

# ZANDVLEI PROTECTED AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

MEETING HELD AT THE IMPERIAL YACHT CLUB / ZANDVLEI SPORTS CLUB, MUIZENBERG ON  
WEDNESDAY 13 June 2018

<b>Present:</b>	A. Lathif Gafoor (LG) Bernelle Verster (BV) Dave Jubb (DJ) Angus Hemp (AH) Mike Miller (MM) David Roux (DR) John Fowkes (JF) Sandra Fowkes (SF) Dalton Gibbs (DG) Gavin Lawson (GL) Anthony Roberts (AR) Andy Killick (AMK) Bonelwa Mabovu David Walker (DW) Karel Lewy-Phillips (KLP) Nyanisa Tshaya (NT) Aimee Kuhl (AK)	Ward 64, also MDGA Chair, ZPAAC MDGA MDGA PenCC Sea Scouts ZVT, Westlake Wetlands Project ZVT CoCT, Regional Reserve Manager CBC CTEET Geology specialist Dept W& S Sea Cadets /CPUT Environmental Specialist DEA & DP, Coastal Management CoCT Councillor, ward 64
<b>Apologies</b>	Peter Kruger (PK) Damian Gibbs (DaG) Abdulla Parker (AP) Cherry Gilham (CG) Neil Armitage (NPA) Gillion Bosman (GB) Mark Clive Arendse (MCA) Andrew Taylor (AT)	TZT Zandvlei Sports Club TCT Friends of Park Island (Europe) UCT \ Recreational Yachting (Europe) CoCT – Council Acting Manager, ZENR CoCT
<b>Invited:</b>	Olivia Venter Braden Wilkinson Barry Penn	UCT MSc student CPUT PenCC

Next meeting presentation from Karel, [Zandvlei Estuary - Towards a Sustainable Aquatic Weed Management Strategy](#) It is a comprehensive summary of the proposal. I would be best getting this draft edited before using it as a proposal, but the information would provide a strong argument for Ozone Nutrient Management for an Integrated Weed Control System.

Note : Point for management plan : The pan in terms of waders, the central pan must be actively managed.

Item		Action by
	<b>Meeting opened: 14h01</b>	
1.	<b>Welcome:</b> Extended to all by Bernelle Verster	
2.	<b>Attendance Register:</b> Signed by all.	
3.	<b>Minutes of previous meetings: Matters Arising:</b>  Ratified minutes are now on website and updated: <a href="http://zpaac.org.za/zpaac-minutes/">http://zpaac.org.za/zpaac-minutes/</a>	<b>BV</b>
	<p>Presentation by DW's student Braden Wilkinson (BTech CPUT in Nature Conservation) "<b>Long term population trends of waterbirds during the years 1975 - 2017 at Zandvlei Estuary Nature Reserve in Cape Town.</b>"</p> <p>Available online: <a href="http://zpaac.org.za/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Braden_Wilkinson_40_years_trends_in_water_bird_counts_Zandvlei_estuary_CPUT_13june2018.pdf">http://zpaac.org.za/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Braden_Wilkinson_40_years_trends_in_water_bird_counts_Zandvlei_estuary_CPUT_13june2018.pdf</a> and listed under the minutes tab.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>DG: Very well done. This is an example of citizen science, CWAC counts. GL assisted with much of the bird counts data.</p> <p>Large changes are visible, starting from about 200. For example, egyptian geese up from 4 to 512 since 2000! Hybrids: 0 in 1979 to 231.- inter-race hybrids (not just Mallard hybrids)</p> <p>The data is showing that the system is gaining nutrients. Zandvlei has not been a seasonal wetland for a while. Can see the impact of not functioning as a natural system. It could be fairly simple to re-establish the natural system. The system needs to be flushed annually to get the nutrients out.</p> <p>Early to mid 1990's the system changed – some channel that GL dug.</p> <p>We have about 165 varieties of birds at Zandvlei – approx. 165. Recorded via a bird count every three months.</p> <p>We do see bats, these can help with muggies and mosquitoes and should be encouraged. David Jacobs is the bat expert.</p> <p>Interesting side note, DG shared that a hooded vulture was spotted at Strandfontein.</p> <p>BirdWise – first two white back ducks for this year 😊</p> <p><u>Invasive mallard challenge:</u></p> <p>AH: This is a continuous cycle that causes much upset during the culling. How to prevent this? Can residents raise yellow bill ducks themselves?</p> <p>DG: The funding cycle is a challenge.</p> <p><b>PAAC ACTION:</b> Ask for a fixed date when the follow up will happen to break the cycle. And then can consider re-populations.</p> <p>KLP: Offer to send web link about healthy wetland and monitoring (?)</p>	<b>BV, AH</b>  <b>KLP</b>
4.	<b>City Matters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reserve Manager: DG: Aim for appointment on 2 July, but don't hold our breath. AK: Tried to get feedback on the reserve manager. The candidate has been selected and appointment letter needs to be signed by the Director. Need to go to Subcouncil meeting. The subcouncil agenda has the Zandvlei matters as matters requiring urgent attention. This seems to be working as the minutes are public and a way to keep officials accountable.</li> <li>• EPWP – still an issue. Timing with finances is a big challenge. Will end 1 July until we apply again.</li> </ul>	<b>DG</b>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park Island and dogs: The zonation of dog walking on Park Island needs to be looked at in detail. There have been numerous issues before with non-compliance on the island with regards to dogs. Animals have been killed and workers have been attacked. Residents of Marina da Gama has taken matters in their own hands and erected signage, contrary to agreements made with the previous reserve manager, and contrary to the objective of the area as a nature reserve. DG: Cannot be resolved now. Enforcement is a challenge. DG concern is that any law enforcement is punitive, the damage is already done. The current agreed plan is to keep the existing privately erected signage up. DG will take the recommendation forward that any incidents will result in park closure for 30 days to incentivise self-policing. KLP noted that the nutrients from the dogs (urine) also changes the plant species, which is detrimental to the park's functioning as a nature reserve.</li> <li>• Status of camping site and resort (first step to Dream Zandvlei): The City is currently evaluating all the resorts. Expect to see that this camping resort is not adding value. Jo Olivier and Kea (sp?) Hennesey has been assessing, now reporting back on 19 June.</li> </ul> <p><b>Councillor Aimee Kuhl was present to lead a discussion on the recent land protests:</b> A branch on SJC asks for the lease at the bowling green not renewed but instead used for affordable housing. This is a continuing trend. Regarding the land protests in Vrygrond, there seems to be a standard operating procedure. Happened in Masi in &lt;year&gt;, most recent at Westlake. Serious reason to believe that it is politically motivated, subverting a legitimate protest and turning it violent. The community meeting held on 23 May 2018 came about because Ward 64/18 boundary is M5. Aimee asked City powers several times to get Ward 18 members to be included, to no avail. The Mayor is making promises to communities that have budget implications.</p> <p>We can't panic about this. We learnt from the water crisis that we are amazingly resilient. <b>Be aware. Communicate things out of the ordinary</b> – e.g. piles of tyres. There are huge political gain trying to be made from division and racist narratives. <b>We are not as divided as the media believes we are. Don't feed into the narrative. Be calm.</b></p> <p>LG: We need to have a pulse of what is happening in Vrygrond: 40 000 people in 1km2. They have legitimate right to the land they are asking for. AK: There is a legitimate claim to safety and land, but there is also a legitimate claim for the nature reserve that is not conducive to land. This discussion needs to happen at a much larger scale. We must not create an 'us' and 'them' scenario. And there is also an element of gangsterism – these are not the same people, there are several elements. Government is not speaking out of one voice. We need to stop this hard-line approach. Be a network of people with the <b>correct reporting structures. Contact the local councilor and direct queries to the local councilor.</b> ZPAAC thanks AK for the hard work she and her colleagues are doing, and the good, timeous and open lines of communication available.</p> <p><b>Potential deproclamation of the False Bay Nature Reserve</b> AR: Grave concern of loss of land, the de-proclamation of the nature reserve. It has been mooted. Will potentially be considered in the next 6 to 8 months. It is a highly rated site with Ramsar status, and it is not safe. ACTION: Bring all the PAACs together, get the director of the Env Resources Dept, then take it as a coordinated group to National Level. Include AK in this correspondence to share with the Sust. &amp; Resilience Portfolio. AK: The perception has been created that the City does not have liveable land. This is not true. There are land allocations that are suitable and desirable, and that has access to jobs and transport. There is a strategy to address apartheid spatial planning. MM: We need to work at understanding the communities. We need to have joint activities. Get</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>AR to coordinate</b></p>

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	<p>the communities to invest in their assets, to enjoy their spaces. ACTION: List the NGO's working in the area. Organise an OpenStreets? (<a href="https://openstreets.org.za/">https://openstreets.org.za/</a> )</p> <p><b>Conversation about recent massive sewer spill and consequences</b> (documented as it happened: <a href="http://zpaac.org.za/2018/04/23/sewer-spill-in-sandriver-canal/">http://zpaac.org.za/2018/04/23/sewer-spill-in-sandriver-canal/</a> )</p> <p>These meetings used to have the Health Dept that can send the signs out. Was not clear when water was safe to enter. Aimee: The City sucks at communications. The Mayco does not have local knowledge, and the media gets conflicting messages from their local sources. Contact the local councilor!!!</p> <p>Water quality seems to have recovered remarkably well – see more under Nutrient Management item.</p> <p><b>Communication:</b> The community needs a quick response solution. MM noted that during the major sewer spill what the (MayCo) council was putting out on radio was not real. The perception gap was scary.</p>	<p>?</p> <p>?</p>
5.	<p><b>Province Matters</b></p> <p><b>DEA&amp;DP</b></p> <p>Most of the stuff the City is doing themselves. Busy with State of the Coast reporting. Received the different chapters, incl, estuary chapter. Our steering comm is busy commenting to be finalised. This is also coming with a web-based platform. So the public can view the state of the coast for the whole province. Provincial coastal access strategy. First for Overberg, later whole province Coastal management lines (?) and &lt;&gt; mechanism.</p> <p>Fix in minutes: Not Bay law, bylaw.</p>	<p><b>NT to add minutes</b></p>
6.	<p><b>Memberships and Representatives Update</b> Added MLRA to the mailing list.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Project list report back and update</b></p> <p>Note from Julia Wood when asked about civic engagement in projects, due to frustration with slow pace of City intervention: "Large scale co-management is problematic. But different small projects can work."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Weed harvester:</b> The weedharvester is in one of the Princessvleis and will move here in the beginning of the new financial year – July. And we'll get an operator. Issue with transporter AK: if the little weed harvester is feasible, what is the next step? Will hear about budgets f1 July. ACTION: Angus to send specs to Dalton</li> </ul>	<p><b>AK, DG</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Litter trap:</b> Mike Ryder has installed three traps. Busy installing fourth one. The contractors are doing well to keep the litter free. ZPAAC thanks Mike Ryder and Telcott Percent for their dedication and</li> </ul>	

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	<p>hard work.</p> <p>Engineered trap is now waiting for EIA. Willie (ZAA) to send the final report. BV did get feedback and willingness to assist from Env. consultants. ACTION: BV and KLP to follow up.</p>	<p>BV, KLP (BP?_</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Litter reduction upstream and in general</b></li> </ul> <p>AR: Zandvlei Trust had some funding for Westlake community for a litter reduction and awareness programme recently, about a month ago. ACTION: PK, ZVT to follow up. Do need an implementer, not in CTEET's mandate. Note: Kommetjie (surrounds) had similar successful pilot?</p>	<p>PK, ZVT members</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dredging / Sediment Management</b></li> </ul> <p>Port Owen waiting for national DEA (National) for info of dredging head. Is this issue covered in MMP? If not then need to apply to national. ACTION DaG and BV.</p> <p>from past meeting: <b>ACTION:</b> DaG to engage with Port Owen and write up a plan about schedule of transport and dredging, how to transport, the details of the machine (capacity, dimensions, what fuel it uses etc), etc.</p> <p><b>Dumpings?</b> maintenance dredging channel into the mouth for the mouth opening to move into the sea.</p> <p><b>WEIR:</b> Need to relook at weir construction and management. Increase the height? Need to do some homework – AMK, then have a meeting with relevant stakeholders, including Abdullah and Justin Smith.</p>	<p>BV, DaG</p> <p>AMK, BV, GL</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nutrient Management and integrated estuary management in general.</b></li> </ul> <p>There are lots of weeds, but the algae and the muskgrass is decreasing, likely impacted by increase in salinity (mouth open), cooler days and amount of rain. Water was around 27 salt units the other day. SF: ACTION: Bring samples, specimens to the forum please! It is however concerning that we may have good rain in winter, but stuff is not getting out! – Dredging and rubble weir alterations required.</p> <p><b>Bank rehabilitation:</b> DG met with the new coastal engineer, suggests gabions for the banks. A large job (too large for Scouts on their 40 hour projects)</p>	<p>ALL</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality Monitoring : Analysis and Citizen science</b></li> </ul> <p>ACTION : BV meet with Ian McCallum. Still trying.</p> <p>The continuous sampling and reporting on the website is the goal. Continuiing work between GL, BV. Help, advice and feedback appreciated, both in terms of sampling and web design</p> <p>Candice Haskins cannot give the information we need at the frequency we require. Suretha Dorse is closer and may have more time.</p>	<p>BV</p> <p>BV, GL, ALL</p>

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	<p>Suretha is new in this role and currently auditing the points managed by the Catchment Management department and adding four more points of interest to the Biodiversity Management. Once completed she will send an updated map with the locations of the points.</p> <p>ACTION : BV to check in with Suretha again.</p> <p>Candice Haskins from Catchment Management Department aims to do an annual report of the water quality in the catchment. The ZPAAC would like a weekly update, thus the discussion revolved around what parameters are useful and realistic to be measured by citizen scientists to contribute to a weekly dashboard.</p> <p>Easier measurements include turbidity, conductivity (an indication of the salt concentration, or ingress of the sea water), pH, temperature. Dissolved oxygen (d)) would be very useful but the probe is expensive. E.coli measurements is useful, and it was noted that the levels are generally low enough to swim in, although general recommendations are limited to non-contact recreational sports like canoeing.</p> <p>The 'wish', or the aspect contributing to Dream Zandvlei is to have an active citizen science component to gather data, which is then interpreted with the support of the City – both Candice and Suretha's departments, that is then used in a easy, quick green/orange/red metric updated weekly on the ZPAAC website.</p> <p>MCA : There is a new salinity monitor at the reserve. We need training on how to use it, and even a volunteer to take ownership of using the instrument to generate data.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> : BV to push this. GL to provide the guideline doc that was on the Zandvlei Trust website that shows how to do the sampling. All to help with ideas. MM to help with data visualisation in the future.</p>	<p><b>BV</b></p> <p><b>BV GL MM</b></p>
8.	<p><b>Financial, Operational and Political Strategy</b></p> <p>BV met with Gillion and Aimee to discuss the financial and political options to improve the vlei (Dream Zandvlei).</p> <p>Camping resort: The City is currently evaluating all the resorts. Expect to see that this camping resort is not adding value Jo Olivier and Keea (sp?) Hennesey has been assessing, now reporting back on 19 June. This will be a strategic overview. It won't have a step one to ten of how to use this space. After this we need to establish a steering committee, develop a joint strategy. A steering committee normally gets chaired by a Mayco member or Council member, meet monthly, to show progress. Worked well for waterfront, have landscapers, urban planners etc attending. This is not short term! There are serious issues with public spaces around the city. Aimee is still on Sustainability and Resilience Portfolio. There's so many layers to why this space is important.</p> <p>Lathif: The Sub-council is very useful. They do allow the public to talk. Managed to get action on bridge in Marina, the weed harvester.</p> <p>Check: Invites to sub-council meetings. Look at the minutes and the agendas.</p>	<p><b>BV, All</b></p> <p><b>BV</b></p>

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	<b>old issue: employ a fundraiser?</b>	
9.	<p><b>General</b></p> <p>Protected Area Advisory Committees in the City of Cape Town will be renewed - applications for membership are now open until 14 June 2018</p> <p>Olivia Venter introduced herself – She is doing a Masters on the impact of sandprawns on water quality, how nature deals with water quality issues. Sand prawns dig into the sand, affect the water quality. They act like little sandfilters. If it is a positive effect, then we need to look after them. DG : Can you give a Rand value to them ? BV : Should be possible, can compare to the treatment efficiency of Wastewater treatment works and compare the costs/savings based on that.</p> <p>How to facilitate the Scouts earning their badges - what is the procedure? Scout: 40 hrs of comm work. Reserve staff, or the gantouw project. It is a project they have to investigate, plan and execute over the 40 hour period. Need to submit a plan. Dalton to speak to Mark.</p> <p><b>Old items:</b></p> <p>Relook the management plan, Dalton, new manager, Bernelle (Josh?). Develop subsidiary plans specific to our challenges, with timelines, key objectives – a lot more nitty gritty.</p> <p>TODO: make a priorities list for dream Zandvlei: easy to fund, short returns, longer plans, etc. E.g. map Zandvlei in 4D: 3D with attributes like water quality, depth (can work with 2D also), over time.</p>	<p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>BP &amp; BV</b></p>
10.	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <p>Proposed meetings for 2018: Wednesdays, 14:00, Zandvlei Sports Club, roughly second Wednesday of the month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 28 March (done), 13 June (done)</li> <li>- 12 September</li> <li>- 12 December</li> </ul> <p>Working meetings (topics, venue and time TBC, likely some or all of the top priority areas – litter, weed, nutrient, sediment management) – attendance is optional, minutes will be distributed to rest of the group and ratified at next general meeting after discussion if required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 17 January (done – topic was Dream Zandvlei), 11 April (cancelled)</li> <li>- 29 August (will be rescheduled)</li> <li>- 28 November</li> </ul>	
11.	<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> Working meeting scheduled for 29 August. BV will be out of the country. This will be scheduled to address specific issues e.g. the False Bay Reserve challenge.</p> <p><b>Next general meeting is 12 September.</b></p> <p><b>Meeting closed: 16:00</b></p>	