

**AGENDA of the
Portfolio Committee : Infrastructure & Planning
20 August 2019
(Also the agenda for the Mayoral Committee Meeting : 28 August 2019)**

**5.
APPLICATION FROM BENGUELA COVE FOR THE USE OF TREATED EFFLUENT
FROM THE HAWSTON WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS FOR IRRIGATION
PURPOSES**

16/4/1/1/2

H Blignaut

(028) 313 5047

Hermanus Administration

26 July 2019

1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to table before Council an application received from the Benguela Cove Lagoon Wine Estate for the use of treated effluent from the Hawston Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) for irrigation purposes, for approval in principle.

2. Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan - IGNITE

Infrastructure and Planning
Engineering Planning

3. Compliance with Strategic Priorities

Provision and maintenance of municipal services
Creation and maintenance of a safe and healthy environment
Promotion of tourism, economic and social development

4. Delegated Authority

None

5. Legal Requirements

National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998
Water Services Act, Act 108 of 1997
Overstrand Municipality Water Supply and Sanitation Services By-law, 2009

6. Background/Discussion/Evaluation/Conclusion

Background

The Benguela Cove Lagoon Wine Estate has historically been supplied with raw water from the Fisherhaven Dam for irrigation purposes within the estate. The Greater Hermanus area experienced below average rainfall for 4 consecutive years since 2014, and rainfall to date during 2019 has also been

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below average. The result is that the level of the Fisherhaven Dam is currently very low, and irrigation from the dam became impossible.

Benguela Cove Lagoon Wine Estate approached the Engineering Planning Department about the possibility of Benguela Cove making use of treated effluent from the Hawston WWTW for irrigation purposes. Following several meetings to discuss the matter, Benguela Cove submitted a formal request - refer to Annexure A.

Discussion

Benguela Cove Lagoon Wine Estate is an important tourist destination in the Overstrand and as such a contributor to the local economy and job creation. With the Fisherhaven Dam currently being at an extremely low level, Benguela Cove's vineyards are at risk, and they urgently require an alternative source of irrigation water supply. During the past 2 years they drilled some exploration boreholes to investigate the potential of groundwater as an alternative water source. The groundwater in the area was however found to be highly saline, and not suitable for irrigation purposes.

Benguela Cove subsequently approached officials of the Overstrand Municipality about the potential use of treated effluent from the Hawston WWTW as an alternative source of irrigation water to the estate.

The current average outflow of treated effluent from the Hawston WWTW is approximately 400 kilolitres per day. The plant's capacity is 1000 kilolitres per day. The treated effluent is currently being released into the environment (artificial wetland) in accordance with a general authorization in terms of the National Water Act, as granted by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) for this plant.

Benguela Cove indicated that they require approximately 100 000 kilolitres of irrigation water per year, which equates to an average of 270 kilolitres per day, leaving an average of 130 kilolitres per day for potential other users. It is envisaged that the outflow at the Hawston WWTW will only increase over the next few years, after completion of the new housing scheme which is currently being constructed, as well as the implementation of planned developments in the area.

The quality of the final treated effluent in general complies with the required standards of DWS for release into the environment. Benguela Cove agreed that they will be responsible for the cost of any additional treatment that may be required to ensure that the water is suitable for their intended irrigation application. Effluent analysis results were provided to Benguela Cove. Benguela Cove also agreed that the cost of the design, construction and maintenance of the pump station and pipeline from the Hawston WWTW to Benguela Cove will be their responsibility, except that they will require

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assistance from the Overstrand Municipality in applying for a water use license from DWS and the Breede Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA) for the intended irrigation water use. This is not seen as a stumbling block, as the municipality has a good working relationship with both DWS and the BGCMA, and in view thereof that the effluent water originates from a municipal facility.

Evaluation

Sufficient volumes of treated waste water effluent is available from the Hawston WWTW to accommodate the intended use thereof for irrigation purposes by Benguela Cove, as well as for potential future use by the municipality (schools, sports fields, etc). Benguela Cove indicated their willingness to cover all the costs pertaining to a new pump station and pipeline from the Hawston WWTW to Benguela Cove, as well as to supply an offtake point on the new pipeline, to accommodate potential future municipal and other users in Hawston. Depending on the envisaged extent of future municipal and other use of this source, a discounted rate for the supply of treated effluent can be negotiated with Benguela Cove, which will be beneficial to both parties.

The planned increased future use of treated effluent for irrigation purposes is included in Overstrand Municipality's Water Services Development Plan (WSDP).

The new pump station and additional treatment facility (if needed) to be constructed at the Hawston WWTW will become municipal assets, while the new pipeline from the pump station to Benguela Cove will be an asset of Benguela Cove, and they will be responsible for the registration of servitudes where applicable.

Conclusion

The potential use of treated effluent from the Hawston WWTW for irrigation purposes by Benguela Cove through investment in infrastructure by Benguela Cove appears to be a potentially viable option, which can benefit not only Benguela Cove, but also the community of Hawston and its institutions.

7. Financial Implications

None

8. Staff Implications

None

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9. Comments from other Departments, Divisions and Administrations

None

10. Annexures

Annexure A: Letter from Benguela Cove

RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL:

1. that the application by Benguela Cove for the use of treated effluent from the Hawston WWTW for irrigation purposes be approved in principle, subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) that the cost of the design, construction, operation and maintenance of any additionally required treatment facilities, as well as the new pump station and pipeline from Hawston WWTW to Benguela Cove will be for the account of Benguela Cove;
 - (b) that the design, maintenance and operation of all additional infrastructure will be in compliance with the standards of Overstrand Municipality and any other legislative requirements.
2. that the Director: Infrastructure and Planning be delegated to negotiate the terms of an agreement to be concluded to this effect with Benguela Cove, including a possible discounted rate for treated effluent based on potential future uses of this water source.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL :	H BLIGNAUT
TARGET DATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION :	1 SEPTEMBER 2019
TARGET DATE TO INFORM APPLICANT :	1 SEPTEMBER 2019
TARGET DATE TO INFORM OBJECTOR :	NOT APPLICABLE

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26 July 2019

**THIS MATTER SERVED BEFORE THE JOINT PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
20 AUGUST 2019, WHICH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL:

1. that the application by Benguela Cove for the use of treated effluent from the Hawston WWTW for irrigation purposes be approved in principle, subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) that the cost of the design, construction, operation and maintenance of any additionally required treatment facilities, as well as the new pump station and pipeline from Hawston WWTW to Benguela Cove will be for the account of Benguela Cove;
 - (b) that the design, maintenance and operation of all additional infrastructure will be in compliance with the standards of Overstrand Municipality and any other legislative requirements.
2. that the Director: Infrastructure and Planning be delegated to negotiate the terms of an agreement to be concluded to this effect with Benguela Cove, including a possible discounted rate for treated effluent based on potential future uses of this water source.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL :

H BLIGNAUT

TARGET DATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION :

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TARGET DATE TO INFORM OBJECTOR :

NOT APPLICABLE



Benguela Cove
LAGOON WINE ESTATE

Wednesday 5th June 2019

To Whom it may concern,

Benguela Cove would like to make a formal request to reprocess sewage water from Hawston for irrigation purposes on the Benguela Cove Estate. The proposed process is that Benguela Cove will purchase sewerage water from Hawston, treat it at the water treatment plant and then pump the water via a pipeline to Benguela Cove. It was mentioned that the Overstrand Municipality would like to utilise some of the processed water for irrigation purposes within the community. This is a partnership between Benguela Cove and the Overstrand Municipality and Benguela Cove agrees to this and will assist the municipality wherever possible.

In previous discussions with the Overstrand Municipality, Benguela Cove agreed to be responsible for the following:

- I. The implementation of the treatment plant as well as the maintenance thereof in accordance to set regulations.
- II. The design, implementation and maintenance of such a pipeline in accordance with the municipal standards.
- III. Benguela Cove will take full operational responsibility of the treatment plant as well as the supply of water via the newly laid pipeline

Benguela Cove would like to request assistance from the Overstrand Municipality with the following:

- I. To apply for the water license at Department of Water Affairs, as they have dealt with them recently regarding their own sewage water.
- II. A full report on the quality / quantity of existing grey water

benguela cove lagoon wine estate • walker bay • western cape

Benguela Cove Investments (Pty) Ltd • RegNo: 2000/004722/07

PO Box 327 Bellville 7535 • Western Cape • South Africa
Tel: +27 (0)21 944 1041 • Fax: +27 (0)860 967 524 • email: info@benguelacove.co.za • www.benguelacove.co.za

Directors: Penny Streeter • Nick Rea

Yours faithfully



Penny Streeter OBE
Managing Director

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