



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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## **PMB Public Participation Meeting**

Simons Town Museum

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

Eric Mawhinney	Harry Croome
Yvonne Mawhinny	Ian Manning
David Erickson	Martin Kramer
Eddie Wesselo	Jonathan Sharfman
Paul Siebon	Ame Sodcruna
Roy Burnie	Heather Wares
Shawn Berry	Sophie Winton

**Date:** 26 April 2013

### **Announcements**

14:30 Opening of the Meeting by Shawn Berry

Forms handed out explaining the process of declaration and outlining the legislation pertaining to the declaration of underwater heritage sites.

Apologies: Tara Van Niekerk

## Discussion

Legal process:

- Section 27, there is a form here for all attending to sign agreeing/discareeing to the declaration of the PMB.
- The Government gazette outlining the reasons for declaration is present.
- Go to the SAHRA website for further information.
- The unit will attach the form that was signed by about 300 people at the last meeting to the submission recommending declaration.

History of the process:

- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was on the 30 July 2012.  
Those in attendance were mostly from the Naval Museum, The National Heritage Trust and the Historical Society. The resolution that was taken was to take urgent action to protect the PMB site.
- A site nomination form was sent to SAHRA in August 2012 outlining the history of the vessel and why it should be declared/protected.
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> October: a submission for provisional protection was approved by SAHRA council, therefore permission was given to provisionally protect the PMB.
- What follows now is a submission for the site to be declared a National Heritage Site. This public participation meeting is part of that process, resulting in the signing of section 27 letters.

Open the floor for general discussion: But then decided to continue with The Way Forward first:

- In explaining the next steps, need to gather documents which will give evidence to the necessity to declare the site a national heritage site.
- The submission for National declaration will include a motivation for why this site should be declared which will be taken from recommendations from this meeting.
- To this point there have been no online objections.
- Once gazetted (60 day process) the submission will go to the SAHRA council to make a decision.
- What kind of protection do you want? (This meeting must decide) E.g. Controlled access? Should there be a fee attached?

General discussion

- Participant speaker: We have no problem with recreational diving on the site but those divers mustn't take anything off the site.
- Other participants agreed with the above.

- Berry: Must access be controlled? E.g. let the police know, a permitting system, or being in a marine protected area sufficient because a permit is need for access anyway? Suggested that access be controlled by means of letting the police know. It is a way of protecting the site from illegal action as the police will know who is in the area.
- Participant speaker: Who is going to monitor the wreck?
- Berry: It is difficult to monitor because we would have to catch those performing illegal activity physically on the wreck.
- Participant speaker: I have phoned police to report people taking pieces off other sites but nothing was done. But with a permit to be protected, it will be easier to protect the site and prosecute. We can therefore take action.
- Participant speaker: What kind of fine?
- Berry: They are looking at changing the Act. There are six different levels of which all include either a fine or imprisonment, not exceeding 5 years as the maximum and no less than 3 months as a minimum.
- Participant speaker: No respect is shown for this law. E.g. The General Botha, we need to find out if it is older than 60 years.
- Participant speaker: (J. Sharfman) We can use the PMB as a case study.
- Berry: The PMB is the first case we are dealing with, it will act as a test case and as an example to apply to other wrecks.
- Participant speaker: We need to protect it as a heritage site at least.
- Berry: Once it has been granted protection, we can connect with the SAPS and SANPARKS for monitoring support. We can put in a plaque or signage.
- Participant speaker: regarding plaques, it has been suggested to the Navy to put a granite bolder on the site and engrave any information on it. But there has been no answer yet. Continued discussion around the plaques stating that money can be made available for plaques.
- Participant speaker: Protected zones (such as maritime protected areas), does it actually cover the PMB?
- Berry: The wreck will be protected because it is a heritage site.
- Berry: Publicity, call on those interested, such as recreational divers, to do policing on the ground, which will put more eyes and ears on the site.
- Participant speaker: If people want to steal, they will.
- Participant speaker: The big thing is to get it protected.
- Berry: Makes a suggestion that we don't charge fees because this will discourage recreational divers from diving on the wreck.  
All agreed to this decision, saying it will help.
- Berry: The gazette will be placed as an advertisement in the National and local newspapers.
- Participant speaker: As long as divers are aware they CAN dive on the site.
- Participant speaker: is it possible for dive shops and schools to get permits/permission as regular divers on the site?

- Participant speaker (J. Sharfman): Adopt-a-Wreck: he explains it as an initiative to make the public custodians of the wrecks.  
All agreed this was good idea.
- Naval vessels are made aware of activity in the Naval area, therefore perhaps people diving on the PMB can radio to the Navy as they are receiving radio notifications already.

**Final Decisions:**

- The signing of forms to give the go ahead for Declaration of the PMB as a National Heritage Site. ALL AGREE.
- Berry: Section 27 letters (Legal requirement) are on the website for anyone else not attending the meeting to download, fill in and send via email to the MUCH Unit at SAHRA.  
Had two public meetings with no objections.

15:00 Thanks for all of those attending and closing of the meeting.