

**ST FRANCIS BAY LONG TERM COASTAL PROTECTION SCHEME
MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING**

@10 A.M. 22ND AUGUST 2024, COUNCIL CHAMBERS KOUGA MUNICIPALITY, ST FRANCIS BAY

ACTION

1. Welcome:
Interim Chair Craig Northwood opened the meeting and requested all attendees sign the attendance register. He asked each of the representatives to introduce themselves to the committee.
2. Present : Nomvelo Siwela (KLM); Craig Northwood (SFPO NPC); Wayne Furphy (SFPO NPC) (guest); Deon Pienaar (guest), Alex Gotte (KET); Jaco Prins (SFPO Association); Norman Dyer (KJRC); Justin O’Riain (SFBRHOA); Frank Harpur (KBF); Ted Avis EO (CES); Dylan Anderson ECO (CES); Lyn Aitken (Secretary)
Apologies : Andries Struwig (DEDEAT); Nicol Gerber (DEDEAT); Si Cunneen (KET); David Hurr (KJRC)
3. Project History : Wayne Furphy Chair of the SFPO NPC unpacked the history of the project for the benefit of all present.
The groyne project began in 2015 through the then St Francis Bay Ratepayers Association. The Special Ratings Area (SRA) levy to raise the necessary funds was launched in the demarcated area of St Francis Bay and approved by KLM in 2018. These funds were raised to finance the long term coastal protection scheme, the resurfacing of main arterial roads and the CCTV camera surveillance security system. The EIA application process then commenced and was approved. To date over R 100 million has been raised through the SRA levy and other donations and loans for this project.
4. Environmental Authorisation (EA) : Deon Pienaar provided the history of the EIA Application. Interventions to address the beach loss began in 1992 and between then and 2012 a number of studies were undertaken. In 2014 the KLM appointed Worley Parsons to review the various studies undertaken and assess potential remedial actions. In 2016 a Phase 1 EA was obtained for the maintenance of existing revetments as well as construction of new revetments. The Phase 1 EA stated that the approval was for a short / medium term solution to allow for the maintenance of existing revetments and the construction of new revetments

as required. It further stated that a Phase 2 EA was required for the long term coastal protection scheme for the coastline from Main Beach to the Kromme River mouth. In 2018 Advisian, a subsidiary of Worley, completed a Preliminary Design Report for the groyne project.

The SFPO NPC then appointed CES to undertake the necessary work to prepare an EIA report for the project. This was undertaken extremely thoroughly with ongoing advice from DEDEAT and public participation during the preparation of the scoping report. A number of specialist studies were also undertaken for the scoping report which included sand sourcing, an estuarine specialist study and an archeological impact assessment. After the first draft of application had been subject to a public participation process, DEDEAT were concerned with the possible effect on the northern side of the estuary and northern coastline. Advisian were then commissioned to undertake further studies including the supplementary modelling of the coastline and estuary. CES then finalized the EIA report which was submitted in May 2021 and Environmental Authorisation (EA) was granted by DEDEAT with a large number of conditions in August 2021.

This authorisation was appealed and DEDEAT dismissed this appeal in April 2022. The commencement date of the EA was revised to 7 April 2022. One of the conditions of the authorization was that the KLM must establish an Environmental Monitoring Committee. Deon thanked CES for their guidance throughout the project.

5. Mandate of EMC : Nomvelo Siwela circulated a document entitled “Environmental Monitoring Committees” issued by DEDEAT (as attached). Nomvelo Siwela thanked all for availing themselves for this committee. She explained that the mandate of the EMC is to monitor and ensure that the conditions of the EA are upheld and implemented in an environmentally responsible manner. Furthermore, the EMC is the link between the project team and the communities (organisations) they represent. The Terms of Reference of the EMC, as approved by DEDEAT and issued to committee members, are included in this document. This committee’s purpose is restricted to monitoring this specific project.

The ECO, Dylan Anderson, will open each meeting with his compliance report.

DA

Representatives of the relevant stakeholders with a direct interest in the project have all been invited to serve on this committee and are represented here.

Lyn Aitken will provide secretarial services to this committee. A decision on the frequency of these meetings will need to be agreed once the project commences.

Com.

All relevant documentation for this project up to receipt of the EA is available on the website at www.stfrancispropertyowners.com.

Ted Avis of CES explained that DEDEAT had been approached for one amendment to the terms of the existing authorization. The EA states the ECO must be registered with SACNASP as a marine biologist, which qualification does not exist and therefore it is not possible to be compliant in this respect. Compliance is critical as any non-compliance could potentially halt the project.

6. Communication : Clear and transparent communication through this committee to their various communities will be critical as public interest in this project is very high. Queries should be channeled through this committee to the ECO for his feedback before being disseminated.

Com.

A media release should be prepared after each meeting. Minutes and documentation of these meetings will be available on the website www.stfrancispropertyowners.com.

Com.

A clear communication strategy should be formulated.

Com.

SFPO NPC has monthly meetings with the Municipal Manager and municipal officials and the mayor to update them.

A WhatsApp group will be created for communication between committee members.

Com.

7. Election of Chairperson / Vice Chairperson.

After nominations Justin O’Riain accepted the nomination as chairperson and Jaco Prins accepted the nomination as Vice Chairperson.

8. General :

The role of the ECO is environmental compliance and oversight of the contractor’s obligations. All EA conditions have been incorporated in the RFP (tender document) which details the contractual obligations of the contractor. The Construction Environmental Programme (CEMP) has been updated, submitted to DEDEAT for approval and once approved must also be complied with by the appointed contractor.

Past director of the SFPO NPC and project lead, Deon Pienaar, accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the EMC.

The duration of the project is estimated to be 14 months from commencement.

EMC minutes and all documentation to be submitted to representatives and alternate representatives.

Sec.

9. Next Meeting : The proposed date for the next meeting is 1st November 2024 (to be confirmed). Venue to be advised. Meetings can be held in person and/or virtually.

10. The meeting was declared closed and a visit to the site for members followed.