

N2 WILD COAST TOLL HIGHWAY PROJECT

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING NUMBER 15

Date: 19 August 2020

Time: 10h30

Venue: Microsoft Teams Online

No.	Item	Action
1.	<u>OPENING AND WELCOME</u>	
1.1	Opening Mr Drew (NMA) opened the meeting and welcomed everybody present. <i>Refer to attendance register for list of attendees</i>	
1.2	Apologies Apologies were given for Mr Lucas (DWS), Ms Hlongwane, Mr Dlamini and Mr Kgope (DEFF) and Mr Willis (SANBI).	
1.3	Observers Mr Drew welcomed Mr Goss and Ms Pretorius as observers to the meeting.	
2.	<u>ADOPTION OF AGENDA</u>	
2.1	The agenda was adopted as a suitable guide for the proceedings of the meeting without any amendments or additions.	
3.	<u>PROGRESS UPDATE ON N2 WILD COAST TOLL HIGHWAY PROJECT - SANRAL</u>	
3.1	Mr McLachlan (SANRAL) gave a presentation on progress on the project (<i>Refer to Annexure I</i>).	
4.	<u>UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIODIVERSITY OFFSET AGREEMENT – ECPTA</u>	
4.1	Mr Nombembe (ECPTA) presented on the implementation of the BOA (<i>Refer to Annexure II</i>).	
5.	<u>ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OFFICER (ECO) REPORTS</u>	
5.1	Southern Section (Ndwalane to Msikaba)	
5.1.1	Mr Kriel (EIMS) gave a presentation on the ECO report for the southern greenfield section - Msikaba River Bridge and haul roads. (<i>Refer to Annexure III</i>).	
5.2	Northern Section (Msikaba to Mtamvuna)	
5.2.1	Mr Lepono (Ecosolve Consulting) gave a presentation on the ECO report for the northern greenfield section - Mtentu River Bridge and haul roads. (<i>Refer to Annexure IV</i>).	
6.	<u>ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT REPORT</u>	
6.1	Ms Ntene (Letsolo) gave a presentation on the environmental audit report. (<i>Refer to Annexure V</i>).	
7.	<u>ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS EMC MINUTES</u>	
7.1	The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the proceedings of the previous meeting without any amendments or additions.	
8.	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u>	
	Matters Arising from the Minutes of EMC Meeting No 14 on 4 March 2020	
8.1	<i>Item 8.4: SANRAL received further correspondence from DEFF Enforcement regarding the pre-compliance notice from the March 2018 site inspection which has raised new issues and SANRAL will respond to DEA Enforcement in writing.</i>	
	Ms Makoja (SANRAL) said that most of the issues raised in the original pre-compliance notice have already been addressed and the second pre-compliance noticed raised new issues that were not	

	identified at the time of the site visit in March 2018. SANRAL requested DEFF Enforcement to close off the first notice and asked for further information regarding the second notice. DEFF Enforcement are currently busy on this matter but have not yet issued a response.	DEFF / SANRAL
8.2	<p><i>Item 8.6: SANRAL will be meeting with the Community Property Association about the Mzamba / R61 interchange because they have a developer who wants to build a new mall next to the police station and depending on that proposal SANRAL might have to use less of the CPA's land and the design for the Mzamba / R61 interchange will have to be modified again.</i></p> <p>Mr McLachlan reported that SANRAL met with the CPA and reached an agreement and the CPA now needs to meet with its full membership to ratify the agreement and under Covid-19 this has not been possible to date.</p>	SANRAL
8.3	<p><i>Item 8.7: A letter from the EMC to the Political Oversight Committee to be sent out for comment with the minutes and thereafter to the POC to facilitate the gazetting of the Eastern Cape SDF and the roll out with key stakeholders so that the requirements of SPLUMA can be enforced in the area.</i></p> <p>Mr Drew said that there will be a meeting of the N2 Wild Coast Toll Highway Political Oversight Committee (POC) the following morning and SANRAL will put the letter on the agenda and it will also be sent to all the members of the POC and Technical Committee which includes the relevant Heads of Departments and Municipal Managers. There should therefore be some feedback on this matter by the next ACC meeting.</p>	SANRAL
8.4	<p><i>Item 8.8: Summary report to be made available to EMC members once the BOA site analysis and situational analysis reports are completed.</i></p> <p>Mr Nombembe said in his presentation that these reports have now been completed and the summary report will be sent out with the minutes of this meeting.</p>	NMA
8.5	<p><i>Item 8.13: As there is only one bridge being constructed at the moment the EMC meetings will be held when necessary based on the issues that need to be addressed and this will remain the case until work on the project picks up again in 2021.</i></p> <p>It was decided that there would be an online Microsoft Teams meeting on 18 November but there would be no site visit and this format would remain until Covid-19 is brought under control. Those officials who are required to conduct site and permit compliance inspections can make the necessary arrangements through SLR and can also request the relevant specialists or SANRAL personnel to attend when necessary.</p>	
8.6	<p><i>Item 9.8: SLR to discuss via email with SANBI and the plant search and rescue service providers whether the grassland species at the Mtentu plant holding areas can be replanted in the no-go areas around the bridge sites.</i></p> <p>Mr Drew said that it was reported at the ACC meeting that SANBI has already commented on the proposal to plant the grassland species from the plant holding areas at Mtentu in the no-go areas at the bridge site. This proposal is now awaiting a decision from SANRAL.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks said that the plant search and rescue service provider at Msikaba has also been requested to prepare a method statement for the replanting of grassland species in the no-go areas at the Msikaba bridge site and this will also be sent to SANBI for comment.</p>	SANRAL
8.7	<p><i>Item 9.13: The next EMC meeting in August will take place in Port St Johns and the site visit will go to the site camp on the south bank of the Msikaba River. Details will be sent out closer to the time.</i></p> <p>This meeting and site visit were replaced with the current online meeting.</p>	SLR
9.	<u>OTHER ISSUES / GENERAL</u>	
9.1	<p>Mr Mokhanya (ECPHRA) said that he was concerned with the report in the presentation that all the outstanding heritage work has now been completed as he had been informed by the heritage practitioner that he had encountered problems on site. He said proof must be provided that this work has been completed.</p> <p>Mr Drew said that as it is more difficult for people to go to site during the Covid-19 pandemic the heritage specialist and anybody else preparing reports about activities on site, like the plant search</p>	

	<p>and rescue service providers and the ECOs, should take a lot of photographs to illustrate what is being described in the reports.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks said that the problems encountered by the heritage practitioner related to him being unable to visit some of the homesteads at Msikaba North due to concerns around Covid-19. The only outstanding work at Msikaba North is for the heritage practitioner to complete the final report on the repair works to the relocated graves.</p>	SLR
9.2	<p>Mr van der Merwe (DEFF – Forestry) said that although the grassland species may be replanted in the no-go areas at the bridge sites it is important to look at the health of the remaining species and particularly the forest species as it may be necessary to replant some of them in bigger bags.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks said that he will forward the latest report from the plant search and rescue service provider for the Mtentu sites as it provides an update on the forest plants in the northern holding area.</p>	SLR
9.3	<p>Mr De Villiers (DEDEAT) said the BOA seems to be making good progress in terms of achieving the 30 000 ha to be set aside for conservation purposes. He said that there should be no compromise on reaching this target even if it means accommodating things like cattle grazing to obtain support for the protection of these areas.</p> <p>Mr Nombembe said that one of the conditions that must be met for the negotiations to proceed is that grazing must be allowed. The protected area categories which have less restrictions on grazing are mostly found in the protected environment category which is still a protected area. The grazing will be managed in terms of the range land management strategy. The only concern is that the negotiations need to move a lot faster because of the land invasions which are increasing and had it not been for Covid-19 the progress would have been much faster. He recommended that before the next EMC meeting the BOA team should meet with DEDEAT's Compliance Office to discuss any issues so that these can be reported on in the EMC meeting. He said the BOA team and DEDEAT will need to work closely together and support each other going forwards to achieve the desired outcomes for the BOA.</p> <p>Mr Drew said that, as was requested in previous meetings, it is important for anybody working on the N2WCTH or any members of the ACC and EMC who see any land invasions or new structures being built to report this immediately as action has to be taken quickly in such situations otherwise they soon become permanent problems.</p>	ECPTA / DEDEAT
9.4	<p>Mr De Villiers said that the 75 ha of eucalyptus plantation on the Tracor land adjacent to Mkambathi was planted on pristine grasslands. A pre-compliance notice was issued and meetings were held with the Mkambathi Land Trust, SAPPI and the people who planted the trees. The Mkambathi Land Trust agreed to make 150 ha of grassland available for conservation in place of the 75 ha used for the plantation. The pre-compliance notice required them to make written representation within 10 days on whether they would make good the 75 ha used for the plantation or set aside 150 ha of grassland for conservation. The deadline has just passed and he will report on this matter at the next meeting.</p>	DEDEAT
9.5	<p>Mr Gabula (DEDEAT) said that ECPTA should liaise with the municipalities on the Protected Areas Expansion Programme because protected areas are land development projects in terms of SPLUMA. Ingquza Hill Municipality is currently preparing its SDF and the protected areas can be integrated into the SDF and ECPTA can also go to the SPLUMA tribunal for the land use management scheme. This will strengthen the legal status of the protected areas.</p>	ECPTA
9.6	<p>Mr McLachlan said that in the ECPTA presentation there was mention of using a voter marshall approach to get around the problem of holding large community meetings during Covid-19. He asked for more information on this as it could be something that SANRAL could use to address the same problem.</p> <p>Mr Nombembe said that the voter marshall approach means going from door to door to get the consent of community members to the change in land use from communal land to a protected area in terms of the land rights holders resolution required by DALRRD. He said this approach has been proposed to DALRRD but has not yet been used as approval to use this approach is still pending.</p> <p>Dr Shwababa (DALRRD) said he was not aware of this proposal but he would follow up internally to try and get a speedy response for ECPTA.</p>	DALRRD

9.7	<p>Mr Drew said that in the ECPTA presentation mention was made of a potential snake park in the Mbotyi area and he suggested that this could be combined with a butterfly enclosure as there are a number of butterfly species which are endemic to the Ntsubane Forest.</p> <p>Mr Nombembe welcomed the suggestion and said like all proposals it would have to be subjected to a cost benefit and sustainability analysis. He requested all members of the EMC to make suggestions for any potential tourist attractions which could provide a unique experience for tourists visiting the area.</p>	
<p>10.</p> <p>10.1</p>	<p><u>WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE</u></p> <p>Mr Drew said that the date for the next meeting will be on 18 November and the Microsoft Teams meeting invitation would be sent out two weeks before the meeting. He then thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting.</p>	NMA

N2 WILD COAST TOLL HIGHWAY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING NUMBER 15

Date: 19 August 2020
Time: 10h30
Venue: Online Microsoft Teams Meeting

 Julian Drew joined the meeting.

 Julian Drew renamed the meeting to N2 Wild Coast Toll Highway - Environmental Monitoring Committee Meeting.

August 19, 2020

 Meeting started 8/19 10:12 AM

 Daniel How (Guest) joined the meeting.

 Sizakele Gabula joined the meeting.

 GP Kriel (Guest) joined the meeting.

 Henry du Preez joined the meeting.

 mossie joined the meeting.

 Tsepo Lepono joined the meeting.

 Fuad Fredericks joined the meeting.

 GP Kriel (Guest) left the conversation.

 John MCCALL joined the meeting.

 Dr Danie Smi (Guest) joined the meeting.

 Nyiko Nkosi joined the meeting.

 siviwe.shwababa joined the meeting.

 GP Kriel (Guest) joined the meeting.

 Johan Viljoen joined the meeting.

 Mpati Makoa (HO) joined the meeting.

 Nenekazi Songxaba (SR) joined the meeting.

 Nomama Mei joined the meeting.

 Vuyani Mapiya joined the meeting.

 Malusi (Guest) joined the meeting.

 Sello Mokhanya joined the meeting.

 Roger PURCHASE joined the meeting.

 Nomi Muthialu joined the meeting.

 Nqabisa Gwentshe (Guest) joined the meeting.

 Mogole Mphahlele (HO) joined the meeting.

 Nosisa Ndaba joined the meeting.

 Craig McLachlan joined the meeting.

 Margie Pretorius joined the meeting.

 Sakhiwo Nombembe joined the meeting.

 Unknown User joined the meeting.

 Craig McLachlan (SR) joined the meeting.

 Craig McLachlan left the conversation.

 Div DeVilliers joined the meeting.

 Sithembiso Israel Ndlovu joined the meeting.

 Malusi (Guest) left the conversation.

 Malusi (Guest) joined the meeting.

 Portia (Guest) joined the meeting.

 phila (Guest) joined the meeting.

 Thembakazi Tshetu joined the meeting.

 mossie left the conversation.

 mossie joined the meeting.

 Vuyani Mapiya left the conversation.

 Vuyani Mapiya joined the meeting.

 tsepo joined the meeting.

 GP Kriel joined the meeting.

 GP Kriel left the conversation.

 Izak (Guest) joined the meeting.