

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

**PROPOSED REMOVAL OF SOUTHBROOM TIDAL POOL-
SOUTHBROOM, HIBISCUS COAST LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

**HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 03 MARCH 2010
@ 16H00**

**AT
RIPTIDE RESTAURANT, SOUTHBROOM**

ENQUIRIES

Basic Assessment & Public Participation Process:

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MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 03 MARCH 2010
VENUE: RIPTIDE RESTAURANT SOUTHBROOM
@ 15H30

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

Attendees: Refer to Attendance Register in Appendix A.

Apologies: John Eaves and Richard Derman

Amanda Fritz-Whyte, from SSI-Environmental welcomed everyone at the meeting, requested that the attendance register be completed and that everyone avail themselves to a hard copy of the Background Information Document (BID), which have been provided to assist with orientation of the proposed project.

Amanda Fritz-Whyte, from SSI-Environmental presented the agenda of the meeting, SSI-Environmental's involvement in the project, and asked anyone to raise any questions that they might have after the presentation, during the discussion session.

She then put forward the purpose of the meeting where she highlighted the background of the project and provided an overview of the project.

2. THE PRESENTATIONS

Amanda Fritz-Whyte, from SSI-Environmental provided a brief presentation on the proposed project and the basic assessment process being followed (refer to presentation for details).

Amanda Fritz-Whyte, from SSI-Environmental explained the environmental aspects of the presentation and explained the environmental overview of the proposed project. She explained as to why environmental studies are required for the proposed project.

She elaborated on the studies that have been conducted for the project i.e. Social Impact Assessment Studies, Marine Ecological Study and Engineering study which have been undertaken by qualified specialists.

She explained what public participation is and how the process will be facilitated.

She explained how a Basic Assessment Process is conducted and what the way forward for the project will be. She elaborated on the Public Participation process, what the process involves and what are the timeframes for the process. She also indicated that for any further information everyone could contact herself on the provided contact details.

3. DISCUSSION SESSION

Following the presentations, the discussion session was opened and everyone was invited to participate to ensure that maximum benefit is derived from the meeting.

The issues raised have been grouped for ease of reference in the table below:

Table: Discussion issues:

Issue Raised	Response
<p>Joy Crutchfield, from Rate Payers Associate stated that approximately four years ago a tender was awarded for the demolition and rehabilitation of the Southbroom Tidal Pool and the amount awarded for the tender was in the region of R800 000.</p>	<p>Amanda Fritz-Whyte from SSI Environmental responded that it will be queried with HCM.</p>
<p>Mr. Meyer, Resident of Southbroom stated that the people gathered at the meeting were not a true reflection of the Interested and Affected Parties. A large quantity of people who do not want to see the tidal pool removed are in Johannesburg or overseas, or playing golf.</p>	<p>Amanda Fritz-Whyte from SSI Environmental responded that the golf players submitted a comment sheet which will be included in the BAR.</p>
<p>Douglas Campbell, Resident of Southbroom stated that the social study which was conducted by the appointed specialist was not of a high standard. He is a resident and was not approached to take part in the study and moreover, he knows of no other residents which were involved.</p>	<p>Amanda Fritz-Whyte from SSI Environmental responded that the methodology will be queried with the Social Consultant.</p>
<p>Pam Quarby Resident of Southbroom wanted it recorded that in her opinion the pool acts as a buffer between the beach and high tides and rough oceans. If the pool is removed there will be high levels of erosion of the southern bank. Also, many parents bring their children down to the tidal pool to swim and fish where it is safe and they can watch their children. If the pool is removed the parents will not be able to entertain their children safely at Southbroom Main beach and the whole dynamic of this family orientated beach will change.</p>	<p>Amanda Fritz-Whyte from SSI Environmental thanked Pam for her comments.</p>

<p>Bob Curran, Resident of Southbroom and also, involved in Marine construction, stated that the safe reconstruction of the pool will require the contractors to reach bedrock, as some areas of the pool are currently built on sand. To reach the bedrock will require large amounts of labour and skills, resulting in an exceptionally expensive project. He stated that the state would rather spend this money in areas where it is of a higher priority such as roads and schools.</p>	<p>Amanda Fritz-Whyte from SSI Environmental thanked Bob for his comments.</p>
<p>David Hadday from Southbroom Conservancy indicated that he has spoken to many people and it was unanimously agreed that if an application to build a tidal pool was made in its current location in modern times, it would simply be laughed at. The pool is in an undeniably inappropriate position and with modern legislation it would not be allowed as the location and ecological impact are largely negative.</p>	<p>Amanda Fritz-Whyte from SSI Environmental thanked David for his comments.</p>
<p>Janet Meyer, Resident of Southbroom, indicated that she wanted to know what facilities will replace the tidal pool if it is removed. Without the tidal pool, families with children will no longer be able to enjoy the beach as it is the main attraction. Children and the elderly will not be able to swim and so the ocean will become inaccessible. Therefore, once the pool is removed, what will be left to attract holiday makers and residents to Southbroom Main Beach?</p>	<p>Joy Crutchfield from Rate Payers Associates stated that the beach will be exactly as it is minus the pool – the restaurant, beach and rocks will remain. She stated that she cannot predict what the natural changes to the beach might be and that's why we should leave it in the hands of the experts.</p>

<p>Janet Meyer, Resident of Southbroom, wanted to know the qualifications of the appointed specialists and whether they are the 'right people for the job'.</p>	<p>Amanda Fritz-Whyte from SSI Environmental responded that SSI has been involved in the storm damage and tidal surge rehabilitation projects throughout the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast and have gained hands-on experience dealing with these matters. Facilitation of the Public Participation Process is handled according to NEMA regulations and everything is on par with prescribed standards. The coastal study was conducted by Mr. Louis Celliers who holds a doctorate in coastal management and Mr. Andrew Mather who have both proved their abilities through their on-going and highly respected works.</p>
<p>Piet Gouws, Resident of Southbroom Wanted to know if money had already been allocated for the project or if it will come out of future budgets.</p>	<p>Amanda Fritz-Whyte from SSI Environmental responded that at this time she has been informed that money has been allocated. As no final decisions have been made the cost can only be put down to estimates. Currently the estimates for the project are between R300 000 and R500 000 depending on whether demolition or rehabilitation will be done.</p>

4. THE WAY FORWARD

The way forward was agreed, namely:

- Compile minutes and incorporate comments into the draft Basic Assessment Report;
- Submit the final Basic Assessment Report to the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Rural development (DAEA&RD) after completion of the public comment period;
- Notify all the I&APs of the decision taken by the (DAEA&RD).

5. CLOSURE

Amanda Fritz-Whyte from SSI-Environmental thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions. The meeting was concluded at 17H00.

APPENDIX A
ATTENDANCE RECORD

APPENDIX B
PRESENTATION