



Port Owen Marina Authority (npc)

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POMA Newsletter: November 2018

1) Governance - Launching permits

- 1.1) All the clients with Property Owners Lifetime permits are reminded that these must be renewed annually. Please check your permit expiry date and call at the office with your utilities bill to renew free of charge.
- 1.2) All the clients with annual permits, please check your permit expiry date and renew as required, to avoid disappointment at the slipway.
- 1.3) All Jetty and Berth holders who have not collected their free of charge permits yet, please call at the Office to collect.

2) Dredging

- 2.1) A public report-back meeting was held last Saturday, 24 November, at the Riviera Hotel. It was attended by 34 interested and affected individuals. I wish to thank everybody for their attendance and participation.
- 2.2) The first part of the presentation was focussed on the process followed up to the 11th of November 2018, when we were stopped from proceeding with the dredging project. The way forward was explained and is summarised below:
 - 2.2.1) A Senior delegation from the National Department of Environmental Affairs: Oceans & Coastal, which is responsible for issuing Dumping and Discharge permits, is visiting Port Owen during the first week of December 2018. We shall have the opportunity to show them around and to provide all the information they require to advise on the way forward. This is a new department that we are working with and we have not met any of the delegates. We are starting from scratch.
 - 2.2.2) We have supplied the National Department of Water and Sanitation with all the relevant information they have requested so far, to get a decision whether we need a “Water permit”.

DIRECTORS

A J Uys (Chairman); D Robinson; S Joubert; S Crafford;
B Van Rensburg(Alt); D Roberts (Alt); J Scudder; G Breeze (Alt); J de Meillon (Alt)

- 2.2.3) Various “experts” have been recommended to us and we are engaging with them to test the water, so to speak, and may use some of them where and when deemed appropriate. They do not come cheap.
- 2.3) The second part of the meeting was spent on answering various written questions received before the meeting as well as questions from the floor. These questions were all relating to technical dredging issues as well as some aspects of the actual dredging contract.
- 2.4) Any progress will be reported immediately via the “Dredging News”.

3) The Berg River Estuary Advisory Forum

One of the objectives of POMA is to exercise control over the waterways, including the boating activities.

POMA does this by publishing Rules and Regulations. The policing of these rules and regulations, however, is problematic. To aid with this function, the POMA Board decided to work towards the incorporation of the Marina Rules and Regulations into the Municipal Bylaws.

The BEAF was the vehicle chosen by the Berg River Municipality to assist the legal contractors of the BRM in the drafting of the bylaws. POMA ensured that its rules and regulations were accepted and incorporated in the new laws. These new laws, have, however, not come into effect yet, due to the intervention of the Department of Public Works.

The BEAF has a role to play in achieving the objectives of an Estuarine Management Plan, which is a legal requirement, and POMA will have to play a more prominent role in the affairs of the BEAF in future.

An alarming feature of the EMP is that it completely ignores the Port Owen Marina and its maintenance requirements. The management at the Berg River Municipality now acknowledges this shortcoming and we shall be working hard to correct this when the revised EMP is finalised soon.

4) General

We are hoping to be able to give more positive news soon!

Enjoy the beautiful weather and be safe out there!

Abe Uys

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