

Minutes of meeting

**Zandvlei Catchment Forum**

SANParks Cape Research Centre, Tokai, Cape Town

Tuesday 16 April 2019

10h00 – 12h30

**Attendees:**

<b>Initials</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation/ Department</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
AP	Abdulla Parker	CCT: CSRM	021 400 1385	Abdulla.parker@capetown.gov.za
AvG	Andrea von Gunten	CCT/CTEET	021 444 1487	Muizenberg.east@capetown.gov.za
AR	Anthony Roberts	CTEET	021 444 2793	Anthony.roberts@cteet.co.za
CB	Crispin Barrett	CCT: E&HM	021 444 2613	Crispin.barrett@capetown.gov.za
FH	Fay Howa	CCT: Recreation and Parks	021 444 1696	Fay.howa@capetown.gov.za
JR	James Rawlings	Spaanschemat River	083 226 1487	rawlings@global.co.za
JW	Jemma Wheatley	Disaster Risk Management	083 315 4567	Jemma.wheatley@capetown.gov.za
JJ	Joanne Jackson	CCT: EMD	021 487 2184	Joanne.jackson@capetown.gov.za
MT	Melissa Tang	CCT: W&S	021 444 3749	Melissa.tang@capetown.gov.za
MC	Monique Coetzee	CCT: EMD	021 487 2007	Monique.coetzee@capetown.gov.za
NM	Nwabisa Majali	CCT: EMD	021 444 3774	Nwabisapricila.majali@capetown.gov.za
RT	Ricardo Thompson	CCT: Stormwater Management - Cleansing	021 444 4368	Ricardo.Thompson@capetown.gov.za
SF	Sandra Fowkes (Chairperson)	Zandvlei Trust	021 788 7123	Sandra@metaplan.co.za
TD	Tamlyn Duncan*	CCT: EMD	021 487 2065	Tamlyn.duncan@capetown.gov.za
ZG	Zarmeen Ghooor	UCT	076 545 3753	zarmeeny@gmail.com
ZE	Zishan Ebrahim	SANParks: CRC	021 713 7523	Zishan.ebrahim@sanparks.org
ZS	Ziyaad Samaai	CCT: Environmental Health	021 400 2780	Ziyaad.simaai@capetown.gov.za

\*Took the minutes

Apologies: Conrad Frehse (CCT), James Forsyth, Jean Fillis (Friends of Kirstenhof Wetland), Cllr Kevin Southgate (CCT), Kyran Wright (CCT) Cllr Liz Brunette (LB, CCT), Louise Matschke (CTEET), Motlatsi Nkhoesa (CCT), Michael Slayen (SANParks), Peter Kruger (Zandvlei Trust), Stephen Granger (SG, CCT).

Item	Action
<p><b>1. <u>Welcome:</u></b></p> <p>SF welcomed all to the meeting and stated the key elements of the role of chairing a catchment forum, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keeping the bigger picture in mind at all times</li> <li>2. Actively engaging with partners</li> <li>3. Driving priorities</li> <li>4. Monitoring and evaluating</li> <li>5. Acting as the 'face' of the body</li> <li>6. Chairing meetings</li> </ol> <p>SF noted that the first 5 elements have not been satisfactorily met and for this reason, she doesn't feel as though she's the correct or suitable Chairperson for the Forum in terms of what it needs.</p> <p>AP disagreed with SF and stated that she is the best Chair for the Forum. In a previous meeting with JJ and SG, it was proposed that the Chairperson will only need to chair meetings, and will not be responsible for any running around or administrative issues. Nevertheless, AP called for Chairperson volunteers.</p>	
<p><b>2. <u>Minutes of last meeting:</u></b></p> <p>The minutes from the last meeting (16 October 2018) were accepted.</p> <p>Issues noted for correction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Page 1, Point 4.1, point 1 – Aalgae should read <b>algae</b></li> <li>• Page 3, second bullet – 'whether r not' should read <b>whether or not</b></li> <li>• Page 3, Point 6, first bullet – Green Infrastructure Planning should read <b>Green Infrastructure Plan</b></li> <li>• Page 4, Some Current Initiatives, second bullet – Mapping in terms of ecosystem services should read <b>GIP: Mapping in terms of ecosystem services</b></li> <li>• Page 4, Additional comments, second bullet – Zandvlei should read <b>Zeekoevlei</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. <u>Proposed refocus of the forum:</u></b></p> <p>JJ proposed that the Forum has a strong Source to Sea (S2S) project focus, as well as looking at key focus areas, with portfolios established for each. These could include solid waste, communication and awareness, membership etc. Suggested that at each meeting there is a S2S project focus, together with a focus on a particular focal area. AP proposed that the Forum concentrate on three main functional areas, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Waste water management</li> <li>2. Informal settlements</li> <li>3. Solid waste</li> </ol> <p>AP stated that these themes have been chosen because sewerage and informal settlements are the two main sources of water pollution in Cape Town. Each theme will have a dedicated meeting in the future, which will include a concise presentation. The presentations can be viewed as an opportunity for information exchange and a mechanism to bring change.</p>	

<p>RT questioned why solid waste in informal settlements has been separated from waste water management.</p> <p>AP clarified that informal settlements have more issues at play other than just solid waste and are therefore more unique in their scope. It was noted that the goal here is information exchange, and not a venture into the arena of the City's mandate and responsibilities.</p> <p>The floor was asked to volunteer representation for each portfolio.</p> <p>RT stated that from a cleansing point of view, he covers 9 wards out of the 50 in the area and can only speak to what he knows. If he were to head up a portfolio, then it would require him to have additional meetings with other wards. RT agreed to contact Pricilla Booysen (from Events and Partnerships) and get back to AP because she has a direct connection with the department heads. RT and AP will liaise in this regard.</p> <p>SF asked all City employees how the Forum can facilitate and assist employees to fulfil their mandates.</p> <p>JJ stated that the Forum acts as a method for engagement, and can help link between City departments and other catchment stakeholders.</p> <p>MT often gets complaints but hardly ever in the Retreat area. The moment she has a complaint, it takes priority. That's why the Forum is important because MT can be available to less affluent communities.</p> <p>AP asked for one representative from solid waste to give presentations regarding line functions and how this can be applied in the catchment.</p> <p>MT will provide success stories in regards to sewage.</p>	<p>RT &amp; AP</p> <p>MT</p>
<p><b>4. <u>Source to Sea report back</u></b></p> <p>JJ gave an overview presentation from the <u>site visit on 19 Feb.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SF expressed how the site visit enabled one to experience the two ends of the green belt spectrum. On one end, Spaanschemat represented how partnerships can get together and make a significant change and on the other end, the vagrants living under the bridge in Doordrift was indicative of an ongoing problem in green belts.</li> <li>• FH stated that for the past two years, her department has been trying to get the vagrants out of Doordrift. So far, they have been successful in removing the vagrants who resided opposite Norman Henshilwood High School.</li> <li>• In terms of biodiversity, FH is going to start planting some recreational trees in Doordrift this winter.</li> <li>• FH praised the partnership with Friends of Constantia Valley Greenbelts, who have been very supportive of the initiative. The place was so unsafe but now that it has been opened up more, recreational activities have commenced (running, cycling). No attacks have been reported since the work has begun.</li> <li>• JJ noted that input from the landscape architect on site visit (Philip Smit) mentioned that with simple interventions, the Doordrift section could be enhanced and become more visually appealing.</li> </ul> <p>JJ gave an overview presentation of the <u>Source to Sea: Adopt a River Reach Programme.</u></p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The programme looks to sustain engagement with our natural system through embedding this imperative within school curriculums.</li> <li>• Looking at schools with different socio-economic considerations, and along different reaches of the Diep and PrinsKasteel-Keyers rivers: Norman Hensilwood High School (HS), Steenberg HS, American International School Cape Town, and Zwaanswyk HS.</li> <li>• It was noted that the teacher champion at Muizenberg High School had left, so the programme has not been able to be piloted, as planned, but materials have been produced.</li> <li>• Facilitator notes are included in the programme, which increases the likelihood of the pilot phase being implemented more concretely in future.</li> <li>• Interestingly, Steenberg High refused to use the canal right next to their school to run the programme because of safety concerns and the canal is riddled with litter, and there is concern that the clinic upstream is disposing of medical waste. This is indicative of how unsafe and degraded the canal and general area is. There is potential for the school to raise more awareness regarding the fact that they don't feel comfortable or safe to use the surrounding canal.</li> </ul> <p>SF questioned whether the ZCF can approach Steenberg High to state that the Forum can assist in writing the letters to councilors regarding the issue of medical waste or general state of the canal area.</p> <p>ZS would need more information to get someone to have a look. There is a monitoring process regarding medical waste so it could be worthwhile to ensure that is being done.</p> <p>JJ will liaise with Helen (programme facilitator) in this regard. On the basis of that information, JJ will then liaise with ZS.</p> <p>AR raised the issue of shorter-term projects only receiving funding for a year. He questioned whether the funding will continue beyond a year for Adopt a River Reach.</p> <p>JJ confirmed that the intention is to keep the project going beyond one year, and is sure that budget allocation has been requested. Lindie Buirski is managing this programme.</p> <p>JJ provided a brief overview of the <u>Roscommon Road: Livable Urban Waterways Proposal</u>, which has been submitted and an outcome is expected in May. If realised, the project will start in June and continue for a year.</p> <p>AR and JJ gave an overview of the <u>Tourism Monitors/River Ambassadors Programme</u>, which entails a proposed 50 tourism monitors for 3 years to be present in 2 catchments in Cape Town (Zandvlei and Hout Bay catchments).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Tourism Monitors (TM) programme is part of a national initiative of the Department of Tourism, with the TM's identified for Cape Town's 2 catchments stemming from long term engagement with the Department of Environmental Affairs, the City and CTEET to establish a skills development programme associated with river catchments.</li> <li>• It is anticipated that the monitors will be deployed along the Diep and possibly PrinsKasteel-Keyers rivers as well as the Disa-Hout Bay river.</li> <li>• Final details aren't available at this point but will be communicated outside the meeting as and when they become available.</li> </ul>	<p>JJ</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R604 000 has been placed on the budget by City to help facilitate a skills development programme associated with river corridors.</li> <li>• AP highlighted that ongoing training is imperative because if the funding gets pulled at a later stage, the monitors have tangible skills to find alternate employment.</li> <li>• AR stated that one of the focus areas for the monitors' training is safety and security and linking in with City Law enforcement.</li> <li>• FH noted that ward councilors have lost their law enforcement officials because the funding stopped last year, so this would be highly beneficial.</li> <li>• AR stressed that engagement with SANParks is essential to the success of the programme.</li> <li>• This programme aims to build onto the Invasive Species Unit's Green Jobs programme.</li> </ul> <p>JJ discussed an idea of SG, which is to produce a <u>Source to Sea video</u>. Idea is to interview people who live in the area and give an overview of the programmes running within it.</p>	
<p><b>5. <u>Feedback from Zandvlei Nature Reserve (ZNR) Protected Area Advisory Committee (PAAC):</u></b></p> <p>AvG gave an overview of the main discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sewage spill was limited to three times this year, which is better than was expected because the load shedding makes this worse.</li> <li>• <i>E-coli</i> is currently under control in the water.</li> <li>• Renovations are going ahead with the building of the Rendez-Vous.</li> <li>• The Scouts Kontiki was a success.</li> <li>• The weed harvester is functioning well at the moment, although it is temperamental and the process for a new vessel has been initiated.</li> <li>• The Zandvlei Trust has hosted numerous events, some of which have been fully-booked, thanks to Louise Baldwin.</li> <li>• The Chair of the PAAC, Bernelle Verster, has resigned.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. <u>General and closing:</u></b></p> <p>FH extended her thanks to the Green Jobs unit for their work along the ecological corridor in the Constantia green belt region.</p> <p>SF noted with concern that in the past six months, the water hyacinth has returned to the Westlake Wetlands. She urged NM to act on this.</p> <p>MT raised the issue of Pollsmoor Prison canceling its contract with Bosasa, which has resulted in wardens being in control of waste management and kitchen functions. Owing to the fact that it may take a long time to tender for a new service provider, the wetland may be negatively affected by this abrupt change in control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SF is prepared to work with MT and JR to write an article for the Constantia Post (or similar) to detail what is going on at Pollsmoor and the potential implications for the surrounding environment, MT and JR would prefer to remain anonymous.</li> <li>• MT will confirm with her manager as to whether a letter should be sent from the ZCF to Cllr Penny East (the ward councilor) and whether a letter should be sent to the area commissioner.</li> </ul>	<p>NM</p> <p>SF, MT &amp; JR</p> <p>MT</p>

<p>Going forward, JJ and TD will work on defining the focus area for the next three meetings and the project-aspect for each meeting to cover.</p> <p>Looking for champions to emerge for various focus areas/ portfolios.</p> <p>There was discussion regarding public availability of the ZCF minutes and whether these should be loaded onto a website. JJ suggested that the Source to Sea website, which contained information on the catchment, could be a possible location for this. General consensus that this is a good idea.</p> <p>AP closed by describing how the multiplier effect can translate to what the ZCF is doing. In simple terms, if everyone picks up their cigarette butts, soon the place will be so clean and people will be proud of it and not want to litter because there is pride attached to the area. In this regard, if everyone does their small part to protect the Zandvlei catchment, it will be viewed as an asset and its ecological functioning will thrive.</p>	JJ & TD
<p><b>7. <u>Date of next meetings</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 August 2019</li> <li>• 19 November 2019 (possibly a joint meeting with ZNR PAAC, with water quality focus)</li> </ul>	

**List of acronyms and abbreviations used:**

CTEET – Cape Town Environmental Education Trust

HS – High school

PAAC – Protected Area Advisory Committee

S2S – Source to Sea

SANParks – South African National Parks

TM – Tourism monitors

ZCF – Zandvlei Catchment Forum

ZNR – Zandvlei Nature Reserve