

11/4/2024

THE TIME HAS COME TO SPRAY THE RIVER

At the public meeting it was broadcasted that there was enough funds to cover this project

HOWEVER

This is not exactly correct, we have secured the following funds as set out below:

The project requires a minimum of 3 SPRAYS to slow the intense growth down.

The cost for the spraying is as follows:

SPRAY 1

360 HA on the river to be sprayed by CROP SPRAYERS and 2 Boats (the boats will be used to spray areas where crop sprayers cannot reach and the slipways along the river up to the SUIKERBOS)

First Spray

Chemicals	R 250 746.00
Crop sprayers	R 207 000.00
Boats	<u>R 50 000.00 (excluding petrol)</u>
Total spray 1	<u>R 507 746.00</u>

Spray 2 and 3 will be fully dependent on the coverage on the river, this we can only determine once we have completed the initial spray.

For the second and 3 spray we will only be using boats or drones as this will reduce the costs.

The estimate for spray 2 and 3 is estimated to be around R 420 000 per spray.

Total estimated costing for the entire project will be in the approximately of R 1 348 000.00

We have the following funds that have been donated thus far in the amount of R 460 000.00

**NOW IS THE TIME TO HELP FUND THIS PROJECT
IF YOU WANT TO START MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO THE RIVER AND
SAVE IT FROM DISASTER**

**SEE LAST PAGE FOR THE CONTRIBUTION OPTIONS, THIS ACCOUNT IS
SOLELY FOR THE WATER LETTUCE PROJECT**

**PBO - 011015200004
NPO REG:009-380**

Committee members: Malcolm Plant - 0825662101 (Chairperson); Maureen Stewart (Vice-chairperson) – 0825705058;
Desiree du Toit - 0825589810; Johan du Toit - 0832510248; Mike Gaade – 0825686826
Chris Williams – 0715651688; Bernard Fourie 0825527030; Cindy Niblett 082808306
Kathy Manten 0836321963 (Vaal Dam)

Patron: The Hon. Justice W.L. Wepener

BRIEF FEED BACK FROM THE PUBLIC MEETING ON 6 APRIL 2024

We had a well-attended Vaal river community meeting yesterday with over 100 river residents attending.

Our guests were DWS's Chief Director Anet Muir and RW's Dr Leslie Hoy and some of their colleagues.

Summary of 2.5 hour "lively" meeting.

- The new GA (General Authorisation) will be out this coming week.
- In it, will be permission to spray a non-carcinogenic herbicide which is currently in use against hyacinth but is now labelled to be effective against water lettuce too.
- An extremely generous benefactor on the river has agreed to fund the purchase of this herbicide.
- Under RW's physical oversight, a spraying operation will commence this coming week by drone agricultural specialists, and boat. No one may spray without RW's oversight on site. As a community we have one well-equipped spraying boat which will be used and we plan to build another 2 spraying boats shortly.
- Above will be community funded by our generous benefactor and the funds which together we have all raised.
- The purpose of spraying is to put an instant stop to the aquatic weeds' exponential growth so we can win the numbers game regarding physical removal vs its growth which has overtaken our physical removal efforts.
- We might need to have up to three sprays (10 days apart) due to the thickness and several layers of the aquatic weed on top of each other.
- It will be helpful if we can still remove aquatic weed in front of each of our properties - since with a single layer of aquatic weed - the spraying will be more effective.
- Johann Beukes has most generously offered his services to do this at cost - if communities wish to achieve doing this or neighbours want to get together to help clear or reduce the thickness of aquatic weed in front of their properties.
- After 2 or 3 sets of spraying at 10 day intervals, it will make physical removal much easier and viable. We will be able to physically remove more since the aquatic weed will weigh significantly less and will diminish in size.
- This week we will hear if our Vaal river community won the R2 million tender for removal. We are very hopeful we will - since we know we can do the job the most cost effective and professional way with our months of experience in doing so - which has been self funded largely by a few people.
- There are two other budgets RW has - one for spraying and one for biological control (we do not know the amounts allocated to each of these two budgets).
- RW will be going out shortly for tender for spraying, but as per above - we will start this next week under RW's oversight on site.
- DWS has an additional amount of just over R5million which is being processed so it can be used for our Vaal barrage's fight against the aquatic weed (but we don't know how long this will take to be made available for the river)
- DWS have a new Enforcement Unit with their own officers who are policing (do not have to do it at SAP offices) and who are opening criminal cases against the municipal managers

in municipalities which are discharging untreated sewerage into tributaries that feed into the Vaal Barrage. Gloves are off - finally!

- Omnia agreed this past week to manage and take ownership of the physical removal of the aquatic weed in the Taaibos (current source of the aquatic weed in our river). They plan to start very soon.

- Medium to long term, Omnia will also use biocontrol (weevils) in the reed bed areas as a sustainable strategy.

- Omnia are also looking at rearing weevils on an industrial scale at their operations in Sasolburg.

- Omnia, RW and DWS have already budgeted more funds for 2024-2025.

- We will only succeed in winning this war if all residents are on board contributing - the authorities do not have sufficient funds and we are going to have to supplement them. We are not happy about this, but it is the simple reality.

- Whatever you spend on donating to this fund, is not even a fraction of the loss in your property's value - if we do not win this aquatic weed war. We can only win if we do it together.

- We have two entities who are collecting funds for the aquatic weed war. One is Afriforum and the other is SAVE. Both will ensure no funds are spent on admin etc... every cent is accounted for and spent on the aquatic weed death/removal and both can provide you with Article 18A certificates for tax purposes.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The road is far from at an end, so we need your continued support

SAVE THE VAAL PROJECT is reliant on donations, without it the project will fail.

Donations are tax deductible per Section 18A of the Income Tax Act.

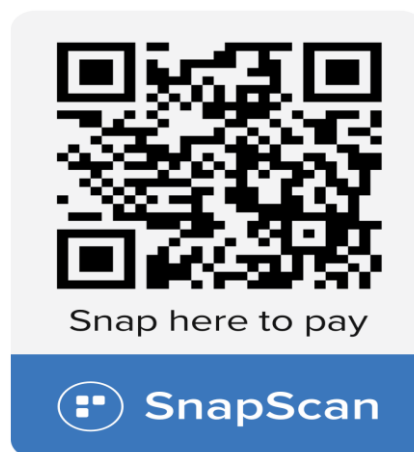
Banking Details: Save The Vaal Environment (Water Lettuce)

Bank: Standard Bank

Account number: 10219449455

Branch Code: 000205

or By SNAPSCAN CODE



NB PLEASE USE YOUR RIVER PROPERTY NO ETC AS A REFERENCE