

MINUTES
VAAL DAM RESERVOIR FORUM

28 November 2013
 DWA Offices, Deneysville
 10:00 – 13:00



No	Item	Action
1.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R. Hariram welcomed everyone to the forum meeting and requested everyone to introduce themselves. 	Chairperson
2.	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the attendees introduced themselves. 	All
3.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freek Schoeman – Earlybird Farm Standerton. G. Maswime - Midvaal Local Municipality. E.M.Matseba. 	All
4.	Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R. Roets and F. Mamabolo indicated that the online monitoring system is working; however, they did not recently receive a soft report. R. Roets gave feedback that the task team is not formed. The meeting did not realize. The intention is to join the Free State task team (the same stakeholders are present at their meeting) and to get a slot. Follow up was made and the last indication was that the meeting was postponed. T. Pather did report on the landfall sites and gave the coordinates for the landfall sites to R. Hariram. 	R. Roets R. Roets
5. 5.1 5.2 5.3 5.4 5.5 5.6	Additions to the Agenda AMD. Pricing strategy. Fire Station. Mine activities. Global Hand Washing Day. Salinity profiling in the Vaal Dam	All
6. 6.1	Items for discussions Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment – DWA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R. Roets presented Water quality report for the quarter starting 1 Sept 2013 to 31 Oct 2013. At Vaal River @ Villiers at Flood Section –Faecal Coliforms and <i>Escherichia coli</i> was out of specification the past two (02) months. Vaal Dam on Vaal River the past two (2) months there were high levels of Nitrate and Nitrite and high levels of Sulphate for September 2013. At Delangesdrift Bridge there were also high levels of Nitrate and Nitrite for the month of September 2013. 	DWA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spruitsonderdrift downstream of Vrede for two (2) months of August and September 2013 was out of specification with high levels for Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), conductivity and pH. And for August 2013 for the one (1) month high levels for Nitrate and Nitrite. • Pampoenspruit Down Stream of Memel – faecal coliforms and chemical oxygen demand were out of specification. • Klip River Upstream of Memel high levels for September 2013 Ammonia high. • Standerton upstream of the Sewage Works – there was non-compliance of E-coli the past two (02) months. And high Faecal Coliforms for August 2013. • SEWAGE WORKS: • At Standerton Sewage Works DWA is still unable to sample (raw sewage). DWA is planning a site inspection on 11 December 2013. • Vrede WWTW high levels for the two (2) past months of ammonia, COD, conductivity, Nitrate and Nitrite, Orthophosphate, pH. • Villiers sewage works- high levels for the two (2) past months of Ammonia, COD, conductivity, Nitrate and Nitrite, Orthophosphate, pH. and high Faecal Coliforms as well as <i>E. coli</i>. • Oranjeville sewage Works high levels for the two (2) past months of ammonia, COD, Nitrate and Nitrite, Orthophosphate, and very high Faecal Coliforms for August 2013 and high for September 2013, as well as very high levels for August 2013 for <i>E. coli</i> levels and high for September 2013. Conductivity is high for September 2013. • Deneysville high levels for the two (2) past months of Ammonia, COD, conductivity, Nitrate and Nitrite, Orthophosphate, pH, high Faecal Coliforms as well as <i>E. coli</i>. High levels for August 2013 for Nitrate and Nitrite, • Eskom (Dipalasang municipality responsible for maintenance plant Sewage Works. • Grootvlei Mine Sewage Works-high levels for the last two (2) months for Ammonia, COD, conductivity, Nitrate and Nitrite, Orthophosphate, pH, very high Faecal Coliforms as well as <i>E. coli</i>. • Vaal Marina WWTW August 2013 high levels of Ammonia, conductivity, Nitrate and Nitrite, Orthophosphate and in September 2013 very high levels for high Faecal Coliforms as well as <i>E. coli</i>. • Cornelia Liefgekozen Sewage works for the past two months high levels for COD, conductivity, and very high levels for August 2013 for Faecal Coliforms as well as <i>E. coli</i>. 	
6.2	<p>Water Quality Report – Rand Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicolene Van Der Walt presented water quality status of Rand Water with reference to the problematic areas. • Discussion: • Report the pollution incident at Seekoeivlei, a discussion was held. • Discussion on previous actions done in connection with Seekoei wetland, farmers drained the wetland through channels which caused the flow of water to speed up and prevent the functioning of the wetland. Rand Water had to counter it through gabions across the wetland was put up to slow the water down. For the last 100 years waste was discharged into the oxidation ponds and discharged to the wetland to treat discharge. 	Rand Water

<p>6.3</p>	<p>The wetland cannot continue to receive the increasing waste discharge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions on the Kliprivier wetlands. • Florah Mamabolo said that the department did an audit of Memel oxidation ponds a few days before Rand Water did their site visit to investigate Seekoeivlei wetland. The GA was issued to Memel before the wetland was declared a Ramsar site. According to the new GA conditions the Memel oxidation ponds might fall under license. • It was reported by Mr. T. Metiso that they had flooding due to heavy rainfall, 70 ml in an hour. All their control dams above 20% full above license requirement. They did test the overflow. Results show no pollution involved. Eskom did all the required reporting of the incident to DWA. They try to operate a close system and try not to discharge any waste water. The Grootvlei WWTW does impact on Eskom. Grootvlei Power Station management scheduled meetings twice with Dipaleseng Municipality in order to assist them and they cancelled the meetings. He asked assistance from DWA if they can assist. R.Hariram asked whether Floarah can assist Thokozani. • T. Metiso further reported that it is a challenge for Eskom to do their ground water monitoring. They must still do groundwater monitoring for the current quarter. They need to get more monitoring boreholes. They are getting their scope right and is getting the forms ready for submission to apply for a WULA. • Currently Eskom comply with requirements for the ashdam. • F Mamabolo indicated that she did invite Vaal Dam WWTW sector support representative in the next meeting. • The DWA Gauteng is in a process of trying to be part of the existing DWA Free State task team where the same authorities such as Municipalities, COGTA are attending the meeting. Follow ups were made and a request to send DWA Gauteng an invitation to their next meeting. <p>Solid Waste Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T.Pather discussed two different types of solid waste dumpsites. The Industrial waste (Grootvlei, Eskom) and solid waste. • Had a meeting with GDARD yesterday. 40% of landfill sites are licensed. Projected that in 2014 *0% will be licensed. • Orangeville landfill site- is a small landfill site and there is no water impact. • Cornelia landfill site- small landfill site and there is no impact. • The forum requested T Pather to found out on how far is the landfill sites to the water cause or provide the forum with GPS so that they can measure the distance of the landfill site to the watercourse. • Memel and Vrede- they have applied for new WUL. • T Pather gives feedback and also reported that he did give the co-ordinates of the landfill sites to Reveck. • T.Metiso -Eskom does not have a landfill site to use. Currently a lot of hazardous waste is disposed at Holfontein. The contract expires in 2014. • Nomvula Modumo reported that a certain amount has been set aside to develop a landfill site. It is still in the beginning phase. 	<p>F Mamabolo</p> <p>T. Metiso</p> <p>R. Hariram</p> <p>F. Mamabolo</p> <p>R. Roets</p> <p>T Pather</p>
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7.	<p>Catchment Activities (5 Minutes Report Back by Stakeholders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nomvula Modumo of Fezile Dabi District municipality said that the issue of Villiers Abattoir is not as clear as it sound. The municipality will not allow the treated sewage from Villiers abattoir to be connected to their WWTW. They were requested to accept it but did not formally respond. As an interim measure the stakeholders talked and at one stage test results were requested from the treated blood water from turbulators before they agreed that they could irrigate the treated blood on the adjacent open field next to WWTW. DWA official (M.Manaka) said they cannot irrigate it on the adjacent filed there is irrigation standards. Mafube municipality did not formally respond to Villiers abattoir’s request, they should have. At one stage they wanted to close down the Abattoir but the owners changed and the process need to start again with the new owner. Reveck Hariram said that the quality of the stream flowing into Vaal River from WWTW and Villiers abattoir is very poor, lots of algae. It poses a significant threat at the quality of the water going into the Vaal River. Irene Maine reported that the Vaal Marina WWTW causes pollution and that Midvaal municipality has appointed a new contractor to maintain WWTW. Mining exploration Black Royal Minerals Company and the consultant (Milton) is not following the correct procedures. DWA had a ministerial enquiry which was the prospecting for coal and gravel. DME confirmed that they received an application. DWA did not receive any application. I. Maine said the problem is that DWA do not enforce the NWA with municipalities. It should be enforced. I. Maine indicated that Save the Vaal appointed a wetland specialist for the proposed Fire Station. The problem is that DEA already told the municipality that that it is not a wetland. DWA checked and requested a wetland report which the Department did not get until to date. F. Mamabolo explained that we do have a law Enforcement section (Nigel Adams). I: E only takes the non –compliance on up and until a Directive has been issued. Then the process and action pass on to Law Enforcement. DWA according to NWA is a regulator and also has the function to support the municipalities. DWA cannot take municipalities to court they first need to prove that they assisted the municipalities. R. Hariram gave feedback on Standerton WWTW. Appointment has been made with Aurecon by the municipality and within six months the plant will be operating. F.Mamabolo also indicated that DWA: GAU officials will have a site inspection 11 December 2013 at Standerton to inspect the progress made. 	<p>Nomvula Modumo</p> <p>R.Hariram</p> <p>Irene main</p> <p>F.Mamabolo</p> <p>F.Mamabolo</p>
7.1	<p>PHUMELELA MUNICIPALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent without apology. 	
7.2	<p>LEKWA MUNICIPALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent without apology 	

7.3	METSIMAHOLO MUNICIPALITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent without apology 	
7.4	MAFUBE MUNICIPALITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent without apology 	
7.5	EARLY BIRD FARM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent with apology 	
7.6	GROOTVLEI POWER STATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present 	
7.7	DIPALESENG MUNICIPALITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present 	
7.8	MIDVAAL LOCAL MUNICIPALITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present 	David Makona
7.9	FEZILE DABI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present 	Sam Kotsoane
8	Water Use License <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DWA received WULA from Mafube LM, Cornelia and Villiers WWTW – the Department requested additional information from the applicant. DWA received a WULA from Orangeville and Deneysville WWTW. The application is under evaluation; the Department awaits information from the applicant. Transnet submitted a WULA application for section 1 and 2 for the proposed upgrade of R23. This WULA is under evaluation. Midvaal Local Municipality submitted a WULA for the Vaalmarina Fire Station. However, this application could not be registered as a WULA due to incomplete information. The Department requested information from the applicant. Grootvlei power station -WUL license issued. DWA is in the process of reviewing the WUL. Earlybird - WULA still in the process. 	DWA
9	Pollution Incidents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was reported that Memel oxidation ponds wastewater disposed on land was impacting on the Seekoeivlei wetland. Eskom reported pollution incident that Grootvlei Power Station pollution control dams were above free board. Effluent overflow into the sump. The incident was reported to DWA. The free board requirement is not being met in one of the Ash Dams. Eskom further reported that they are in the process of finalizing the WULA documents for water abstraction point. Pollution incident was reported for Deneysville WWTW. The treated final effluent from Deneysville Waste water Treatment Works (WWTW) discharged at the Vaal dam where the Water Quality Sample (WQS) was taken and a WQS was taken at Deneysville Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) Following these observations it is clear that the 	All

	<p>Deneysville WWTW is overloaded (a contributing factor can be the new developments in the area) and the discharge at the Vaal dam is not significantly different from the final effluent of the Deneysville WWTW where it originates from. A non-compliance letter was sent to the municipality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pollution incident was investigated in the vicinity of the Orangeville WWTW. During the site visit it was confirmed that there was a raw sewerage spillage running from a blocked sewer line and man-hole to the left hand side of the Orangeville WWTW in the suburb (sand road towards the river). A sewer line had collapsed and was replaced by the municipality. • A pollution incident was reported and investigated. A site visit in conjunction with Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement to investigate an alleged pollution incident at the Villiers Abattoir was conducted and a notice of intention to issue a Directive was sent to the owner. 	
10	<p>CMA Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F Mamabolo reported that soon DWA will be starting with the business proposal for the Vaal CMA. Feedback will be given in the next meeting 	DWA
11	<p>Additions to the additions</p> <p>11.1 Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Western Basin – the treatment is ongoing and there is no decant. Central Basin – The issuing of a tender to construct a treatment plant is imminent. Eastern Basin – The treatment plant is currently being constructed and will be commissioned in February 2014.</p> <p>Long term strategy of AMD management: draft reports are currently under evaluation for finalization on how to manage AMD in the long term</p> <p>11.2 Pricing Strategy The Department has drafted a strategy on how they will be maintaining the infrastructure, pricing strategy has been gazetted A gazette will be forwarded to the forum members to comment with regard to future cost of raw water.</p> <p>11.3 Fire station Midvaal LM had started with the construction of fire station next to the bank of the Vaal dam. GDARD had told the LM that the site is not a wetland. DWA requested proof in the form of the wetland delineation report that indicates that the site is not a wetland.</p> <p>11.4 Mine Activities: Mining Boschkop mine. Ministerial: That there is Prospecting for coal and mine at the Vaal dam over</p>	<p>F.Mamabolo</p> <p>F.Mamabolo</p> <p>R Hariram</p> <p>R Hariram</p>

11.5	<p>portions 7, 8, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 19 of the farm Boschkop 482 IR. The Department investigated the matter with Black Royal Minerals (Pty) Ltd who stated that the applicant is at the stage of consulting with the lawful landowners and all interested and affected parties. Black Royal Minerals (Pty) Ltd also attached proof of acknowledgement of receipt of an application for a Prospecting Right from the Department of Mineral Resources. Department of Mineral Resources also confirmed that the application is currently being processed no decision has been taken yet.</p> <p>Global hand washing day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The event was celebrated at Tikelo Primary School in Rietspruit on 1 Nov 2013. • The purpose was to address the importance of washing your hands; to respond to the call of celebrating this day which is celebrated annually on October 15; to raise awareness about the importance of hand washing with soap to prevent illness and disease and to also embrace the stakeholders • There was edutainment from Rand Water. • Rand Water, SAVE and Fezile Dabi were among the attendees • Learners really had a fun day and received presents and food and also sanitary material. <p>Salinity Profiling Vaal dam</p> <p>R.Hariram How AMD will affect the Vaal River (1st phase neutralisation, increase in pH, affect sludge process). High saline water will be coming through which will then be pushing down the tributaries (Klip river) and increase salinity which is a problem at the Barrage where the protocol for TDS management. If it does increase water will be needed to dilute. This will make water more expensive.</p>	
12	<p>Next Meetings</p> <p>27 Feb 2014 29 May 2014 28 Aug 2014 27 Nov 2014</p>	All
13	<p>Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chairperson thanked everyone for participating and the meeting adjourned at 13H00. 	R Hariram