

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FISH HOEK RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HELD IN THE MAIN HALL OF THE CIVIC CENTRE ON THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2018.**

**PRESENT:** As per attendance register

**1. WELCOME**

The Chairman, Brian Youngblood, welcomed all present.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST QGM**

The minutes of the QGM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 were unanimously approved.

**3. INTRODUCTION OF TOPIC AND SPEAKERS**

The Chairman explained that the 3 speakers would talk on different aspects of the Cape Town water crisis from both a municipal and civilian point of view. Representing the municipality was Alderman Felicity Purchase and representing civil society were Natasha Hoffman and Marti Weddepohl of the South Peninsula Water Task Team.

**4. PRESENTATION BY ALDERMAN FELICITY PURCHASE**

Ald. Purchase said that the water crisis is the biggest crisis Cape Town has ever faced. Day Zero is not the day that we run out of water but the day that the City of Cape Town imposes 25l water per person per day. Theewaterskloof and Vöelvrei dams could go down to 6-8% capacity. Facebook images show Theewaterskloof Dam with no water. This dam has a large surface area exposed to evaporation. There is a considered strategy to deplete this dam first. At 16.5% total capacity water distribution points would become necessary. Day Zero has now been pushed forward to 9<sup>th</sup> July. Presently, we are using 523 megalitres/water/day – this needs to be reduced to 450/day and it can be done.

The agricultural sector access to 40% of water has now ended and farmers are having to choose which crops to irrigate, i.e. those that will give the best return. The Groenland farming community has donated water, flowing from the Palmiet River into the Steenbras Dam. Some rain and cloudy days have helped, but we must continue to conserve water - efforts will not go unrewarded. The 87 litres water/day was based on the number of occupants of the house. Homes with large occupancy have to motivate for extra water, but there is currently a backlog in dealing with these applications.

People are being asked to use non-potable water from boreholes, rainwater, grey water, etc. for purposes which do not require potable water. Boreholes are being sunk at essential structures, such as hospitals, schools and clinics as it would be difficult to isolate them should water be turned off. Noordhoek and Silvermine retirement villages are already off the grid and Peer's Village and St. James are following suit. By-laws are being amended to allow people to be completely self sufficient, but in the process home owners must use a registered plumber to fit a non-return valve, in order to not contaminate the municipal reticulation system.

In 2009, National Government warned of a water crisis by 2015 if nothing was done to drastically reduce water usage. Water leakage response teams have managed to reduce water losses from the reticulation system from 36% to 14 % .

Currently, if we could reduce consumption to 430 megalitres water usage per day, it would see us through this winter, next summer and next winter, too.

There are sufficient augmentation schemes to provide the City with water. The Cape Flats aquifer can deliver 20 megalitres/day and the Table Mountain aquifer 40 megalitres/day. Treating effluent is another solution. There are 76 tender documents for the next 1-2 years and environmentalists, geologists, hydrologists and other specialists are working hard to determine how to access more water. Aquifers can be recharged in 5 years by directing water back into the ground.

Referring again to alarmist reports on Facebook stating that Cape Town was the first city in the world to run out of water, Ald. Purchase referred to 11 other world cities in the same predicament. At the end of 2017, Johannesburg was one day away from running out of tap water and some towns in KZN have been on 25litres/water/day for up to one year.

Settlements such as Masiphumelele have become a contentious issue, as their water will not be turned off if Day Zero arrives. This decision was taken because of the consequential serious health risks that would likely occur if water supply was stopped. At present, residents are using 42.2 L/person/day.

In Simon's Town there are 2 small reservoirs belonging to the Navy. There are 2 dams – Kleinplaas and Lewis Gay – and a water treatment plant at Brooklands, which could yield another 150 days of water. The biggest culprit for water wastage is the Navy, due to water leakages. The City negotiated with Public Works to repair the leaks. When this did not happen, the water supply was turned off and the leaks were soon repaired.

Ald. Purchase stated that almost all high water accounts were due to leaks, and urged residents to look for leaks. The new water management devices are problematical, with leaks and other issues, 5% of them being faulty in Fish Hoek and Noordhoek. Problems should be reported immediately. All boreholes must be registered.

In summary, Ald. Purchase said that, with co-operation, water usage could be reduced to 450 megalitres/day by the end of March and we will have sufficient water until 2020. If this does not happen, how will we survive? In response to this question, Ald. Purchase introduced Natasha Hoffman of the South Peninsula Water Task Team as the next speaker.

## **5. SOUTH PENINSULA WATER TASK TEAM (SPWTT) : NATASHA HOFFMAN**

The SPWTT was initiated by citizens concerned by the difficult topography of the South Peninsula, which could negatively impact on the provision of water distribution points. They approached Provincial and Local Government with a view to forming a task team comprising experts in various realms of expertise, (communications, military, navy, engineering, logistics, hydrology, renewable energy, analytics, strategy, risk and project management, health, safety and security, business, etc), to address the current water crisis and the combined co-operative action to be taken should Day Zero occur, and beyond. The team first met in October, 2017. Volunteers are being added to the team almost daily.

**The objectives of the team** are to promote community health, safety and security of the residents of the South Peninsula, thus enabling the City and its people to continue to function throughout the water crisis by developing resilience through adaptation to living and prospering in a water scarce region, both now and in the future.

The arrival of Day Zero is determined by overall wind speed, temperature, evaporation, new water supply strategies and volumes and water consumption – the ideal water consumption for the City being <500 million litres/day.

#### **UNIQUE CHALLENGES OF THE SOUTH PENINSULA (SP)**

These include:

- Few access roads and area surrounded by mountains and water
- Far away from the major water sources
- Densely populated suburbs, such as Masiphumilele and Ocean View.
- Simon's Town Naval Base is a National Key Point.
- SP can be a low priority for the City's service delivery.

Benefits to the City of the SP Water Plan include reduced security and logistic risks, reduced need to convey water supplies on the already congested SP access roads and uninterrupted commercial and tourist access. There should also be a reduced budget spend for the City and Disaster Relief.

#### **ENSURING CONTINUITY OF THE WATER SUPPLY TO THE SP**

Measures include:

- Collaboration with the City water engineers in order to understand the detailed working of the water reticulation system and facilities in the SP.
- Assisting with the distribution of rationed and/or emergency water supplies via the existing water system.
- Identifying the need and solutions for the delivery of potable and non-potable water to the community.
- Investigating, with the co-operation of property owners, the optimal use of boreholes, well points and springs.
- Investigating the establishment of new, utility – scale boreholes to feed water into the SP water system.

#### **MANAGEMENT OF SEWAGE AND WASTE WATER**

The Water Task Team will collaborate with City sewage engineers in terms of:

- Pumping non-potable water into the waste water system at key points.
- Asking the community not to put paper and other waste products into the sewage system.

#### **WATER SECURITY FOR KEY FACILITIES.**

Water supply must be secured for key facilities, i.e.:

- SAPS and other key civic facilities
- Hospitals, clinics, schools, pre-schools
- Simon's Town Naval Base
- Retirement and Old Age Homes.
- Informal settlements.

#### **COLLABORATION WITH HEALTH SERVICES.**

- False Bay Hospital and local clinics
- Assisting with possible outbreaks of water borne diseases in terms of prevention, treatment and communication.

#### **DAY ZERO PLANNING**

Measures to distribute rationed water include:

- Water collection points – positioning, safety, security, logistics, etc.
- Alternative methods of water distribution.
- Continuity of function of key facilities during and after Day Zero i.t.o. water supply.

#### **EMOTIONAL REACTIONS TO DAY ZERO**

These include:

- Anger and blame
- Confusion, due to fake news
- Denial (of high water usage)
- Panic (lack of trust, bulk buying of water and other items for Day 0)
- Fear ( vulnerability)

#### **CREDIBLE INFORMATION**

The dissemination of credible information to counteract fake news is of vital importance.

The Task Team disseminates current information on:

- The progress on water saving efforts
- The status of water supply
- Progress of the local (South Peninsula Water Task Team) plan
- The role and involvement of civil society
- Important information on water supply sites .

In conclusion, Natasha commented that predatory practices can be avoided by creating a sense of “being in it together” and working together to alleviate the effects of drought.

Volunteers can offer their services and community members can get updated information on South Peninsula Water Facebook page – a public profile to help with communication to the public of essential information.

#### **6. MARTI WEDDEPOHL : SOUTH PENINSULA WATER TASK TEAM.**

Marti explained that the 18 volunteers in the Water Task Team were committed to helping communities to help themselves. This will be done with the assistance of Neighbourhood Watches, who know their communities, and Command Control, without being prescriptive. The vulnerable in the community must be identified and assisted and transport problems ironed out. It is estimated that there will be 4000 people per water point per day . Water supplies will be augmented by different distribution mechanisms.

#### **7. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Q. What is the source of the water being used to build roads?

A. Ald. Purchase: All construction workers, builders, etc. are using non-potable water from water treatment works, boreholes and springs.

- Q. How did we get to this crisis when there were warnings from National Government in 2009 that water consumption must be reduced?
- A. Ald. Purchase : Central Government said that there was no need to do anything until 2019. Resident commented that there were dam level problems in 2015 and the brakes on water consumption should have been put on then. Ald. Purchase commented that we all need to support the Water Task Team and work together.
- Q. Whilst the dams are virtually empty could they be dredged and deepened?
- A. Theewaterskloof dam is being cleared of silt and drilling into the dam is taking place to extract remaining water.
- Q. What is the plan for Ocean View?
- A. There will be water distribution on sports fields plus other sources of non-potable water and vulnerable people will be assisted.
- Q. If fire hydrants are turned off the system of valves will take a long time to be turned back on to deliver water.
- A. Ald. Purchase: The valves will be turned off to prevent home reticulation but there will be water in the hydrants and it will be possible to increase the water supply.  
Marti Weddepohl: Water can be combined with foam and the number of fire fighting volunteers increased. Non-potable water will be used.
- Q. Does anyone have a blueprint of the local reticulation system?
- A. Ald Purchase: It does exist but is not up to date. In some cases, it is not known where the correct valves are to turn water on and off. This situation arose as a result of Fish Hoek Municipality becoming part of the City of Cape Town municipality.
- Q. What are the finances of water?
- A. Ald. Purchase: National Government is responsible for bulk water supplies, the building of dams, desalination plants and bulk infrastructure.  
Provincial Government pays for the water it receives from National Government, treats it and conveys it via the reticulation system to household taps. Provincial Government also provides funds for disaster relief and provides boreholes. The recent proposed drought levy received 65 000 negative responses and was discarded. Instead, it was decided to punish people using excessive water by means of punitive tariffs.
- Q. How will one access the collection points in Fish Hoek?
- A. Ald Purchase: They will be either walk through or drive through.
- Q. How will sewage system collapse be avoided?
- A. Ald. Purchase: There will have to be synchronized flushing of toilets to get water through the system, using non-potable water.
- Q. Why are there no updates on the water crisis in the Echo or People's Post?
- A. Ald. Purchase: There is nobody from the media here.  
Natasha: A petition should be sent to local media to motivate for coverage.
- Q. Lots of water is being extracted from underground. What about desalination plants?
- A. Ald. Purchase: Underground water is available from the Peninsula to Port Elizabeth and is the cheapest source of water and is the most cost effective water supply system. It is hoped that National Government will pay for desalination, which is very costly. Barges in the sea with desalination points on board are not suitable for the rough sea conditions of the Cape coast.
- Q. Why is National Government not proactive?
- A. Ald. Purchase: It is political. National Government does not want the Western Cape province to work, with the 2019 elections in mind.

- Q. Could the SA Navy be requested to have desalination plants on their ships out at sea?  
A. Ald. Purchase: Possibly, if diesel is supplied. False Bay Yacht Club has a desalination plant.

**8. THANKS AND GIFTS**

Chairman Brian Youngblood thanked both speakers for their excellent talks. He also thanked Arthur Smith and Terry Rothwell for operating the audiovisual equipment (shared with U3A) and for their time, which is given free of charge. Gifts were presented to all four.

**9. TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Annual membership subscriptions of R 70 per household are now due.
- Membership is down on last year
- There have been some generous donations. Last years' income was R 17 600. Of this, R 2 900 was donations from members.
- Expenses include printing and postage, as there are still many members requiring hard copy correspondence.
- Funds stand at R 34 000, which may need to be used for legal issues, i.e. for the Kommetjie Ratepayer's Association objection to development without the necessary infrastructure iro roads and services.
- Lorna Fulford continues to review our accounts pro bono. The Treasurer proposed that she be re-appointed –seconded by Ald. Purchase. The Treasurer has presented her with as small gift.

**10 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

10:1 The Annual Financial Statement was approved.

10:2 The minutes of the QGM of 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017 were unanimously approved.

10:3 Reminder that membership subscriptions are now due.

**10:4 PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD TO PROPOSED ELECTRICITY DEPOT, SILVERGLADE.**

Jo Goddard reported that, after almost 2 ½ years of objections by interested and affected parties, lodged against the environmental authorisation for the building of a new road to access the proposed new electricity depot, their appeals have been upheld. To quote Anton Bredell, Western Cape Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Planning, "The proposed access road is now authorized on the existing gravel road from Harrington Road, (and not from Poplar Road which runs between the residential area of Silverglades and the sportfield complex on the western side), which must be tarred for access to the proposed site." Giving reasons for this appeal decision, Minister Bredell said : " It is the best practicable environmental option since the concerns of the interested and affected parties will be addressed and mitigation measures will be implemented to protect the frogs and toads that will cross the access road". The safety concerns for residents utilizing the surrounding recreational facilities were also taken into account. Ms. Goddard thanked the FHVRRA committee, especially former Chairman Allen Rose-Innes, for ongoing support in assisting residents to lodge their appeals and urged those present to support FHVRRA.

10:5 Riaan Bester has been appointed as the new CID Manager after the passing away of Hennie van der Merwe.

- 10:6 **Scope of FHVRRA:** Our current EXCO members have a diverse mix of backgrounds, professions and experiences, as reflected in the diversity of the FHVRRA newsletter. Members were asked for their opinions and comments on the scope of the FHVRRA on our Facebook page, i.e. should our activities be confined to Fish Hoek only.
- 10:7 **Draft Water Amendment By - Law:** The requirements for residents to fit non-return valves to prevent back-flow of non-potable water into the municipal water supply and to drain water tanks every 5 years prompted 38 000 comments (5.3% of households).
- 10:8 **Drought charge (water levy):** This initiated > 61 000 comments / 707,814 households or 8.6% of households.
- 10:9 **Punitive tariff:** On 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 Mayor de Lille said, "I will personally fight to ensure that the proposed punitive tariff exempts those who are using less than 6 000 litres per month".
- 10:10 **New combined tariffs** for those using less than 6kl/water/month increased by over 500% (527%). For those using above 6kl/water/month, the increase was from around 300% (292% to 377%). Comparing the previous proposed drought charge to the new combined water and sewage tariff, (depending on property valuation), homeowners should be paying less combined tariff than the proposed water levy drought charge if using < 3 kl/water/month or less.
- 10:11 **Estimated water bill** in municipal invoices is due to in-sourcing the readings for January 2017. For recent water savings, actual readings must be taken. Helen O'Regan may be contacted for details.
- 10:12 **Other methods to alleviate the City's water crisis include:**
- The pumping of water from Vöelvrei Dam to the Swartland water treatment works north of Cape Town.
  - Rehabilitating two weirs in the Overberg water system to the east of Cape Town to ensure minimal water loss should it rain in the mountain catchment area.
  - Pumping water from Theewaterskloof dam directly into the Charmaine inlet tunnel. That will ensure a usually inaccessible 10% of the dams' 480 cubic metres of water will be directed to Cape Town.
  - Grabouw farmers releasing water from Eikenhof Dam on the Palmiet River to the Steenbras Dam above Gordon's Bay.
- 10:13 **Roads**
- The end of the builder's holidays saw AMDEC at Evergreen Noordhoek and Martin East at 4-ways both restarting construction activities. Martin & East submitted a dust control plan to the City in January and AMDEC was given notice.
  - Whilst road developments are going well, the opening of the 2-way Main Road to Kalk Bay has seen an increase in crime. More vehicle ID cameras are needed.
  - The Sun Valley run via Corsair Way is very congested.
  - The one-way system up Longboat St. and Chebec Close has not been implemented yet.
  - Completion of road works is scheduled for November 2019.
  - Surveying was done earlier this month in the Houmoed Avenue area in order to complete the environmental assessment process, which still has not been approved before construction work can proceed.
- 10:14 **Safety and security.**
- The Fish Hoek post office manager was investigating putting Trellidors over the steps, but was enquiring about the legality of closing off access to post boxes at night.

- Vagrants living under the Silvermine/Clovelly bridge remain an issue. The liability is passed between PRASA , SAPS and the City. Cllr. Kuhl has met with SAPS and Law Enforcement to develop a plan.
- There were 41 reported criminal incidents involving hikers within the Table Mountain national park in 2017. No incidents have been reported at Cape Point.

**10:15 Beach/Promenade**

- The “cut off” drain on the promenade between FH Surf & Lifesaving Club and the lighthouse has been damaged by the Solid Waste Management truck – not only unsightly but dangerous, too. Replacement paving blocks by Gary Vermeulen of Jenkor and cement/sand mix by Peter Scott have been arranged , but rehabilitation awaits City’s approval.

**11. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2018**

- The Chairman stated that Alan Lindner’s health is deteriorating so he will not be available for EXCO. Alan has served on the EXCO since 2013 and, besides historical input, he has also supported tourism. He has been thanked for his faithful services, presented with a gift voucher and offered honorary member status.
- The Chairman explained the rules relating to membership and the appointment to and composition of the executive committee.
- Ald. Purchase oversaw the appointment of the new EXCO. All existing members of the EXCO were prepared to stand again and there were 3 other proposals: Peter Scott, Leigh Barrett and John Shaw. All were unanimously approved.

**12. CLOSING**

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking the guest speakers, EXCO members for their service and assistance, Arthur Smith and Terry Rothwell (sound system), Harcourts for printing the newsletter, Girl Guides for serving refreshments and all members who attended. Although parking was already paid, additional donations to the car guard would be greatly appreciated. The meeting closed at 9:10h.

**13. POST MEETING REMARKS**

After the meeting closed some members expressed the opinion that the meeting was too long and that there should be no guest speakers at the AGM. Many people had already left the meeting. Other members disagreed and had found the meeting very interesting. This is a matter which will have to receive attention at EXCO level.