



# Lower Breede River Conservancy Trust

## Municipal Report

For the Period: 01/01/2024 to 31/03/2024

This report is prepared for the Municipal Liaison Committee in terms of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the Hessequa and Swellendam Municipalities and the Lower Breede River Conservancy Trust (LBRCT). It is supplementary to the financial reports submitted to the Municipalities monthly. Additional information relating to broader conservation and environmental management matters is provided separately in the bimonthly RiverWise publication issued by the LBRCT.

### 1. BOAT LICENCES ISSUED FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024

| Outlet | Licences Sold (units) | Annual Licences | Day Permits <sup>1</sup> | Transit Permits <sup>2</sup> | Replace Decal | Commercial <sup>3</sup> | Total Revenue |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Totals | 1407                  | R945 715        | R79 304                  | R3 635                       | R6 134        | R50 239                 | R1 085 027    |

<sup>1</sup>Total Day Permits: 284

<sup>2</sup>Total Transit Permits: 19

<sup>3</sup>Total Commercial Permits: 23

\* Cumulative for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024.

### 2. BOAT LICENCE COMPLIANCE

#### 2.1. RECREATIONAL USER GROUP ACTIVITY

| Recreational activity                             | Total count | Peak number of users per day |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Boats in transit                                  | 346         | 37                           |
| Boats at mooring                                  | 761         | 70                           |
| Boats skiing                                      | 36          | 7                            |
| Boats fishing                                     | 190         | 28                           |
| Non-motorised water sport (kite surfing, sailing) | 45          | 9                            |
| Shore anglers                                     | 164         | 36                           |
| Bait collectors                                   | 97          | 26                           |

\* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

#### 2.2 INSPECTIONS AT SLIPWAYS

| Type of inspection          | Number of boats inspected |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Recreational boats on river | 1442                      |

\* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

## 2.3 INSPECTIONS ON PATROL

| Type of Patrol              | Number of inspections |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Recreational boats on river | 246                   |

\* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

## 2.4 WARNINGS, FINES AND OTHER BY-LAW TRANSGRESSIONS

| Type of transgression                                        | No. of warnings | No. of fines |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>By-Law Transgressions</b>                                 |                 |              |
| While not registered or licensed                             |                 | 3            |
| Towing a skier without supervision of a second person        | 1               | 1            |
| While exceeding the load limitations                         | 2               |              |
| Fishing from a vessel while under motorised power (trawling) |                 | 1            |
| <b>Marine Transgressions</b>                                 |                 |              |
| Excess bait collection                                       |                 | 2            |
| Without valid Recreational Fishing Permit                    | 1               | 1            |
| Undersized Fish                                              |                 | 1            |

\* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

## 3. LIAISON MEETINGS

| Forum                                            | Meetings dates | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Overberg Municipal Coastal Committee             | 27/02/2024     | Discussion of municipal coastal matters in the Overberg District.                                                                                                               |
| Garden Route Municipal Coastal Committee         | 29/02/2024     | Discussion of estuary matters in the Garden Route District.                                                                                                                     |
| Municipal Liaison Committee Meeting              | 22/02/2024     | Discussion items on the agenda related to the renewal of the Service Level Agreement, the revision of the Estuary Management Plan, and the last Quarterly Activity Report.      |
| Swellendam Public Launch Site Engagement Meeting | 05/01/2024     | Swellendam Municipality hosted an open day at the Infanta Slipway for all interested and affected parties to share and discuss their concerns regarding the Public Launch Site. |
| Breede River Estuary Advisory Form (BREAf)       | 06/02/2024     | Discussion of Breede River Estuary management matters.                                                                                                                          |

|                                                |            |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hessequa, Witsand Ratepayers and LBRCT Meeting | 04/03/2024 | The LBRCT met with Hessequa Municipality and the Witsand Ratepayers Association to discuss the Ratepayers' stance on the renewal of our Service Level Agreement. |
|------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

\* cumulative for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

#### 4. PRESENTATIONS GIVEN TO PUBLIC AUDIENCES

| Presentation type                            | Date       | Topic                            |
|----------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Infanta Information Meeting at The Bent Head | 30/03/2024 | LBRCT Annual Information Meeting |

\* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

#### 5. MEDIA RELEASES

| Platform                     | Radio/newspapers/local newsletters                              | Number |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| RiverWise Newsletter         | Social media and email subscribers                              | 2      |
| Facebook                     | Social media                                                    | 52     |
| Instagram                    | Social media                                                    | 21     |
| Educational pamphlets (free) | Fish, Birds and Snakes of the Breede Estuary Responsible Angler | 120    |

\* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

#### 6. SPECIAL EVENTS:

| Type of event | Event date | Topic |
|---------------|------------|-------|
|               |            |       |

\* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

#### 7. EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

| Type of event                                       | Event date | Topic                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| De Waalville Primary Turtle Talk and Beach Clean-up | 06/03/2024 | Turtle Talk and Beach Clean-up |

\* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

#### 8. RIVER EVENTS

| Type                                    | Date                                   | No. of boats | No. of anglers | Comments          |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Witsand Hengelklub Fishing Competitions | 27/01/2024<br>24/02/2024<br>09/03/2024 |              |                | No data provided. |

\* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

## 9. SEA EVENTS

| Type | Date | No. of boats | No. of anglers | Comments |
|------|------|--------------|----------------|----------|
|      |      |              |                | None.    |

\* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

## 10. REGULAR MONITORING

| Type of event                          | Event dates                            | No of Events |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Bird Count                             | 15/01/2024<br>28/02/2024<br>25/03/2024 | 3            |
| Summer CWAC Bird Count with CapeNature | 08/02/2024                             | 1            |
| Water Quality                          | 25/01/2024<br>26/02/2024<br>24/03/2024 | 3            |
| DEADP Water Sampling                   | 23/01/2024<br>27/02/2024<br>13/03/2024 | 3            |

\* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

## 11. WORKSHOPS, FORUMS AND CONFERENCES ATTENDED

| Name                                                  | Event date | Topic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Witsand Fire Management                               | 21/01/2024 | Together with Hessequa Municipality and the local fire management authorities, the Witsand community further discussed an implementation plan that will enable the village to procure firefighting equipment, receive training, and coordinate efforts to prevent fires or the spread thereof. |
| Breede River Estuary Water Quality Monitoring Meeting | 05/02/2024 | Meeting held between the LBRCT and the Department of Water and Sanitation regarding the LBRCT's monitoring efforts and status of equipment.                                                                                                                                                    |
| Fishery Control Officer Workshop                      | 12/02/2024 | The LBRCT rangers and manager travelled to Stilbaai to meet with high profile officials from the Department of Fisheries, including the Deputy Director                                                                                                                                        |

|                                                                 |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                 |            | General of Fisheries Management.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Game Lodge Development<br>Discussion: Melkhoutrivier Farm 1/492 | 14/02/2024 | Several meetings have been held to discuss the public participation process for Farm 492 portion 1 in Melkhoutrivier, Malgas. The property owner has undertaken a S24G application following non-compliances and transgressions while developing his land in preparation for a proposed game lodge. Both the MRRA and LBRCT commented extensively on the application and proposal. |
| Turtle Rescue Team Boat Trip and Workshop                       | 16/02/2024 | The Turtle Rescue Team visited us as a network partner to provide us with additional stranding equipment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

\* Cumulative for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

## 12. GENERAL COMMENTARY

### CONSERVATION:

#### Animal Rescues

Grysbokkie – 21/01/2024

Brown house snake – 31/01/2024

Black-shouldered Kite – 12/02/2024

Dikkop – 06/03/2024

Boomslang – 20/03/2024

Grysbokkie – 22/03/2024

### COMPLIANCE MATTERS:

#### Swellendam Slipway Monitoring

The LBRCT monitored Swellendam Municipal Public Launch Sites during the remainder of the school holiday in January as well as the school holidays and Easter weekend in March (20 March – 1 April 2024).

### BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS:

#### Building Developments, Illegal Clearing and Dumping

- Erf xxx, Malagas – vegetation clearance, development of slipway.  
Initially reported as a construction of a new slipway, however the sand being removed was deposited on top of the old slipway. Maintenance was taking place.
- Followed up on Erf xxx, Malagas, as no remedial action has been taken since clearing more than 3000 m<sup>2</sup> of Renosterveld.
- Erf xxx, Malagas – excavation and building development.
- Erf xxx, Malagas – construction of walls.
- Erf xxx, Malagas – vegetation clearing, construction and development of slipway.

Reports from Provincial / National Government

N/A

**GENERAL:**

LBRCT branded red flags have been made for water sport activities which conform to the minimum by-law specification in size (500mm x 500mm). Multiple flags were sold over the Easter holidays promoting safety on the river.