



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on  
Wednesday 13th December 2017  
in the DUCT Offices at 240 West Street

### 1. Attendance and Apologies

See attached list.

### 2. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman, Dave Still welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Minutes of the 2016 AGM were distributed and proposed for adoption by Dave Still and seconded by Trevor Gorven.

### 3. Chairman's Report – David Still

The Chairman recapped that DUCT was started in 2006 to champion the Health of the Dusi and Umgeni Rivers and the 8 core focus areas have remained unchanged.

#### Staff changes in 2017:

We said farewell to Doug Burden who retired after 6 years of dedicated service to DUCT.

Coral Gold resigned and we welcomed Gill Graaf who stepped to the Finance Manager position on a temporary basis.

#### 2017 Highlights:

- The purchase of 240 West Street – although we depleted our cash reserves and borrowed from the bank, we will be paying less on the bond than we would have on rental of premises.
- 2017 World Marathon Champs – DUCT teams working upstream of Camps Drift made a huge contribution to solid waste removal and the water quality. It was noted that the water quality in Camps Drift was the best it has been for 10 years!
- Umgeni Water partnering with DUCT in the adoption of the Darvil loop – approximately 7 km of river.

#### 2017 Low-Lights

- Sewage pollution continues to increase – particularly in Pietermaritzburg
- Inanda Dam filling with green algae
- Sand mining and soil erosion continues to escalate
- Illegal dumping and ongoing war against trash

#### Challenges during the 2017 year

- Our turnover and income are down due to the final transition of Durban Green Corridor to an independent entity

- Our assets now mostly comprise the property and moveable items – we are short of working capital

#### 2018 Challenges – remain much the same as in 2017

- Impact solid waste pollution at a strategic level
- Impact Duzi Water Quality
- Diversification of funding
- Tackle illegal sand mining

4. A short film on DUCT's involvement in various areas was shown by Duzi Productions.

### 5. DUCT STAFF REPORTS

**RIVER CARE TEAMS** report by Sithembiso Sangweni, Operations Manager.

The River Care teams continued to work with dedication towards achieving DUCT's objectives.

Alien Invasive Plants, both aquatic and terrestrial, and solid waste pollution removal is a major focus of the teams. The DEA programme is on track to meet its targets by the close of the programme next year. Five Water Weeds Teams joined DUCT in September. The removal of Alien Invasive Plants and the introduction of indigenous plants is on-going.

For the first time we have seen *Azolla* in the Duzi and *Sagittaria* in both rivers.

Illegal sandmining continues with very little action taken by the authorities.

We await adjudication of our application to DEA for funding in 2018 where high priority areas have been identified.

**MSUNDUZI SEWER LINE** report by Sanele Vilakazi, Project Manager.

The project started three and a half years ago with targets of clearing access along 150k of sewer lines, monitoring the more than 40 000 manholes in Pietermaritzburg area and develop a mapping system to integrate with Msunduzi Municipality.

The teams have cleared, to date, 185km of bulk sewer lines and have developed and maintained the mapping and reporting technology.

Education of the communities as to the causes of the blockages is ongoing.

The clearing of the sewer lines and interaction and awareness brought to the communities has had an additional social benefit in some areas where the crime rate has dropped.

**EDUCATION** report by Wendy Ngcobo, Senior Education Officer.

DUCT visits 42 Schools in the greater Pietermaritzburg area where Eco-Clubs have been formed. The Eco-Clubs teach the children the value of the environment and clean water and how to contribute towards it. 180 children attended leadership camps where activities focussed on Sanitation Education.

4 DUCT Eco-Club schools were evaluated by Dept of Health and were awarded the status of Health Promoting Schools.

DUCT had a very successful display at the Garden Show where we gained a Gold Award.

**MSUNDUZI RIVER HEALTH YOUTH SITUATED LEARNING PROJECT:**

Two students, Portia Vilakazi and Themelihle Ndlela reported on their vocational pathway through the project. Both found their projects challenging but rewarding as they are now seeing the results of their time and effort. Some of their activities included re-cycling and permaculture.

**UMDM SAVE MIDMAR PROJECT** report by Liz Taylor, Project Manager.

This project is based in Mpomphomeni and Howick and the main objective is to reduce the pollution flowing into Midmar Dam. 20 EnviroChamps started in the second phase of the project in September 2017.

The EnviroChamps engage in door to door visits within the communities, assist with fixing of water leaks (316 leaks repaired with an estimated saving of 10 million litres of water), hold Saturday Youth Clubs and attend various meetings. The team is developing skills in data collection and reporting and record keeping.

**6. Treasurer's Report – Trevor Gorven**

Trever thanked Colenbranders for their auditing services and advised that we received a qualified report in as much that they are unable to verify donations received as they are not present when they are received or present when the inventory is taken (this wording is standard for any NPO audit). We have received a Management letter recommending some changes to our control systems to reduce risk and these will be complied with.

It was proposed by Dave Still that Colenbranders continue as our Auditors and seconded by Mark Graham.

Income was down last year due to DGC now being fully operational without DUCT's assistance – this was a project initially launched by DUCT. For the first time in our history, we had an overall loss of R66 814.00. We understand the reasons for this and will be keeping a tight control of the finances going forward.

Our working capital has been reduced due to the purchase of the fixed property which is giving us a new beginning. We are however paying less towards the bond than we would have had to pay for rental of other premises. Deferred liabilities reflected in the financial statements are mostly project funds paid in advance for work not yet done and these funds are held in trust pending completion of the project.

General income is made up of donations, events such as Duzi Charity Batch, Midmar Mile, Dusi2C and KwaZulu Natal Canoe Union levies collected from paddlers. Trevor requested John Oliver to pass on our gratitude to KNCU for their continued support. Many other donations of time, effort and expertise were received and our sincere thanks go to those people for their support.

Our Section 18A status has been re-instated and all and any donations are most welcome!

Gill Graaf stepped into the Financial Manager position and has tightened up on the accounting and procedures.

Trevor thanked all staff, both in the office and in the field, for their commitment to DUCT during the year.

Acceptance of the Financial Statements for the year ended 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 was proposed by Mark Graham and seconded by Trevor Gorven.

**7. Election of Directors for 2017 -2020 term of Office**

Graham Jewitt accepted the nomination as a Director.

**8. Introduction of Speaker**

Mark Graham introduced Graham Jewitt with whom he had worked many years ago at Umgeni Water. Graham grew up in Pietermaritzburg and is now a Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. It is interesting to note that 80% of Graham's Masters' and PHD students grew up in the Umngeni Catchment.

**9. Guest Speaker – Professor Graham Jewitt**

Professor Jewitt gave an interesting and detailed presentation which discussed the “unit value of water”, which is something he has done a good deal of research into. His findings indicate that the cost of increasing catchment yield through eradication of invasive alien vegetation is more than economical augmentation schemes such as Spring Grove Dam, but less than expensive schemes such as the Umkomaas dams which are to be built in the future. The tariff charged by Water Affairs to water users is far too low to pay for any meaningful catchment rehabilitation work and this is something which needs to be addressed in the long term if we are to be able to rehabilitate and conserve our catchments.

**10. Chairman's Award and Closure**

The Chairman's award went to Sanele Vilakazi for his passionate approach to environmental issues and his hard work. We congratulate him on his dedication.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

**2017 AGM ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

Ayanda Lepheana	Graham Jewitt	Mark Graham	Sandile Ndawonde
Alfred Zuma	Hlengiwe Nxele	Nomathemba Ntshangase	Sandra de Kramer
Bart Fokkens	Hugh Raw	Pandora Long	Sanele Vilakazi
Colin Everson	Jane Bain	Easterboy Mkhize	Sibusiso Ntinga
Cyprian Ntuli	Jim Taylor	Leroy Nxumalo	Sphiwe Mazibuko
Dave Still	John Oliver	Mandla Buthelezi	Sibusiso Ntinga
Doug Burden	Kirsten Oliver	Luvuno Thandani	Slindle Radebe
Gill Graaff	Lee D'Eathe	Mlondi Mpungose	Sphamandla Dlamini
Gordon Borain	Ian Bailey	Fresh Ngubo	Sithembiso Sangweni
Doug Burden	Lethu Mahlaba	Ndumiso Mvikathi	Slindile Maduna
Dennis Mncwabe	Liz Taylor	Pat Reddy	Sue Walker
Portia Vilakazi	Malcolm Byres	Peter Peacock	Trevor Gorven
Thembelihle Ndlela	Mark Dent	Phakamani Dlamini	Wendy Ngcobo
			Zakhele Mdunge

<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
Bruce Baxter	Judy Bell
Bruno Cullen	Matthew Black
Caroline Clover	Maria and Steve Collins
Dale Johnson	Melanie Veness
Di Doveton	Merrill King
Duncan Hay	Mike Farley
Fiona MacCrimmon	Nikki Brighton
Hayden Hutton	Ed Gevers
John Butler	Richard Clacey