



**Minutes of the KCC Meeting held in the Albany Museum Education Department
at 16h00 on Thursday 20 November 2008**

1. Welcome

Jim Cambray (chair) welcomed Kevin Bates (Council official), Este Coetzee (Rotary), Jenny Gon (WESSA), Nikki Köhly (minutes), Kwanele Mbangi (Makana Municipality), Lorraine Mullins (WESSA), Ndumiso Nongwe (MM Environmental Manager), Dave Render (EBRU), Andrew Slaughter (IWR).

Apologies: Angela Barberton, Helen Fox, Nick James, Jonathan Pryor, Leigh Stadler.

2. Approval of minutes of meeting of 25 September 2008

The minutes of the previous meeting were APPROVED.

3 Champions, activities and outreach

3.1 St Andrews College project: No report.

3.2 Adopt-a-Stretch activities:

(a) *IAP problems in Grey Dam area:* The re-growth of IAPs around Grey Dam was noted

ACTION: *Kevin* to bring to contractor's attention

(b) *Green Revolutions and Social Solutions (GRASS):* Nikki contacted Grocott's Mail on 7 November about the sewage issue in the stretch adopted by GRASS.

3.3 Champions Questionnaire response: No report.

ACTION: *Angela* to follow-up

3.4 Exploring solutions: Algal Ponding System for Mayfield sewage works: Dave asked if Gary Everton had been contacted or if the nature of the problem had been ascertained. It was AGREED that any leak from the sewage works would still be the consultant's problem.

ACTION: *Dave* to contact Gary Everton

3.5 Kowie Catchment Partnership (KCP): Jim contacted Mike Powell who said the KCP has *not* folded. He was at the Ndlambe Economic Development Forum in Kenton on 2 October where plans to infuse conservation and eco-tourism were highlighted as a priority by the Director Ms Mali. Mali told Mike they plan to appoint the KCP to do the feasibility studies. He is waiting for funding.

3.6 Featherstone Kloof: No report.

3.7 Inter-Interact Clubs of Grahamstown (ICOG): Este reported that it is not possible to plan far in advance as this was initiated by school children; she hopes they will continue in the new year. Este explained the history of social problems in the area.

ACTION: *Este & Ndumiso* to liaise

4 KCC publicity, resources, projects and support

4.1 KCC resources

(a) *Circulation of KCC pamphlets:* Those wanting materials to contact Nikki.

ACTION: *Nikki* to send material to Este and Jim

(b) ***KCC website:*** Nikki sent all KCC materials to Andrew for the website (KCC pamphlet, adopt-a-stretch pamphlet, invasive alien plants pamphlet, draft water kit). It was suggested that the KCC has its own domain, or be linked to the Makana Municipality website. Ndumiso has discussed with his director and will suggest hosting the KCC to Thandy Mathebese (communications). AGREED: the KCC should not have an independent site. Concerns regarding updating could be addressed if Makana Municipality used a content management system like Rhodes University.

ACTION: **Ndumiso & Andrew** to explore possibilities

ACTION: **Jim & Andrew** to meet

ACTION: **All** to send Andrew photo + 50-60 word personal profile

- (c) *Municipal funding proposal (R25 000)*: Este and Jim prepared this on 21 October [see attached]. Funding is in the process of being released.

ACTION: **Nikki** to circulate proposal with these minutes

- 4.2 Grahamstown water history project**: Lorraine and Jim met. Lorraine is reviewing references and format for the 'scientific' publication in Annals of the Albany Museum. The 'popular' illustrated version for public use will require professional layout. AGREED: the scientific version must be completed as soon as possible and delivered to Ferdy de Moor. Once the Municipal funding comes through, a layout person will be engaged.

ACTION: **Jim & Lorraine** to complete scientific version

4.3 Kowie Catchment Open Space Initiative (KCOSI)

- (a) *Preparation of presentation to Council*: Nikki and Hilary have not met yet.

ACTION: **Nikki** to pursue in 2009

5 Issues of concern

5.1 Hotspots:

- (a) *Landfill dumped opposite car wash, Beaufort Street*: Kevin spoke to the Town Planner and Whisson tried to follow up. Clr Wells' new email: j.wells@makana.gov.za [does not work]

ACTION: **Jim** to remind Clr Wells

- (b) *Hillsview stream:*

- i. *Clean up of Shepperson Lane and York St streams*: As part of the clearing the dense alien vegetation growth in the streams in the Hillsview area, Kevin's team cut down the Spanish reed (*Arundo donax* – Category I invasive plant) between Cathcart and George streets. Some landowners were upset that their land was exposed and they were not consulted; Kevin to apologise to residents. The Municipal interest is in storm water and commonage management, but this is privately owned land in an urban area. AGREED: correct protocol to be adopted in future, i.e. negotiate first with residents regarding way forward. Perhaps communicate via the Makana Municipality monthly news enclosed with lights and water bills.

ACTION: **Kevin & Jenny** to liaise with residents

ACTION: **Kevin & Ndumiso** to check re CARA

- ii. *Formation of sub-committee*: Nikki sent a draft proposal to Jenny and Heather Davies-Coleman.

ACTION: **Jenny** to follow up

- iii. *Hillsview dumping*: Covered below.

- (c) *Wood Street dumping*: Kevin agreed to bring this to the engineers' attention.

ACTION: **Kevin** to follow up

- (d) *Robinson Street*: Nikki and Heather D-C to follow up in the new year.

ACTION: **Nikki** to follow up

- (e) *Old Bay Road area*: Lorraine chased up with Mark Hazell. A contractor has cleared exotic plants. There is still a lot of Spanish reed near the dam below the SPCA. Surrounding the adjacent quarry is one of the only north-facing patches of indigenous forest; RU has presumably stopped using it.
- (f) *Old quarry*: It was suggested that the Dept of Mineral Affairs and Energy should be approached to use the old town quarry above Hamilton Dam (valley below the Monument).
- (g) *Albany Sports Fields/Henderson tree clearing*: Grasshopper Gardening Services cut a large oak for the Hendersons which damaged their fence and the lower Albany Sports field; they bulldozed through the embankment and left the stump and old tyres in the stream. AGREED: as this was a

private contract, Mrs Henderson should put pressure on the contractor to make good. Kevin is willing to plant trees on the municipal side.

5.2 Proposed Albany Regional Water Supply Scheme: The KCC expressed appreciation for the Municipal Manager's efficiency in dealing with concerns and providing an opportunity to air views at a meeting on 10 November. It was suggested that a better option than the proposed pipeline route (which affects 150 people and requires unnecessary electricity consumption) would be the existing railway line. Concerned parties should attend the MEF meeting on 26 November. It was noted that inland areas will have preference over coastal areas, so it would be short-sighted to close down Waainek, especially as it has better water quality and Working for Water efforts are improving water flow the catchment. Ndlambe will have to buy out *existing* legal water allocations from users willing to sell so that DWAF can transfer water from the Orange River catchment to Glen Melville Dam. Ultimately, coastal developments will probably have to go the desalination route, but consultants appear not to have given this option sufficient consideration. The Kowie Sewage Works plans to upgrade to an activated sludge system and send recycled effluent to Sarel Hayward Dam; this would drastically reduce water quality. Algae can live at 25% TDS (sea water is only 3.5%) so low-grade water could be put through toilets. There are DWAF guidelines for domestic and industrial water use.

ACTION: *Nikki* to circulate minutes of 10 November meeting

6 Civic engagement and municipal accountability

6.1 Municipal response to community concerns re catchment water quality issues: The KCC AGREED to wait until after the MEF meeting (where Njilo was to address chemical quality concerns and Esterhuizen to address biological quality concerns) before following up.

6.2 DWAF municipal monitoring: The KCC AGREED to drop this for the moment.

6.3 Sewage system overload: Dave reported on a meeting the previous week with DWAF, WRC, etc; they confronted consultants about advocating the 'activated sludge' system and discussed the relative advantages of the Algal Ponding System. An APS has been set up in Bedford. In Grahamstown, sewage leaks have been reported in Lavender Valley, Hope St, near Miki Yilli [?] stadium, Kings View, Kings Heights, and overflow from Graeme College Grant house into stream. AGREED: the KCC should raise this in a letter to Council.

ACTION: *Jim* to draft letter of concern to Municipal Manager re sewage

6.4 Waterless Sanitation: Este NOTED that waterborne sewage is passé and that waterless sanitation is the way of the future; a change of attitude is necessary. A waterless system has been successfully piloted for 4 years in Extension 6 (where there is still no waterborne sewage). It should be incentivised, e.g. those who disconnect from the waterborne sewage system should not be required to pay rates. NOTED: installing more flush toilets is increasing the hydraulic load on sewage works. While the wealthy continue to use the flush system it is seen as more desirable. AGREED: new policy is required for new building developments.

ACTION: *Este* to put this to Municipality

6.5 Protection of spring / umthombo proposal: This is one of the first projects of the R10 million Greening Project. Work commenced in November 08 on the lower site beside the dead gum after the road engineers made the N2 fill available and agreed to help construct steps to the new water outlet on the same side as the parking lot. The final gravel topping must be done by Makana Municipality.

6.6 Working for Water and Makana Municipality: Two new blocks have been put to tender. Jonathan recommends contractors to Kevin. Sixolile will check the blocks before contractors are paid. It was agreed that Angela should accompany him. It was suggested that Grahamstown youth should collaborate in adopting area between Mt Drive and the N2. Because invasive alien control is a long-term project, the Council official agreed. Trained contractors and BEE companies remain key role-players.

ACTION: *Kevin* to contact Angela to accompany Sixolile

ACTION: *Este* to coordinate local youth organisations

6.7 Makana Environmental Forum:

(a) *Agenda for November 26 meeting: theme of water management:* Kevin distributed the agenda.

- (b) *Post of Environmental Manager*: Ndumiso Nongwe introduced himself and was warmly welcomed. A short note will be published in the forthcoming ME-News.
- (c) *Arbor Week report back*: The WESSA trophy and certificate was handed over at a tea ceremony to Mr Sandi (HOD in absence of headmaster) of TEM Mrwetyana school. Lorraine expressed regret that the MTPP was not able to attend.
- (d) *Budget/proposal for IDP funding to the KCC*: Jim, Este and Kevin worked on this and Kevin submitted it. Feedback is awaited.

7 General

- 7.1 Science Expo**: Vivienne Dames was awarded the Water Prize at the National Science Expo by the SA Institute of Engineers. Her project will be displayed in the Blue Planet Gallery soon.
- 7.2 Buying trees from Makana Municipality**: There was concern that Kwanele could not sell trees to the public, but it was noted that this was possible by special arrangement.
- 7.3 Meeting days**: No response had come from relevant Councillors, and as nobody was keen to meet on a Friday, it was agreed to change KCC meetings to the *first Thursday* of every second month. For 2009 these are: 5 February, 2 April, 4 June, 6 August, 1 October, 3 December [[diarise now!](#)].

8 Date of next meeting

<u>Thursday 5 February 2009, Albany Museum Education Dept, 16h00</u>

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