

UULKRAAL ESTUARY FORUM (UEF)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2015

AT 11H00 – COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GANSBAAI MUNICIPALITY

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairperson, Maarten Groos (MG) welcomed everyone present.

Attendees:

Maarten Groos (MG), Benjamin Kondokter (BK), Liezl Bezuidenhout (LB),
Heloise Fortune (HF), Nyanisa Tshaya NT), Caren George (CG), Melt Carstens (MC),
Tierck Hoekstra (TH)

Apologies recorded from:

Pierre de Villiers, Wayne Gabb, Wilna Kloppers, Sheraine Van Wyk, Patrick van Coller, Zayed Brown and Deon Geldenhuys.

LB noted that DC is not with the Overstrand Municipality anymore he is retired.

The Attendance register was circulated.

2. Agenda Points

2.1 Amendment of Agenda

None

2.2 Additional new items

None

Minutes of Previous Meeting

3.1 Amendments/Approval

No amendments.

The minutes of 06 August 2015 was accepted.

3.2 Matters arising

None

4. Institutional / Management

4.1 Letters sent to stakeholders agencies

LB commented that Pierre has sent an email to the stakeholders but only Patrick van Coller and Wilna Kloppers replied. They apologized for not attending the previous meeting and mentioned that they would be at the next meeting. LB noted that Pierre only received responses from them.

5. EMP Implementation

5.1 MCC Report Back

MC noted that Christelle from Mot McDonald gave a presentation at the last MCC meeting. They are in the 3rd and final stage of the CMP development. There will be a 3rd round of public participation in December 2015 and the process will be completed by June 2016.

5.2 Kraaibosch Dam Management

MG distributed a summary on the Kraaibosch dam to the forum and requested that the document be distributed with the minutes.

MG said that he would ask Wayne to distribute the historical analysis on the Kraaibosch Dam to the forum. LB noted that the information is very important and was looked at during the reserve study for the river. She recalls that it was stated that whatever the summer inflow, will be released downstream from the dam. This was requested to ensure that the dam would not have a negative impact on the mouth opening and closing of the Uilkraal Estuary. She noted that this needs to be monitored this time of the year especially when lot of sand is coming into the system. LB will give attention to the details of the Mouth Management Plan and where it specifically mentions that the mouth needs to stay open. Before the mouth closes and the water levels start to drop a monitoring committee must make a recommendation to have a voluntary release from the dam to keep the mouth open. The monitoring committee should consist of OSM, the Chairperson, ODM, CapeNature and the Dam Management Committee representative. Is this perhaps something that needs to be added to the MMP? LB needs to check whether this is included in the MMP.

MG questioned LB's comment as to whether a release would keep the mouth open. He felt that research should rather take place to see if alien species are not the greatest problem for water loss. MG stated that the Dam managements' argument would be to tackle this first as aliens are the main problem and from a methodological point of view he is correct.

LB mentioned that she would like to take this point up with DEA: WFW.

MG mentioned that Wayne suggested that the next meeting should be held at Lomond in order for him to explain the dam scenario, etc.

MG questioned whether there was a proper environmental procedure followed during the construction of the "Baardskeerdersbos Road". He felt that the water draining through the pipes under the tar road was having a negative effect on the Boesman's River. LB said that she would speak to Town Planning to find out when the road was upgraded and to see if she can have a look at the EIA documentation.

CG commented that if there are any illegal structures in the Boesman's River they should be informed so that their law enforcement officials could go out to check if any environmental authorisation is required. CG and BK to follow up on the illegal obstruction on the Boesman's River (Gerhard De Wet rebuild a bridge and made a dam into the Boesman's River).

ACTION: LB to check what is stated in the MMP.

ACTION: LB to discuss Alien Clearing funding with WFW.

ACTION: LB will invite the landowners to the next meeting as well as DEA to explain the NEMBA Regulations.

ACTION: LB to speak to Town planning to find out when road was upgraded and to see if she can get a copy of the EIA. ACTION: CG to follow up on the illegal obstruction in the Boesman's River, BK never received any feedback on this matter.

5.3 Estuary Zonation Plan

LB mentioned that the Estuary Zonation Plan is status quo. As she mentioned previously, she would give attention to the Uilkraal after she has completed the Klein River and the Bot River. The Uilkraal is 3rd on the priority list.

6. Mouth Management

6.1 Mouth Management Workshop (Tender process)

CG commented that Zain Jumat is managing the process and they need to appoint a consultant by 4 December 2015. The mouth management workshop will take place early next year.

CG also commented that Melissa Naicker is the manager of the CMP Process. There will be another round of public participation. Date to be communicated to all.

ACTION: Province to confirm the date for the Provincial CMP.

7. Pollution Management

7.1 Water Quality

LB will report back on water quality in the future in the absence of a dedicated Estuary Coordinator. She took some photographs of the estuary and showed it to the forum. Field rangers are still taking samples.

LB will get Danie's spreadsheet and it will be updated to identify the outliers.

All readings are within the required levels so there are no problems at the moment.

ACTION: LB to update Danie's spreadsheet for water quality.

7.2 Pollution Incidents

MG mentioned his concern with the butchery that still releases water and that it is possibly flowing straight into the river.

BK to forward details of butchery to CG and photos if he has any. BK suggested that he and CG do a site visit he will inform Neville Dreyer of ODM as well.

CG will escalate this matter to the pollution section as well.

ACTION: CG and BK to do a site visit to butchery, CG to escalate this matter to pollution section.

8. Biodiversity Management

8.1 Alien Clearing

BK did give all the details of the landowners to MG. MG noted that the biggest problem at the moment is the landowner of Farm 220. The farm is currently for sale for R26 million. LB noted that the new invasive species forum is striving to specifically look at the selling of land. Before you sell your land you need to identify the invasive species on it and a value must be added to it.

LB will speak to DEA: Resource Dept (WFW) on how they can get involved to track this landowner and if they could speak to the landowner so that he understands that he needs to look at this before selling his land.

LB will do a search to find the landowner of the farm.

ACTION: LB will contact the invasive species unit to discuss this matter. (Stiaan WFW)

ACTION: LB will do a search to find the landowner.

9. Monitoring and Research

9.1 RDM Study by Water Affairs

LB commented that Pierre mentioned Water Affairs hasn't signed off the RDM studies.

9.2 Salinity Monitoring

No feedback.

LB and Pierre will meet with DICT Wilfred Chivell to discuss the salinity, bird counts and the website and also to meet the new Operations Manager.

ACTION: LB to set a meeting up with Wilfred Chivell to discuss DICT agenda points.

ACTION: TH will check if any estuary matters are in the moa between CapeNature and DICT.

9.3 Bird Counts

No feedback.

10. Environmental Authorisation/Development /Land use applications – Summary of current and pending

10.1 Developments

BK noted that there are no new developments.

He stated that he did send the email to Zaida Toefy with regards to the illegal obstruction in the Uilkraal Estuary. Her response was that the Dept did receive an application in July 2015 they subsequently requested the submission of an environmental impact report (EIR) and the requirement for a public participation process. The Dept is still waiting for submission of the draft and final EIR for further consolation of the application.

ACTION: BK to call Zaida Toefy to request a deadline for this.

11. Any other matters

CG provided feedback from Zayed Brown and read his email as follows: If you could inform the forum that we are having a transversal meeting on 20 November at the BGCMA offices in Worcester to be attended by DEA, DWS, DMs, CPUT etc. to establish a monitoring forum. The objective is to pool our monitoring resources. Resources, human and financial, are in short supply and hence the idea would be to have a common database from which individual requirements can be obtained.

11.1 Gansbaai Explore / Municipal Website

No feedback.

12. Closure

The meeting closed at 12:00.

The next meeting will be held at the Lomond Farm.