

ZANDVLEI PROTECTED AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MEETING HELD AT THE IMPERIAL YACHT CLUB, MUIZENBERG ON WEDNESDAY 12 July 2017

Present:	Bernelle Verster (BV) Gillion Bosman (GB) Nyanisa Tshaya (NT) Andy Killick (AK) Cherry Giljam (CG) Dave Jubb (DJ) Dalton Gibbs (DG) Sandra Fowkes (SF) John Fowkes (JF) Andrew Taylor (AT) Angus Hemp (AH) Neil Armitage (NA) Mike Miller (MM) Joshua Smallbones (JS) Gavin Lawson (GL)	Chair, ZPAAC CoCT – Council DEA & DP, Coastal Management Recreational Fishing, resident Friends of Park Island Marina da Gama CoCT ZVT ZVT, Westlake Wetlands Project CoCT Marina da Gama UCT PenCC UCT (Neil's student) CBC
	Carol Watts (CW) Abdulla Parker Anthony Roberts Aimee Kuhl (AK) Dr Dave Walker Kathy Heath Josh Gericke	Minutes (possibly retired from minutes) TCT CTEET CoCT Councillor, ward 64 Sea Cadets /CPUT Girl Scouts (I think) Manager ZENR
Invited:	none	

Item		Action by	Date due
	Meeting opened: 15h05		
1.	Welcome: Extended to all by Bernelle Verster		
2.	Attendance Register: signed by all.		
3.	Minutes of previous meetings: Matters Arising: expand on useful items, e.g.: Lwandle - what was the factors, what could citizen scientists do Nicole – what are the env. services and what are the timelines	BV to contact and expand	end July

Item		Action by	Date due
	<p>“this stems from the Abbott case judgement” – details (from Nyanisa): David Willoughby Abbott sent the Overstrand Municipality to Court accusing the municipality of damage caused to his property due to flooding by refusing to breach the Klein River Estuary. The Abbot Judgement has resulted in some uncertainty between the organs of state, with the interpretation and understanding of the roles and responsibilities. The implication was that there were certain assignments that the Provincial or the National Department did not assign to Local Government. Please read further on the attached Case Judgement and the Circular that attempts to Clarify the Case.</p>	<p>into minutes</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>City Matters Gillion is a councillor appointed by the Mayor to attend these meetings. Also on the TRUP meeting.</p> <p>Dalton: PAAC meeting held on 17 May 2017. The PAAC meeting is a round robin meeting for PAACs to share their progress. At the last meeting, held <<>>, the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve presented what they are doing about the challenges in the area. The take home message was that it is important to solidify the foundation of the reserve.</p>		
<p>5.</p>	<p>Province Matters</p> <p>DEA&DP The Provincial Coastal Committee (PCC) was on the 24th of May 2017 The Province is currently running the following projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State of the Coast: Workshop took place on the 7th of June 2017, A number of indicators from National DEA were discussed to try to refine them for Western Cape Province. 2. Estuary Management Programme: Estuary Management Framework and Integrated Strategy (EMFIS)- The purpose of this project to update existing Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) and Mouth Management Plans (MMPs) to align them with the National Estuarine Management Protocol and to develop New EMPs and MMPS for priority estuaries. Zandvlei EMPs is one of the EMPs to be updated and is in the process of being updated. 3. Capacity Building and Awareness Programme: Marine Mammal Stranding Workshop was on the 15th of June, Presentations by DEA and City of Cape Town was well received by the workshop participants. The following officials from National Department of Environmental Affairs can be contact for stranded mammals along the coast: Deon 0218195058/072 4777170, Steven 0218195055/ 0727810968 and Mduduzi 0218195049/0727810968. <p>The Province is planning to host a Marine Outreach Education Programme, normally it is done for the three Coastal Districts (West Coast, Overberg and Eden). And also we partner with Municipalities for Coastal Clean Up Initiatives.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Coastal Access Strategy and Plan for the Western Cape, a Provincial Workshop was held on the 13th of June 2017 at Salga Office in the CBD, final Draft from the consultants was received on the 29th of June 2017. 5. Coastal Access Bylaw for the Western Cape, Workshop shop was also held on the 13th June 2017 and in the same venue as the Coastal Access Strategy. Final Draft of the Coastal Access Bylaw was received on the 7th of July 2017. 6. Coastal Management Lines-Eden District, Stakeholders engagement was on the 5th to the 7th of June 2017. But due to fires that week the some engagements in Knysna and surrounding areas was postponed and scheduled for the 7th of June 2017. 		

Item		Action by	Date due
6.	<p>Memberships and Representatives Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marina da Gama new representatives: David Jubb replace Bob Craske 		
7.	<p>Project list report back and update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed harvester: Old harvester is currently operating. Dalton gave update on weeds: We now have a driver and trucks from the expanded works programme to remove weeds. It is finishing at Zeekoevlei, should be at Zandvlei in next two weeks. Q: What is the potential that we will ever get a new harvester? Dalton: We are motivating, but it is a budget and procurement issue. The harvester is not a line item in the financial budget. Q: Four people employed to do full time manual weed harvesting will still be cheaper than buying a new one. The weed is too much and the weed harvester fills other functions too, this option is therefore not viable. Bernelle: We are next (after the litter trap) starting on the nutrient management strategy. Q: What can civil society do to help? Council members cannot advise on actions like this. This committee is legally constituted and can recommend actions, including purchases of weed harvester and civil actions to the city. ACTION: Put a proposal together as a committee to get a new weed harvester Next council meeting is 27 July, Cllr Kuhl can add into her report. Litter trap: Following the last meeting and working with Neil Armitage (UCT) quotes were sent to several engineering companies. Two companies replied with quotes, JG Afrika and ZAA Engineering Projects & Naval Architecture. ZAA then met with Joshua and Bernelle discussing the project scope and limitations. Following this ZAA revised their quote and informed us that they have selected the "Sand River Litter Trap as a ZAA Corporate Social Investment Project. We are offering the bulk of our services on a pro bono basis (CTR's 1, 2 and 3 in the attached proposal), provided that the work be executed as a team effort between all parties involved. The remaining work pack (CTR4) is offered at a significantly discounted rate." <p>The approach was further discussed, including approaching the litter from multiple interventions, including modifying the current trap to only capture large items, allowing another litter trap downstream to be designed to capture smaller items with less potential for damage. Neil considers the cascade of interventions as a good idea, but expressed concern that the current litter trap is bad design. Neil kindly offered to advise during project, Bernelle to send report to him.</p> <p>There was some concern that the litter trap is expensive and will take</p>	<p>BV & JG</p> <p>BV GB</p> <p>NA BV JG</p>	

Item		Action by	Date due
	<p>long to build, which does not address the immediate problem. Bernelle asked how the committee feels about this. Neil's response "If you are not going to do it properly you can't do it at all" and that "it will have to be an engineering solution as we can't deal with the social source of the challenge will do", was met with agreement all round.</p> <p>The committee further agreed that "You are not going to solve the problem in one go, need to be an iterative solution" particularly as it relates to larger and windblown litter.</p> <p>A social approach to litter reduction around the Blue Route mall involving the Keysers river, a WESSA project in the 1990's were mentioned. While it was noted that there is very little in that river that contributes to the litter in the Sand area, it was lauded as a good approach that we should consider for the catchment at large.</p> <p>APPEAL: Dealing with the immediate problem, we need someone to check the litter net at Park Island on a daily basis. Neil: The litter can be an order of magnitude higher than what we see. Nets can work but it really is about the maintenance and only works at low flow. The better litter traps is where a machine can empty it: it's not a nice job, people start to 'pretend not to clean it'.</p> <p>Telcot Percent presented on his litter trap at the Zandvlei Catchment Forum which gave an idea of the challenges he needs to deal with on a daily basis. Bernelle is to meet with Telcot to gain from his experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter reduction upstream: As part of an integrated and iterative strategy, we need to find ways to reduce litter at source. One low hanging fruit is to get a working relationship with the recycling centre in Retreat. Peter Kruger to please provide details, and the committee requests that Angus Hemp and Mike Ryder, who both regularly comment on this issue, take the initiative. • Dredging / Sediment Management Andy requested the cryptic 'stalled' note from the previous minutes explained, and kindly created a summary of the situation: Background 2017-01-18 Item 4: Dredging and Rehabilitation. Provides a discussion on the practicalities of dredging. Bernelle undertook to compile a basic brochure on requirements. 2017-03-15 Item 6: Dredging: Abdullah Parker had indicated that the city was unlikely to dredge the vlei this financial year. Discussion - How to control and reduce the risk of flooding? In terms of flood control this problem ranked second to the mouth. 2017-05-17 Item 7: Dredging: This conversation has stalled somewhat as the previous meeting found that there may be more holistic methods to manage sediment (?). We may look at this as part of the complementary recirculation methods (e.g. dynamic mouth 	<p>CG</p> <p>BV</p> <p>AH</p>	

Item		Action by	Date due
	<p>management) mentioned for the weed harvester.</p> <p>Status I have difficulty following the above “stalled” thread and couldn’t find reference to the more holistic methods. Below is a restatement of my understanding as to where the conversation stands with regard to dredging: It is generally accepted that the silting up of the Narrows is due to the artificial raising of the base level of the Vlei to protect Council infrastructure (sewerage pipe). The long-term solution is to re-engineer the mouth and remove the pipe and rock weir thereby enabling tidal ebb to cut a channel back down to the low water level. This will avoid the accumulation of sand in the narrows. As the re-engineering could not be contemplated in the near future, remedial action was to; Lower the rock weir to try and reduce the level of the sand sheet behind it.</p> <p>Dredge a channel through the sediment to the mouth. A start had been made on this in July 2015 but the budget allocated was too small to have much of a long-term effect. It should be noted that dredging is not regarded as a solution to the problem but merely a temporary amelioration of the unnatural sedimentation and should be repeated until the mouth is re-engineered. At the March 2017 ZPAAC meeting, it was indicated that there was unlikely to be a budget for dredging in 2017. The only intervention possible with limited budget was to be judicious with dynamic mouth management. Previous work had shown that influx of sediment was greatest when the mouth was artificially opened during the summer months. Thus, although it will be necessary to open the mouth on occasions during the summer, this should be kept to a minimum.</p> <p>How does one regain momentum? The Council is responsible for the problem and should be setting aside a budget for remedial action at the mouth. Nothing was done in 2016 and now we have been told there is no intention to do anything in 2017. Can a formal request be made to reinstate this programme which would benefit the recreational use of the Vlei, aid flood control and also improve the function of the Vlei as an ichthyofaunal nursery?</p> <p>AMK 2017-07-12</p> <p>BV follow up: 1. Josh said that the rock weir is currently at its lowest level possible without removing the sewer pipe and that he believes there is net sediment outflow. It is possible that there is net sediment outflow from the main body but not the narrows – Josh to advise. 2. The conversation stalled after input from the Estuary Management Workshop, notes here: http://zpaac.org.za/2017/03/23/dream-zandvlei-progress-report-15-march-2017/ and a meeting with Barry Clark at Anchor Environmental (notes were not available but is now online: http://zpaac.org.za/2017/07/13/dream-zandvlei-meeting-with-barry-clark/) after which Bernelle decided that nutrient management is a higher priority than dredging for her limited time, and that a holistic nutrient management strategy that also includes improved recirculation would also likely have sediment reduction as a result.</p>	JG	

Item		Action by	Date due
	<p>ACTION: include budget for dredging in the proposal, BUT may need to prioritise items in the view of limited budget.</p> <p>Andy says from a fishing perspective this season has been bad (low catches), but notes that it may be an apex predator issue, which may be reflecting greater challenges. Need depths greater than 1.5m for greater diversity.</p> <p>Need to do Source sediment management: sources: mouth, rivers. May be possible to identify key pressure points and do small interventions.</p> <p>We may look at this as part of the complementary recirculation methods (e.g. dynamic mouth management) mentioned for the weed harvester.</p> <p>Bathometric measurements are going to happen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddle run event: Was going to happen on 2 July. Had good interest but from people who couldn't make it. Decided to postpone. 		
8.	<p>Financial, Operational and Political Strategy</p> <p>Q: Gillion: budget in City? How does one access funding, various ways available? Is there a mechanism to not impact the operational funding?</p> <p>What is the political role of this committee around the delegated roles of the Mayor? (Two angles: operationally and politically). Can supplement this by annual reports, showing the value, through e.g. the income Zandvlei brings, nursery – fisheries, flood amelioration etc (Neil's list from a while ago: Argue for the benefits towards Water Sensitive Urban Design "This checks all the boxes except water supply", including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood prevention (after a drought comes a flood!) Water quality Biodiversity Property rates Blue flag beach <p>The maintenance of a well utilised, truly multi-racial public space (notes: http://zpaac.org.za/2017/02/06/caring-for-zandvlei-presentation-to-zpaac-18-january-2017/)</p> <p>Integrated Development Plan: Tourism, environment. Events Capital... Deep South transport plan. Ancillary spending. (ODTP – organisational ... plan.)</p> <p>Find out: Where do we sit, who are the people involved.</p> <p>Get us onto the Council Agenda. Zandvlei Trust has a representative. We are on the council item already.</p> <p>Outside funding through e.g. grants means the city can find funding on a timeline and conditions, match the income.</p> <p>Gavin: There is a blanket fund, Mike: We don't really know how to go about it. We can learn but it would be much better to get a documented process of the avenues</p>	BV to lead, GB GL	

Item		Action by	Date due
	<p>and required docs – how to function as a PAAC. Dalton: The primary point of contact is the nature conservation/reserve, but different people are responsible for different things. In many cases it is just operational and making a plan. There are several priorities of the agencies supporting us. Sometimes better to deal directly with the line management/function. Neil: The next step is to then decide which routes are good to pursue</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a report on what the ZPAAC has achieved, to present to the Mayor. Make a stronger political case for the importance of the area, wider than environmentally. Share the Dream Zandvlei vision, including being an International Water Tourism and Events Hub, and festivals to attract e.g. corporate investment. • Create a list with proposed activities, with the costs associated and in order of priority. 		
9.	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPWG Green Jobs bungle - John & Sandra - see first draft letter attached for comment. TZV send a letter. ZPAAC send a letter: angle: what is our legal mandate and responsibility? (Zandvlei management plan, promulgated to reserve). ZPAAC comment to the plan and related. Can comment on if this is done well, comment on anything that impacts it. It is an issue of operationalizing the management plan. Bureaucratic issue, jobs lost. Momentum, critical skills and training lost. This forum needs to express concern This was a supply chain issue. There is not a real understanding in the civil groups about the core problem – the large gap of communication. Expanded Works Programme is really difficult because it is a National Programme, which creates bureaucracy. Look at the skills development and training aspect rather than the expanded works aspect, because that approach is less haphazard. It is not just paying salaries, it's also about UIF, other admin burdens. Reserves have very few full time staff. Mayor special job creation fund – put in the report how we see the skills can develop. TZZ is funding the bridging aspect. • Feedback on Community resilience workshop – Sandra <p>Community Resilience MEETING CONVENED ON 22 June 2017 by Cllr Amy Kuhl (AK serves on the Sustainability and Resilience Cluster Committee) 11 Attendees present in Fish Hoek Council chamber. Addressed by Marti Weddepohl, managing director of Mercy Networks, an NGO specialising in the provision of disaster distress relief. W Cape face many challenges. Realisation that communities need to take responsibility to be first responders if they are to be resilient.</p> <p>W Cape authorities are unusually well prepared to cope and there are many very good civil society initiatives in the south Peninsula but the great need is to co-ordinate efforts. An incident command is proposed that will link structures like Neighbourhood watches etc.</p>	JF BV	

Item		Action by	Date due
	<p>Key issue is that individuals need to take responsibility to look after themselves by having an Evacuation plan; Go-bag</p> <p>Documents are being prepared with safety tips. The “moving spirits” in communities are encouraged to become champions of such resilience efforts.</p> <p>Distinction between Service delivery protests and Civil disobedience (intimidation, non-target protests, indiscriminate damage to property, looting, political overtones).</p> <p>Take home message: We need to plan out our community resilience activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs at Park Island – Cherry, Bernelle & Josh Cherry presented a draft sign to be erected at Park Island relating to dogs, to protect the fauna that have made Park Island their home. The main points are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Change opening hours between summer and winter to allow animals their privacy at dusk. 2. Greater control over dogs. <p>The obvious need is to require all dogs to be on lead at all times, but the visitors object to this, especially as many of them are elderly and have old dogs. The main problem is funding: half of the contributors are dog walkers, it is feared that they will not contribute if they cannot bring their dogs.</p> <p>The Zandvlei Trust can assist with funding, and it was suggested that the target market for contributors could be bird watchers. Around an average of R50 000 per year budget, with many volunteering, in kind, labour contributions.</p> <p>Dalton advised how to move forward and requested a meeting with Cherry, following which the committee can further assist: Does the reserve management plan allow for dog walking: yes. This is now like a precinct plan. This committee can look at the regulations for nature reserves, and the city by-laws. We need to get the signage in line with the other similar signs. Propose: the committee is happy with dog walking and the flyer gets improved. All present expressed gratitude to Cherry for her work and particularly her labyrinth.</p> <p>Not discussed, moved to next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caravan Park - Aimee/representative? Quarterly reports from ZENR - Josh • Events: - Bernelle Common calendar for events in Peninsula? Muizenberg Festival – ask Cape Town Tourism Paddle run and catchment events School holiday programmes? – Scouts, Sea scouts, not coordinated. • Water Use Bylaws: Recreational use. needs to get back on agenda. MdaG has special bylaws. – Dalton please check where these are. 	<p>DG (Dalton) JG Cherry</p> <p>DG (Dalton)</p>	
10.	Any Other Business: none		

Item		Action by	Date due
11.	Next Meeting: September 27th 14:00 Meeting closed: 17h20		