



Port Owen Marina Authority (npc)

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POMA Newsletter: December 2018

1) Governance

- 1.1) Finances: December now also signals the end of the POMA financial year, and we are pleased to report a healthy situation. Strict budgetary control allowed us to do the essential things and to preserve the Maintenance Fund. This fund is used exclusively for dredging, walkway- and embankment maintenance projects.

An extensive report will be submitted to the Memberships at the AGM, but we wish to thank all clients who have made annual contributions as well as those who contribute monthly. You enable POMA to do the job it is supposed to do. The few delinquent debtors remaining will be facing court action in the new year. To me, it remains a mystery that certain individuals seem to think that it is OK for the majority to be subsidising them.

- 1.2) Berg River Municipality: Your Board will spend much time with the officials of BRM in the new year. We believe that POMA deserves much better support than that received in the past. As we gain insight into the legislation and workings of the government departments, the word “integrated” appears often, indicating that there is a chain of events leading to decisions affecting us and if we do not ensure that POMA’s requirements are included in the decision-making process from ground level, we lose out. “Ground level”, in this case, means municipal processes.

There are, of course, two areas of influence. The one is administrative, and that is where POMA will make its contribution. The other is political, and that is where you, the taxpayers of Port Owen, has to contribute through the Ward system.

- 1.3) Support: The POMA Board members are all volunteers, doing the job for the community free of charge. We thank you for all the messages of support and appreciation received from clients. This is what keeps us going.

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) Dredging

- 2.1) This was our biggest failure and, really, “a worst nightmare” come true. As things stand, the interim “big dredge” as envisaged, will probably not happen in 2019. We need the extra permits and our advice is that it would entail a full environmental impact process.
- 2.2) It has become clear that there is a strong body of resistance against our maintenance plans in the “Environmental Grouping”. We are awaiting publication of the official Berg Estuary Management Plan, but have had sight of the draft and Port Owen Marina does not feature at all. It has deliberately been left out and it will be a major project of the POMA Board to convince the Berg River Municipality to assist us in including the Marina Maintenance Plan in the BEMP.
- 2.3) Part of the long-term solution to the problem of disposal of dredging spoils is to permanently do away with the present settling dams next to the Western Entrance. These dams are situated next to private property.
- 2.4) We shall continue to keep you updated by means of the “Dredging News” publications at regular intervals.

3) Strategy

- 3.1) POMA remains an organisation “For the People, by the People”. This does not necessarily mean that we can cater for the needs of specific individuals. POMA policies are formulated to cater for the whole community.
- 3.2) To get input from our clients, we shall convene a strategy session open to all clients and members early in March 2019, to fine-tune, inter alia:
 - 3.2.1) The Budget,
 - 3.2.2) Fees for the new year, and
 - 3.2.3) The fee structure.
- 3.3) Clients are reminded of the following:
 - 3.3.1) Fees and the fee structure is a product of budget income requirements and is adjusted once a year, at the AGM. It cannot be altered during the ensuing year.
 - 3.3.2) NOBODY in POMA is mandated to allow special discounts without explicit authorisation from the Board. We attach a copy of the POMA Limits of Authority policy for your information.

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4) General

It is the time of the year to relax and enjoy the company of family and friends. To all POMA clients, we wish you a special festive season. Enjoy our beautiful Marina.

Enjoy the weather, water and be careful and safe out there!

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