

BOT RIVER ESTUARY FORUM (BREF)

MINUTES OF BREF MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2015

AT 14H00 – LAKE MARINA YACHT CLUB, FISHERHAVEN

1. Welcome & Apologies

Robin Perrins welcomed all present.

Apologies recorded from: Frans v/d Merwe, Penelope Aplon, Johan du Toit, Mark Johns, Dirk Uys, Michelle Wood.

The Attendance register was circulated.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

2.1 Amendments

(10. Septic Tanks/Conservancy Tanks – Sewerage disposal methods) – Dave Hugo commented that Preston Arendse's comment should be reworded as this seems like it is common practise in Fisherhaven and that is not the case.

2.2 Acceptance of the Minutes

Anton Boon: Proposed

Steve Gildenhuys: Seconded

3. Agenda Points

3.1 Additional new items to be added to the Agenda:

- i) ***Coastal Management Line (CML) Process*** – Gerard van Weele did a presentation to the forum on the CML process, his presentation will be forwarded with the minutes.
- ii) ***Camping*** – Dave Hugo requested that this item should be added to the agenda. Robin Perrins commented that the municipality is still deciding on the outcome of whether camping will take place in the future or never again. Robin Perrins commented that Dave Hugo should email his presentation on Camping to BREF.
- iii) ***Constitution & Terms of Reference of BREF*** – Frans Theunissen requested these items to be added to the agenda. He noted that BREF does not have a ratified constitution; there is no record that the constitution was ever accepted. Robin Perrins commented that he will have a look at this point.

3.2 Matters Arising

13. Coastal Setback Lines – Robin Perrins commented that he did speak to the Chairperson of the Benguela Homeowners Association with regards to Preston Arendse's statement; and he stated that this is not the case; they did not interfere with access to fishing.

4. EMP Implementation

4.1 Estuary Zonation Plan

Liezl Bezuidenhout did a presentation on Estuary Zonation for activities on the Bot River Estuary. She used an example of the Klein River. She noted that there is an existing by-law for the Bot River. This is a process that will include the BREF so all will have a chance to comment on the process. Pierre de Villiers commented that a technical task team should be appointed for the BREF as with the KREF to panel beat the Estuary Zonation Plan. Liezl Bezuidenhout noted that the Environmental Section will assist Law Enforcement in training their officials on Environmental Law. She will be able to give a timeframe for the process at the next meeting.

5. Mouth Management

5.1 Status of the Estuary Mouth

Danie Coetzee noted that both the Bot River and the Kleinmond Estuaries are closed at the moment. He did a presentation to the forum on the more recent breaching history of the two estuaries:

The Bot was artificially breached on 24 August 2013, and closed again on 10 June 2014. It breached naturally on 28 June 2014, and closed again on 19 December 2014. The water level at the Ysterklip Jetty was 0.31m above MSL on 10 March 2015.

Kleinmond breached on 28 June 2013 and closed again on 30 October 2013. The next breaching date was not recorded, but it closed on 17 December 2013. Thereafter it breached on 11 January 2014, closed on 14 February 2014, breached on 15 June 2014, and closed on 19 September 2014. The water level at the lower footbridge was 0.61m above MSL on 11 March 2015.

Dave Hugo questioned the health of the estuary and whether there is a management plan in place for the estuary. Danie Coetzee commented that estuarine systems are very dynamic and you will get setbacks? like this from time to time.

5.2 Mouth Management workshop (tender process)

Pierre de Villiers noted that Province has staff issues at the moment and that there's no capacity to run these tenders at the moment. Due to the end of the financial year, the tender will only go out in April now. Rob Fryer commented that Sue Matthews drafted a management plan on how to monitor the estuary to determine the health of the estuary, etc. Liezl Bezuidenhout commented that once she has the proper capacity to monitor the estuary she will definitely implement Sue's plan and she agrees with Rob that it is a very good document.

6. Pollution Management

6.1 Water Quality

Danie Coetzee presented the bacteriological readings since the last BREF meeting. The samples were taken at the Fisherhaven slipway.

6.2 Pollution Incidents

Danie Coetzee noted that according to the *E. coli* readings at the Fisherhaven slipway the water condition is excellent with little sign of pollution, but that the enterococci readings were

above acceptable levels on 16 and 30 October 2014, 11 December 2014 and 8 January 2015. He explained that *E. coli* and enterococci are indicators of the faeces of warm-blooded animals in the water, but that they do not distinguish between human or animal faeces. He also commented that there are other environmental factors that can contribute to the fairly high enterococci count. Dave Hugo wanted to know with regards to sewage spillages at Meerensee and that Liezl Bezuidenhout undertook to find out if a brick wall would be effective. Liezl Bezuidenhout and Peter Burger did go out to have a look but it was decided that it will be too costly to put up a wall, she will follow up again.

6.3 Bot River Waste Water Works

Patrick van Collier noted that the Bot River Waste Water Works has had a complete stand still due to technical problems, it was fixed and the works was up and running again but seems like they have another problem again. So once again the situation is being investigated.

6.4 Sewage Disposal Methods

Pierre de Villiers asked the Forum if pollution hot spots could be identified through the Homeowners Association, who has conservancy and septic tanks in order to find out if they are properly maintained, this information to be supplied at the next BREF meeting if possible. Robin Perrins wanted to know what happened to the exercise at properties on the Onrus Lagoon. Liezl Bezuidenhout will speak to Don Kearney to find out how many properties have been inspected after they have received letters.

ACTION: POLLUTION HOT SPOTS TO BE IDENTIFIED – HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TO IDENTIFY WHO HAS SEPTIC/CONSERVANCY TANKS.

ACTION: LIEZL BEZUIDENHOUT TO FOLLOW UP WITH DON KEARNEY WITH REGARDS TO ONRUS LAGOON PROPERTIES EXERCISE.

7. Biodiversity Management

7.1 Reed Management Programme

Danie Coetzee did a presentation on the reed management programme. The reeds at the Fisherhaven slipway were cut on 7-8 October 2014, and had grown back quite substantially by the end of November 2014. A tractor and brush cutter was used to cut the reeds again on 12 February 2015, but regrowth was again quite fast. The only solution would be to spray the reeds with herbicide. A maintenance management plan will be drawn up which has to go through a public participation process and then to DEA&DP for approval.

The reeds on the northern shore of the Kleinmond Estuary were cut by private contractors over the period 18 February to 13 March 2015.

7.2 Working for Water (WFW) Programme

Liezl Bezuidenhout noted that WFW has finished their Protea project. The new project for 2015/2016 financial year will be called the Bot-Afdaks. They have planned to start working at the bottom of the river close to the estuary and get it cleaned thereafter they will move up into the river itself and to get the process going. Currently awaiting the approved budget but they are looking to start in June.

7.3 Fisherhaven Feral Horses

Robin Perrins noted that the mayoral committee requested Director Muller to write a proposal on what's to happen to the horses. The decision that will be made will be in the best interest

of the horses. He read a statement from Friends of the Vlei Horses to the forum. The statement will be forwarded with the minutes.

8. Monitoring & Research

8.1 Ecological Reserve Study

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

8.2 Research Projects

Pierre de Villiers noted that he is in the process with South African Shark Conservancy to set up a monitoring programme for the Bot. This is however a long term process. He is still busy setting up a team and once a team is identified they will be able to start with the research project.

8.3 Salinity Monitoring

Pierre de Villiers noted that Andrae is taking salinity on the Kleinriver and is only helping out since Tarne has left. They also do not have vessel to do monitoring, so they are currently taking salinity from the side. He will set up a programme with his interns to take salinity.

8.4 RAMSAR

Steve Gildenhuys noted that the application has been circulated and has been out for comments for a while. Pierre de Villiers asked the forum that even if they approve of the application that they must still forward their comments in writing. Written comments can be forwarded to Heloise Fortune by 20 March 2015. Frans Theunissen commented that he wants their appreciation for Steve Gildenhuys's work to be recorded. Danie Coetzee also commented that he read through the document and really liked it.

ACTION: RAMSAR COMMENTS TO REACH HELOISE FORTUNE BY 20 MARCH 2015.

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

Liezl Bezuidenhout noted that Arabella has been approved.

Patrick van Coller wanted to know what is currently happening with the Hawston Housing Development (Paddavlei wetlands); he noted that Penelope Aplon commented that the storm water from the housing development might have a negative impact on the Paddavlei wetlands. He stated that the BGCMA commented that the Paddavlei wetlands must not be negatively impacted; however the consultants reply was that the wetland will not be impacted by the water. He just wanted clarity what is happening at the moment. Joe Dynaard commented that he is also not in favour of the development.

ACTION: LIEZL BEZUIDENHOUT WILL FOLLOW UP WITH PENELOPE.

Frans Theunissen wanted to know if there's any feedback with regards to the illegal infilling that was inspected by DEA&DP at the Paddavlei wetlands which were brought up two meetings ago. Robin Perrins will contact Riaan Kuchar to follow up.

ACTION: ROBIN PERRINS TO FOLLOW UP WITH RIAAN KUCHAR.

10. Any Other matters

10.1 Slipway Process

The slipways to be licensed were identified in February. Liezl Bezuidenhout commented that a second draft will go out to the public; Ryan Appollis from DEA&DP did not give her a date as to when.

11. Closure

The meeting closed at 17:00. The date of the next meeting still to be decided.