



VDR FORUM ATTENDANCE LIST

		<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent With Apologies</i>	<i>Absent Without Apologies</i>
1. Didi Masoabi – Rand Water	DM	X		
2. Karen Chetty – Rand Water	KC	X		
3. Cebo Mhlongo – Rand Water	CM		X	
4. Freek Schoemaan – Earlybird Standerton	FS			
5. Korf Stoltz – Earlybird Standerton	KS	X		
6. Louis Makhubele – DWAF	LM	X		
7. Thabo Moloi – DWAF	TM	X		
8. Thandi Mthembu – DWAF	TMt	X		
9. Pieter Vermaak – DWAF	PV			X
10. Gideon Vosloo – Enviro Agriculture	GV	X		
11. Thys Koen– Toga Linings	TK		X	
12. Mike Ludick – Mpumalanga Agric	ML			X
13. Seppi Claassen – Lekwa Municipality	SC	X		
14. Punky Mohale – Dept Health – Lekwa Munici	PM	X		
15. Johan G van Wyk – Lekwa Municipality	JvW		X	
16. N J Kock – Lekwa Municipality Fire Brigade	JK			X
17. MD Makhatha – Lekwa Municipality Fire Brigade	MM			X
18. Letona Mohlahli – Dept Health Free State	LMo	X		X
19. Mlungisi Sithebe – Dept Health Free State	MS			X
20. Andronica Nthite – Dept Health Free State	AN			X
21. Tefelo J Mofokeng – Dept Health Free State	TJM			X
22. Ntsoaki S Mosikili – Dept Health Free State	NSM			
23. Zola Khotou – DACE Mpumalanga	ZK		X	
24. Fannie Peens – Dept Health Lekwa Municipality	FP	X		
25. Fikile Sithole – Dept of Health and Social services	FS	X		
26. Madoda Besani –Phumelela Local Municipality	MB	X		

No	Item	Action
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The chairman welcomed everyone present at the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Thys Koen (TK) – Toga Linings Johan van Wyk (JvW) – Dept Health Lekwa Municipality Cebo Mhlongo (CM) – Rand Water John Kock (JK) – Resigned from Standerton fire Brigade Tefelo Mofokeng (TM)– Dept Health Free State</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>Karen Chetty was marked as absent on the minutes for the meeting of the 21 July 2004, this was corrected. The minutes were then approved with this correction.</p>	
4.	<p>Additions to the Agenda</p> <p>The following items were added to the agenda:</p> <p>4.1 Report back on the Vrede Pollution 4.2 Licensing of water uses. 4.3 Standerton Sewerage Works</p>	
5.	<p>Matters arising from the Previous Minutes</p> <p>Vrede Sewerage Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Madoda Besani (MB), from Phumelela Municipality gave a report back regarding the sewerage pollution problems at Vrede and warden. He reported that a sewerage works has been built in Vrede, which is expected to commence operating by the end of November 2004, however at Warden the town’s growth can not be accommodated by the existing sewerage system, hence the arising problems. • MB, further reported that the Vrede pump-stations are being attended to and that pumps from the two problematic pump-stations (pump-stations A & B) would be operating by the following week. • MB also said that rehabilitation of the land affected by previous spillages is being looked at. Sedibeng Water has been requested by the municipality to assist in finding the best solution to this problem. • DWAF requested that a letter should be sent to them, giving in detail the progress made at Vrede as a response to their last correspondence to Phumelela Municipality. • GV urged that Phumelela Municipality should continue to participate in future forum meetings. • LMo also informed the meeting that the Deputy Director at the Department of Health Free State, requests to meet with some of the people in the Forum, for them to assist in an awareness campaign that the Department is planning for the Vrede and Memel areas. LMo would discuss possible dates with LM, KC, DM and GV for this meeting. 	
6.	<p>Water use Licensing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TM raised a concern to the meeting about regulation of farmers’ irrigation activities, the mushrooming of Pivot systems and dams on the farms is a concern, since this has led to stressing of water resources, resulting in water shortages to downstream users. TM added that the main problem was that DWAF is not issuing authorisations for these water uses in time and hence 	TM

farmers resort to using water illegally.

- It was suggested that Mr Mike Ludick, from the Department of Agriculture, should be consulted, to see if they could assist in bringing a control to this.
- TM also said that this would be taken up with the Grootdraaidam water distribution office and Walther van Der Westhuizen of the Gauteng Regional office Water Supply section would also be consulted on this.
- KS added that Earlybird is also affected by this kind of activities, where neighbouring farmers are constructing big dams upstream from their farms. Which leaves them with water shortage problems.
- LM said that the DWAF Water Supply office would deal with this kind of problem. He further urged that people must report these kind of activities, because DWAF might not be aware of some of these cases.

SC

7. Standerton Sewerage Works

- PM informed the meeting that the Lekwa Municipality, Department of Health was concerned with the state of operations at the Standerton Sewerage works, since august their office was informed of malfunctioning biological filters at the works and this raises concerns with water borne diseases.
- SC responded that the problems at the sewerage works would be sorted out, their main problem at the moment is with the supply of parts needed for maintenance at the works, they have to wait a long time before the parts are received. However the problems at the works would be sorted out by the following week.

8. Pollution Incidents

Algae problems downstream Grootdraaidam

KC

- SC reported that there seems to be an algae problem in the area just downstream of the Grootdraaidam. Lekwa Municipality has in a number of occasions added carbon in their water purification systems, to try and deal with the effects of this.
- DM said that the algae problems around the area concerned, could be due to the farming activities, which seems to be the main activity around the area. High nutrient load on the river, due to for example large amounts of fertilisers being washed into the stream, can cause this kind of problem.

LM

Vrede drinking water problem

- LMo reported that the Department of Health Free State has done tests to selected drinking water taps in Vrede where the water was found to have high coliform counts.
- MB responded that the CSIR has done tests on this drinking water in question and they found the water quality acceptable for drinking purposes. MB added that CSIR is continuing to do tests on their drinking water on a monthly basis and there has been no problem reported since.
- It was suggested that duplicate samples should be taken to both labs (CSIR and the lab that does analysis for the Department of Health Free State) to see if there is a discrepancy in the methods of analysis between the two labs. DWAF would also take a sample to their lab. The results of this exercise would be reported in the next forum meeting.

Villiers Fish Kill

- KC informed the meeting that a fish kill was reported in September a holiday resort in the Villiers area. Cebo Mhlongo visited the area and took samples. CB would be asked to report in next meeting.

Old Caltex Depot in Standerton

- Following a spillage at Caltex earlier in the year, Mr Kock from the Standerton Fire Department did an investigation in the area, a report on his findings is still awaited, this report was to include recommendations on risk and safety issues associated with the old pipes network in this area. LM to follow up on this.

LM

9. Other Issues and Concerns:

- KC urged everyone to visit the Reservoir website. This website has a lot of information on the different catchment forums, water quality data and activities happening in the Uppervaal Water management area (the website address www.Reservoir.co.za). KC also informed the meeting that Rand Water and DWAF would be taking a joint tour around the Vaal Dam catchment Area, visiting some of the problem areas in the catchment.
- KC also informed the meeting that Rand Water commented on a Final Scoping report regarding the upgrade of the Sonskyn Kunsmiss liquid fertilizer plant in Standerton.
- LMo reported that a play-pump was successfully delivered and installed at Reitz in the Free State and more pumps will be installed soon. He also thanked DWAF and all the people who helped in ensuring that the pumps were finally delivered.
- SC reported that Lekwa Municipality was busy taking out two of their pump-stations in their sewerage system network, which were a source of pollution problems due to blockages, these pumps would be replaced with gravity lines.
- KC reported that there is a housing development in the Vaaldam area and that she will try and get the consultants to come and do a presentation in the next Forum.
- KS reported that Earlybird is busy with activities for their accreditation, which also involves analysis of the quality of water that they give to their birds. KS invited requested that anyone with information on a laboratory that can assist with their work should see him.

10. Date for next meetings:

The next meeting was scheduled for the 24 November 2004 and dates for 2005 meetings would be discussed in this meeting.

11. Closure
