

MINUTES: Forum Meeting
7 February 2008
Sappi Enstra Mill, Springs



No	Item	Action
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The chairperson, T Rakgotho welcomed everyone to the meeting. Since this was the first forum meeting of the year, she wished everyone all the best for the New Year and she further expressed her confidence in everyone's commitment to the activities of the forum that will continue during the year 2008. She indicated that she is chairing the meeting on behalf of M de Fontaine who is not feeling well and thus could not make it for the meeting.</p>	T Rakgotho
2	<p>Introduction of Attendees</p> <p>The attendees introduced themselves and an attendance register was circulated.</p>	All
3	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marc de Fontaine • Piet Muller • Irene Lea • Precious Mahlangu • Anna Dennis • Karen Marx • Stan Madden 	
4	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 8 November 2007 were accepted as a true reflection of the previous meeting.</p>	All
5	<p>Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes</p> <p>Issues from the previous meeting were to be discussed as per the Agenda.</p>	
6	<p>Additions to the Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Ekurhuleni Landfill Site. • Negative Press Releases Regarding the Blesbokspruit. 	
7	<p>Items for Presentation</p> <p>7.1 Vaal River Systems Studies – Water Quality Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation on the Integrated Water Quality Management Plan for the Vaal River System was given by D Ristic. • The objective of the study is to develop management measures to maintain and improve water quality in the Vaal River system by 2025. 	D Ristic
7.2	<p>Update on the CMA Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Presentation attached for more information. 	K Pema
8	<p>Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting</p> <p>8.1 DWAF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DWAF quarterly water quality report for the Upper Blesbokspruit was presented by T Pather. • Issues raised were the historical high Sodium and Chloride levels at the Cowles Dam out flow. • A request was raised that the variables presented in the report should be done in an alphabetical order and the dates should be in ascending order. 	T Pather



**MINUTES: Forum Meeting
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A concern was also raised that the reporting of problematic areas is not good enough and that the forum would like to see what actions are being undertaken by the DWAF to correct those problematic areas. 	
8.2	<p>Rand Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quarterly water quality report for the Blesbokspruit catchment was distributed at the meeting. The water quality report can be downloaded from The Reservoir website (www.reservoir.co.za). 	Rand Water
8.3	<p>Bio-monitoring and Toxicity Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D Louw stated that Erwat, SAPPI, Grootvlei and DWAF have indicated their interest in conducting biomonitoring and plans are to have a programme implemented by July 2008. 	
9	<p>Catchment Activities</p>	
9.1	<p>Balfour Sewage Works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S Lurie indicated that there was a fish kill in his dams but that was due to high rainfall experienced in the area. He further indicated that the DWAF official Z Krein has been in communication with him and the municipality and he was very pleased with the commitment shown by this official. There was no representative from Dipaleseng Municipality to give an action plan presentation as requested during the last meeting. However, it is understood that the municipality tender process to appoint a professional service provider who will assist the municipality with the operation of the wastewater works would close in a week's time. L Msibi still needs to present an action plan on how the municipality is going to sort out their non-compliance problems and to provide an update on the process of appointing the professional service provider.. 	S Lurie
9.2	<p>Eastern Basin Working Group (GTT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T Rakgotho indicated that the last Eastern Basin Working group meeting was held on the 6th of December 2007 and information regarding the studies undertaken at the Eastern Basin was made available by the DME. That information is to be evaluated by the Exco members and information gaps will be identified during the meeting of 27 February. It was further indicated that the GTT will meet for the first time during this year on 28 February. 	T Rakgotho
9.3	<p>Ergo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-opening of their workings is taking place. 	A Dennis
9.4	<p>Erwat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J Hendriksz indicated that Erwat have observed that communities are sabotaging their wastewater treatment works and thus request that any manhole blockages spotted are to be reported to them ASAP. D Louw suggested that J Hendriksz makes a presentation during the next forum meeting on broader problems that are associated with sewage management, not only water quality related issues but also any other illegal operations. 	J Hendriksz D Louw

**MINUTES: Forum Meeting
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9.5	<p>GDACE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report back. 	P Muller
9.6	<p>Grootvaly Blesbokspruit Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports by S Madden and M Hood were distributed to the forum members. S Madden raised the concern about the very serious sewerage spills that have occurred in the Springs and Welgedacht area over the past month. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The authorities responsible for maintaining the sewer pipe along this route claim they were unaware of the leak for a few weeks. This in my opinion is a completely unacceptable excuse. I have examined various places along this pipe and manholes are without covers and no attempt is being made to recover these with some material that will not have value for thieves. What is happening and will continue to happen is that the open manholes encourage the dumping of solid waste etc. into them and this in turn is leading to blockages and to the spillages. My examination of the route also showed that spillages have occurred in more than one place along the pipe and in most cases these spillages are running into the Blesbokspruit. The whole route shows absolute neglect. The attitude of the local authorities responsible is deplorable and criminal. When will there be some form of accountability. Why are there no regular inspections done along this route? I think it is long past time that there is an investigation undertaken by the Green Scorpions into this very serious matter. It is obvious that this lack of interest and concern for the environment has to be changed by legal action. 	M Hood
9.7	<p>Grootvlei Mine/Petrex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M Ngati gave a presentation on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantities of water currently discharged by Grootvlei Mine into the Blesbokspruit. A reduction in the quantities was noted. Improvement in the water quality of the effluent discharged into the Blesbokspruit, e.g. a decline in EC was noted. 	M Ngati
9.8	<p>Impala Platinum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D Smith indicated that there has been extensive work done on their three ponds. Water use licence process for their storage ponds has been initiated with DWAF and the site visit will be taking place on 12 February 2008. He emphasized that only rainwater is pumped into the sewer and no effluent is allowed into the municipal sewer. 	D Smith
9.9	<p>ITC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report back. 	
9.10	<p>Karan Beef</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr van Niekerk indicated that the Balfour load shedding process has been a problem for them however; they are awaiting generators to be installed in a few weeks time. He also indicated that Karan Beef is increasing the capacity of their cattle 	J van Niekerk

**MINUTES: Forum Meeting
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	slaughter process and thus water management should be improved since they will now be slaughtering fewer cattle at a time.	
9.11	<p>Sappi Enstra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A presentation on Sappi's IWMP and other initiatives will be given by S Walker at the next forum meeting. 	
9.12	<p>Seton SA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report back. 	
9.13	<p>Western Platinum Refinery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report back. 	
9.14	<p>Zincor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C van der Merwe to present the findings on the studies they have undertaken on the feasibility and rehabilitation of the two dams 7L3 and 7L4 respectively due to heavy metal impact. The remediation programme is progressing well. 	C van der Merwe
10	<p>Water Use License Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The updated license document can be downloaded from The Reservoir website (www.reservoir.co.za). 	DWAF
11	<p>CMA Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Section 7.2. 	K Pema
11.1	<p>Vaal Barrage Catchment Executive Committee (VBCEC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Section 7.2. 	
11.2	<p>Upper Vaal Reference Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Section 7.2. 	
12	<p>Discussion of Additions to the Agenda</p>	
6.1	<p>Proposed Ekurhuleni Landfill Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A site selection public participation meeting will be undertaken by the Consultants Strategic Environmental Focus in late April 2008. 	
6.2	<p>Negative Press Releases Regarding the Blesbokspruit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A serious concern was raised regarding negative newspaper articles on the Blesbokspruit Catchment raising public emotions and anger. It was indicated that in most cases there is misrepresentation of information and false reporting. The question was how do we as the forum deal with the distortion of facts by the media? Maybe the forum should extend an invitation to the respective newspaper editors and /or meet them to stop such irresponsible publication. 	
13	<p>Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next BBS Forum Meeting is scheduled for 8 May 2008 at 09H00 for 09H30 at Grootvlei Mine, Springs. 	T Rakgotho
14	<p>Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T Rakgotho thanked everyone for attending the meeting and all the input they 	T Rakgotho

**MINUTES: Forum Meeting
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| gave during the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12H30 pm |