

DRAFT MINUTES
BLESBOKSPRUIT FORUM

Thursday, 06 August 2020

Zoom Virtual Platform

10:00 – 13:00



No	Item	Action
1	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P Khwinana welcomed everyone to the forum meeting and thanked them attending. M. de Fontaine chaired the meeting due to technical issues of the platform. 	P. Khwinana
2	<p>Introduction of Attendees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All attendees were captured on the Zoom platform as they renamed their devices with their official names and the attendance register will be generated from that list. 	All
3	<p>Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to the attendance register 	
4	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members with send their corrections to the scribe. 	All
5	<p>Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions have been deferred to the next meeting 	All
6	<p>Additions to the Agenda</p> <p>6.1 Delays in issuing of Water Use Licences</p> <p>6.2 Palmiet Kuilen licence application</p> <p>6.3 Prospecting rights for coal in the Blesbokspruit Catchment</p> <p>6.4 DWS clean rivers campaign</p>	
7	<p>Items for Presentation</p> <p>7.1 Licence application for reclamation of City Deep and Rooikraal dumps and Tailing Storage Facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Thornton presented the status of Ergo Mining Pty licence application and further mentioned that Ergo Mining interns to reclaim and reprocess gold from existing City Deep dumps. The idea for Ergo Mining is to reclaim the Rooikraal TSF and reprocess the material and excess gold then rehabilitate the area. The project description is that gold product will be reclaimed during the reclamation process of the dumps and all the dumps will be reclaimed using hydraulic reclamation. Reclamation stations will be established on each sides of the dumps and processed water will be used for the reclamation process. The reclaimed material will be transported through an existing pipeline to the Ergo plant where it will be processed and another pipeline will transport water to the reclamation site. 	B. Thornton

- The reclamation process will be designed to pump approximately 500 000 tons of slurry from each side per month for beneficiation. Anticipated duration for both projects is 10 years each.
- It is expected that there will be a two-year construction which will include placement of infrastructure, five-year life of mine where active hydraulic mining will take place.
- It is anticipated that the infrastructure for both projects will comprise of three infrastructure areas and a lot of this infrastructure is mobile.
- In terms of potential mitigation and impacts, various specialist studies have been conducted and mitigation measures include determination and implementation of stormwater management structures.
- The project has potential for short-term negative impacts such as potential for increase in dust, potential for increase in surface and groundwater contamination and also potential impacts on wetland.
- Long-term positive impact is that once the dumps are removed, there should be a decrease in air pollution and dust, decrease in surface and groundwater contamination and improved biodiversity and wetlands.
- The licence application is for sections 21 (c) and (i) and they include infrastructure which will occur within 500m of a wetland and/or within 100m of a river.
- The licence application process is currently in a public participation stage and the public is welcome to make comments, requests and queries through the official website of Kongiwe Environmental (pty) Ltd.

M. Loefflerink asked the following questions:

- where will the water for processing will be sourced from since it was mentioned that Ergo will be using processed water and that the project is for hydraulic mining ?
- It was observed that in many of the reclamation projects there are runoffs. How will the polluted runoff water be captured in the pollution control dam and will the dam be lined?
- It was noted again that existing pipelines will be used and it is possible that the pipeline may be in close proximity with the river and/or wetland. What type of material will be used for the pipeline, will it be flanches or continuous pipeline?
- What management and mitigation measures will be taken by Ergo Mining if there are failures of the flanches which would result in spillages?

B. Thornton's answers to the questions are sa follows:

- In terms of the source of water, Ergo has a central water plant which it uses to supply water to all of its existing reclamation sites and it is recycled water from the mine.
- In terms of the runoffs from the projects, the aim is to limit any kind of runoffs into the environment. There is an existing pollution control dam which will be used as a failsafe specifically for the Rooikraal project. Surface water management plan has been determined and flood events have been calculated and the aim is not to have any runoffs into the natural environment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In terms of the pipelines, it is believed that Ergo does not use a pipeline that has flanches however this issue will have to be confirmed with Ergo. • S. Nzama asked if Ergo would consider applying for a section 21 (g) water use licence considering the fact that the proposed project may have an impact on ground water as indicated. • B. Thornton said that they had discussions with the case officer from DWS regarding that issue however the pollution control dam that is on site is an existing facility and it is not something that needs to be relicenced but if there are any changes then it will be communicated. 	
<p>8</p> <p>8.1</p> <p>8.2</p>	<p>Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting</p> <p>City of Ekurhuleni Municipality</p> <p>A. Maurizi presented the Quarterly and Monthly water quality status reports for City of Ekurhuleni from period April 2019 to March 2020. Data for City of Ekurhuleni was recorded from December 2019 to March 2020 for the quarter under review due to covid-19 and the reports stated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Benoni civic lake outlet was the hotspot in terms of E.coli but there was an improvement in the forth quarter. • Not all sampling points were monitored in December because December has a short working period therefore there is no data for many of the sampling points. The E.coli counts were elevated during the last set of results at the Benoni civic lake. • There was an improvement in terms of Faecal coliform at the Brakpan water from Jan Smuts in the last three months but then there was a slight deterioration caused by sewer blockages but the sewer team attended to the matter. • City of Ekurhuleni could not continue with the monitoring since April due nationwide lockdown but as soon as the situation stabilizes, monitoring will take place on the environmental side because currently the monitoring is only for portable water. CoE had a lot additions of water tankers to be implemented for domestic use and they were also monitoring industries to ensure that purification plants are in order. • The Environmental management section will resume monitoring if the capacity allows them but certain monitoring points will be prioritised and monitoring will be inceased gradually. <p>Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)</p> <p>P. Khwinana presented the DWS water quality status for the period Jan to March 2020 and the report is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall water quality for the catchment was fairly complaint for the quarter under review as most of the variables were ideal but there are sereval points that are still facing challenges. • Sampling points such as R55 road bridge on Blesbokspruit, stream Duduza to Kaydale and the Nigel R51 road bridge are still facing a 	<p>A. Maurizi</p> <p>P. Khwinana</p>

	<p>challenge in terms of E.coli however the counts are not as bad as they use to be.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ammonia and Phosphate did not comply with the required standard for the months of January and March but the rest of the variables were compliant. • The water quality results are from January to March 2020 and sampling did not take place beyond March because of the national lockdown. DWS officials resumed sampling in June and the results will be presented in the next forum. • A. Maurizi asked if DWS is monitoring all the sampling points or only limited sampling points. P. Khwinana said that all sampling points are being monitored. 	
8.3	<p>Erwat</p> <p>G. Hefer presented the water quality status for Erwat and the results were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancor plant compliance was much better on quarter 3 and 4 respectively and it may have been due to the lockdown. • There is also huge improvement in the water quality downstream of the Ancor plant as all variables were showing improvement. • There is nothing much happening at Benoni but there is a dam on the downstream in which they discharge to and the results at the dam shows elevated levels of E.coli and it may be due to the stormwater flowing to that dam. • Carl Grundlingh and Daveyton plants are doing very well and upstream and downstream water quality of both the plants is compliant with the required standards. • H. Bickley shows that there is a bit of E.coli in the streams and there were a couple of chlorination failures at the plant during the quarter which caused problems downstream. • Heidelberg plant is doing very well and upstream of the plant is not doing too bad but there are challenges downstream in terms of e.coli counts and that was caused by frequent blockages of the main sewer line. The incident was reported to Lesedi local municipality and it was attended to but E.coli counts were still very high. • Jan Smuts Plant is also doing very well except for nitrate levels. Water quality downstream of the plant is looking good so the plant helps a lot by diluting the system. It is important to note that Jan Smuts is totally covered with hyacinth and this may have an effect on the downstream as well. • Overall water quality for PJ Marais shows that the plant is doing very well however there is a slight E.coli elevation downstream of the plant and this may be caused by illegal mining activities by the Zamazamas. • Rynfield plant is doing well and the downstream results also show improvement although there were pumpstation failures which influenced some of the elevations in the previous quarter. • Ratanda plant is doing very well and it has a similar effect both upstream and downstream e.coli levels. • Upstream of the Tsakane plant is the Rockville pumpstation and is 	G. Hefer

	<p>continuously causing problems and affecting the quality of water both upstream and downstream but the plant is diluting the downstream effluent quite significantly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welgedacht plant is doing very well and also the upstream and downstream of the plant shows great water quality results. Although the E.coli counts at plant shows signs of non-compliance but it is much improved as compared to the last quarter.G. Hefer also mentioned that the licence condition limit for E.coli at Welgedacht is 0 count therefore it is almost impossible to comply to that condition. • M. de Fontaine asked if the impact of the loadshedding had a detrimental effect on the operations in the catchment. G. Hefer mentioned that certain part were affected by loadshedding but most of the plants were not affected because they have backup system. • A. Barker asked if G. Hefer had any idea why the licence condition limit for E.coli is 0 counts at Welgedacht but the other plants have different limits. G. Hefer said that he does not have an idea why the limit conditions for Welgedacht is different and that DWS can provide explanation why that is the case. Erwat has asked for an amendment of that licence condition. P. Khwinana said that DWS had discussions with Erwat regarding that issue and Department is busy working on the amendment and the documents will be submitted to Water Use Authorisation Assessment and Advisory Committee (WUAAAC) and it will be decided in the that committee whether the licence condition should be amended or not. P. Khwinana mentioned that the catchment officers do not make decisions but only make recommendations to WUAAAC. • L. Roode wanted to know when the next WUAAAC meeting will be held to finalised the discussions regarding the Erwat amendment. P. Khwinana mentioned that the meeting is anticipated to be held before the end of August. • Mr Pule mentioned that he heard P. Khwinana saying that catchment officers only make recommendations to WUAAAC when it comes to establishing licence conditions therefore it would mean that the case officer may have been the one who recommended the licence limit condition of 0 count of E.coli, maybe based on the catchment constraints. P. Khwinana said that the case officers uses all the available information provided by the applicant to process the water use licence applications and amendments and that information will guide whether it is realistic to put whatever condition that is in the licence and make a presentation to WUAAAC. Case officers uses available information from the applicant to make recommendations and if the information changes then it would mean that the recommendation will ultimately change as well. 	
8.4	<p>Lesedi Local Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology. 	
8.5	<p>Rand Water (RW) M de Fontaine presented the water quality status for Rand Water and the report was as follows:</p>	M. de Fontaine

- The fourth quarter was a problematic time during the hard lockdown and the focus of the organisation was centered around the supply of drinking water therefore the raw water samples were scaled back significantly due to the inability of staff not being allowed to take samples.
- Most of the sampling points were not monitored in the fourth quarter however a number of strategic sites were monitored and amongst them were the B10 Blesbokspruit weir @ Heidelberg and S2 Suikerbosrand River weir @ three rivers.
- The only real problem that is in the catchment is the actual E.coli inside the stream as the results shows elevated levels of E.coli at point B10. There was an improvement in the previous quarter with regards to E.coli but there was a deterioration during the fourth quarter.
- Point S2 shows a lot improvement with regards to E.coli because the counts are no longer in thousands but only hundreds although there was a deterioration in the fourth quarter but water quality look promising.
- Levels of sulphate are significantly down and within the acceptable range at point B10 and this means that the impact of AMD discharge for this quarter seems to be in line with being ideal and acceptable but whether that was due to no discharging of AMD at the plant will be clarified by TCTA.
- Mr Francois asked if the significant changes in water quality for DWS, Rand Water and CoE can be related to the lockdown, especially during level 5 and 4 because the industries were closed.
- M. de Fontaine mentioned that it is something that need to be looked at even in the next six months when data is available to compare the water quality results for pre-covid-19 lockdown, during lockdown and post-lockdown to get feedback as to what the scale of the pandemic had on the water quality.
- L. Roode mentioned that there was a major improvement in the compliance of their plants due to the fact that some of the major industries were closed during level 4 and 5. Ancor is one of the plants that is heavily burdened by industrial effluent but there was a significant improvement in terms of compliance during level 4 and 5.
- A. Maurizi asked if Rand Water will be resuming full monitoring or they going to prioritise sampling points and move back to monitoring gradually. M. de Fontaine said that during the hard lockdown Rand Water was sampling a few sites and in June they did a scaled up assessment of their sites then in July they went back to full monitoring.
- M. Liefferink mentioned that the FSE has appointed two biodiversity experts to do bio-monitoring of the Vaal river system and she is of the opinion that this gesture can contribute to the management of the Vaal river system and it would be beneficial to all the regulators including DWS and Rand Water however the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) application that was submitted for access of the monitoring result has not yet been responded to.
- M. Liefferink also mentioned that 62% of the big dams in the country are eutrophic or hypertrophic and that is mainly caused by the raw and

	<p>untreated sewage. The results that were presented by Erwat is really a matter of concern with regards to the high levels of E.coli.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. de Fontaine asked what liaison has the FSE had with GDARD and DWS with regards to the undertaking of bio-monitoring in the Vaal river system. M Liefferink responded as follows: The South African Human Rights Commission's (SAHRC) held an inquiry into the water situation in the Vaal River on 26, 27 and 28 of September 2018. The Federation for a Sustainable Environment (FSE) in collaboration with two biodiversity experts participated in the inquiry. The biodiversity experts, Ms Simone Liefferink and Mr Russell Tate presented their preliminary findings in terms of their Macroinvertebrate Biomonitoring Assessment of the Vaal River to the SAHRC following the reported acutely toxic sewage spills resulting in large fish kills and committed to provide the SAHRC with a Report on their findings. Liefferink and Tate are finally at a stage where they have sufficient data to make effective comparisons between their surveys, which now span 3 years and historical data. The water quality data provided by Rand Water is critical to make an accurate interpretation of the biological data. The results can provide further insight into the extent of the current deteriorated state of the Vaal River and hopefully provide additional recommendations towards improved management. To that end, the FSE submitted a request for information in terms of the provisions of the Promotion of Access to Information Act (2 of 2000) (PAIA) on the 7th of January 2020 to Rand Water. Notwithstanding repeated requests for the information on inter alia the 31st of March the 17th of June, the 20th and 22 July 2020, we have at the time of writing not received a response from Rand Water. 	
8.6	<p>TCTA</p> <p>TCTA continued taking samples throughout the covid-19 lockdown and the report covers from January to June 2020. TCTA measure their results against three set of limits which are the Waste water limits, Directive limits and the resource water quality guidelines and the results are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no data for January and June but it was not necessarily because of covid-19 but some other underlying issues like non-functional transformer. • Water quality look good as compared to other basins. The sulphate levels in the Eastern basin are way less that 3000 mg/L after treatment. • The water quality results for the Eastern Basin are measured against the directive limit from the Department and also the Blesbokspruit Catchment instream water quality guidelines. With respect to the directive limits, the water quality was compliant with the required standatrd but they did not do well when measured against the catchment water quality guidelines. • EC seems to be a bit high when measured against the Waste water limit but still within the directive limit. 	S. Tlale

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Leroy asked why a transformer shutting down would prohibit sampling to happen. S. Tiale mentioned that TCTA has a special dedicated supply of electricity for the plant other than the standby generators therefore if the transformer shut down, samples cannot be taken because it is automated samples. The standby generators are there just to keep the plant in circulation but do not have enough power to produce samples. • M. Leroy said that if the Plant is running below capacity would there not be chance of spikes in any of the pollution that will go downstream. There has to be way of taking samples after potential quality issues because there might be some environment degradation happening and they miss it. • S. Tiale mentioned that TCTA has an external water quality monitor who takes samples once a month and those results are the ones presented in the forum but internal samples are taken everyday in the morning and evening and if there is any indication of an issue that needs attention then frequency of sampling can be increased. It is unfortunate that when the external monitor came to collect samples, the transformer was not working that day. • M. Leroy suggested that the internal samples should also be presented to the forum and maybe highlight if there are any spikes in the samples. S. Tiale said that internal sampling is mainly for the operations of the plant and the data is not fully fledged. • M. Liefferink mentioned that since there was no EIA conducted for the short- term treatment of the AMD and since there are large volumes of sludge after the neutralisation discharged into an old shaft at the Grootvlei mine, M. Liefferink wanted to know if there has been any assessment of the impact of the sludge on the ground water. • S. Tiale mentioned that the sludge was deposited in the shaft and it was an emergency situation but the EIA process was conducted for the disposal of the sludge. Authorisation was granted to dispose into the Grootvlei dump but unfortunately after the authorisation was granted, the mine had other plans with the dump and there was an urgent need to find a place where the sludge can be disposed then that is when they decided to dispose into the shaft. After a number of investigations it was found that the shaft is the possible place to deposit the the sludge and it was deposited at 750 meters below ground. The boreholes were dug within the area of the Plant to dispose off the sludge as an alternative measure incase of any emergency that might occur. After the investigations, a directive was issued with conditions that the dumps can be used as pilot study to check whether disposing sludge in the pumps can be a sustainable solution and up to this point they were no issues pointing to the fact that there are problems for disposing into the boreholes. 	
9.	<p>Solid Waste Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P. Khwinana reported that an invitation was extended to the relevant official attend the forum but there was no response. Dws will continue to liaise with the official to get representation. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P. Khwinana further said that DWS officials in head Office need to assist with that because the applications are received by the regional office but they are processed at Head office but the day to management of the solid waste has to be done by CoE. P. Khwinana to make follow up with DWS Head office regarding solid waste management and landfill site applications. • M. Rajak reported that Calodex has overtaken operational site of Sappi's landfill and the Enstra solid waste disposal site. Currently the solid waste is handled by the private sector and by the Municipalities and the private companies that are taking care of the solid waste are Calodex and Enviroserv. At the moment Calodex is not discharging anything into the river system. 	
10	Government Departments Report Back (5-minutes)	
10.1	<p>GDARD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Nkadimeng mentioned that in terms river health, GDARD has not managed to do any monitoring in the previous quarter because of the lockdown but monitoring has recently started and there is one monitoring scheduled for winter. • In terms of feedback regarding removing the DBS from Montreux records, there was a meeting with the Ramsar convention committee in Pretoria and the outcome was that there should be a joint site visit with the Blesbokspruit to assess the report submitted to Ramsar for the removal of the DBS from the Montreux record. • GDARD tried to remove the hyacinth in the Grootvaly manually but it was not enough and the project ended in January and nothing has been done since. • GDARD is working with the Dutch Government through DWS and other Municipalities in the initiative called Blue Deal and they are strategizing about what kind of activities they can bring forth and involve the community. The forum will be informed as soon as they are done strategising. • A. Gohell mentioned that fish monitoring will start on the 10th of August 2020. 	T. Nkadimeng
10.2.	<p>Department of Mineral Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology. • M. de Fontaine mentioned that DMR need to attend the forum to address the issues regarding mining applications. There seem to be other meetings that are taking place at other levels which DMR is attending and the forum is in dire need of the information discussed in those meetings. 	

10.3	<p>Department of Water and Sanitation</p>	
10.3.1	<p>AMD Eastern Basin update</p> <p>M. Liefferink reported that she is a member of the Integrated Vaal River System reconciliation strategy for the Vaal and further said that during the recent meeting, the following recommendations were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Liefferink said that during the meeting, Mr Jurgo van Wyk from DWS mentioned that there is a need for comprehensive recalibration of the salinity model of the Vaal Barrage catchment and the funding for recalibration has been approved but the recalibration will likely not negate the need for the long term solution but could result in changes of extent and the possibility of phased infrastructure implementation. • At the last reconciliation strategy meeting Mr Marius Keet (DWS) stated that <i>“the DWS together with the Water Research Council (WRC) established a Team of Experts to do a situation assessment on the Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) in the Witwatersrand. Amongst others this will update all information since the AMD mitigation process started in 2010. There is a final report planned for September 2020 (delayed due to the Covid-19 lockdown). The Vaal Barrage dilution model review concluded that updating and recalibration of the requisite planning models for the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) is necessary to support informed decision-making regarding the magnitude and timeline for the AMD Long-term Solution implementation. These further studies should have started in April 2020 but due to Covid-19, there was a delay in the procurement process. This process is receiving urgent attention and should be back on track as soon as possible. Although final decision making on the desalination of AMD is reliant on this study, in the absence thereof, a phased approach by means of package plants could be followed should it be necessary to protect the environment and / or to augment the Vaal River System with potable water.”</i> • It was stated that the sulphate level of 600mg/L has not yet been reached in the Vaal Barrage catchment but it is approaching more than 500mg/L. Total dissolved solid load deposited into the Vaal Barrage is 362 tons per day. • The long-term treatment need to be re-visited because of the cost involved as the CAPEX is estimated to be R6.6 billion and the Operational costs are estimated at R990 million per annum. In terms of the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan there is a funding gap of R330 billion that is anticipated over the next 10 years which means funding is the main obstacle in this regard. • The next step with regards to the treatment of AMD is that (1) the short-term interventions for all three underground mining basins must continue, (2) ingress control interventions must be implemented as a high priority, (3) Governance and management cooperation with DMR and others must continue and improve, where necessary (4) The rising of environmental critical level with close monitoring should be 	M. Liefferink

<p>10.3.2</p>	<p>investigated, monitoring including the water level and water quality monitoring must be continued and lastly (5) new and innovative treatment solution should be piloted and developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Liefferink said that she will send her comments through to the forum because they are not hers only and they are based on the presentations that were sent to members of the strategy steering committee. • M. de Fontaine mentioned that it always happens that the forum members receive this information long after this meetings therefore it would be informative to the members of the forum if someone take the responsibility of distributing th information to the members of the forum so that they can be capacitated about what is being discussed at certain levels. • M. Liefferink mentioned that she did receive permission to distribute information from the Integrated Vaal River System reconciliation strategy committee to interested people. • A. Barker mentioned that forum members have been kept in the dark in terms of information discussed at the Integrated Vaal River System reconciliation strategy committee meeting and he further mentioned that it is critical that forum members get more transparency and more available information from the Department. 	<p>P. Khwinana</p>
<p>10.3.3</p>	<p>CMA Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P. Khwinana mentioned the reported given by Mr Mogale Matseba and Mr Lesiba Mabona at the Klip River forum should suffice as the state of the current situation. 	
<p>10.3.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was reported at the Klip River forum that there will be advertisement of positions of board members of the CMA and those adverts will be published on the newspapers and will this happen between the month of August and September and shortlisting will happen shortly after advertisement 	
<p>10.3.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Liefferink mentioned that in terms of the National Water Sanitation Master Plan the completion date for the establishment of financially sustainable CMAs across the country, transfer of staff and budget and delegated functions is listed as 2020. Feedback from the National office was that the nine proposed CMAs will now again be reduced to six and this information is credible. 	
	<p>Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apolgy • P.Khwinana mentioned that has not received anything from CME section but he will take it upon himself to tell them to send a brief report to the forum group. 	
	<p>Water Services Regulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology. • P.Khwinana mentioned that has not received anything from CME section but he will take it upon himself to tell them to send a brief report to the forum group. 	

Water Use Licence Status

H. Mathedimosa reported that she send the licence application status spreadsheet to the forum group and member can group through it asked her questions directly if they have specific problems. The overall licence application status of the Blesbokspruit forum is as follow:

- 1 application is waiting for delegated authority from DDG/ DG to make a decision.
 - 19 applications are waiting for specialist comments. 90% of these applications are waiting for civil engineer comments
 - 1 application was presented at the Water Use Licence Application Assessment and Advisory Committee (WUAAAC) and it is waiting for signature.
 - 1 application is waiting to be presented to WUAAAC.
 - 3 applications have been finalised and will be removed from the list
 - 2 applications are under final assessment.
 - 4 applications are under initial assessment
 - 5 applications are waiting for technical information from the applicant.
- M. Liefferink mentioned that she noticed from the spreadsheet that Canyon coal/ Palmietkuilen mine licence application is in the final assessment however it is problematic because even though the application was first authorised by DMR, there was a successful appeal against the environmental authorisation. If there is an appeal then it simply means that all the activities should be suspended until the appeal has been decided.
 - M. Liefferink mentioned she has been informed that the Anglo operation at the Palmietkuilen has served and filed a notice of motion to oppose the appeal that was upheld and the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries also decided to file a notice to oppose the Anglo operation as well as the Palmietkuilen (Pty) Ltd.
 - M. Liefferink asked how is it possible for DWS to proceed with the finalisation of the water use licence application when there is a pending case.
 - H. Mathedimosa mentioned that the Department has undergone a minor restructuring in terms of authorisation and there is a new unit that deals with licence application so it is possible that the case officer from DWS who is processing the application might not be aware about the pending cases. H. Mathedimosa asked that L. Liefferink can raise that issue with the Water Use Authorisation Manager through email so that it can be discussed at the WUAAAC committee.
 - P. Khwinana mentioned that the general approach of the water use licence applications is that the Department uses available information to process the licence and at the same time public participation is there to address such issues. DWS also use their own regulations like National Water Act to process the applications so if other

Departments like DMR are involved in the processing of the licence it becomes difficult to instruct them on what to do and what not to do.

- A. Barker mentioned that there was an announcement by DWS that licence applications will now take 90 days to be issued and he further asked H. Mathedimosa to provide feedback on the matter.
- H. Mathedimosa said that one the things the Departmnet is doing to ensure that licences are issued on 90 days is that they removed three phases in their application process which are (1) the initial engagement with the applicant for the intention of the project (2) the site inspection by the Department and (3) gathering of the technical information so that the Department can assess the application. This three phases where also counted as part of the 300 days but now the Department will start counting from the minute the applicant submit technical documents and provided that the information has been accepted as accurate so that the application can be assessed to make sure licence issuing does not take more that 90 days.

11	Local Authorities Report (5-minutes)	
11.1	City of Ekurhuleni <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing further to report. 	A. Maurizi
11.2	Lesedi Local Municipality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent without apology 	
12.	Organisations Report Back (5-minutes)	
12.1	ACSA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent without apology 	
12.2	Burnstone Gold Mine (Sibanye Stillwater) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent without apology 	
12.3	Calodex (Sappi) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M. Rajak reported that Calodex is still waiting for the transfer of the water use licence from Sappi and it has been in the Department for a while. 	M. Rajak
12.4	Comet Abattoir <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent without apology. 	
12.5	EBM projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent without apology 	
12.6	Enstra Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M. Mnyameni reported that Enstra paper has applied for an amendment for their recently issued licence and they are waiting for the Department to give them feedback. H. Mathedimosa mentioned that amendments are not captured on the spreadsheet and they are not handled by the Authorisation Unit as a whole but the case officers. H. Mathedimosa asked Enstra Paper to forward the name of the case officer to her so that she can follow up on the matter. A. Maurizi mentioned there was a request previously that Enstra Paper should also provide or present their water quality status but they have not done so. M. Mnyameni mentioned that she will take the matter to C. Le roux and she will respond in the next meeting. P. Khwinana made an appeal to all the water users who have licences and discharging into the river to put together their water quality status and submit them to the Department because it is a requirement that all licence holders must present their water quality results. 	M. Mnyameni
12.7	Enviroserv <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent without apology 	

12.8	<p>Ergo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is nothing further to report in terms of additions as B. Thornton covered everything on this presentation and the documents are available for review and comment.. 	A. Barker
12.9	<p>Erwat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Roode mentioned that they had an incident recently where their sludge pipeline from JP Marais WWTW to Welgedacht was stolen and the pipeline is about 200m in length. The sludge is being stored n site at the moment while the contractor is restoring the line. The incident was reported to the Department of Water and Sanitation. 	L. Roode
12.10	<p>FSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Liefferink mentioned that at the Vaal River Reconciliation Strategy it was mentioned that Rand Water does not have a water use licence and it has been without a water use licence for eight years. • There is prospecting right application for coal and it is within the City of Ekurhuleni Municipality at the Nigel district and this will impact on the Blesbokspruit catchment and the name of the mine is called Ixenge mining. • In the DME's 2008 Draft regional mine closure strategy for the East Rand it was mentioned that Daggafontein and Vikot TSF are impacting on the Blesbokspruit river system. M. Liefferink asked if Ergo also presents their water quality results to the forum. • A. Barker mentioned that Ergo does not do any direct discharge as they have closed circuits so the only discharge may sometimes be by accidents where pipes or pumps are stolen. A. Barker said that he will raise the issue with Ergo. 	M. Liefferink
12.11	<p>Gold Plat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology 	
12.12	<p>Illangabi Investments (Brikor Mine)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illangabi Investments rehave appointed an environmental company to assist them with their licence applications. There are four licence application that are with DWS and they are all being processed. 	M. Lubbe
12.13	<p>Impala Platinum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourie Mukeri reported that Impala platinum is busy with their water use licence application. 	F. Mukeri
12.14	<p>Karan Beef</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology 	
12.15	<p>Kimberly-Clark</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report 	S. Dlamini
12.16	<p>Largo/Ukufisa Colliery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. Nell reported that Ukufisa Colliery is currently undergoing care and 	A. Nell

12.17	<p>maintenance so there is nothing much happening at the moment.</p> <p>Mpact Paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology 	
12.18	<p>New Kleinfontein Goldmine (NKGM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology 	
12.19	<p>Sibanye Stillwater – Precious Metal Refinery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology 	
13	<p>NGO's / Other Report Back</p>	
13.1	<p>Gauteng Wetland Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next wetland Gauteng Wetland forum will be held as follows: Venue: Zoom online platform Date: 28 August 2020 Time: 10H00 	M. de Fontaine
13.2	<p>Grootvaly Blesbokspruit Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology 	
14	<p>Pollution Incidents Noted / Reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Roode mentioned that they had an incident recently where their sludge pipeline from JP Marais WWTW to Welgedacht was stolen and the pipeline is about 200m in length. The sludge is being stored n site at the moment while the contractor is restoring the line. The incident was reported to the Department of Water and Sanitation. 	
15	<p>Discussions of the Additions to the Agenda</p>	
15.1	<p>Delays in issuing of water use licences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Rajak mentioned that he understands that there is a lack of civil engineers from DWS as mentioned in the previous meetings and furthermore he wanted to find out how can the industries and stakeholders come together to assist the Department in speeding up the process because delay in the issuing of licences affect the business substancially and there could be some financial losses. • It might be beneficial for industries to assist the Department by perhaps paying some fees for engineers and help the Department to outsource. • H. Mathedimosa mentioned that with regard to the capacity constraints issue regarding lack of civil engineers, the Department has taken a decision to delegate the work to some of the internal engineers in the regions although they are not professional. Applications that are small scaled like development for example, will be assessed by engineers in the region to releave the work of professional engineers at Head Office. • Some of the applications are considered no longer necessary to undergo civil engineering services. • M. de Fontaine asked if anyone from the Department has escalated the suggustions of M. Rajak to managers so that it can be discussed at 	<p>M. Rajak</p> <p>H. Mathedimosa</p>

	<p>a high level or is the Department only ever going to use the in-house engineering expertise .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H. Mathedimosa said that due to the budget issues, she think the Department will continue using the internal engineers for now. The Department at some point did have the PSPs that were assisting the them with civil engineering comments but they were considered to be expensive. • M. de Fontaine suggested that M. Rajak can send an email to the forum google group suggesting that external engineeres should be used by the Department to make comments but the applicants will be liable for incurring the costs. • P. Khwinana mentioned that the Department receive reports from independent consultants or applicants and they must evaluate those reports and act as regulators so if someone comes from external and evaluate the report then it is not regulatory anymore. The Deparment need to use its own resources or engineers to evaluate the reports so that the outcome of the evaluation is not bias. Having an external engineer to evaluate the report is more or less the same as an applicant evaluating their own reports therefore it is important that the internal processes are followed. • M. de Fontaine said that he understand the issues around control and regulations but there are stakeholders in the catchment that are trying and willing to assist and this should not be seen as taking preference or promoting anyone. It would be incumbent to the Department to discuss this suggestion during internal meetings and have discussions and possibly provide feedback. • A. Barker mentioned that there is a possible way around this issue and it was looked at from a planning profession point of view through the institute and it was suggested that engineers should be requested to be available for work and they will be picked at random to work then the applicant pay for the services. • P. Khwinana to take the matter forward and provide feedback in the next forum meeting. 	
15.2	<p>DWS clear rivers campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was an national communiqué that came up in the press release regarding the Department’s promotion for residents to take a stand against pollution of the river and in the communiqué that came out the 16th of July 2020, it was stated the Department has tightened the grip against those who pollute the river and from 2017 to date the Department has opened over 50 cases against transgressors. • A. Barker mentioned the issue goes back to CME section in the Department and he further said that it is unacceptable given the fact that only 50 criminal cases have been nationally in three years and the transgressors are not arrested. The Department needs to hold people criminally liable for pollution and this includes Municipalities as well. Municipalities such as Emfuleni are the biggest polluters but they are never held accountable. 	A. Barker

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department keeps hammering the private sector for pollution but does nothing when it comes to Municipalities. The local authorities may be in crisis but that does not stop them or the Department to ensure that they discharge from municipal systems are managed properly. • .There is a situation in the South Vaal area with Lesedi Municipality but the Department does not seem to react. 	
16	<p>Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of next meeting: 05 November 2020 • Zoom Virtual Platform 	
17	<p>Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chairperson thanked everyone in attendance. 	

BLESBOKSPRUIT FORUM MEETING ACTION LIST

Date: 06 February/ August 2020

Time: 10:00 – 13 :00



NO	ITEM NO	ACTION	ACTION BY	TIME FRAMES	PROGRESS
1		A. Ambani to request for more historical data from 2012 to 2019 to compare if there are any changes to the surface water quality (Carried over from November meeting)	A. Ambani	November 2020	Report in the next meeting
2		City of Ekurhuleni to request for the appointed service provider to come to the forum to present their implementation plans for the challenges faced in the Blesbokspruit with regards to sewage pollution. (Carried over from November meeting)	K. Nesengani	November 2020	Report in the next meeting
3		CoE to find out which companies are discharging waste at the Brakpan water from Jan Smuts Dam sample point. (Carried over from November meeting)	J. Legadima	November 2020	Report in the next meeting
4		Erwat to find out which non-point source discharge point is polluting the stream at the Ratanda Heidelberg downstream. (Carried over from November meeting)	Erwat	November 2020	Report in the next meeting
5		J. Kapp to make a presentation regarding NKGM's water quality results and toxicity levels. (Carried over from November meeting)	J. Kapp	November 2020	Report in the next meeting
6		Precious Metal Refinery to present results and action plan for the spillage incident they encountered in December 2019 (Carried over from November meeting)	N. Gewers	November 2020	Report in the next meeting
7	Page 8 ;Item 9	P. Khwinana to make follow up with DWS Head office regarding solid waste management and landfill site applications since they are processing them.	P. Khwinana	November 2020	Report in the next meeting

8	Page 13; Item 12.6	H. Mathedimosa to make follow up with the Authorisation unit to find out how far is the amendment of Enstra Paper.	H. Mathedimosa	November 2020	Report in the next meeting
12	Page 13; Item 12.6	M. Mnyameni to liaise with C. Le roux to find out why Enstra Paper has not presented their water quality at the forum	M. Mnyameni	November 2020	Report in the next meeting