

UULKRAAL ESTUARY FORUM (UEF)

MINUTES OF UEF MEETING HELD ON 14 November 2014

AT 13H00 – GREAT WHITEHOUSE, KLEINBAAI

1. Welcome

Maarten Groos (MG) welcomed all present. MG addresses the forum, and explains that he will not be able to continue his role as Chairperson of the UEF. PDV suggested as Chairperson. It was accepted by all. DC noted that the Overstrand Municipality will provide admin support to the UEF through HF.

2. Apologies and Attendance Register

Attendees: Benjamin Kondokter (BK), Danie Coetzee (DC), Alouise Lynch (AL), Pierre de Villiers (PdV) and Maarten Groos (MG), Deon Geldenhuys (DG), Melt Carstens MC)

Apologies recorded from: Tjierck Hoekstra, Patrick van Coller, and Liezl Bezuidenhout.

The Attendance register was circulated.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Amendments

None

Acceptance of the Minutes

The minutes of September were accepted by all.

4. Matter arising

None

5. Additions and Amendments to Agenda

New items to be added to the Agenda;

- i) Salinity Readings Presentation – Danie Coetzee – Danie did a presentation on the salinity readings in the Uilkraals Estuary. To note is that the farmer on the eastern side of the Uilkraals Estuary has built a step weir across the Uilkraals River. His explanation was that this is to stop the salty water from accessing the river running on his property, probably due to his game he has on this property. MG and PDV questioned the legality of such a weir on this stretch of the Uilkraals River. DC explained that it is a difficult situation as there is no easy access to this part of the UE, and taking on this farmer about this weir will probably result in them not being able to access from there again. PDV mentioned that as a municipal official the officers checking the UE surely should have open access to go through land like this in any case should it be needed. DC – thinks that only CapeNature holds power to do this, not the Municipality. An alternative is a small rubber duck to get to the difficult to reach areas, or a permanent salinity station which takes the readings, and which can be accessed remotely.

- ii) Uilkraals Resort Sewerage System – Deon Geldenhuys – DG mentions to MC that there is something wrong with the system. MC explains that they have now upgraded the system, it is worthwhile for all to go and have a look there. DC explains that the readings of certain organisms (*Escherichia coli*) was very high. MC asked and requested a second sample must always be taken, as a comparison sample, it could be a concentration of bird faeces which will show high content as well. DC says he still feels there is too much present in the samples which is concerning him. MC also explained that this might be due to other influences, they opened up a storm water runoff channel from Franskraal which runs all the way to the Estuary. DC shows the green algal growth on the presentation, and PVD also suggests that this growth might be due to the storm water runoff. DG mentions that it might be worthwhile to do a summer and winter reading, to capture the readings during the holiday peak seasons as well. PDV mention that it might also still be historic build up in sediment that is released as the river comes down, and hopefully this will stabilize over the next few years as it get scoured out. BK, AL and DC to discuss the dates for sampling to coordinate dates of sampling and bird surveys.
- iii) Hope Spot – PDV explains that this is actually a Catchement to Coast program, the festival in December is to market Hope Spots to the community and going forward long term it will be expanded to include all aspects of coastal conservation as well as the catchment areas.

6. Municipal Coastal Committee (MCC)

There was no feedback from the MMC, meetings scheduled in early 2015, after which PDV will deliver feedback.

7. Letters sent to Stakeholder Agencies (DEA, DAFF, Oceans and Coast, DEA&DP, ODM, OSM) follow up and feedback on Management Plan and nomination for representatives to serve on the UEF.

PDV followed up on this and all letters were sent off to all stakeholders with no further feedback.

ACTION: HF TO CONFIRM IF ANY FURTHER FOLLOW UPS AND FEEDBACK HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

8. Management Forum Constitution

No feedback on the progress on the constitution, feedback to be delivered at the next EUF meeting.

ACTION: PdV TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK NEXT YEAR AT UEF MEETING WITH REGARDS TO PROGRESS

9. Adoption and signing of the RDM study by DWA.

WK is not present at this meeting to deliver feedback, to stand over till the next EUF meeting.

ACTION: WK TO SCHEDULE A MEETING WITH ROLEPLAYERS TO FINALIZE RDM

10. Alien Vegetation Clearing.

PDV followed up on alien vegetation clearing on the CapeNature side of the EU, mostly cleared and a work in progress. BK provided all details of the landowners to MG.

11. Gansbaai Explore – blogging on the Explore Site

Dropbox created for photographs for this site and also for linking to the other websites. DC explains that the Municipality is also opening a page on their website, which will showcase photographs etc of the various estuaries, this can then also be incorporated in the Explore site. BK coordination of the info is still in progress. Will pass on to AL when done for Explore site.

ACTION: BK TO COORDINATE ALL THE INFO FOR THE MUNICIPAL WEBSITE

ACTION: AL TO COORDINATE ALL THE INFO FOR THE EXPLORE SITE

12. Water Affairs, DEA presentations at next UEMF as motivation to attend.

No change in notice at previous meeting: "PdV noted that DEA will not be attending estuary meetings they will attend the MCC unless there is a specific agenda point relating to Province then DEA&DP will come otherwise they will ask him to represent."

13. Way forward and Date of Next meeting

13 March 2014 at Great White House at 11:00

14. Closure

The Chairperson thanked all for attending.
Meeting closed at 15:00.