



Port Owen Marina Authority (NPC)

Reg # 1999/010199/08

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Newsletter: May 2021

So far, the rainfall for the season has been good. The local wheat farmers tell me that it could not be more perfect. We should be grateful.

Covid 19 now seems to be like the proverbial cat which keeps on coming back! Please heed the warnings by keeping the distance, avoid crowds and sanitise the hands. This virus can only be spread by people, so, avoiding contact and exposure remains the best defence.

1) Governance

Your Board and the Executive Committee are meeting regularly as per the pre-determined meeting schedules. The meetings are attended well by all representatives.

We have received the Audited Financial Statements for the 2020 financial year from our auditors and these have to be approved by your Board at its next meeting on 23 June 2021. We can report that the audit was completed unqualified, which is always a sign of good governance and therefore appreciated.

Once approved, it will be circulated to the Membership together with the Chairman's Report for 2020.

2) Dredging

2.1) The Dredging Committee, chaired by Derek Robinson, is hard at work, completing the applications for the Dumping and Discharge permits with the help of our consultants, Messrs WSP. Some of this work is highly technical, and regular (virtual) meetings are taking place to ensure that WSP is well informed. (Please note that a "completed" application means that all the questions from the Department have been answered.) WSP, aided by our resident ECO, Dr Sue Tonin, has attended two meetings with the Department to ensure that we have perfect understanding of what is required.

We shall keep you informed as we proceed.

2.2) Unfortunately there has been no progress regarding the finalisation of the Berg Estuary Management Plan (BEMP). You will recall that we have fought hard for the inclusion of the POMA dredging requirements in the BEMP, and it is crucial for our permit application completion.

DIRECTORS

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

3) Embankments and Walkways

Planned maintenance on the walkways and embankments for 2021, as per our budgeted priority listings, is in process. Please be aware that these listings are prepared for the financial year and clients expect us to stick to the planning. Only real emergencies at areas not dealt with in the listings will be added.

If you are aware of areas that are in need of urgent attention, please alert the Marina Manager.

4) Law Enforcement

At the last Berg Estuary Advisory Forum meeting, held on 13 May 2021, the third River Ranger was introduced by CapeNature. This means the full complement is now active.

There was, generally, much appreciation for the work done by the Rangers to date. Specifically, the reporting format was criticised, but there was consensus that the format of the quarterly report was an improvement.

So, we have been asking for these appointments and now that they are here, we must expect them to do their work. Please ensure that the paperwork on the boat is correct and up to date, and give them your support. They have an important role to play in ensuring the quality and future of the estuary.

5) Fire Prevention

Please note that the Basic Standard Operating Procedure for Fire Prevention in the Marina is now available on the POMA website (<https://poma.co.za/useful-links/>).

6) General

Please be careful out there. Be mindful of the health requirements and always be safe!

Abe Uys