

**MINUTES OF THE GROOTDRAAI DAM FORUM MEETING  
HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2006**

ATTENDANCE LIST	
Stephan Raal (SR)	MP Matji (MPM)
S Dubazane (SD)	Zola Kutsu (ZK)
TS Ndamase (TSN)	T. Phidza (TP)
IL Phalane (IP)	A. James (AJ)
AB Maiyana (ABM)	K. Chetty (KC)
M. Lintnaar- Strauss (M L-S)	S. Burger (SB)
F. Bezuidenhout (FB)	M. Seabelo (MS)
A. Kapsidoris (AK)	T. Moloi (TM)
M. Lekhethe (ML)	AT Malaka (ATM)
T. Masike (T M)	J. Maluleke (JM)
S. Muthavhine (SM)	
GJ Rademeyer (GJR)	
C Thabethe (CT)	

	DISCUSSIONS	ACTION
1.	<p><b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES AND APOLOGIES</b> SR welcomed everyone to the forum meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from S. Gidimi (X-Strata), K Khunwane (Xstrata), J Van Eck (GMM), M. Mokonyane (DME), J Van Der Berg (DWAF), S. Rademeyer (DWAF), E. Tshikomba (Eskom) and D. Masoabi (Randwater)</p>	
2.	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b> Changes to the minutes: Date of previous meeting was 24 November 2005 and not 25 August 2005.</p>	
3.	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES</b></p> <p>Point 6: License applications status was discussed as a standing topic under general.</p>	
4.	<p><b>PRESENTATIONS (Copies Attached)</b></p> <p><b>Water Quality Status of level 1 points.</b></p> <p>A presentation was made by IP on Water Quality Status of level 1 points. The purpose of the presentation was to illustrate what the impacts of the upstream activities have on downstream activities in the Catchment.</p> <p><b>Promotion, illustration and documentation of water use efficiency initiatives in the Grootdraai Dam and Waterval Catchments.</b></p> <p>TM and MPM made a follow up presentation on IMP sectors (Industry, Mining and Power Generation sectors). Additions to the findings were discussed. MPM indicated that amongst other challenges was managing excess water utilization, getting the accurate water balance and setting of water use targets.</p>	

5. REPORT BACK FROM STAKEHOLDERS IN THE GROOTDRAAI DAM CATCHMENT

Rand Water Board: KC made a presentation on surface water samples taken by RWB including the sewage works for the period 01 October 2005 to 31 December 2005. CK showed a concern on poor effluent from Bethal sewage works and Ermelo sewage works. KC also informed the members that they are welcome to log in the Rand Water Board Website for additional information on [www.reservoir.co.za](http://www.reservoir.co.za).

Tutuka Power Station: TSN and TP informed the forum that there were floods from 07 to 10 January 2005. They also mentioned that the action plan for addressing the problem of Nitrates and Phosphates would be incorporated in the next forum presentation. TM raised a concern that the 0.8m freeboard is not adhered to and when there is a heavy rainstorm events, the pollution dam does not have to capacity to handle bigger volumes of water.

Camden Power Station:

There was no presentation made because there was no representative present.

Majuba Power Station:

There was no presentation made because there was no representative present.

New Denmark Colliery:

There was no presentation made because there was no representative present.

Golfview Mine:

ABM made a presentation to the forum on water quality from the 11 boreholes and 4 surface water-sampling points. The results were compared to the Grootdraai Dam Water Quality Objectives for the Brummerspruit. For surface water COD, EC, TA and Cl were unacceptable. ABM mentioned that the quality has been deteriorating over the past two years and seepage from John Skeed mine is a major concern. Groundwater results indicate that in this area there are impacts to the groundwater.

Spitzkop and Tselentis:

There was no presentation made because there was no representative present.

Delta/ Mashala Resources:

There was no presentation made because there was no representative present.

Msukaligwa Municipality:

There was no presentation made because there was no representative present.

Govan Mbeki Municipality (GMM):

AM informed the forum that GMM was tasked to draft a report on how to redress pollution problems in Govan Mbeki Municipality and that the report is in place and was submitted to DWAF. ML-S indicated that the report did not cover Bethal and she request that AM follows up.

Lekwa Municipality:

There was no presentation made because there was no representative present.

Seme Municipality –

There was no presentation made because there was no representative present.

Department of Agriculture and Land Affairs: Mpumalanga (MDALA)

ZK Informed the forum that the function of solid waste management has officially been handed over to DEAT. ML-S summarized the internal letter from DWAF as follows:

- All applications of permits for domestic landfill site in accordance to Section 20 of The Environmental Conservation Act, shall be processed at DEAT.
- DEAT is the leading authority and DWAF is the Interested and Affected authority.
- All applications for permits in accordance with Section 21(g) of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998, shall be processed at DWAF.
- In Grootdraai Dam Catchment, an application from Eskom Tutuka Power Station was received. DWAF will write a letter to Eskom Tutuka Power Station and inform them that the application should be submitted to DEAT. A RoD shall be drafted at DWAF.
- DWAF will continue with the site visits to waste disposal sites because they have an impact on groundwater.

ZK added that applications should be submitted at DEAT in Pretoria and the task shall be delegated accordingly.

JM raised a concern that it is not yet clear if the DWAF Minimum Requirement for Waste Disposal by Landfill document will be transferred.

6.	<p><b>GENERAL</b></p> <p>6.1 <u>License application status:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ILP informed the forum that DWAF HO is still busy with the Camden Water Use License.</li> <li>• ILP informed the forum that DWAF HO is still busy with the Spitzkop Water Use Licence. JM indicated that the licence was submitted with insufficient information and that he has recently received the EMPR.</li> <li>• TM raised a concern on the long periods that DWAF take to issue a licence.</li> </ul> <p>6.2 <u>The National Water Week (20-26 March 2006):</u> SB informed the forum that DALA is planning to have a function on 23 March 2006 in Bethal. The venue is not yet confirmed but it is likely to be at Bethal Dam. He also informed the forum that DESD (Decade of Education for Sustainable Development) would be launched on the same day. KC indicated that Rand Water would like to participate on the day. ILP undertook to enquire at DWAF RO about the contributions that DWAF can make. SB undertook to inform ILP and KC of the arrangements.</p> <p>6.3. <u>Pollution incidences:</u> ILP reported that no pollution incidents were reported.</p> <p>6.4 <u>Waterval Newsletter:</u> ML-S mentioned that one of the other forums suggested that the newsletter be published for the Upper Vaal Water Management Area. ML-S wanted to know whether the forum would be in favour of such an arrangement and if the forum was able to contribute with articles as well as financially.</p> <p>SR supported the proposal and encouraged the stakeholders to take this matter up in their respective organizations. SR suggested that this issue (financial options) will be a standing item in the agenda of the next forum meeting.</p> <p>6.5 <u>Illegal Water Use:</u> ILP made a short presentation on what is permissible water use in terms of the National Water Act, Act 38 of 1996. He further informed the forum that complaints were received from Govan Mbeki Local Municipality (Bethal) and Msukaligwa Local Municipality about water shortage. The complainants mentioned that they expected their dams to be full after heavy rains in January and February 2006. Their pumps were damaged because of no water in the dams. ILP informed the forum that this matter was handed over to DWAF Water Supply Management and TM was tasked to investigate the complaint.</p> <p>TM made a short presentation to display how DWAF do the investigations and what seems to be the major water demanding activities in the Catchment. TM mentioned that he personally went on site with the municipal manager of Msukaligwa. The satellite images indicated the areas where the water is damming and those were the sites that TM went to. TM summarized the findings of the investigation as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low water levels are impacted by the existing structures.</li> <li>• Mining activities have the biggest impact on the volumes.</li> <li>• There is a huge dam that no one wants to accept the responsibilities for.</li> <li>• There are voids in Douglas dam that have to be filled before the water levels can rise again.</li> <li>• Irrigators are using the General Authorization to their advantage. (A water use of less than 10 000 cubic meters per annum may not be licensed)</li> <li>• The license application process is taking too long.</li> </ul> <p>6.5 <u>Others:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ML-S will make a presentation on the DWAF organogram to show different functions in DWAF.</li> <li>• The contact people for water quality related issues in the Grootdraai Dam Catchment are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ishmael Phalane (012) 392 1357/ 082 887 3512</li> <li>○ Melissa Lintnaar-Strauss (012) 392 1441/ 082 883 5297</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Action: ILP</p> <p>Action: KC, SB, ILP.</p> <p>Action: All Members</p>
----	--	---

7	CLOSURE SR thanked everybody for attending the meeting. The meeting was closed.	
---	--	--