

DUCT AGM



20 NOVEMBER 2019

18:00

Natal Canoe Club,
Campsdrift

Meeting called by: Faye Bronwell

Type of meeting: Annual General Meeting

Attendees: See list attached

Apologies: Lisl Everton and Larette Schultz

Minutes

Agenda item: Chairman's Address

Presenter: Dave Still

Our Mission

To champion the Msunduzi and uMngeni rivers.

Our Focus Areas

- Solid waste
- Faecal waste
- Industrial pollution
- Invasive alien vegetation
- Soil erosion
- Regulation of sand mining
- Neglect of minimum flows below dams

The Chairman reconfirmed the DUCT Mission and the 8 core focus areas.

He likened DUCT's modus operandi to the characteristics of the following four animals:

Bee - we cross-pollinate ideas and information between organisations

Mule - we stubbornly insist that government fulfils its constitutional and legal obligations with regard to the environment

Owl - we provide ready access to a network of some of the best river health and environmental scientists in South Africa

Guinea-pig - we are willing to try out new ideas in the field rather than just talk endlessly about what should be done.

Staff changes in 2019:

Welcome to:

- Belinda Putterill
- Larette Schultz
- Tembeka Dambuza

- Groen Sebenza Interns
- Lisl Everton

Farewell to:

- Belinda Putterill
- Larette Schultz (Re-joined DUCT)

Groen Sebenza Interns

- Nompumelelo Bhengu
- Phindile Gordon
- Zanele Makhaya
- Luyanda Msane
- Mfundo Myende
- Nolwazi Ndimande
- Asande Ngcamu
- Nomathemba Ntshangase
- Nkosi Sithole
- Mongezi Sosibo
- Gugulethu Tshabalala
- Portia Vilakazi
- Menzi Zondi
- Chikatizhyo Zulu

2019 Highlights:

- New projects getting under way
- Continued dissatisfaction of DUCT income streams – prospect of non-governmental income
- Continued recognition of DUCT's work and potential
- Positive development with regards to long term sustainability of catchment management work

2019 Low-Lights

- Some major project payments delayed which has strained cash flow and necessitated loans
- Water quality remains poor – Msunduzi capacity sewer maintenance continues to deteriorate
- Road construction and building alterations

Challenges during the 2019 year

- DUCT has incurred a deficit surplus for the past 3 years
- Our assets now mostly comprise of property and moveable items – we are short of working capital, necessitating a loan.

2019/20 Challenges – remain similar to 2018

- Continue to build systems for people and project management
- Improve DUCT's finances
- Impact solid waste pollution at a strategic level
- Impact Duzi water quality
- Tackle illegal sand mining.

Agenda item: General Manager's Report

Presenter: Faye Brownell

The year of 2019 has been a very busy one, a lot of bumps along were felt due to cash flow being one of the major troublesome area aiding in negating the work DUCT does.

DUCT is focused on implementation. We focus on a range of ecological infrastructure interventions that include:

- alien plant eradication throughout the whole catchment
- Community based water management
- Education
- Advocacy
- Dealing with solid waste and sewer surcharges

General Comments

- There have been simple interventions like storm water socks, and trash booms put in place.
- More than 300 EPWP workers have been employed.
- Have noted a lack of monitoring and evaluation in projects – the absence of tracking successes, and shortfalls. Systems have been put in place and will be headed by Larette.
- Growth in numbers in terms of office staff, from thirteen to thirty.

The DUCT role in the catchment

- Action on the ground
- Community engagement
- Partnering with government to help fulfil mandate
- Building river health ambassadors by providing basic employment alongside education
- Highlighting both the dire straits we are in, as well as the successes that are being realised

Projects

A brief timeline of the project delays was detailed as below:

- Umgeni Water a 5-year project was slightly delayed, and only started in April as opposed to February. The WRC project began on time in April 2018.

- The DEA LUI and Capacity Building projects did not begin as planned in April, after months of delays and communication issues with Head Office in Cape Town, the DEA Alien Clearing project finally began at the end of September.
- The DEA Capacity Building Project, is still delayed due to AG queries at a national level.
- The Msunduzi Sewer Monitoring phase 1 ended in June, and should have moved into phase 2 in July. However, delays with Council resolution have resulted in DUCT only signing the contract in the first week of December and therefore will really only be able to start in January 2019

DEA Alien Clearing

- 17 x Supervisors/contractors
- 22 x Brushcutter/ Chainsaw operators
- 22 x First aiders & Health and Safety Reps
- 126 x Herbicide applicators
- On the ground for two months, 10 teams of 11
- The aim for year 1 is to clear nearly 4000 ha

Umgeni Water Darvill

This five-year project started in April 2018, employing 10 youth and aims to equip them with knowledge and skills to help them establish their own small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMME).

Achievements

Despite the high employee turnover, the Darvill EnviroChamps have managed to restore 1.8 km of the riparian including both initial and follow ups.

WRC – Knowledge Sharing

This five-year project aims on improving water security by integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into planning, finance and development in the water sector.

Achievements

Task 1

- Gathered documents relating to finance and investment in ecological infrastructure

Task 2

- MAP & TRACK: Developing a stakeholder database and tracking tool that outlines the project related role-players, their relationship to the project.

Scope

To develop and capacity incentives for mainstreaming ecological infrastructure value into national, regional and local development policy and finance, with application demonstrated in two water catchments.

Msunduzi Sewer Monitoring

To reduce sewerage leakages and surcharges into the Msunduzi river system within national environmental legal compliance requirements, as well as to contribute towards community and river health and an enabling environment for local economic development, open space management and healthy outdoor activity within the Msunduzi Municipality.

Achievements

Provided a public awareness and educational programme to change behaviours amongst the public that contributes towards sewerage blockages and to secure community support for the monitoring and reporting of leaking, blocked and surcharging sewer system.

Scope

Reduce sewage/water leakage and surcharge, as well as solid waste and other forms of pollution that are entering the Msunduzi River system.

Way Forward

- Sustainability
- Broadening our funding stream, coming up with ways and means which will ensure that funding is secured and received on the agreed upon time period.
- Improving our message towards the catchments
- Continue to work on partnerships with various entities
- Work deeper into communities to understand, educate and empower from within

Agenda item: Presentation of Financials

Presenter: Gill Graff

INCOME STATEMENT

| | <u>Feb-18</u> | <u>Feb-19</u> | <u>Sep-19</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| • Project Income | 14.057.199 | 11.216.936 | 7.670.158 |
| • Other Income | 703.213 | 676.520 | 227.142 |
| • TOTAL INCOME | 14.763.412 | 11.893.456 | 7.947.300 |

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| • Project Expenses | 9.738.194 | 7.931.081 | 4.752.320 |
| • Operating Expenses | 5.135.756 | 4.130.550 | 3.018.851 |
| • TOTAL EXPENSES | 14.873.950 | 12.061.631 | 7.771.172 |
| NET PROFIT / LOSS | (113.538) | (168.175) | 176.128 |

BALANCE SHEET

| | <u>Feb-18</u> | <u>Feb-19</u> | <u>Sep-19</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| • Fixed Assets | 2.434.541 | 2.437.167 | 2.624.622 |
| <u>Current Assets</u> | | | |
| • Cash on hand | 2.854.151 | 1.256.209 | 1.820.116 |
| • Accounts Receivable | 602.132 | 1.487.975 | 1.758.460 |
| • Loans to Projects | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| • <u>Inventory</u> | <u>49.535</u> | <u>25.682</u> | <u>12.182</u> |
| | 3.505.818 | 2.773.866 | 3.590.757 |
| | <u>5.940.359</u> | <u>5.211.033</u> | <u>6.125.379</u> |
| <u>Non-current Liabilities</u> | | | |
| • Bond – 240 West Street | 1.235.924 | 1.163.024 | 1.117.051 |
| • <u>Directors Loans</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>1.226.684</u> |
| | 1.235.924 | 1.163.024 | 2.343.735 |
| <u>Current Liabilities</u> | | | |
| • Accounts Payable | 657.875 | 987.728 | 271.367 |
| • Project Funding (Funds in Advance) | 2.246.198 | 1.398.271 | 1.544.991 |
| • <u>Provisions</u> | <u>347.839</u> | <u>377.661</u> | <u>516.177</u> |
| | 3.251.912 | 2.763.661 | 2.332.535 |
| • Retained Income | 1.452.523 | 1.284.348 | 1.539.109 |
| | <u>5.940.359</u> | <u>5.211.033</u> | <u>6.215.379</u> |

CURRENT RATIO

| | <u>Feb-18</u> | <u>Feb-19</u> | <u>Sep-19</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| • Current Assets | 3.505.818 | 2.773.866 | 3.590.757 |
| • Current Liabilities | 3.251.912 | 2.763.661 | 2.332.535 |

- **Current Assets vs Liabilities** **107.81%** **100.37%** **153.94%**

Agenda item: Introduction of Guest Speaker

Presenter: Faye Brownell

Claire Janisch is the founding director of BiomimcrySA. She spends most of her time exploring nature through various ecosystems and shares this new way of viewing and valuing nature through various mediums such as biomimicry expeditions, coaching and teaching and training professionals, scholars and students. She also does research for various companies and organisations, translating nature's innovation and sustainability principles for the design of new processes, systems and products. She also obtains a MSc in Chem-Engineering in Industrial Ecology and was selected in the Mail & Guardian 200 young South Africans for three consecutive years (2009-2011) and was a finalist for the Most Influential Women in Business & Government Awards in 2012.

Agenda item: Biomimicry

Presenter: Claire Janisch

Biomimicry is the process of learning from nature to conjure up new and creative ways to go about life. Emulating Nature is the core focus of Biomimicry, this includes extensive research and comparing documented findings with the every day practices of mankind. A core focus of Biomimicry is to copy ideas from nature and see how and where they can be allocated and used on a daily basis, e.g.

- Sharks – The sharks have very coarse skin which is naturally free of pathogens or any bacteria, this has been seen a solution to the medical industry to keep Health Facilities clean and naturally disinfected
- Spiders – spiders weave very interesting patterns with their webs which can support the weight objects/prey which is of a greater scale than the web itself. Architects have adopted this in their construction practices to ensure that their building have strong structural stability.

The evolution has been steady and over the past years, a great has been experienced with credits given to the introduction of Biomimicry. Post time inventions were massive and use up large spaces and now thanks to Biomimicry they've gotten smaller and more practical and they fully serve the purpose which they were meant to serve effectively. With Biomimicry being a thriving economy, it is predicted that in the near future none of the top world's business will be profitable, this is justified with regards to biomimicry practices being an environmentally friendly alternative to modern technology and other practises.

Agenda item: Chairman's Award and Closure

Presenter: Dave Still

The 2019 chairman's award went to Tembeka Dambuza, the line manager of the Groen Sebenza project. She made her presence to be felt in DUCT as she has brought a lot significant changes which have proven to be very beneficial to DUCT whilst keeping 14 young and curious mind in check. Dave thanked Tembeka for her dedication and tenacity in always ensuring the best outcome for all the interns and DUCT staff.

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Mark Graham | Sanele Vilakazi | Sbongiseni Ngubo | Nkululeko Ngcobo |
| Ntobeko Makhanya | Sandra de Kramer | Liz Taylor | Heather Cubbins |
| Sibusiso Ntinga | Len de Kramer | Jim Taylor | Malcom Byrez |
| Bart Fokkens | Sithembiso Sangweni | Kirsten Oliver | Doug Burden |
| Colin Everson | Nomathemba Ntshangase | Claire Janisch | Simphiwe Sibiya |
| Louise Graham | Hlengiwe Nxele | Wendy Ngcobo | Graham Poole |
| Zanele Makhaya | Mlondi Mpungose | Chikatizhyo Zulu | Bruce Braxton |
| Gugulethu Makhaya | Nompumelelo Bhengu | Bruno Collen | Hugh Raw |
| Pearl Shongwe | Zakhele Mdunge | Lethu Mahlaba | Thandiwe Mhlongo |
| Thokozile Ndlovu | Thabo Ntinga | Easterboy Mkhize | Alfred Zuma |
| Nick Swan | Ryan O'Connor | Sabelo Gwala | Ayanda Khambule |
| Gill Graff | Riaz Jogiat | Almoz Jogiat | Nkosi Sithole |
| Theo Naidoo | Tembeka Dambuza | Kim Woodburn | Pearl Gola |
| Mongezi Zondi | Jane Bain | | |

APOLOGIES

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Lisl Everton | Larette Schultz |
|--------------|-----------------|