

UULKRAAL ESTUARY FORUM (UEF)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 06 AUGUST 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), Danie Coetzee (DC),
Tania Fisher (TF), Flaffie Barnard (FB), Gerhard Cilliers (GC), Melt Carstens (MC),
Wayne Gabb (WG), Zain Jumat (ZJ), Patrick van Coller (PvC), Sheraine van Wyk (SvW)

Apologies recorded from:

Liezl Bezuidenhout, Pierre de Villiers, Shaddai Daniel and DICT

The Attendance register was circulated.

2. Agenda Points

2.1 Amendment of Agenda

None

2.2 Additional new items

Gerhard Cilliers requested to have a brief discussion on monitoring of estuaries in South Africa by the Department of Water Affairs. He stated that the monitoring programme is on a national scale and it covers 28 estuaries along the coast. It basically follows a tier approach; on the first tier they look at nutrients, salinity, oxygen, etc.; the second tier is biological like fish and invertebrates, on the third tier they do once off detailed scale fishing and the data out of the study feeds into the national data base of estuaries. He mentioned that they are looking into expanding in the Western Cape and they have started with the Bot River and Klein River and because Water Affairs are spread so thinly on the ground, they need to collaborate with other role players to do the monitoring whether it is CapeNature, Environmental Affairs or the public. He commented that they give training in terms of the methods that need to be used and buy the hardware/equipment to do the measurements. He commented that they plan to do a monthly survey for at least a year after which they will reassess to determine if the programme should continue, be scaled down or stop. They are working well with SASC in Hermanus on the Bot River and Klein River, in association with CapeNature, and plan to expand it to the Uilkraals as soon as the programme is running properly. He mentioned that they want to get the public involved through the citizen science project; they are not expected to do hard core scientific work but can contribute by supplying photographs of, for instance, the breaching of an estuary mouth. All the information will go into the national data base and can be used to advise management of estuaries whenever management decisions need to be made. He stated that the data could be obtained from him by requesting it via email.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

3.1 Amendments/Approval

No amendments.

The minutes of 14 May 2015 was accepted.

3.2 Matters arising

None.

4. Institutional / Management.

4.1 Letters sent to stakeholders agencies.

No feedback.

ACTION: Pierre de Villiers to give feedback at the next meeting.

5. EMP Implementation

5.1 MCC Report Back

Melt Carstens stated that the next MCC meeting is scheduled for 20th August at the Bredasdorp Bowling Club. The management authority and the chairperson was invited to participate. He mentioned that there would be a presentation on the Coastal Management Programme.

5.2 Kraaibosch Dam Management

Wayne Gabb reported on the Kraaibosch Dam summary that was circulated. He stated that the inflow at the weir and the level of rainfall is relevant to the estuary. About 23 million m³ of water came in over the weir, which is situated 2.5km from the entrance of the dam. The rainfall last year was 486mm in comparison to 989mm of the previous year and that had a huge impact on the management of the estuary. He mentioned that the June and July 2015 flow rates opened the estuary; about 12 million m³ of water came into the estuary.

5.3 Estuary Zonation Plan

Liezl Bezuidenhout not present. Feedback at the next meeting.

ACTION: Liezl Bezuidenhout to give feedback at the next meeting.

6. Mouth Management

6.1 Status of the Estuarine System (Mouth)

Danie Coetzee mentioned that the mouth opened at 02:30am on 4 July 2015.

6.2 Mouth Management Workshop (Tender process)

Zain Jumat of DEA & DP stated that the tender has been finalised and that it would be published from 7 August 2015 in the tender bulletin. He commented that the tender speaks to the estuarine management framework for the province as a whole. It will include all the estuaries that have not been prioritised in the first round in terms of the CAPE programme. Estuary management plans will be developed for those and about 10 estuaries have been earmarked for the development of mouth management plans. He mentioned that it will also look at how estuaries are supposed to be managed, roles and responsibilities, terms of reference and a whole range of other best management practices. The tender will run for three years. He stated that a briefing session will be held on 18th August to clarify some of the aspects of the tender.

Pollution Management.

7.1 Water Quality

Danie Coetzee did a slide presentation on the water quality readings taken every 2nd week. He reported that two high readings of *E.coli* were recorded on 30 April and 11 June 2015 but in both cases the readings were much lower with the following sampling. He commented that it is very difficult to take a follow up sample once there is a peak in readings because you only receive the results from the laboratory about 6 days after you have taken the sample. He mentioned that ideally you should take 5-10 samples to compare, but it is very expensive. He stated that the type and methods of sampling should be revised and they have to start looking at ways to get results quicker so that follow up sampling can be done promptly. The chairperson requested Melt Carstens to brief Neville Dreyer of Overstrand District Municipality and to ask him to attend the next meeting for further discussion.

ACTION: Melt Carstens to invite Neville Dreyer to attend the next meeting.

7.2 Pollution Incidents

None.

7. Biodiversity Management

8.1 Alien Clearing

The Chairperson stated that quite a bit of alien clearing has been done on several properties. He mentioned that alien clearing above the dam is continuing and going very well and it has restored some flow especially during the winter. He mentioned that he needs to discuss the different title deeds with Benjamin Kondokter.

ACTION: Maarten Groos and Benjamin Kondokter to discuss title deeds.

8. Monitoring and Research

9.1 RDM Study by Water Affairs

Pierre de Villiers not present. Feedback at the next meeting.

ACTION: Pierre de Villiers to give feedback at the next meeting.

9.2 Salinity Monitoring

Benjamin Kondokter questioned who would be responsible for salinity monitoring now that Alouise Lynch is no longer with DICT. Danie Coetzee stated that SASC would be taking on the responsibility in the future.

9.3 Bird Counts

No feedback.

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

10.1 Developments

Benjamin Kondokter stated that there were no new applications for developments. He gave feedback on the illegal structure that he visited with DEA & DP Law Enforcement. The owner of the property has been sent a 24G application and he will have to pay an administrative fine. He mentioned that the EIA will be reviewed before a decision is made about the way forward;

whether the structure should be taken down or whether the owner should build a proper bridge.

11. Any other matters

11.1 Gansbaai Explore / Municipal Website

No feedback was given.

12. Closure

The meeting closed at 13:00.

Next meeting – 12 November 2015