



## Breede River Estuary Municipal Liaison Committee

### Minutes of meeting held at 10:00 on 20 August 2024 via Zoom

The following records the discussions and action items agreed at the fourth meeting of the Municipal Liaison Committee, required in terms of the SLA between LBRCT, Swellendam Municipality and Hessequa Municipality.

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and Opening:</b> Shagon Carelse (SC), from Hessequa Municipality, opened the meeting and welcomed all present.	<b>SC</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Attendance and Apologies:</b>  <b>Hessequa Municipality:</b> Shagon Carelse (SC)  <b>Swellendam Municipality:</b> Ron Brunings (RB) Juan van Schalkwyk (JvS)  <b>LBRCT:</b> Andrew Crawford (AC) Jason Oxley (JO)  <b>Apologies:</b> Tertia Meyer (TM) Anneleen Vorster (AV) Philip Hendricks (PH) Cllr. Hendrik Saayman (HS) Theodore Martin (TM) Shandre Laven (SL)	<b>All</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Acceptance of Agenda and any new items</b> Agenda approved and accepted.	<b>All</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Acceptance &amp; Approval of Minutes of meeting held on the 15th of May 2024</b> Accepted – JO Seconded – AC	<b>All</b>

5	<p><b>Matters arising and report back on action items (numbered per Minutes)</b> Nothing to add.</p>	
	<p><b>8.* Building Developments and Reporting</b></p> <p>NEMA transgressions reported to DEA&amp;DP in July 2024:</p> <p>1. Farm 3/516 Malagas – 15/07/2024 Damming of the Ziekenhuis tributary feeding into the Breede Estuary. Illegal installation of a borehole. Excessive damage to dam wall. Iron-rich oxidation taking place downstream of the dam. DEA&amp;DP case number assigned: <b>14/1/1/E2/8/2/3/0863/24</b></p> <p>2. Erf 152, Kontiki – 23/07/2024 Development of gabions, sandbag walls, a concrete slipway, small lapa, and rustic shed – All below the High-Water Mark or 5 metre contour. DEA&amp;DP case number assigned: <b>14/1/1/E2/8/2/3/0871/24</b></p> <p>3. Farm 1/492 Malagas – Game Farm Report There has been significant correspondence between PHS Consulting, the DEA&amp;DP and local stakeholders on the proposed development of a game farm on Farm 1/492, Malagas. The property has been developed to contain game animals for the intention of developing a lodge and offer hunting excursions. This includes the clearing of indigenous vegetation, as well as the construction of dams and roads. Swellendam Municipality has commented on the proposed development from a land-use perspective, stipulating that no building developments can be approved prior to the property’s successful subdivision. The local community objected to the majority of the farm’s plans, causing delays and extensions to the public participation and S24G application processes.</p> <p>Environmental Management Inspectorate (EMI) discussion: JO asked Hessequa and Swellendam for support when tabling the lack of response from the DEA&amp;DP Compliance and Enforcement Unit at the next BREA meeting in relation to NEMA transgressions over the last few years. Compliance notices and directives are slow to be issued and remedial work is seldom performed, with no follow-up inspections taking place.</p> <p>Hessequa Municipality informed the LBRCT that support will be given and offered their trained EMIs for future inspections should the DEA&amp;DP require additional help.</p> <p>Swellendam Municipality also offered support and agreed that pragmatic solutions are needed regarding NEMA transgressions and vegetation clearing along the estuary given the time sensitivity of the actions. A budget exists within Swellendam Municipality for aerial imagery to be performed soon which will assist with the land</p>	<p><b>JO</b></p> <p><b>RB</b></p> <p><b>JO</b></p> <p><b>SC</b></p> <p><b>RB</b></p>

	use monitoring, thereby providing a better perspective of land developments in the area.	
	<p><b>11.* SAMSA Aids to Navigation</b></p> <p>The Zonation Plan for the Breede River Estuary Management Plan (BREMP) was referred to the BREAF with an additional stakeholder engagement meeting scheduled. The results from this meeting will impact the required aids to navigation buoys and/or poles for the respective zones. A cost analysis plan will be performed upon the release of the final EMP in consultation with Mark Saunders from SAMSA.</p>	<b>JO</b>
	<p><b>11.* Malgas Public Launch Site – update</b></p> <p>Erf 422 has been registered under the Swellendam Municipality. The lack of response by the provincial traffic department has meant that the matter has been escalated to the Joint District and Metro Approach (JDMA). The Municipality cannot recommission the Malagas PLS given that the Pont currently berths at the original site and extensive modifications to the bank prevents safe launching and recovery of recreational vessels. Swellendam Municipality is awaiting feedback from the various responsible departments.</p>	<b>RB</b>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Receipts &amp; Expenditure Report 1st July 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b></p> <p>The actual vs budgeted variance for the 2023/24 financial year was approximately R10K confirming that the LBRCT expenditure was well budgeted for and in line with the forecast.</p>	<b>AC</b>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>LBRCT Annual Activity Report as at 30th June 2024</b></p> <p>Licence sales were on par with previous years. An increase in transit permits were issued since the reduction in fee as a once-off registration cost. Most by-law transgressions can be attributed to not being in possession of a valid municipal boat licence, however these transgressions usually occur in the first few months of the new financial year and are soon rectified. Marine Living Resource Act compliance varies and is highly dependent on fishing and holiday seasons where additional recreational users are present.</p>	<b>JO</b>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Law enforcement – joint patrols with municipal law enforcement officers</b></p> <p>The LBRCT recommended that two or three joint compliance patrols take place over the festive season with the Hessequa and Swellendam traffic departments as well as with EMI officials to maintain a good relationship and ensure compliance of the applicable legislation.</p>	<b>AC</b>

	<p>Swellendam state that their municipality is in the final process of appointing a designated compliance officer for land-use and environmental components. This official would benefit from exposure to the estuary and its users. Swellendam will contact the LBRCT to arrange joint patrols in future.</p>	<b>RB</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Service Level Agreement (SLA) renewal and discussion items</b>	<b>AC</b>
<b>9.1</b>	<p><b>SLA paragraph 7.5.1</b>  <b>LBRCT shall engage with the municipalities to determine the level of conservation activities and management.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Registered Turtle Rescue Network stranding partner for the Two Oceans Aquarium</li> <li>2) Receive, stabilise and coordinate transport on behalf of the African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary (APSS)</li> <li>3) Assist the DEA&amp;DP to collect monthly water samples at 10 sites along the estuary</li> <li>4) Assist the DWS to conduct monthly water quality tests using a handheld probe at 21 sites along the estuary</li> <li>5) Assist the DEA collect marine mammal stranding data including genetic samples and measurements</li> <li>6) Assist Stellenbosch University with ecological sampling of seagrass in the estuary</li> <li>7) Assist DFFE and CapeNature with MLRA enforcement and joint operations</li> <li>8) Offer snake catch and release in Witsand through CapeNature issued permit</li> <li>9) Educational school talks in the greater area</li> <li>10) Multiple beach and estuary clean-ups conducted throughout the year</li> </ol>	<b>JO</b>
<b>9.2</b>	<p><b>SLA paragraph 7.5.4</b>  <b>Should DEA&amp;DP require implementation, they must engage directly with the municipalities who will discuss the requirements with the LBRCT</b></p> <p>DEA&amp;DP have not indicated any additional mandates at this stage.</p>	<b>JO</b>
<b>9.3</b>	<p><b>SLA paragraph 7.6.3.1</b>  <b>Develop a plan to review boat licence tariff structures in consultation with stakeholders on both estuary banks</b></p> <p>The boat licence tariff structure is currently being reviewed and additional proposals are being developed. Crucially, the LBRCT requires a minimum specified amount of income to maintain its current level of operations, and any decrease in revenue would negatively affect the municipalities' budgets as well as the management of the estuary.</p>	<b>AC</b>



	<p>The LBRCT has developed and implemented an online system that is used to capture, record and control boat licence sales and registrations for the Breede River Estuary. The full 2023-2024 financial year's information has been captured and is stored on the system allowing the LBRCT to compare different data sets. Transfer of boats and their registration numbers to new owners has been accounted for. The system also allows for the analysis of different horsepower sizes and number of sales per horsepower. The aim is to move towards a potentially paperless system whereby applicants would not need fill in physical applications forms. The potential exists for a fully digital system to be implemented in the future.</p>	
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Flood feedback</b></p> <p>Flooding has increased in frequency over the last two years. Malgas residents are taking more preventative measures to secure their jetties in event of flooding. It remains a challenge to ascertain the extent of erosion and sand bank deposition. Hazardous debris includes floating and fixed tree stumps, some of which were removed or marked. The downstream DWS water quality probe was lost more than a year ago due to high stream flow and is yet to be replaced.</p> <p>The Kabeljoubank staircase on the west bank is in disrepair, causing users to create their own rope-path down to the coast which damages the coastal vegetation.</p> <p>The Kabeljoubank staircase repairs or the development of a path are being planned for by Swellendam Municipality, however the legislation issue in terms of the structure sitting on state land has introduced challenges. Swellendam's infrastructure team will contact the LBRCT in consultation with the BREAf.</p>	<p><b>AC</b></p> <p><b>JO</b></p> <p><b>RB</b></p>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Vehicle and vessel report: patrol boats and bakkies</b></p> <p>LBRCT vessels are scheduled for their annual SAMSA survey in September. Both vessels are fitted with reliable Yamaha engines.</p> <p>The Toyota bakkie is in good working order and has recently had its shock absorbers replaced. The Mazda bakkie is in a state of disrepair following the failure of its water pump, causing the engine</p>	<p><b>JO</b></p>

	to overheat and require its bulkhead to be skimmed. The LBRCT is looking to replace the Mazda bakkie with a newer, more reliable vehicle.	
<b>14</b>	<b>EMP: BREAF update</b>  The Zonation Plan contained in the draft BREMP has been referred to the BREAF and a separate stakeholders engagement meeting has been scheduled for the same day. The main issue appears to be large wake generating boats, the activities they perform, and the areas in which they are performed. A meeting with the LBRCT representatives from the Zonation Working group is scheduled with the DEA&DP to discuss recommendations prior to the stakeholder engagement meeting.	<b>AC</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Date, time, and venue of next LC meeting – 14th November 2024</b>  The next meeting will take place on the 14 <sup>th</sup> of November 2024	<b>All</b>

\*Items carried forward from previous meetings