



# NCOA Committee meeting Minutes

<b>NCOA</b>	<b>Chairperson: Nick Taylor</b>	<b>Date 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011 Time: 17:30</b>	<b>Location Skype</b>
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## Attendees:

Nick Taylor – Chairman; Julie Gosling; Wendy Dewberry; Cathy Shimmin;  
Santi Den Boestert; Catherine Suckling; Eion Brown; Lauren Shimmin  
Visitor Maretha Alant

## Apologies:

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	<b>Decisions and Action Points</b>	<b>Who</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	
	NT Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting. He also welcomed special guest Maretha Alant from SANParks	<b>info</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous meeting</b>	
	The previous minutes were accepted	<b>info</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>	
	<b><u>3.1. Building and Development</u></b>	
	<b>3.1.1. Headland Development</b>	
	<b>3.1.2. House Visser Erf 76</b>	
	<b>3.1.3. Don Lindsay Access Road</b>	
	Don has put in 2 large drains with metal grids on top for drainage purposes.	<b>Info</b>
	<b>3.1.4. Erf 84</b>	
	<b>3.1.5. Erf 80 House Robinson/Thompson</b>	
	<b><u>3.2. Conservancy</u></b>	
	<b>3.2.1. Tree identification and naming</b> The labels are being made.	<b>WD</b>
	<b>3.2.3. Alien clearing</b>	
	<b>3.2.4. Water testing</b>	
	The next scheduled water test was mooted.	<b>WD</b>

It was asked if it was worthwhile testing if the water needed to be sent to CT as by the time it gets there the Ecoli count would have changed and the test would therefore not be a true reflection of the water quality.

Maretha offered to assist so that we can test for Ecoli and phosphates and suggested that we possibly test in a dryer period to get better results.

Eion has the Noetzie catchment area maps. All rivers have been traced to find the tributaries that feed Noetzie. The concept is to create small “dams” in certain streams so that we can create wetlands to purify the water. It was thought that this also be done for the Field of Dreams if we can persuade Pezula. After investigation and the creation of a practical plan it is envisaged that we would approach DWAF as well as the land owners for potential sites. Eion will go and look at the sites.

Maretha was asked for comment.

She says that there are dependencies on closeness to river as well as the structures. That there may be a mix of both hard and soft engineering. The project will need Assessment.

Eion said that the first step is to see if it is physically possible to do and then take it further

It was ascertained that the purpose of the scheme was to purify runoff and not to control flooding.

WD suggested we find out whether there is a problem of ecoli from upriver in the first place and, if so, to assess the cost of the scheme.

Eion to investigate when next in Noetzie before we continue

### **3.2.5. Monkey problem**

One of the monkeys is injured.

Cath to contact Cape nature

### **3.2.5. Water Course Management at River Houses**

### **3.2.6. Beach Driving Permit**

### **3.2.7. Carpark Signage**

### **3.2.8. Pezula Canoe Trips**

### **3.2.9. Cattle Grid on Noetzie Road**

### **3.2.10. EMP for Noetzie**

Melissa McKay from EA Prac has been co-opted to assist Wendy to get the EMP to the next stage. Once the draft is complete it will be passed to Maretha.

CS Draft should go to the Noetzie community for comment

NT noted that the EMP should be signed off by the community, at the Noetzie AGM in December.

National Department will then need to approve it.

All agreed

### **3.3. Finance and Managerial**

Lauren to send out reminders to members that have not paid yet. The updated payment spreadsheet will then be sent to the committee.

**EB**

CatS

WD

**LS**

### 3.3.1. Payment of Accounts

### 3.3.2. Signing of Audit

### 3.3.3. Record Keeping

### 3.3.4. Pledges

## 3.4. Municipal

### 3.4.1. Illegal Trading at Montrose

Julie has agreed to assist and has been in contact with the KM municipality to get letters, for the litigation. It will take a bit of time as the requirement is to apply for the access to information first to get the letters from the municipality. Julie is going through this process.

**JG**

**EB**

**JG**

### 3.4.2. Boom

Nick thanked Hennie and Julie for paying for the bollard, which is proving to be very effective.

Regarding the boom, we are waiting for Ian Henderson who is intending to build on erf 84 and would like the toilets moved. We will have to wait for this to progress before taking a final view on the siting of the boom. However it was agreed that if it is proven that the bollard works adequately, there may be no need for a boom

### 3.4.3. Weddings on the Beach

### 3.4.4 School Site ERF 394/1

130 trees have been planted. Benches have been put in strategic places. It is now referred to as the "Outdoor Classroom". The next stage is to erect interpretive signage.

The suggestion is that Noetzie community can pledge for new items in the area that can be labeled with the name of the donor.

A request to be made in the next newsletter to get information out to the community and request specific items.

### 3.4.5. Heritage status of old Pezula Castle

CatS has contacted members of the press as well as the heritage organisations. Knysna Herald and the Knysna Heritage association were invited to see that no effort has being made to conserve the Castle. They gave suggestions. Fran Kirsten of Knysna Plett Herald will get comment from the Municipality with the view to publishing an article.

## 3.5. Newsletter

The winter newsletter was withdrawn. It will be republished and resent with the following changes as per Nick's email of the 20<sup>th</sup> of June:

**Info**

*There are 3 things that need to be changed in the Newsletter:*

**WD**

*1. The title of the article on the Bond-Smith house must be changed to:*

*Stormwater management at Bond-Smith house (erf 48)*

2. *The following para in the article must be deleted:*

*Although Steve reported that he had obtained an exemption for an OSCEA permit from the Knysna Municipality, there remains some dissension about this. Some members of the committee hold the view that the law should be adhered to and all members of the NCOA be subject to OSCEA regulations, while others feel that owners should not trouble the Knysna Municipality to obtain permission for routine maintenance activities. This matter has not been resolved.*

*And replaced with:*

*Although Steve obtained an exemption for an OSCEA permit from KM, there remains some dissention about this issue, with some members of the Committee of the view that any activity of this kind should be subject to the OSCEA regulations, while others feel that owners should not trouble the KM to obtain permission for routine maintenance activities. This matter has not been resolved.*

3. *The title of the article on membership must be changed to:*

*New NCOA members*

4. *The content of the article on membership must be changed to:*

*The Committee is delighted to announce a new initiative to engage local members that may not otherwise be able to participate in the NCOA. Three subsistence fishermen have been given fishing licences by Julie Gosling. At the Committee meeting of 10 March a proposal was accepted to enrol the fishermen as Ordinary members of the NCOA. This could encourage other members to possibly sponsor and encourage locals in similar positions in the area to join. This offers them the opportunity to be part of the conservation efforts of the NCOA and also to be eyes and ears within the Conservancy area, reporting irregular activity such as poaching or fires. A card will be issued to signify membership.*

Nick met with Steve Gettliff and apologized for the unfortunate editing referred to above. They discussed the matter and agreement was reached that these issues need to be clarified in the EMP

#### **4 General**

##### **4.1 Western Cape Conservation Stewardship Association (WCCSA)**

Julie sent out an email stating that the NCOA has been a member for the last 6, or more, years and that the organization was back on its feet again and we should continue to be members. It was agreed to remain members. Julie to send Lauren the invoice for membership when it arrives. Lauren is authorized to pay it.

JG  
LS

##### **4.2 Guideline Deviation discussion Document**

Resend

CS

##### **4.3 Application to SANParks - permission for NOCA to collect camera footage**

WD

	<p><b>in Sinclair on agenda</b></p> <p>Wendy reported that we had applied to SANParks to put the cameras on the Sinclair nature Reserve. Dr Nick Hanekom came and looked at the footage and will promote the application to put the cameras on the reserve. SANParks is doing a study towards the Harkerville area and they were very excited to see the work that the NCOA was doing. An Aardvark was sighted on the camera within the last period. Wendy will continue with the application.</p> <p><b>4.4 Financial software</b></p> <p>CatS asked if we want to use Quick books. LS stated that the NCOA accounting records have been kept on Pastel for over 6 years. The customer movement is held in spreadsheets as a requirement put in by Neil during audit as this tracks the entire owner base over the period rather than only those who pay. Consistent non payers do not get invoiced until they pay; this keeps the bad debts off the books.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Matters Arising not on the Agenda</b>	
	<p><b>5.1 Pezula Environmental Liaison Committee. PELC</b></p> <p>Maretha commented that this committee, which in the past has been valuable in their Conservancy work, was currently inactive. She asked that the NCOA encourage the reinstatement of this working committee between us and our neighbors. Julie agreed to contact and encourage them. Maretha will motivate it from SANParks side</p> <p><b>5.2 Knysna Municipality</b></p> <p><b>JG suggested that the definition for “Holiday Business Concession.” be discussed at the AGM and that the committee members who created the TPS to clarify. CatS asked whether it was re-looking into the entire scheme. JG pointed out that our TPS is an overlay and that everything lacking follows the Knysna TPS. MA pointed out that in any case, people can apply for a departure in which case planning consultations would take place</b></p> <p><b>5.3 Bird lists.</b> These were provided by Donald Fabian. They will be put on the web site. Sign in the car park to be updated with birds.</p> <p>Agreed that we will add on additional birds to the signage by stick ons. WD tasked to send an email to all members to ask for notification on any new sightings.</p> <p><b>5.5 Beach</b> Changes in beach over the past weeks have exposed a drum that was used as a soak away. It was reported that Julie paid Bruce to remove it and it has been done</p> <p><b>5.7 Sale of plot 62</b></p> <p>Santie is having a problem selling her property because potential buyers are concerned as there is no vehicular access and no place to park. CS stated that that was the position when they bought it and that it is governed by</p>	<p><b>JG</b></p> <p><b>JG</b></p> <p><b>EB/ JG/ WD</b></p> <p><b>WD</b></p> <p><b>WD</b></p>

	a legal document that the den Boesterts had signed. Julie feels that it is a NCOA issue. Members the committee agreed to make suggestions to assist the den Boesterts.	
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<b>6</b>	<b>Next meeting date</b>	
	The next meeting will be held on SKYPE Date: 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2011 Time: 05:30	

**Accepted as correct by the Chairperson Nick Taylor**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_8 August 2011\_\_