

Minutes of the quarterly eThekweni Biodiversity Forum meeting

Date: 5 November 2009

Time: 09:00

Venue: Paradise valley

Attendance: Richard Boon (RB), Penny Croucamp (PC), Jo Boulle (JB), Errol Douwes (ED), Manisha Maganlal (MM), Lungi Ndlovu (NDL), Bheki Mdletshe (BML), Nkuli Hadaebe (NHA), Peron Amein (PA), Cameron Mclean (CML), Lyle Ground (LG), Natasha Govender (NG), Dane Paijmans (DPJ), NP Hlongwa (NPH), A Zozwa (AX), Rachel Ndhlovu (RND), Greg Mullins (GM), R Biseswar (RBE), Ahmed Thandar (ATH), Cheryl Bodresen (CB), Sunita Doodnath (SD), Arnia van Vuuren (AVA), Vanashrie Govender (VG), Desiree Marimuthu (DMA), Barry Lang (BL), Margaret Appleton (MA), Jean Lindsey (JL), Geoff D.A. Pullen (GP), Lynne Thompson (LT), Rodney Bartholomew (RBA), Jessica Brislin (JBL), Kirsten Williams (KW), Kate Richardson (KR), Jean Senogles (JS), Balu Glaba (BG), Thami Kunene (TK), Nomafu Dlamini (NDL), Debbie Hargreaves (DH), Lindelani Zuke (LZ), Margaret Burger (MB), Di Dold (DD), Graham Cairns (GC), Heather Cairns (HC), Adrian Armstrong (AA), Andrew Coll (AC), N. Demetriades (ND), AT Forbes (ATF), Gillian Noyce (GN)

Apologies:

Roger Uys

Jeanne Tarrant

Alistair McInnes

Johann Vermeulen

John Forbes

Santosh Bachoo

Matters Arising

1. Welcome and Introductions

ED welcomed all

2. Presentation: Current Status of Durban's Estuaries – Prof. Ticky Forbes and Nicolette Demetriades

Discussion: GP enquired whether the 5m contour prevents development and agriculture in that area. RB replied that this rests with agriculture. LT suggested that this work be presented to the sugar association. Andy asked about setbacks to rivers. ND replied that work on river and estuaries buffers is taking place. The impacts of package plants on the receiving environment were raised as an issue. ND discussed that nutrient enrichment, particularly phosphates, has major consequences for the receiving estuarine environment. AC enquired whether there have been any interactions with DME. PC stated that nutrient enrichment was on the municipality's agenda, and that rivers were also being heavily impacted on by sand

mining operations.

3. Presentation: Aspects of the Ecology of Durban's Sandy Beach Ecosystems – Natasha Govender

Discussion: DD enquired about the effect of beach nourishment of meiofauna. NG replied that this was a baseline study and that the data was simply not there to determine the effect of beach nourishment or the March 2007 storm on sandy beach communities. DD suggested that this study be repeated. AA asked about the Lifecycle of meiofauna. NG replied that meiofauna do not have a larval stage in their lifecycle. MA enquired if there were any longitudinal trends. NG replied that assemblages were most diverse in the mid shore. ED asked if community structure differed between polluted and non polluted sites. NG replied that, in general, crustaceans that make up the nematode community will disappear from a disturbed area but this trend was not observed consistently in this study. MA suggested that the Toti pipeline could be a factor influencing communities from this beach.

4. EMD report backs

a) Green Bylaws

RB reported back stating that the bylaws were currently on hold, as the integration of DMOSS into town planning scheme was taking priority. AC asked if Bylaws are applicable to tribal areas. RB replied the bylaws are important in tribal areas as town planning schemes are not effective in these areas.

B) Biodiversity Awards

JB reported that are three nominations, *viz.* SAMBRA, Tangelwood Farm, and AECl. JB stated that internal criteria are important as there is a wide range of nominations to deal with.

c) Invasive Alien Species Strategy

ED reported back on the latest happenings: various projects are on the go. Working on Fire have focussed their attentions on recently occupied land, while working for ecosystems have concentrated on rural areas. ED also stated that a training programme was being developed for municipal staff to manage municipal land. Ed reported back on the Weedbuster workshop held in October. WESSA and LT were thanked for their significant input. The workshop was a major success aimed primarily at municipal staff and other key individuals. GN stated that there is a problem with unoccupied land. ED replied that the responsibility falls on landowners, while enforcement lies with the National department of Agriculture. GC enquired whether EMD and health could collaborate regarding the clearing of a property. ED replied that the strategy will largely deal with these issues. TS stated that parks do not have the capacity deal with private property. TS explained that a member of the public could initiate a process that could result in a land owner having to clear their land.

d) KZN Biodiversity Stewardship Program

ED reported that the eleven reserves selected from within the EMA are being taken through a

formal proclamation process, which is being led by DR.

e) General

JL raised the issue that no one is taking responsibility for river clean ups. LT questioned whether local government could be charged for not managing an area. VG reported back on the iSipingo Estuarine Management Plan.

NG thanked everybody for their attendance and closed the forum.

Please diarise the dates for the Biodiversity Forum for 2010:

Thursday, 4 February

Thursday, 6 May

Thursday, 5 August

Thursday, 4 November

As usual, the forum will commence at 9h00 and end at 12h00.