

ST FRANCIS BAY LONG-TERM COASTAL PROTECTION SCHEME

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING

@10 A.M. 17TH MARCH 2026, COUNCIL CHAMBERS KOUGA MUNICIPALITY, ST FRANCIS BAY

1. **Present :**

Justin O’Riain (SFBRHOA - Chairman); Craig Northwood (SFPO NPC); Nomvelo Siwela (KLM); Deon Pienaar (co-opted), Clint Carstens (SFPO Association – Vice Chairman); Dylan Anderson ECO, Frank Harpur (KBF), Norman Dyer (KJRC); Ted Avis (CES); Lyn Aitken (Secretary)

Apologies : Alex Gotte (KET); David Hurr (KJRC)

Absent : Andries Struwig (DEDEAT); Nicole Gerber (DEDEAT)

2. **Welcome:**

Chairman Justin O’Riain opened the meeting and welcomed all to the meeting.

Attendance and Apologies:

Apologies as noted above.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

These were circulated to the Committee and taken as read. Proposed by Frank Harpur and seconded by Nomvelo Siwela.

3. **Matters Arising :**

With regard to Point 5 : Following a site visit in *DEDEAT* they noted that the access road on the spit will need to be rehabilitated on completion of the groyne. However, this road is needed for access to repair and maintain the groyne in perpetuity. N Siwela said that KLM have enquired from DEDEAT as to how to proceed with an amendment to retain the road as a functional access route and are awaiting response. Ted Avis added that CES are working with the KLM on the formulation of the Coastal Management Programme which will aim to improve appropriate access and amenities while limiting illegal access to the groyne. This could include a promenade of sorts along this coastline. A Public Participation meeting will be held to discuss the Coastal Management Programme to decide appropriate areas for various activities such as bathing, surfing, fishing etc. Once construction is completed

attention will need to be given to the beautification of the area e.g. re-establishing indigenous vegetation on the ski canal side, benches/recreation facilities on the seaward side etc. The KLM will put in place the appropriate amendment to the EIA, and will consult a coastal landscaper for advice on the rehabilitation. It was recommended that the Canal Manager (Mark) for the Riparian HOA be included in discussions with this landscaper to ensure a collaborative approach for the rehabilitation work.

Point 5 : The land owner of the lay down site has raised a concern over the stockpile of thatch on his land and the potential fire hazard. The contractor has removed the thatch to the municipal waste facility in Humansdorp before shutdown in December 2025 thus resolving the matter.

With regard to Point 6 : Nomvelo informed the meeting the Clr Maree had a public meeting to address the debate around fishing from the beaches conflicting with swimming holiday makers, particularly at Peter Rd and George Rd on 19th December.

It was broadly agreed that fishermen would use George Rd beach to Main beach for fishing. Swimmers would use George Rd to Peter Crescent for bathing.

Under General : The Kromme Enviro Trust will be discussing the positioning of fishing waste bins with this committee at an appropriate stage.

These waste bins are to be placed along spit road once the capital works on the spit are complete.

The four NSRI pink buoys will also be erected once the spit is open to public access.

4. DEDEAT Approval Process, Adjustments, Commencement (C Northwood):

Craig Northwood provided feedback on the project thus far:

CN

NG 5 (angled) is at around 200m constructed and is completed in terms of length. The round head is currently under construction with topping to be placed. It has been agreed and approved for gabion stone to be placed on the top of the groynes to create a more level surface for emergency maintenance vehicle access and is being implemented. This should take another two weeks.

NG 6 river mouth is completed except for the gabion topping which will follow as soon as NG5 is completed. NG 1 at Ann Avenue is at 100m and the final 70m will be completed once NG 5 and 6 have been completed.

Funds are now in place to go ahead with construction of the 4th groyne – NG3 off Peter Crescent - while the contractors are still on site and DEDEAT have been notified of this by the CFO of the KLM. The same topping will be applied to NG3. Access for this construction will be created by WBHO and will need to be maintained. The fifth and sixth groynes will only be planned once the effect of the first four groynes has been assessed. It is thought that the completion date for all four groynes could be by the end of June depending on WBHO and the sourcing and supply of suitable armour rock from the quarry.

It has always been clearly stated that the groynes are not suitable for pedestrian access and the KLM will erect more signage warning that use is “At own risk”.

The sand nourishment programme requires 400 000 cubic metres of sand for the first phase. The dredger was delivered, fabricated and launched at the end of last year. Equipment to measure the volume of sand deposited onto the beach was found not to be satisfactory and another procedure has been put in place until such time as the satisfactory technology can be

installed. So far around 16 000 cubic metres of sand has been dredged onto the beach. The beach survey in January revealed 70 000 cubic metres of sand had naturally accumulated on to the beach.

Noise disturbance testing has been conducted to check the effect on surrounding communities and it is within the acceptable limits but for possible nocturnal use certain modifications have been suggested to reduce noise further. A meeting with DEDEAT will seek an amendment to allow for an extension of the running hours into the evening so the dredger can increase the rate of sand deposition. Dyland Anderson and Nomvelo Siwela will facilitate this meeting with DEDEAT as soon as possible. If successful increased dredging time will enable project completion within a much shorter time frame. A public participation process will be required for the extension in dredging time and DEDEAT will be fully briefed.

A local resident posed a legal challenge to the KLM with regard to the proposed access to the Sand River Delta for WBHO to truck sand from the delta to the Main Beach. Craig Northwood and Wayne Furphy met with the resident to understand the issues. Both the SFPO NPC and the KLM believe that they do have the required authority from DEDEAT to conduct the trucking of the sand. However, to avoid any possible delays with the project that may result from a legal challenge it was decided to proceed without trucking sand and to rather dredge the sand river delta from the Kromme river side.

Craig Northwood invited members of the EMC to join him on his barge for an inspection tour of the dredging work and beach. This will be on Saturday 21st March at 10.00, meeting at the Small Boat Harbour.

The Contractor will be off site from the 2nd April through to 7th April for the Easter break.

5. **ECO Report (D Anderson):**

Dylan Anderson briefed the meeting on the content.

DA

His role is to monitor and address environmental issues on the construction site on a weekly basis and to compile monthly reports. The quarterly audit report was submitted to the authorities in December and the next is due at the end of March. In terms of the long term environmental monitoring, all the baseline data was collected and that report submitted in January. This included the monitoring of sensitive habitats, main beach profiling, northern beaches towards Paradise Beach, bathymetry of the lower Kromme, river bank profiling, water quality monitoring and turbidity data. There is no evidence of silt and fines sediment which could affect the sensitive habitat areas. Heavy metal and E. Coli contaminant sampling in the designated dredging area was conducted and all levels are at acceptable levels.

In terms of compliance, the issues with the dust management both at the stockpile area and en route to the access road are being managed effectively with a water bowser. The spit road is also being watered. It was recommended that this should be limited to only when Easterly winds blow to limit the amount of silt being tracked by truck tyres on to surrounding roads and washing into the canal system.

The roads are being damaged by the truck traffic and the Municipality has been asked to give the repair and resealing of these roads high priority once the works on the spit have been completed. The neighbouring community are thanked for their patience and understanding.

Alien invasive castor oil plants in the stockpile area were identified by DEDEAT during their inspection in December. These have been removed and the contractor will manage the problem going forward.

The level of the beach towards of NG6 has risen to the level of the road and sand is already blowing over the road into the ski canal when the easterly blows. Funding mechanisms for the rehabilitation process to be expedited are being explored.

A mechanical breakdown on Poivre crescent with resultant hydraulic oil spill was attended to effectively and timeously by WBHO and Environmental, Health and Safety officer and staff.

The monthly environmental compliance report details activities taking place and compliance with the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and Environmental Authorisation (EA) The various documents such as Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and EMP and EA are available on the SFPO NPC website (www.stfrancispropertyowners.com) under the Documents tab.

6. KLM Environmental Specialist Response (N Siwela):

The KLM has responded to the legal challenge from the resident at the Sand River Delta and are awaiting response from DEDEAT to confirm that they have the necessary authorisations to revert to trucking of sand if the need should arise.

They have also referred this to the Surveyor General for clarification of the property boundary and are awaiting response.

Nomvelo Siwela has submitted the Quarter 1 report to the Municipality for internal audit and will submit further quarterly reports for internal audit.

NS

7. Communication and monitoring:

The communication around the project from the SFPO NPC has been extremely good, keeping the public well informed at all times. The team was congratulated. The project is being positively accepted in general. Some independent video makers have been recording the process for social media which has been very well accepted.

Social media posts are being carefully monitored.

CJ

Minutes are available on the St Francis Property Owners Website under the EMC tab. Other documents which should be available to the public can also be made available.

Thought will be given to communicating the positive outcomes we have learned through this environmental monitoring project once the construction is completed, such as preservation of threatened habitats and environments, and the restoration of the navigability of the river.

8. General:

9. Next Meeting:

22 May 2026 at 10 a.m in Kouga Municipality Council Chambers, St Francis Bay