



# VAAL DAM FORUM MEETING

15 February 2006

EARLYBIRD FARM, STANDERTON

## 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. Freek Schoemaan – Earlybird Standerton	FS	X		
4. Korf Stoltz – Earlybird Standerton	KS	X		
5. Louis Makhubele – DWAF	LM	X		
6. Thabo Moloi – DWAF	TM	X		
7. Gideon Vosloo – Enviro Agriculture	GV	X		
8. Thys Koen – Toga Linings	TK		X	
9. Seppi Claassen – Lekwa Municipality	SC		X	
10. Punky Mohale – Lekwa Municipality	PM		X	
11. JG van Wyk – Lekwa Municipality	JvW	X		
12. MD Makhatha – Lekwa Municipality Fire Brigade	MM			X
13. Letona Mohlahli – Dept Health Free State	LMo			X
14. Tefelo J Mofokeng – Dept Health Free State	TJM	X		
15. Zola Kutsu – DACE Mpumalanga	ZK	X		
16. Madoda Besani – Phumelela Local Municipality	MB			X
17. Vusi Hlatshwayo – Lekwa Municipality	VH	X		
18. Calvin Tjale – Environmental Health	CT			X
19. Ashendri Reddy – Lekwa Department Health	AR		X	
20. Thembinkosi Mavuso – Dace Mpumalanga	TMa	X		
21. Seef Rademeyer – DWAF	SR	X		
22. Juanita van der Berg – DWAF	JvdB	X		
23. MB Makhaba – Dept Health Free State	MK			X
24. Z G Magadla – Dept Health free State	ZM			X
25. CN Oliphant – Dept Health free state	CO			X
26. SN Mosikili – Dept Health Free State	NSM			X
27. Johan Jacobs - Mafube Municipality	JJ		X	

No	Item	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The chairman GV welcomed everyone to the meeting, and asked that everyone give a brief introduction of themselves.</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thabi Rakgotho (TR)</li> <li>Thys Koen (TK)</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No corrections were made to the minutes.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>Additions to the Agenda</b></p> <p>The following additions were made to the agenda.</p>	
4.1	<p>Earlybird progress and water results</p>	
5.	<p><b>Matters arising from the Previous Minutes</b></p>	
5.1	<p>EARLYBIRD FARM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KS reported that the list of companies contracted to Earlybird farm as suppliers has been forwarded to Rand water.</li> </ul>	
5.2	<p>LIZARD POINT GOLF ESTATE – VAAL DAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A copy of a Record of Decision issued by Environmental Affairs Free State has been received.</li> <li>KC reported that Rand Water also received a document regarding an application by Developer for the rezoning of land from agricultural to recreational</li> </ul>	
5.3	<p>VREDE – PHUMELELA MUNICIPALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LM reported that there are still problems within the municipality.</li> <li>LM added that DWAF still struggles to get the Municipality to honour appointments for meetings.</li> <li>LM also said that he has been informed that the Municipal manager has resigned</li> </ul>	
5.4	<p>MAFUBE MUNICIPALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was no representative from Mafube to report back.</li> <li>KC reported that she drove past Villiers recently and noted that the municipal sewer ponds, are full and might overflow during the heavy rains.</li> </ul>	
5.5	<p>NEWSLETTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KC reported that it was indicated in the Waterval forum that there is a newsletter that is being developed for the Uppervaal Water Management Area and articles were requested.</li> <li>KC also added that DWAF would be oversee this publication.</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>Presentations</b></p>	
6.1.	<p>WATER RESOURCE PLANNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SR gave a report back on the Vaal river studies.</li> <li>He reported that water quality issues on the Vaal Stem are now being incorporated into the study.</li> <li>The first big stakeholders meeting has been held.</li> <li>Data is being collected, population censors information will be included as soon as the problems</li> </ul>	

<p>regarding changes in population categories have been addressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality objectives for the main stem in the Uppervaal has been set, Lower Vaal water objectives to be finalised.</li> <li>• DWAF will communicate with forums to ensure that objectives conform with the forum’s objectives.</li> </ul> <p>6.2 WATER QUALITY IN THE CATCHMENT</p> <p>6.2.1 DWAF WATER QUALITY DATA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LM presented water quality data of sewerage treatment plants effluent, in the catchment.</li> <li>• It was showed that high Nitrates, Ammonia, Phosphates and Coliform counts are a concern in the catchment.</li> <li>• LM reported that there has been a noted improvement of effluent water quality from the Standerton sewerage treatment plant.</li> <li>• SR said that one of the main reasons why some of the sewerage treatment plants are not complying is due to storm water inflow into sewer lines, which makes sewerage treatment ineffective.</li> <li>• It was also added that poor or inadequate infrastructure in the works is also a problem.</li> </ul> <p>6.2.2 RAND WATER – VAAL DAM WATER QUALITY DATA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KC presented data for the period 1 Jan 2005 to 31 Dec 2005.</li> <li>• She reported that Nitrates and Ammonia were high at Vaal river downstream Standerton.</li> <li>• At VGB, Ammonia, COD, Nitrates and Phosphates were high.</li> <li>• At VV, conductivity and Alkalinity were high.</li> <li>• Standerton sewerage treatment plant showed improvement in ammonia concentration in discharge, even though it was still high.</li> <li>• KC also reported that there has been changes on the Reservoir website, the website now has a new feature, which shows spatial presentation of water quality in the whole Uppervaal. Everyone was encouraged to visit the site.</li> </ul> <p><b>7. Water Week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was reported that the theme for this year is “Water for Growth and Development”.</li> <li>• GV asked that the forum should organise a water week event in the catchment.</li> <li>• LM reported that there had not been any indication from DWAF as to what events or activities have been organised for water week.</li> <li>• LM added that he was also not sure what promotional material would be available from DWAF.</li> <li>• KC said that Rand Water might be able to sponsor the event, however she was not certain as to what promotional material would be made available.</li> <li>• GV said that the water week is important for the forum, since it is the only time that the forum can reach out to the community and make them aware of the issues around water management.</li> <li>• A committee would be set up, to organise the event, the committee would consist of DWAF, Rand Water and any of the stakeholders who were willing to volunteer.</li> <li>• ZK suggested that the committee should align this event with existing structures, e.g. Department of Environment. However it should be noted that the issue of Provincial boundaries could be a problem.</li> <li>• ZK also volunteered to assist the committee.</li> <li>• KS would assist by speaking to Earlybird Farm to see if they can provide sponsorship for the event.</li> </ul> <p><b>8. Pollution Incidents</b></p> <p>8.1 N3 SPILLAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TM reported that there was a diesel spill on the N3 around Grootvlei area.</li> <li>• He added that this was a minor spill and was addressed by a spill response company.</li> </ul> <p>8.2 N3TC MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ZK said that he is concerned with the lack of representatives from DWAF and GDACE in the N3TC meetings.</li> <li>• He highlighted that these meetings are very important, inputs from all authorities in addressing pollution incidences on the N3 is required.</li> </ul>	<p>LM&amp;KC</p> <p>LM</p>
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## 9. Discussion on Agenda additions

### 9.1 EARLYBIRD WATER RESULTS

- It was reported that water results are sent to DWAF regularly.
- It was also reported that there are no permits or licences for the water treatment works as yet Earlybird would discuss this with DWAF.
- It was also reported that Earlybird Farm is still busy with verifications of authorisations for their farms.
- KS added that the DWAF licensing process is frustrating, as it takes too long.
- SR responded that the licensing process is still a problem. DWAF is working on rectifying this process.
- SR added that the waste discharge charge system will be coming soon, hopefully this will address some of the problems with regards to better water management.

### 9.2 PRESENTATIONS FOR 2006

- GV made an invitation for presentation in 2006.
- Earlybird farm responded that they would present on their work in the future forums.
- SR would also make presentations from DWAF Planning.

### 9.3 CHAIRPERSON

- GV suggested a new chairperson should be elected for the forum, and asked that anyone should volunteer.
- It was however felt that GV should continue, so he was asked to continue chairing the meetings.

## 10. Closure :

- The meeting was adjourned at about 11h30. A date for the next meeting was set for the 17 May 2006.

LM&KS