

**BOT RIVER ESTUARY FORUM (BREF)**  
**MINUTES OF BREF MEETING HELD ON 24 JULY 2015**  
**AT 14H00 – MIDDELVLEI ESTATE, MEER-EN-SEE**

**1. Welcome & Apologies**

Pierre de Villiers, the acting chairperson, welcomed everyone present.

Apologies recorded from: Robin Perrins, Ebeline de Villiers, Rodney Anderson, Cllr Kari Brice, Shaddai Daniel, Tracy Whitelaw, Rob Fryer, Sheraine van Wyk, Mark Johns, Gerhard Cilliers.

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.

**3. Agenda Points**

**3.1 Additional new items to be added to the Agenda:**

*i)Constitution of BREF* to be added under point 10.

**3.2 Matters Arising**

**6.4 Sewage Disposal Methods** – Liezl Bezuidenhout noted that she requires the information from the Fisherhaven Homeowners Association regarding septic/conservancy tanks. She will then discuss it with the area manager, Don Kearney. Robin Perrins is a representative for the Fisherhaven Homeowners Association; she will have to follow up with him to get the required information.

**8.4 RAMSAR** – Pierre de Villiers noted that the comments that were received were put into the application. He noted that the main point was to look at extending the application to CapeNature phase 2 towards Kleinmond. RAMSAR will be discussed further under the agenda point.

**9. Liezl Bezuidenhout** noted that the comment referred to by Patrick van Collier in the minutes did not come from Penelope Aplon. The Paddavlei wetlands will be discussed further under the agenda point.

**4. EMP Implementation**

**4.1 Estuary Zonation Plan**

Liezl Bezuidenhout commented that she will finalize the zonation plan for KREF first. She should have a draft document ready by September. BREF's document should follow approximately two months after that. Pierre de Villiers mentioned that there was a proposed zonation in the estuary management plan and he requested that the members of the forum used that as a basis to start discussions while Liezl completes the zonation map.

**Action: Liezl Bezuidenhout to circulate a map to members of the forum for comment.**

## **4.2 Revision of By-law**

Liezl Bezuidenhout commented that the admission of guilt list was reviewed. The current by-law was applicable but has not been enforced the way it should be. The fine list on the by-law was outdated but has been amended and has been accepted by the municipal court.

Pierre de Villiers thanked everyone for their information regarding illegal boating on the Botriver at night and asked everyone's continued assistance in this regard. He may be contacted via sms/phone if any illegal activities are observed on the Botriver and he will get SAPS or Law Enforcement to respond.

## **5. Mouth Management**

### **5.1 Status of the Estuary Mouth**

Pierre de Villiers suggested incorporating this point under monitoring and research on the agenda for future meetings.

Danie Coetzee did a slide presentation. He commented that the Kleinmond Estuary closed on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and the Bot River Estuary on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The water level at Kleinmond Estuary was 1.14m above MSL (measured the morning of 23 July) and the berm height was 0.46m above estuary water level. On the 24<sup>th</sup> the water level stood at 1.62m above MSL. He stated that the mouth was very close to breaching. Dr. Coetzee also took measurements at Bot River Estuary. The water level was 1.24m above MSL and the berm height was >1.5m above estuary water level. He commented that there was still a long way to go before the Bot River would breach. He described how to use the stick method to determine the berm height. Pierre de Villiers mentioned that you could google beach profile monitoring which also explains the process.

### **5.2 Mouth Management workshop (tender process)**

Melissa Naiker reported that the department is in the process of putting out a tender for an estuarine management framework to be developed, which will put forward a strategy for the development of estuarine management plans for the different estuaries as well as mouth management plans. She stated that first there would be a situational analysis from which a list of priority estuaries will be derived for where the mouth management plan will be developed. The tender would go in the government gazette and newspapers within the next two weeks.

## **6. Pollution Management**

### **6.1 Water Quality**

Danie Coetzee presented the bacteriological readings since the last BREF meeting. E.coli readings were good and the Enterococci readings were not that serious at the Fisherhaven Slipway. He commented that E.coli readings were excellent at the lower footbridge in Kleinmond and Enterococci readings were also not too serious either. Pierre de Villiers mentioned that intensive sampling must only be done once there is a peak in measurements, to determine where the problem might stem from. He also stated that there will be reports on nutrient sampling in the Bot River in the near future.

## **6.2 Pollution Incidents**

Danie Coetzee commented that there were no pollution incidents.

## **6.3 Meer-en-See Pump Station**

Liezel Bezuidenhout commented that concerns were raised regarding the amount of sewerage that pump station 1 has to deal with and whether it will leak into the system once the water levels rise. She reported that according to the data received from the operational manager there were no leakages and pump station 1's operational periods are on par with the other pump stations; it does not work very hard so overflows are not imminent. Pierre de Villiers commented that when the water level rises to 2m, a quick assessment needs to be done and it should be standard practice from now on.

## **7.1 Reed Management Programme**

Danie Coetzee did a slide presentation on the reed management programme. He commented that the reeds at Fisherhaven are cut on a monthly basis. Liezl Bezuidenhout stated that the cutting of the reeds are being monitored and they will look at the pros and cons before making a decision on whether it is good for the environment. Pierre de Villiers requested Liezl Bezuidenhout to inform the forum when a report will be circulated regarding the monitoring of the reed management program and also to circulate the reed management document with the minutes of the meeting. Danie Coetzee noted that the reeds at Kleinmond Estuary will be cut twice a year. Pierre de Villiers commented that in the report it must state what the aim of the intervention was, as well as the benefits thereof and preferably who requested it. Danie Coetzee continued by commenting on the plans for the Kleinmond Footbridge. Pierre de Villiers requested that Cllr. Appelgrein present the plans for the footbridge at the next meeting so that the forum can be aware of further developments and the impact that it might have on the estuary.

**Action: Liezl Bezuidenhout to supply a date for the circulation of the reed management monitoring report.**

**Action: The reed management document must be circulated with the minutes.**

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

## **7.2 Working for Water (WFW) Programme**

Liezl Bezuidenhout noted that the WFW plan was approved. They received R500 000 less than the previous year; funding for all of the projects in the province were cut so the Botriver/Afdaks programme is not going to start for this financial year.

**Action: Pierre de Villiers to investigate the possibility of additional funding.**

## **7.3 Fisherhaven Feral Horses**

Liezel Bezuidenhout commented that the report were 95% complete. She was waiting for important information from one specialist and couldn't finish the report without his recommendations. She planned to put the item to council in August but it probably will only go in September due to deadlines. She stated that Council needs to look at the three proposals and the implications thereof to make an informed decision.

**Action: Liezl Bezuidenhout to put the item to Council in September.**

## **Monitoring & Research**

### **8.1 Ecological Reserve Study**

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

### **8.2 Research Projects**

Pierre de Villiers mentioned the CPUT study on invertebrates that are ongoing. He will ask them to present at the next meeting. A frog study was also done on alien and indigenous platannas and the final results need to be presented. He mentioned that Sheraine van Wyk is very interested in setting up a monitoring program for frogs in the estuary.

**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**

Pierre de Villiers requested that point 8.3 and 8.4 be combined and put as one point on the agenda for future meetings.

Tamzyn Zweig of SASC started by giving background information on the organisation where after she did a short slide presentation on salinity monitoring in the Bot River Estuary. She mentioned that they only started the monitoring process in May. They currently have about 16 research programs running in the area. They are doing additional environmental parameters on the salinity runs as well as assisting the department of fisheries with their fish sampling and CPUT with the study of macro-invertebrates. She mentioned that monitoring is done during spring and neap tides at 11 different sites on the estuary. She commented that they do not have sufficient data to report on trends but should be able to compare data within the next year. The data they collect consists of depth, salinity, pH, temperature, NTU and dissolved oxygen. She reported that the fishing sampling done with DAFF is seasonal and done 4 times a year. They use trek nets and gill nets to catch the fish and they study the diversity of species over seasons and do counts per size to get an idea of future population structures. She could unfortunately only manage to get the data for the Klein River from DAFF but will try to get the data for the Bot River from them to present at the next meeting. She mentioned that they have been facing equipment challenges and would be grateful for any assistance with regards to sponsorship, equipment maintenance and boat maintenance. Pierre de Villiers mentioned that members who have their own vessels are welcome to join SASC and DAFF when they do their sampling; they can do bird counts while the water quality is being done so that they can start relating the water quality to the bird counts.

### **8.5 RAMSAR**

Steve Gildenhuys reported that representatives of the Department of Environmental Affairs came to look at the RAMSAR application. He noted that Pierre de Villiers presented on the estuary management plan and they did site visits of the Bot River mouth, Kleinmond mouth and Rooisand area. Steve Gildenhuys commented that they were informed by the DEA official, Mr. Edward Netshithothole, that the application will now have to be done online and they will be forwarding a reference number/code to use for this. He also mentioned that Mr. Netshithothole indicated that he would look into the possibility of having the application considered for RAMSAR without going through the process of having the water body formally conserved, seeing that we have a good estuary management plan as well as a management plan for the adjoining formally conserved area. Steve Gildenhuys commented that Birdlife SA is looking at stewardship in the estuaries. Giselle Murison of Birdlife SA stated that the project is called the Western Cape Estuaries Conservation Project and that the main aim of the project was to facilitate the formal protection of under protected estuaries in the Western Cape. They will be looking at the Klein, Bot and Bergriver on the West coast and will engage

with all the stakeholders about the different approaches you can take to formally protect the area. She mentioned that they will also look into helping to improve conservation actions. She will be attending all estuary meetings in the future.

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

### **9.1 Benguela Cove Site Development**

Penelope Aplon commented that she is waiting for feedback from DEA & DP. She will give feedback at the next meeting.

**Action:** Penelope Aplon to report on progress at the next meeting.

### **9.2 Hawston Housing Development.**

Penelope Aplon stated that the Authorisation was issued on 19 June 2015. She noted that the developer must appoint an Environmental Control Officer to be present on site. She read out some of the conditions in the authorisation document. Pierre de Villiers suggested that the Environmental Control Officer present at the meeting as soon as work commences at the development.

### **10.1 Coastal Management Line Process.**

Penelope Aplon reported that the process was finalised in April/May 2015. She read out the following comments from leptieshaam Bekko of DEA & DP:

“The project for the refinement of the Overberg Management (Setback) Line has been finalised in April/May 2015. We have the following information available that was delineated in terms of the ICM Act:

- \* The coastal management (setback) line along the coast and estuaries;
- \* The coastal protection zone along the coast and estuaries;
- \* The 5m contour along estuaries (estuarine functional zone);
- \* The 10m contour along estuaries (coastal protection zone);
- \* The general risk zone in rural areas and along estuaries;
- \* The 1:20; 1:50 and 1:100 coastal risk zones that include risk to sea level rise and storm surge in urban areas along the coast;
- \* The High Water Mark;”

Penelope mentioned that the information is available on the departmental website. Pierre de Villiers suggested that leptieshaam Bekko should do a presentation at the next meeting.

**Action:** leptieshaam Bekko to do a presentation at the next meeting.

## **10.2 Slipway Process**

Melissa Naiker commented that the public launch sites were gazetted on 26 June 2015 and the list of all the public launch sites were put in place. She stated that the launching of vessels with the use of a vehicle may only be allowed at the sites that have been listed. They are currently working on a generic operational plan for the various sites, in conjunction with municipalities. She told Liezl Bezuidenhout that if necessary, they can arrange for in depth discussions with the municipality. Liezl Bezuidenhout mentioned that the lease agreement between CapeNature and Overstrand Municipality for Fisherhaven slipways A & B has expired and they are currently busy renewing the lease agreement.

## **10.3 Constitution.**

Pierre de Villiers commented that there seems to be uncertainty regarding the forum's Constitution. He stated that he would discuss the establishment of a small subcommittee with Robin Perrins. This group would be responsible for the development of a Constitution document which will be discussed further in the next meeting. Liezl Bezuidenhout commented that a representative of the municipality should be part of the committee. Frans Theunissen requested that the attendance of Hawston Members be recorded on the minutes in the future.

**Action: Pierre de Villiers and Robin Perrins to discuss establishing a subcommittee to develop a document for the forum's Constitution.**

Before the meeting closed, Mr. Hugo inquired about the possibility of measuring siltation in the estuary. Pierre de Villiers stated that he would obtain a quote for bathymetry; he mentioned that it is expensive and he asked the forum to look for funding opportunities. He also noted that the Geology section of UCT used to do regular field trips and he will inquire if they could resume with these excursions again.

**Action: Pierre de Villiers to obtain quote for bathymetry and circulate.**

**Action: Pierre de Villiers to contact geology section of UCT regarding field trips.**

## **11.Closure**

The meeting closed at 16:15.

## **Next Meeting date:**

10 September 2015