate a new Waterways Watch Explorer (WWE) programme at the newly revamped Chinese Garden if deemed practical. The



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team will also look into the possibility of conducting more patrols upstream (Potong Pasir to Kallang River via Kolam Ayer). The route will require kayakers with a two-star certification.

### **Closing Remarks by Mr Low Joo Kek**

On behalf of Waterways Watch Society, Mr Low Joo Kek also extended heartfelt thanks to our fellow donors and partners for their unwavering support. Joo Kek also welcome all members to sign up for the upcoming WWS Family and Friends Carnival 2024, which will be held on 24 November 2024, 9.30am to 12.30pm at our Kallang Headquarters.

### **Before the end of the AGM:**

This year, the Society would also like to honor ten of our dedicated members who have clocked the highest number of environmental patrol duty hours this financial year. They are namely, Louis Kong (272 hours), Ben Lai (227 hours), Michelle Loh (223 hours), Darren Tan Chun Hao (193 hours), Mary Jesamin V Cepeda (173 hours), Tan Jui Ming (170 hours), Low Joo Kek (158 hours), Jerry Lim Chee Yong (118 hours), Tan Soi Hong (116 hours), Mariline Palinta (105 hours), Edward John Sebastian (105 hours).

This year, the Society also honored our top 4 facilitators who have helped us tirelessly with programmes this year. They are Alvin Tay Soon Nghee (177 programmes), Philip Ng Ngai Lab (169 programmes), Luke Boffa Christopher (162 programmes), Wai Ling Seah (159 Programmes). This year, the Committee would like to specially thank Philip Chan, Aung Kyaw Moe, Jonathan Poh, Lawrence Yeo and Yvonne Tan for their continuous and outstanding support for the past year.