



Port Owen Marina Authority (NPC)

Reg # 1999/010199/08

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Newsletter: September 2022

At last, good news! We have received our Dumping at Sea permit from DFFE! Read all about it under “Dredging”, below.

Governance

We are, still, waiting for a response from the Bergrivier Municipality on our objections/suggestions regarding the Municipal IDP. We believe that it is crucial for POMA to get written recognition for its functions which are carried out on behalf of the Municipality and will continue to engage with them until our goal is achieved. We shall keep you posted. Mr Johan Moolman, Municipal Councillor for Ward 7 and also a Director of POMA, has undertaken to attend to this, urgently.

The exact relationship between the Bergrivier Municipality and CapeNature regarding the Groot Berg Estuarine Management Plan (BEMP) has not been resolved. As I write this, the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the parties for the 2022/2023 financial year have not been agreed and the document has not been signed. This is a real concern. Because law-enforcement and visible policing are the two aspects of estuary management that residents seem most concerned about makes up a large portion of the responsibilities spelled out in the draft MoU.

The appointment of the Responsible Management Authority (RMA) for the Groot Berg Estuary now seems to be uncertain because the fact that there is a proclaimed harbour in the estuary, a National, rather than a Provincial, department might have to assume the RMA role. We hope that agreement can be reached soon, not to delay the approval of the BEMP any further.

Dredging

It is a huge relief to be able to report progress, at last!

A full briefing on the situation will be given on 22 October 2022 at the general Public Meeting, but I can give the following info in the interim:

- 1) We have been issued with a Dumping At Sea Permit (DASP), valid for 12 months, effective 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023 (we, obviously, can apply for an extension if our work is not completed by end August next year).

DIRECTORS

A J Uys (Chairman); D Robinson; J Moolman; I Macintosh; B Van Rensburg; AT Focé
H Lambrechts (Alt); P Viljoen (Alt); J de Meillon (Alt); L Delport (Alt)

- 2) At the time of writing this, DFFE:Oceans&Coast has acknowledged that they have received feedback from the Commenting Authorities and as the Competent Authority, they are busy finalising their determination on our application for a Coastal Water Discharge Permit(CWDP). We expect to hear from them very soon.
- 3) The permits are issued with a list of “Conditions”. These are the “rules” under which the permit holder must do the work as authorised by the permit.
- 4) One of the conditions under the DASP is a prohibition on any dredging during the “fish spawn season” from September to end November. There can, therefore, be no dredging before December this year.
- 5) As soon as both permits with its relevant conditions are at hand, the POMA Dredging Committee will meet with our legal (Werksmans) and technical (WSP) consultants to discuss our options and formulate an action plan. There is an appeal process available if one wishes to challenge one or more of the conditions or the duration of the permit/s.
- 6) In the meantime, the Dredging committee will commence with preparations for the “before” bathymetric survey and acquisition of the prescribed technical monitoring equipment.

It is important for all of us, at this stage, to reflect on the fact that, we are told, this is the very first time that a Dumping permit has been issued for an estuary and that “this application has presented with unique and challenging factors for consideration”. We, therefore, expected fairly onerous conditions to be attached to the permits we have applied for. In our application, we have suggested strongly that an adaptive management approach be followed. This means strict monitoring and sharing of information as we progress. Two of the main areas of concern regarding direct dumping into the river covers turbidity and oxygen depletion and this can only be properly evaluated once dredging starts. We therefore will evaluate as we progress and manage the situation with due regard for the principle of “duty of care”.

All further dredging information will be distributed by means of the “Dredging News” bulletin as and when necessary.

Embankments, Walkways and Open Spaces

The planned work, as per the budget, continues.

Law Enforcement

- The number for the Marine Rangers has changed. Please use the new number:
 - Berg Estuary Standby - 084 387 0682
- The e-mail addresses for complaints regarding Air Quality in Port Owen:
 - Angila Joubert (BRM) – jouberta@bergmun.org.za

- Amawandle Fish Processors –complaints@amawandlep.co.za

We urge clients to log complaints when necessary.

Fire Prevention

Please note that the Basic Standard Operating Procedure for Fire Prevention in the Marina is now available on the POMA website (www.poma.co.za).

Velddrif Mile Swim

The Velddrif Mile Swim is planned for the weekend of the 12th of November 2022. For further information please contact Ross at 071 891 6451

General

I am looking forward to engaging with you at the Public meeting scheduled for 22 October 2022. Please attend and be fully informed. 2023 will ring in a new Era for the Port Owen Marina in which we will be able to work hard in restoring the waterways of the marina to what it was designed to be.

In the meantime, be careful out there!

Abe Uys