

BOT RIVER ESTUARY FORUM (BREF)

MINUTES OF BREF MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2015

AT 14H00 – LAKE MARINA YACHT CLUB, FISHERHAVEN

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chairperson Robin Perrins, welcomed everyone present.

Apologies recorded from: Anton Boon, Dirk Uys, Cllr Phillip Appelgrein.

The Attendance register was circulated.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

2.1 Amendments

None

2.2 Acceptance of the Minutes

The minutes were accepted.

Proposed: Frans Theunissen

Seconded: Pierre de Villiers

3. Agenda Points

3.1 Additional new items to be added to the Agenda:

None

3.2 Matters Arising

6.4 Sewage Disposal Methods – The minutes should state “Fisherhaven Ratepayers Association” and not “Fisherhaven Homeowners Association”.

10.3 Constitution – The minutes should read that the attendance register of members should be recorded and distributed with the minutes.

4. EMP Implementation

4.1 Estuary Zonation Plan

Liezl Bezuidenhout commented that she will finalize the zonation plan for KREF first. The map was circulated for comments; the cut off date for comments is 30 September 2015.

Action: Liezl Bezuidenhout will circulate first draft after comments has been received by 30 September.

4.2 Revision of By-law

Liezl Bezuidenhout commented that the permits for boats will only be available once the permit payment process is finalized. There is no timeframe. Copies of the Admission of guilt fines list were distributed to the members.

5. Mouth Management

5.1 Mouth Management workshop (tender process)

Zane Jumat commented that they have published the Tender for the EMP & MMP for Estuaries in the Western Cape. The Tender closed last week Friday. They did receive a number of Tenders, much more than they expected. He cannot comment any further as he does not know the exact way forward.

6. Pollution Management

6.1 Water Quality

Danie Coetzee presented the bacteriological readings since the last BREF meeting. He commented that both E.coli and Enterococci readings were over the acceptable readings for recreational use but it could be a result of freshwater flowing in from farms. It is not an extreme reading and will be monitored. Danie Coetzee should take a follow up sample next week and forward to the Forum. Pierre de Villiers commented that if the reading stays high with the next two readings, safety measures will be taken. Patrick van Coller commented that if it is unsafe for children to swim, pollution signs should be put up. Liezl Bezuidenhout commented that the readings will be followed up on before action will be taken to avoid spreading a panic. Danie commented that the recreational limit for E.coli is 500 and for Enterococci is 185.

Action: Danie to forward follow up sample next week to the Forum.

6.2 Pollution Incidents

Danie Coetzee commented that there were no pollution incidents. Patrick van Coller will forward his incidents to Danie to check with his readings.

6.3 Meer-en-See Pump Station

Liezl Bezuidenhout commented that in her opinion the area is sufficiently protected by the newly built bunting. This item can now be removed from the Agenda.

7.1 Reed Management Programme

Danie Coetzee forwarded the Reed management plan of both Fisherhaven and Kleinmond to BREF for comment.

Action: Liezl Bezuidenhout to request cllr Appelgrein to present plans for the Kleinmond footbridge at the next meeting.

Action: Paul Coetzee to forward info on Reed management to Liezl Bezuidenhout.

7.2 Working for Water (WFW) Programme

Liezl Bezuidenhout noted that WFW is currently under audit in the Klein River catchment. The Bot River catchment has been closed due to no funding.

7.3 Fisherhaven Feral Horses

Liezl Bezuidenhout commented that she formulated a document that was submitted to the EMT on the 4th of August. The Horses Task Team decided that a carrying capacity must be established. Cape Nature is currently busy with assessing the carrying capacity. The horses will not be returned to Rooisand Nature Reserve until the carry capacity study has been completed.

Action: Craig Saunders will forward info on horses to Liezl Bezuidenhout.

8. Monitoring & Research

8.1 Ecological Reserve Study

Pierre de Villiers noted that the study has been done, but must still be signed off by Water Affairs.

8.2 Research Projects

Pierre de Villiers mentioned that he is still busy with the process to get a presentation on the frog and invertebrates study. Those are the two research projects that are currently ongoing.

Action: Pierre de Villiers to set up a presentation for the CPUT study on invertebrates and the presentation of the final results of the frog study.

8.3 Salinity Monitoring and FEEDBACK ON Monitoring/Research

Meagan McCord did a presentation on July, August and September average salinity readings. They sampled last Friday closest to the mouth and there was a decrease in average salinity of 31.3 parts per thousand in the system since July. They will be sampling again on Monday or Tuesday. Meagan McCord commented that they are going to be putting a number of acoustic receivers into Walkerbay as well as the Klein River to tag different fish species. Danie Coetzee will forward the breaching information to the Forum.

Action: Pierre de Villiers will forward average salinity reading to the Forum once received.

Action: Danie Coetzee will forward the breaching information to the Forum.

8.4 RAMSAR

Pierre de Villiers commented that DEA RAMSAR had carried out a site visit at the Bot Estuary to assess the RAMSAR application that had been submitted by CapeNature. Stakeholders had been invited and had been present. Based on their assessment of the site as well as the EMP and existing management structures (FORUM) DEA RAMSAR had, after discussion with DEA Oceans and Coasts, agreed that the requirement for a formal protected area may not be necessary given the management effectiveness of the existing structures which are in line with the ICMA and the NEMP. An agreement will need to be made between CapeNature and the OSM as to who will submit the final application.

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

9.1 Benguela Cove Site Development

Penelope Aplon commented that Benguela cove submitted an application to amend their site development plans. But there is provision for a special zone in their approved site plan so there is no need for any amendments.

Action: Penelope Aplon to look at the Benguela Cove site plans to identify exactly where the boundary of the estuary is.

9.2 Hawston Housing Development.

Penelope Aplon noted that this point was reported on at the last meeting and can be removed from the Agenda.

10.1 Coastal Management Line Process (Previously known as the Setback line process).

Zane Jumat commented that the development of the line has been concluded. In terms of the management; that still needs to be agreed upon by the Department .There has been three proposals on how to deal with this. The 3 proposals are still with the MEC who needs to sign off on the way forward. People are able to look at the lines on the internet viewer and comment.

Action: BREF administration to request leptieshaam Bekko to do a presentation at the next meeting.

10.2 Slipway Process

Robin Perrins commented that the first stage is over, now in the second stage. In June there was a publication in the Hermanus Times of all the slipways in the Overberg that has been recognised by the Department. The next process is now to get a management plan in place. The Municipality will be recognised as the operators of the slipway. There will be a public participation. There is no cut off date; he spoke to Ryan Apollis this morning who mentioned that the documentation will go out to local authorities on Monday.

10.3 Constitution.

Robin Perrins commented that there is a constitution in place for BREF it was signed off by the 45 members who attended the launch meeting at Meerensee on 20 April 2010. That constitution is the one that prevails at the moment. He noted that if there are any comments that it should be forwarded to Heloise Fortune. Dave Hugo commented that there are two different documents a Terms of Reference as well as a draft Constitution. It was decided that cut off date for the comments on the draft Constitution is 28 days.

Action: All to submit their comments on the Draft Constitution within 28 days. BREF administration to follow-up on this date.

11.Closure

The meeting closed at 16:05.

Next Meeting date: 19 November 2015