

**SUIDERSTRAND BOAT CLUB: Suiderstrand Slipway**  
 Public Meeting  
 Saturday 19 November 2011 (11h00 – 12h00): Struisbaai Library

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Attendees**

C van Gass - Resident
P van Gass - Resident
G van der Bijl - Property Owner (Boat Club Member)
PC Morris - Property Owner (Boat Club Member)
J Wessels - Property Owner (Boat Club Member)
WA van der Walt - Property Owner (Boat Club Member)
H vd Walt - Property Owner (Boat Club Member)
H Kleinhans - Property Owner (Boat Club Member)
R Peacock - Property Owner (Boat Club Member)
L Eichstadt - RMS

**Apologies**

None

MEETING SUMMARY	
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Welcome - Introductions – Purpose of Meeting</b>
<b>LE</b>	<p>Larry Eichstadt (LE) welcomed all present.</p> <p>LE confirmed that the purpose of the meeting was to receive feedback from the registered stakeholders and meeting attendees on specific issues raised in the Ministers letter dated 13 September 2010.</p> <p>Copies of the Ministers letter were made available and circulated. The meeting was informed that the items listed in the Ministers letter formed the “agenda” for the meeting.</p> <p><b>The key issues for discussion were the;</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Environmental Assessment – Marine Impact Assessment Report completed by Barry Clark – Anchor Environmental – which include the desired carrying capacity of the launch site,</li> <li>2) Operational Environmental Management Plan,</li> <li>3) Suiderstrand Boat Club Rules,</li> <li>4) Need to facilitate an agreement between the Suiderstrand Boat Club and the community on the management of the boat launching site.</li> </ol>
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Marine Impact Assessment Report</b>
	<p>LE confirmed that the Assessment Report had been made available for review and where requested copies were made available electronically.</p> <p>LE outlined that the Marine Impact Assessment Report had found no significant environmental issues (dunes and intertidal fauna) which indicated that the slipway – boat launching site was or would have a significant environmental impact.</p> <p>The report had outlined certain management requirements and also a maximum threshold for the number of vehicles which should use the facility</p> <p>The meeting attendees were invited to raise any issues specific to the report. No responses were received.</p>

<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Boat Club Rules and Conditions and Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP)</b>
	<p>LE confirmed that the relevant documents had been placed on the RMS website for review.</p> <p>The meeting attendees were invited to raise any issues specific to the report. No responses were received.</p>
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>General Discussion</b>
	<p>Members of the Boat Club raised certain issues during the open debate which highlighted the frustration that had been experienced by the members over the last few years. This included;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the impractical consideration that had been tabled in the past which hinted at forcing the members to use the Struisbaai launch facility</li> <li>2) the existence of the launch site at Suiderstrand for the last 30 to 35 years and the delay in obtaining formal approval for the continued use of the facility;</li> <li>3) the financial implications and cost being experienced due to the ongoing delays in finalizing the approvals for the facility;</li> <li>4) the need for the process to be concluded as timeously as possible;</li> <li>5) the continued harassment experienced by members by an owner of the bed and breakfast located immediately adjacent to the access of the boat launch site which had caused the delays over the years.</li> </ol> <p>Direct comments specific to the owner of the Bed and Breakfast (Mr van Gass) as indicated in Point 5 which were made were found to be offensive by Mr. van Gass.</p>
	<p>In requesting feedback from Mr. van Gass it was stated that "he and his wife" had attended the meeting in good faith and with an open mind but were not prepared to further the discussion in a public forum which could lead to an acceptable agreement being concluded due to the unnecessary personal attack. He confirmed that a written submission would be made within the required time frames.</p>

	<p>Mr van Gass did highlight that one of his primary concerns was the lack of control and enforcement regarding the “entrance controls”. This had led to persons making use of the facility at extremely early hours of the morning and that when the lock and chain mechanism had been broken it had taken at least 3 days for the lock and chain to be replaced.</p>
	<p>In response Mr van der Bijl felt that the statements made were not true. The specific incident relating to the chain and lock was explained where Mr van der Bijl confirmed that from the time that he had been informed of the missing chain and lock to the mechanism being fully functional again not more than 2 to 3 hours had lapsed and not 3 days as stated.</p> <p>The boat club members in general responded saying that Mr van Gass had been continually obstructive and highlighted the fact that he had purchased the property with full knowledge of the existence of the boat launching site.</p>
	<p>The Boat Club members in responding to one of the key requirements of the Ministers’ letter which was to obtain an agreement with the Club and the community, that this had been achieved as apart from Mr and Mrs van Gass nobody opposed the continued use of the facility.</p>
	<p>There was ongoing debate within the meeting which reinforced the frustrations previously highlighted and the need for the process to be concluded as timeously as possible.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<p>LE closed the meeting by reminding the attendees that a summary of the public process conducted to date which would include a Comments and Response Report was to be circulated and any further input to be submitted must be received during early January 12 for inclusion in the submission of the final documents to the Minister.</p>