



Port Owen Marina Authority (NPC)

Reg # 1999/010199/08

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Newsletter: April 2022

I hope you are all keeping well and adhering to safety protocols to ensure that we avoid a fourth Covid wave.

Suddenly, winter has arrived, and it is time for the fireplaces to be lit and to be extra-conscious of the risks associated with boating and the north-westerly weather.

Governance

The Municipal Draft Integrated Development Plan and Budget for 2022/23 is currently available on the Bergrivier Municipality (BRM) website and they are asking for public comment. There are some serious omissions in the IDP document regarding the relationship between POMA and the BRM. We have submitted our written comment and POMA directors will be attending the public meeting scheduled for 28 April 2022 to ensure that the necessary changes are affected.

Dredging

I have promised to release any news on the permitting process as soon as it is available, and I am happy to report some progress since the March newsletter was written.

The POMA consultants, WSP, and our ECO advisor, Dr Sue Tonin, were asked to attend a “technical” meeting to clarify some of the aspects dealt with in our applications. This meeting was held on 14 April 2022. I attended the meeting and reported what ensued to the heads of the POMA Membership. I trust that you have received feedback through your respective Member organisations.

As stated previously, the actual dredging is not the problem. The issue is our intention to dump the dredge spoils directly into the river (estuary) and also our intention to discharge the spoils into the river via the settling pond at the Western Entrance of the marina. We intend switching between the two modes in order to utilise both outgoing tides during a 24-hour cycle.

Our very complete technical submission deals in detail with the issue regarding contamination, turbidity, and oxygen depletion of the estuarine waters. Another major question regarding alternatives and beneficial usage is also dealt with. The officials had a number of questions regarding the above issues and made it clear that their job is now to verify our submissions before making a decision. They also confirmed that their responses will be co-ordinated (there are two teams from the same department involved – dumping and

DIRECTORS

A J Uys (Chairman); D Robinson; J Moolman; J Scudder; B Van Rensburg
H Lambrechts (Alt); G Breeze (Alt); J de Meillon (Alt); L Delpont (Alt)

discharging). We believe that we can expect a response by the end of May 2022. This response will direct the timing of everything and will be communicated to you through a Dredging News bulletin as well as a general meeting, where all interested and affected parties can ask their questions and be given answers.

Please be patient, we are almost there!

Embankments, Walkways and Open Spaces

The rehabilitation of the settling pond, sluice gate and sluice has been completed, and the work on the walkways and embankments can now continue as planned.

Law Enforcement

The number for the Marine Rangers is as follows:

- Hotline – 067 412 9922

Fire Prevention

Please note that the Basic Standard Operating Procedure for Fire Prevention in the Marina is now available on the Poma website.

General

We are looking forward to an exciting year. Dredging the waterways remains our main focus and we hope to be able to give good news soon.

Please be careful and safe on the water.

Abe Uys