

MINUTES OF MEETING 15 JANUARY 2015 16H00 SHELLY BEACH SKI BOAT CLUB RE: MPA

PRESENT: AS PER REGISTER

APOLOGIES: Mr Kurt Rutter, Mrs Jackie Pratt and Greatest Catch Charters.

WELCOME: Mr Anton Gets welcomed all and asked those present to sign the register.

REPORT BACK: Mr Gets said that he was hoping that Ezemvelo would have given us their proposal before Christmas but unfortunately they have not, he has heard that they have now gone to their scientific working group to rework their proposal.

MATTERS ARISING: Mr Gets said from a fishing perspective we do not want a MPA, and as we have nothing on paper from Ezemvelo we cannot do anything until we have tangible scientific evidence to show a reason to implement a MPA; Mr Gets feels that our fishery is not under any threat. He said the restriction lists are part of the previous minutes and can be circulated to those who want them. He also suggested that people look at the Phakisa website for more information.

Mr Gets then suggested that each group work out financially what each of them brings to the Hibiscus coast which will give us a better understanding on the impact that a MPA will have. Mr Gets said that a meeting of fifty people would not work and suggested representatives from each group form a steering committee that can meet with Ezemvelo. He again said that until we have real facts from Ezemvelo we cannot object to anything. He also said that he has heard that Fracking has been approved for KZN without any objections being raised.

Mr Dick Pratt said the reason for Ezemvelo backtracking is because they lost the case against Border DSAA and they don't want that to happen again. Mr Pratt said that from the American experience it has shown that Fracking works well for Marine life and the fishing has improved in those areas. He suspects it will be awhile before we hear anything more from Ezemvelo.

Mr Justin Mackrory CEO Ugu South Coast Tourism said that after the meeting of 4 December 2014, he requested a meeting with Ezemvelo who sent a delegation to listen to his concerns, Mr Mackrory reported that neither National nor Provincial tourism had been advised of Ezemvelo's plans to implement a MPA; he said they cannot start a process without consulting the stakeholders. Some of tourism concerns are that the Shark nets come out, Zonation will not work if they implement a blanket zone, it will have to be a combination and allow for sustainable livelihood of people affected, and he also heard that the Aliwal Shoal MPA will be expanded to include Scottburgh. Mr Mackrory asked if there has been a study done of what is being taken out by long liners as opposed to local, it could be legally challenged if no study has been done, and we should seek legal advice on this. Mr Mackrory said that a full economic impact study is needed.

Mr Tony Kay said that it will happen whether we like it or not and we should try and get it done our way. Mr Kay reported that a multi-million Techno centre is in the plans for Shelly Beach as well as three small craft harbours on the Hibiscus Coast. We should ask Government to sponsor the harbours as eco-tourism. Mr Kay also said we should try negotiating to get what we want and make it a positive thing on our terms. Mr Gets said that at present we don't want a MPA but if we have to have it then we should be allowed to say what is prohibited and what is not.

Chris Korsten Tyde Charters said that if we can be ready for whatever is coming it will be a good idea to have the correct people on a committee to represent us all.

Peter Munn South Coast Business Chamber said that the Business Chamber are concerned about the effect on the Coast, we need like-minded people who can serve all, not just individuals. We need to face the facts that a MPA will affect tourism, investments and our businesses. We need to be prepared and informed. The Government can't do anything without an economic impact study. We need a committee to steer things the correct way and suggested we use this important forum to spearhead this group and be well informed.

Frank Gainsford suggested that the minister be taken to task, and sued for non-compliance of the ICMA (Integrated Coastal Management Act), to ensure that the people on the ground are aware of the ICMA, and that some action be taken to force the government to implement the mandated planning processes and structures mandated in sections 44 through 50 of the ICMA.

Mr Gets said that all avenues have to be explored and ten or twelve people from today's group will have to look at everything and possibly seek legal advice.

Mr Mackrory said that HCM must be part of this group and included, he will ask Mr Mbili the Municipal Manager to nominate someone to join the forum. Mr Kay said that Mr Mbili is only waiting for feedback from today's meeting.

Mr Siyabonga Zama HCM Tourism and Economic Development said they were also not advised of Ezemvelo's plans and have major concerns about the whole project but will support initiatives that benefit our economy.

Mr Mackrory asked Mr Zama if the economic forum would cover legal advice, Mr Zama replied that we can declare a dispute and Ezemvelo will have to involve public participation which is the correct way to go.

The committee nominated are as follows:

Anton Gets – Shelly Beach Ski Boat Club and members

Mr Justin MacKroroy – Ceo Ugu SC Tourism and members

Mr Louis Boshoff – Shelly Beach Tourism

Mr Siyabonga Zama – HCM Economic Development & Town Planning

Mr Chris Korsten – Charter boats, beach rides and fun runs

Mr Gavin van der Walt – Commercial fishing

Mr Tony Kay – Businesses

Mr Bruce McKenzie – Ratepayers

Mr Peter Munn – Business Chamber South Coast

Ms Brenda Johnson – Secretary

Riaan du Plessis Umzimkulu area, said that finances would need to be raised.

Mr Gets said the most important thing at the moment is to know what we are up against.

Mr Kay asked Mr Mackrory to speak to his legal connection to get an idea of what this all may involve.

Mr Danny Roos said that as the oldest fisherman here he feels that a MPA will be catastrophic for everything on our coast not just fishing.

Mr Munn said that as with his South Coast Water Management project we need a name that will represent the group, Mr Gets said that according to Ezemvelo we are known as the Protea Task Team.

Mr Gets closed the meeting by thanking all for joining in and being so willing to get on board and be involved and said it's quite historic to see so many divergent groups willing to work together for a common cause. We will have the first steering committee as soon as we hear from Ezemvelo.