

## ZANDVLEI CATCHMENT FORUM (ZCF)

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 27th June 2017

At 10h00 at SANPARKS CAPE RESEARCH CENTRE

### **SUMMARY OF FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**

All	Suggest possible interviewees for LJ's project on perceptions of Diep River and Keyzers
All	Request for content (related upcoming events, projects etc.) for the S2C website sent to TC.
All	Requests and suggestions for items for discussion and presentations at the next meeting
All	SG requested ZCF members to assist with contacts for LJ's (French Student) project which focuses on perceptions of the Diep and Keyzers Rivers
All	SG requested that members provide relevant content (related upcoming events, projects, initiatives etc.) for the S2C website and to send these through to TC who will be coordinating some of the S2C administration
JFo, GL, SF	A letter of concern about the various consequences of the termination of Green Jobs contracts is to be prepared.
SF	For input on water quality for the next meeting SF to contact Kevin Winter and Candice Haskins.
SF	to draft a programme for the meeting topics for the coming year and send an email to members for comment.

#### **1. WELCOME**

SF welcomed all present to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves and who they were representing. There were various people that were attending the meeting for the first time. SF presented the agenda for the meeting and welcomed additions such as a brief report on the Peninsula Paddle by GL and a report back on Source to Sea (S2C) by SG.

#### **1. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES**

The following apologies were received: Chandre Rhoda, Gideon Topley, Conrad Freshe, Sharon McCullum, Kevin Southgate, James Rawlings, Jessica Kavonic, Ziyaad Samaai, and Abdulla Parker.

**Note:** The list of participants is at the end of the minutes (pg5).

#### **2. AMENDMENTS THEN APPROVAL – minutes 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017**

Few changes to the minutes were requested. EG elaborated that on Page 3 of the previous minutes she would like to add that the three Solid Waste Management operational branches were *collections, cleansing and disposal*.

Additionally EG and AR needed to be added to the attendance register.

Minutes were approved, proposed by FH and seconded by GL 27 June 2017.

#### **3. BRIEF REPORT ON PENINSULA PADDLE (GL)**

GL reported back on the Peninsula Paddle event held on the 11th June which went from Muizenberg Zandvlei to Milnerton Lagoon. The event celebrity was Greg Bertish who came along to inspire all along the route. He sailed his little Optimist yacht from Cape Hangklip to Langebaan to

commemorate the 200 hours he spent in hospitals treating a rare tropical bacterium that attacked his heart valves. The purpose was to raise R200, 000 for the Children's Hospital Trust in return. He managed to raise R350,000 and subsequently he has managed to raise a further R1million, which has been spent on repainting the entire hospital.

All the Zandvlei Nature Reserve staff participated as well as the City's Sports and Recreation dept with Ward 72 Councillors sponsorship for a Youth Development programme. All the members of the City's Green Jobs Unit participated in the event. Three members of the Village Heights Community Centre also participated. There were a number of previous paddlers participating again this year along with the first timers. It was noted that Kevin Winter took water samples and that the water quality results need to be followed-up on. GL also made it known that another paddle-and-run event was to be held on Sunday 2 July at Zandvlei and this was one of many upcoming events to raise awareness about water related conservation.

#### 4. **REPORT BACK ON SOURCE TO SEA (S2C)** (Visit website: [www.sourcetosea.org.za](http://www.sourcetosea.org.za) )

**4.1** SG briefly explained that there had been a restructuring of the Department and elaborated on how this would affect the S2C project. Currently they are in a holding phase and S2C has no project manager at present. However two international masters students are undertaking research related to the overall project. These research projects are specifically focused around peoples' perceptions of different river systems. **SG requested ZCF members to assist with contacts for LJ's project which focuses on perceptions of the Diep and Keyzers Rivers. She is looking for interviewees (business/property owners) that are based along the two rivers. LJ noted after the meeting that contacts in the areas of Constantia, Plumstead, Little Princess Vlei, Princess Vlei, Tokai, and Retreat would be preferable.**

**4.2** SG recapped on the Unogwaja challenge. Jess Kavonic (JK) intended to complete the Unogwaja challenge as well as a 'source to sea' run/ walk/ canoe in the Zandvlei catchment as a campaign to raise awareness about the project. She had hoped to do both of these events but had sustained a knee injury therefore hopes to integrate this run with the Cape Town Marathon in spring. SG asked people to please participate and support these events as well as provide information on other related events that could be branded under the S2C initiative. He would like all various related events to be identified under the S2C banner to raise awareness about the holistic project and to create a linking cause. **He requested that members provide relevant content (related upcoming events, projects, initiatives etc.) for the S2C website and to send these through to TC who will be coordinating some of the S2C administration.**

**4.3** SG noted that a new Climate Change Policy, as well as the Environmental Strategy, are at Council and will potentially be adopted. SG also revealed that a Feasibility Study of Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) along the Diep River Corridor had been contracted.

**4.5** JJ introduced the Green Infrastructure Plan (GIP) to the forum. She reported that this initiative is being prepared by the CoCT. The GIP is based around looking at the natural assets in the city and the unifying factors of natural space. The GIP is indicated to serve as a planning and management tool for natural open spaces and natural systems in Cape Town, and especially to focus on the ecosystem services that they provide. It is in the beginning stages but it was highlighted that the forum needs to think about how it can assist and support such a project.

#### 5. **UPDATE ON GREEN JOBS**

MM gave a presentation on Invasive Species Clearing. Using before-and-after photographs he highlighted some of the projects where alien clearing had been done, including Princess Vlei, Rondevlei and a portion of the Westlake River. A lot of the channels had been opened for flood mitigation before the winter rains. One of the major challenges MM noted was the fact that most rivers fall in the Western Leopard Toad range which means that they are only able to do alien clearing from January to June. Therefore, during the July to December period when the toads are mating, the rivers go back to their original, alien-invaded state.

RB highlighted some of the Green Job constraints such as the fact that the Facilitated Invasive Plant Tender had ended. For the meantime they are sending a request for quotation (RFQ) for a restoration facility and are advising people to apply.

LBr asked how her Ward allocation for river wardens could continue to be used. RB responded that the difficulty is that payments are routed through contractors not the CoCT. The contact with the contractors has been terminated and it will take until about January to resolve the problems.

LBr noted that Friends of Constantia Valley Greenbelts will absorb the costs of their River Wardens for this interim period.

JFo expressed concern at the loss of at least 57 jobs as a result. He also noted the concern that the investments made in controlling invasive waterweeds, both physically and by bio-control, could now be lost.

JFi asked when piles of aliens, which have been dumped as far back as 2016, would be removed. TP answered that the CoCT's tender with a removal company had expired 2 years ago and the CoCT no longer has its own fleet of trucks. A new tender should be in operation between July and December. FH said that the loss of the green jobs teams was significant for Parks as Parks were totally reliant on them.

**A letter of concern about the various consequences of the termination of Green Jobs contracts is to be prepared by JF, GL, SF.**

## **6. PRESENTATION ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (SWM)**

EG gave a presentation on SWM, looking specifically at the various roles and responsibilities of the collections and cleansing branches. Essentially the collections branch's roles include refuse removal in wheelie bins, ad hoc services (such as garden refuse) and waste minimization. The cleansing branch's roles include cleaning streets, beaches, residential & industrial areas, river banks, informal settlements, illegal dumpsites, and carcass removals. Cleansing also includes specialized mechanical interventions. EG elaborated on which departments were responsible for clearing of specific types of illegal dumping.

NN asked who is responsible for cleaning the river that brings litter and pollution onto the Pollsmoor property. TP explained that backyard dwellers in the Westlake area are a big problem in terms of solid waste management as there are not enough bins. TP) urged that it would be wise to get property owners to buy more bins to stop people from dumping waste into the rivers.

JFi asked EG to clarify what defines a river 'bank' and what various responsibilities Solid Waste Management (SWM) has. EG elaborated that they are responsible for clearing the slopes of the river and Roads & Stormwater are responsible for clearing waste wherever there is water.

There was some confusion on the different coloured bins that were provided by SWM. It was clarified by EG that green bins were for cleansing, blue for specific areas such as recreational zones, and red for parks.

## 7. PRESENTATION ON SAND RIVER CANAL LITTER GRID

TP presented on litter grids, explaining that they are used to stop litter from entering canals. Vandalism and theft of litter grids is a significant issue. At Princess Vlei a pipe was installed to stop litter from entering the canal but this was vandalised and parts were stolen. People also tend to throw heavy objects, such as furniture, into the rivers which destroys the pipes and block the grids. Clearing of grids and silt used to be an annual job but now there is more funding and they are able to do this four or five times a year using Bobcats. Currently all three of the machines are broken. In Coniston Park (Sand & Lange) the litter grids have needed bypass areas so that the build-up can be diverted. Various grids are now cleared by hand labour before and after rains.

TP also mentioned that they are considering placing litter grids in parks where there is more security.

BV gave some feedback on the litter management project being done under the auspices of ZVT where they want to use screens from very coarse to much finer as the rivers get closer to the estuary. BV also questioned whether there was a calculation of the weight of cleared waste but TP said that there was not.

## 8. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND NEXT MEETING

SF said that she hoped each person will do some reflection about their role in ZCF and what each hopes to achieve. **SF to draft a programme for the meeting topics for the coming year and send an email to members for comment.**

### Possible presentations for the next meeting:

- International intern LJs' research on perceptions of the Diep and Keyser's rivers.  
SG to confirm this.
- Water quality observations from the last Peninsula Paddle and possibly Candice Haskins to give her annual report back on water quality.  
**For input on water quality for the next meeting SF to contact Kevin Winter and Candice Haskins.**
- Update on Unogwaja initiative on S2C.

**SF requested that the ZCF members send any other suggestions of items for discussion and presentations at the next meeting.**

**NEXT MEETING:** it was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

Catering for next meeting: there were volunteers for:

- Tea + coffee (MT)
- Sweet goods (SF)
- Savoury (AR)
- Milk and sugar (EG)

The meeting closed at 12.25.

**PRESENT**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>E-mail</b>	
AR	Anthony Roberts	Cape Town Environmental Education Trust (CTEET)	<a href="mailto:anthony.roberts@cteet.co.za">anthony.roberts@cteet.co.za</a>
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BV	Bernelle Verster	ZPAAC Zandvlei Protected Area Advisory Committee	<a href="mailto:bernellev@gmail.com">bernellev@gmail.com</a>
DS	Denver Stevens	City of Cape Town (CCT): Solid Waste: Cleansing	<a href="mailto:denver.stevens@capetown.gov.za">denver.stevens@capetown.gov.za</a>
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