



Minutes Workshop Kromme Catchment “towards a Living Landscape”.

PRESENCE learning Village, Kouga dam Patensie

Thursday 24th November 2011

Attendees:

Alanna Rebelo, Msc Student -Kromme
Katie Gull, Msc Student -Kromme
Japie Buckle, WfW/SANBI
Rob Markum, Langkloof Eden to Addo
Joan Berning, CEO Eden to Addo
Kgalgezo Shaduwa, ECPTA Reserve manager
Formosa Reserve
Teunis Ruiters, GIB Project manager Wf water
Mpumie Pets, Forester at Churchill dam

Eric Roux, Supt Churchill Dam
Shannon Parkers, Water engineer PE
Aad Wubben, Director of Aqua Terra Nova
Michiel Pols, Water and ecology Aqua Terra nova
Bart van Eck, Consultant
Marijn Zwinkels, Process manager Living Lands
Dieter van den Broeck, co-Director Living Lands
Victoria Wilman, Working on Land, GIB
Lisa Nooij, PRESENCE student (minitus)

Apologies:

Sam van der Merwe Extension officer
department of Agriculture
Richard Cowling NMMU
Tracy Steyn ECPTA
Edwill Moore GIB

Pierre Joubert GIB
Michel Kawa Department Environmental
affairs
Michiel Hartz Kou-Kamma Municipality
Andrew Knight SUN

Agenda

1. Opening (Marijn Zwinkels)
2. Introduction round
3. Explanation PRESENCE
4. Presentation WfW/SANBI by Japie Buckle
5. Presentation Alanna Rebelo
6. Presentation Katie Gull
7. Presentation Eden to Addo by Rob Markum
8. Presentation Aqua Terra nova by Michiel Pols and Aad Wubben
9. Problem, cause and effect tree by Bart van Eck

9:30 start

1. Marijn Zwinkels starts at 10am with an introduction of the workshop and shows a movie of John Liu in de Baviaanskloof.
2. An Introduction round follows, according to the points; Who are you and from which organization? What is your connection to the Kromme? What is your goal on this workshop?
3. Marijn explains what the PRESENCE network is. He hopes that everybody attending the workshop sees him- or herself as part of the network. In the final slide of his presentation, he states that communication/understanding between experts and landowners is crucial in a landscape process and one of the aims of this workshop project.
4. The first presentation is given by Japie Buckle. He recommends a book to everyone, named; WET-Outcome Evaluate, 'An evaluation of the rehabilitation outcomes at six wetland sites in SA'. It can be downloaded on the WRC site.
Japie Buckle describes the history, the problems in the Kromme, like alien invasion and head cuts. Followed by the work Working for Water is doing since 1996 (Alien clearing) and Working for Wetlands is implementing since 2000: such as gabions and weirs. In this last part the advantages of Palmiet (*Prionium serratum*) are described. Japie Buckle: 'Palmiet should be the Spekboom of the Kromme'. He also states very clearly, that the nature of the erosion is not natural, but caused by anthropogenic impacts, the greatest being roads and invasion of Black Wattle.

Coffee break.

5. Alanna Rebelo describes that Katie Gull and herself had been conducting interviews with the farmers

in the Kromme River catchment.

Out of the results, she shows two remarkable examples: All farmers acknowledged that Black Wattle had overwhelmingly negative impacts. Over 60% of the farmers viewed wetlands in a negative light. After a preliminary study, there appears to be little communication/networking between farmers.

Discussion: Any kind of contact between the farmers, for example; a farmers association is very important.

After the general presentation Alanna presents her own research. If the wetlands really positively affect the water supply for PE.

Alanna briefly presented some of her results on the changing hydrology of the Kromme, the changes in the landscape of the Kromme with a large focus on the palmiet wetlands. Her research is still underway, new results expected in January.

Rough conclusion: The positive effects of wetland on the water supply for PE are greater than the negative.

6. The research of Katie Gull is about the economical feasibility of restoration and the economic impact of restoration in the Kromme.

Katie's thesis is also a work-in-progress. Rough conclusion: The restoration of the wetlands in the Kromme is not economically feasible for farmers. But it may be economically feasible for municipality.

7. Rob Markum coordinator Langkloof Eden to Addo, presents where Eden to Addo stands for. The organization tries to establish corridors between the different catchments and mountain ranges, for every animal, from big to small. The Kromme is a small part of the whole area they focus on. Rob Markum has contact with certain farmers in the Langkloof, about corridors on their lands.

8. Michiel Pols broadly introduces the company Aqua Terra Nova. Aad Wubben went into more detail, by presenting different projects of Aqua Terra Nova in the Netherlands. They both make comparisons between the projects in the Netherlands and this project in the Kromme.

The presentations have taken more time than expected, certain people had to leave for other appointments. Very little time was left for the interactive part of the workshop lead by Bart van Eck.

9. Bart van Eck and Dieter van den Broeck have taken several problems out of the held presentations, namely;

- Aliens
- unsustainable land management
- destruction of wetlands
- social awareness
- income

These problems are written on the whiteboard and everybody can give its input on what causes and effects this problem brings. Due to the lack of time, not all problems were discussed.

People are requested to send their plans of action by email.

An idea is raised to establish a Catchment Management Forum.

Conclusion: A lot of knowledge on the Kromme River Catchment exists amongst many different parties. Another meeting has to be arranged to exchange ideas and to determine the way forward. Attendances like the idea of a Catchment Management Forum.