

The LNGG Monthly

Newsletter of the Lake Naivasha Growers' Group

Inside this issue:

MOU vs. CESS	1
EIA and Audit	2
Membership changes	3
New resource centre for persons with disabilities	3
Potential CSR projects	4

Agenda

- * International Flower Expo Tokyo (IFEX '09) - Nov. 18 - 20, 2009, Makuhari Messe, Japan
- * World Aids Day - Dec 1, 2009
- * Opening of DRIC - Dec. 3, 2009, Naivasha, **employees with children with disabilities be granted leave to attend free clinic**
- * Athletics Kenya Hell's Gate Half Marathon - Dec. 5, 2009, Hell's Gate NP
- * Mayor's Christmas Tree Party - Dec. 25, 2009, Naivasha Town Hall

MOU vs. CESS - The future is bright

October 21, 2009 was the date on which the MOU between LNGG and the Municipal Council of Naivasha was finally signed and a cheque of KES 10 Million handed over. This report contains details of what has happened since then.

The road to a closer working relationship between Naivasha growers and the Municipal Council in Naivasha over service provision, transparency, and progress has finally seen the light. This is the end result of extended and cordial discussions between our Chairman, the Mayor, Town Clerk, and Town Treasurer.

In line with the terms of the MOU, MCN have provided their audited 2008 accounts and a copy of the Council's letter to their lawyers to withdraw the case on Cess. The Council has also opened a new bank account into which the money collected from the MOU is to be deposited. Although growers will not be signatories to the

Invited guests listen intently as the Town Clerk promises progress in Naivasha



By Eddy Verbeek

His Worship, The Mayor signs the MOU, with Richard Fox and the Town Clerk looking on



By Eddy Verbeek

account, the opening of a new account ensures that accounting will be managed separately from other Council funds and as agreed, 80 percent of the monies will be used towards projects which are agreed upon in a committee comprising of Councilors, executives of the Council and grower representatives. The remaining 20 percent will be used for Council expenditure.

The proposal for the first tranche of money that has been deposited in the new account is the purchase of a refuse collection truck.

This is a positive, visible project that will help promote the MOU around Naivasha as the vehicle will be branded with the message that it was bought from MOU funds. This purchase is one of the listed Local Authorities Capital Projects for 2009-2010 and will be of benefit to all residents of Naivasha.

The current representatives from the growers will include Richard Fox (Chairman, LNGG), Eddy Verbeek (Committee member, LNGG) and Samson Lukoba (Legal and Ethics Officer, Os-erian Development Company). Although this first group of representatives is from LNGG, in order to



By Eddy Verbeek

The BIG cheque is handed over!

(Continued on page 4)

EIA and Audit - *What you need to know*

At the recent AGM, members raised the question as to what one does to fulfill their NEMA annual audit requirement. Here is a short guide to how one can be compliant.

When the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) was adopted in 1999, all farms already in business were required to conduct an Initial Audit (IA) on the existing farm and any future plans for the farm, and all farms that started after 1999 were required to have an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) conducted prior to any changes being done on the land on which the farm was to be situated. This IA or EIA has to be conducted by a professional, registered Lead Auditor.

From either of these assessments, an Environment Management Plan (EMP) would have been developed to help you keep track of your environmental impacts and mitigation plans.

Each year the annual audit is meant to report on how well you have done on your mitigation plans and to assess if there are any other environmental impacts that have arisen as a result of changes in or additions to your production mechanisms.

The EMP should include all aspects of your business, that is, from procurement of inputs to delivery of product and disposal of all wastes. Each aspect requires a home-made policy that is tailored to the company and addresses how the company sees itself in respect to the environment it depends on and its responsibility towards mitigating impacts on the same. There should be a section on wildlife and habitat, and if you your farm borders riparian land (be it the lake or rivers) you should include a section on this separately as required in the LNGG Code of Practice.

For each section on which the company has a policy, you will have a list of environmental impacts resulting from your activities. These impacts can be on the soil, air, fauna, flora, as well as human beings. You can include occupational hazards and safety measures in your EMP to ensure you have covered all aspects of risk and impact.

A register of each impact, with a planned mitigation, timeline and budget will help you audit your annual progress.

Each year, your health and safety committee and environmental committee/advisor can look over this schedule, remove impacts that are now mitigated, and add those that need to be considered in the short-, medium- or long-term.

Your annual audit is simply a report on this activity that includes:

- An Introduction, containing a short history of your farm, its location, any particularities, and all activities done on the farm
- A summary of your policies (this should be brief and taken from your EMP)
- The negative impacts of your activities and how they have been mitigated over the year
- The positive impacts of your activities and how they are being fostered
- Any new impacts identified and mitigations planned

The audit report is to be sent to NEMA Headquarters in Nairobi, who request 3 bound copies and one CD. Ensure your EIA or IA reference number, given by NEMA, is clearly printed on the front page of the report.

Please remember that ALL new projects, including water abstraction points, need an EIA, unless it is included in your IA or initial EIA!

LNGG has a sample EMP and audit report and can help you develop your own EMP. We can also assist you with finding a suitable auditor to conduct your IA or EIA..

LNGG Membership - *necessary improvements*

At our recent AGM, members voted to change a few aspects of membership to LNGG.

Provisional Membership

In the current constitution of the LNGG Provisional Membership (which will be changing to Associate Membership) is similar in definition to Full Membership, except that the former has no voting rights and does not have to adhere to the Code of Practice. This locks the door on having any other support institutions, such as the financial sector, input supply sector and so on from participating in LNGG if they wish. It also means that growers within Naivasha can be provisional members, without

having to adhere to the same rules as other members. Hence, it was agreed that the clause would be changed to read associate membership and that support sectors and growers outside of Naivasha Basin could be included in our membership at a rate of KES 25, 000 per year.

They would be invited to all general meetings but would not be eligible to vote. They would also be allowed to become board members (as is in the current constitution).

Membership Rates for Vegetable Producers

LNGG has differential rates for flower and vegetable producers as a result of the differences in returns. Hence, all vegetable producers are being charged half the rate of flower producers.

Membership rates will be reduced if more growers join LNGG. Hence, this is a call to all members to bring on board more growers. It will increase our unity and reduce your subscription level!

Disability Resource and Information Centre - *Free therapy for children for one day*

“To accept what we cannot change, and change what we can!”

The DRIC Motto

Four years after LNGG and members sponsored the first United Disabled Persons of Naivasha (UDPN) Half-Marathon the resource centre for which money has since been raised annually, has finally been completed.

It is with great pleasure that we can state that the Disability Resource and Information Centre (DRIC) Naivasha is complete. With an additional KES 4.3 Million grant from the Safaricom Foundation and space from the Government, the KES 6 Million centre proudly stands complete in the compound of Naivasha District Hospital, accessible from Kenyatta Avenue.



has a child/children with disabilities be given some time off to attend this clinic, where they will learn important care and therapy tips.

The center will also hold a **Share a Smile Christmas Party** for children with cerebral palsy and rickets.

The opening ceremony will be held on December 3, 2009 at 1000h with the Retired President as chief guest.

On that day, the center will hold a **free clinic for children** and it is a **request that any employee who**

Finally, the **centre requires new/used furniture and equipment for the office, ICT and Library and children's therapy clinic.** Your donations will go a long way to helping a very large and neglected group in our region.

Corporate Social Responsibility - Opportunities in Naivasha

Following are a few of the requests that have come to LNGG Secretariat. We have spoken to the people involved and feel that these projects could have an impact on the residents of Naivasha. If you are interested in supporting any of these causes, please contact us and we will give you more details

- ◆ Athletics Kenya are holding a **Half-Marathon** at Hell's Gate National Park on December 5, 2009 to raise funds for a stadium in Naivasha. They are in need of sponsors who can participate through various options.
- ◆ **Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund**, an annual fundraiser for the less fortunate residents of Naivasha, in particular children and the elderly. Everyone is requested to donate old clothes, foodstuff, gifts and/or money. All cheques should be drawn in favour of the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund Account
- ◆ There are two proposals for **assisting Orphans and Vulnerable Children**
 - ◆ Provision of sanitary napkins and underwear to girls; support through trauma and HIV/AIDS counselors - Donations can be done through the Nominated Cllr Ester Njeri, Municipal Council of Naivasha or at the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund
 - ◆ Building of a center for orphans and vulnerable children in Karagita under Samvir Development Center which was initiated in 2007 under the auspices of the local faith-based NGO Visions Community Development Services (VICODS).
- ◆ **Water Kiosks for Karagita, Kamere, and /or Kasarani** - Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP; see *LNGG Monthly Aug 09, p3*) have already made a lot of progress and is hoping to partner with the private sector to expand the pilot project and better serve the residents of Naivasha

MOU vs. CESS

get the "ball rolling", it is hoped that representatives from non-member farms who have contributed to the MOU will participate when asked in the near future.

Finally, LNGG wishes to thank all the growers, including non members of LNGG who have participated in this MOU and in so doing, shown a responsibility towards improving Naivasha. Without your input we would not have started this initiative and we hope you will continue to support the MOU. Thank you.

NB

Land Rates

All those who are having issues with Land Rates, the Council have agreed to hold a meeting with all outstanding rate payers to agree on the way forward. LNGG will keep you updated on when this meeting will be held.



A quick word - Dave Mousley and the Town Clerk chat, with Jeremy Roffey in the background

Contributors to the MOU

Bilashaka Flowers, Blooming Oasis Ltd (including Lex +), De Ruiter E A Ltd, Florema Kenya, Goldsmith Seeds (Kentalya), Hamer Kenya Ltd (Florensis), Homegrown Kenya Ltd, Kantara Farm (Vegpro), Kenya Nut Company, Lamorna Ltd, Longonot Farm Ltd, Longonot Horticulture Ltd, Mayflower Kenya Ltd, Nini Ltd., Norflora Ltd, Ol'Njorowa Ltd, Oserian Development Co. Ltd, Panda Ltd, Plantation Plants (K) Ltd, Savanna International (Red Fox), Savanna Plants Ltd, Silze Kenya, Van den Berg (Kenya) Ltd, Vegpro Ltd (All Naivasha farms), Wildfire Flowers Ltd



Lake Naivasha
Growers' Group

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