

ST FRANCIS BAY LONG-TERM COASTAL PROTECTION SCHEME

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING

@10 A.M. 22ND MAY 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), Ted Avis (CES); Alex Gotte (KET); Lyn Aitken (Secretary); Yonela Mlindazwe (KLM)

Apologies : Norman Dyer (KJRC); C Jarvis

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 Nomvelo Siwela and seconded by Dylan Anderson.

3. **Matters Arising :**

To Ted Avis : *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 groynes. This could include a promenade of sorts along this coastline. A Public Participation meeting will be held to discuss the Coastal Management Program to decide appropriate areas for various activities such as bathing, surfing, fishing etc. No further progress as yet.*

TA

To Nomvelo Siwela : *Nomvelo informed the meeting the Cllr 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.*

NS

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. The Public Amenities By-Law needs to be amended to make provision for various activities on different beaches as included in the draft Coastal Management Plan which should be out for public comment in the first week of June.

To Dylan Anderson : The road damage on Aldabara Run and Poivre Crescent during construction phase was addressed with G5 which has been washed out after the recent heavy rains and heavy vehicle use for the repair works required on the groynes. Craig Northwood responded that this is work in progress and was raised with the Municipal Manager at a recent meeting and agreed that these roads will be given highest priority for repairs and resealing. Dry conditions are needed for these works to commence which might result in delays to the start of this work.

DA/CN

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

CN

Craig Northwood provided feedback on the project thus far:
NG 6 river mouth is complete.

NG 5 (angled) was partially completed but work was delayed as the quarry was unable to produce sufficient suitable armour rock for works to continue. It has now been completed.

NG 1 at Ann Avenue is at 146m and the contractor indicates that it will be completed by 9th June. NG 1 was damaged by the severe storm. The contractor has moved onto NG 3 until suitable armour rock is available to protect the core material on NG 1.

NG 3 off Peter Crescent – the access road was completed after Easter and progress is currently at 37m. It is estimated that this will only be completed in September as the Contractor is now having to programme repair work to NG 5 and 6 following the damage sustained by the extremely heavy seas and harsh weather conditions experienced recently. It is generally agreed that the groynes held up very well during this period and that if the groynes and beach nourishment had not been in place ahead of the storms, the spit might have sustained serious damage. This significant storm event has thoroughly tested and proven the defensive value of groyne construction. Heavier rocks need to be used to repair NG5 to ensure that it is more resilient going forward.

The biggest challenge at the moment is the quarry which has not been able to supply sufficiently heavy rock for armouring due to flooding. Some directors of the SFPO NPC are going to the quarry for a meeting this afternoon to establish exactly what the situation is. Contractual issues around this problem will be discussed at next week's progress meeting with the contractor.

The municipality's quarry site has also been inspected to establish what rock might be available there. Discussions are underway with the contractor which was used to extend the revetment to understand what they could do in terms of sourcing and transporting big armour rock.

Nomvelo Siwela reported the municipality is looking at re-applying for mining permits for two quarry sites for ongoing road resurfacing and revetment/groyne maintenance material.

The sand nourishment programme required 400 000 cubic metres of sand for the first phase. The dredger is now fully commissioned and defective equipment replaced and functioning

efficiently. A calibration certificate is still required. A total of 86 000 cubic metres of sand has been dredged onto the beach most of which is between NG6 and NG5.

Sand deposition is now onto the spit to repair storm damage with the proposed use of heavy earth moving equipment to contour the deposited sand.

When NG 1 is complete, sand deposition will commence on the north and side to provide stability to the groyne.

The transformer for the new pump station is now in place, and the booster pump is on order. The contractor is to supply plans for the new pump house to be taken to the Municipality for approval. This needs to be in place before pumping to NG 1 can take place and the pipeline also needs to be in place.

The dredger remained in place near the river mouth during the flooding and was not damaged. Because there is so much silt and fine material in the water which will take a long time to clear, it is very difficult to see how the sand has moved. Once the water clears aerial photography will be used to determine a new dredging program. In the meantime, dredging works will take place upstream.

There was no flow from the Sand River into the Kromme River and the ECO will monitor this. The Kromme Enviro Trust have requested drone footage of the area.

So far there are no health and safety concerns for displaced rocks around the groynes.

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

DA

Dylan Anderson's role is to monitor and address environmental issues on the construction site on a weekly basis and to compile monthly reports. The next quarterly report will be due at the end of June. Long term environmental monitoring continues including the monitoring of sensitive habitats, main beach profiling, northern beaches towards Paradise Beach, bathymetry of the lower Kromme, riverbank profiling, water quality monitoring and turbidity data.

In terms of accretion of sand onto the beaches, the large storm waves have taken a lot of the sand out to sea. However, a lot of this will not be lost and is likely to be brought back in due course. Surveys show 70 000 cubic meters of sand had collected naturally onto the beaches before the storm.

Dylan agreed that the groynes were very effective in protecting the spit during the storm event.

In terms of compliance, there are no issues with the dust management both at the stockpile area and en route to the access road due to the wet conditions.

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 repair works on the spit have been completed. There was an issue of gravel being deposited from truck wheels onto St Francis Drive and posing a risk to scooters and motorcycles in particular. This challenge is being addressed by the contractor by manually sweeping the roads.

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 continues to monitor these.

Ted Avis congratulated the contractor and all involved for being so responsive and efficiently managing all environmental complaints.

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):

NS

In terms of the rehabilitation of the access road and dune on completion of the groynes, a specialist in Oyster Bay has been consulted and has recommended certain species of plants. She is working on a detailed plan with him which will be circulated. KLM will approach DFFE for some Nature Based Solutions funding for long term rehabilitation outside the GCF funding which takes too long. This will include the whole coastline from Jeffreys Bay to Oyster Bay. DEDEAT will be coming to St Francis to discuss the access road erosion and observe all the damage caused by the storm and floods.

Wash outs along the spit on the Ski Canal side are being filled by dredged sand by the Riparian Home Owners Association.

Regarding the legal challenge on sand removal by truck from the Sand River delta, the KLM have heard nothing further on their response to the complainant's legal team.

The KLM are working on long-term legalising the borrow pit quarries.

7. Communication and monitoring:

CJ

The communication around the project from the SFPO NPC has been very good, keeping the public well informed at all times. More releases are imminent. 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.

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.

8. General:

Regarding the proposed nuclear power plant construction at Thyspunt, the proposed dumping of excavated spoil into the ocean could adversely impact marine ecosystems and the beaches of Cape St Francis and St Francis Bay. The Committee needs to be aware that this could also affect the success of the Long Term Coastal Protection Scheme.

CC

9. Next Meeting:

TBA July 2026 at 10 am in Kouga Municipality Council Chambers, St Francis Bay