

**Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
Gauteng Region**



SANLAM PLAZA EAST
285 SCHOEMAN STREET
PRETORIA
Fax (012) 392 1359
1346/1307

Private Bag X995
PRETORIA
0001
Tel (012) 392

**MINUTES OF THE
GROOTDRAAI DAM FORUM MANGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING ON 19 OCTOBER 2004 AT THEX-STRATA OFFICE, BREYTEN.**

1. WELCOME

Riana Munnik welcomed everybody present at the meeting. She thanked Sindiswa for arranging the venue and lunch. Clarence mentioned that Avril Van Zyl would like to attend the meeting.

2. Present

The following representatives attended the meeting:

Sindiswa Gidimi (SG)	XCSA
Melissa Lintnaar- Strauss (ML-S)	DWAF
Sias Burger (SB)	DALA
Francois Koegelenberg (FK)	DALA
Riana Munnik (RM)	DWAF
Clarence Russell (CR)	Anker Coal and other mines
Jurgen Dunn (JD)	Govan Mbeki Municipality
Karen Chetty (KC)	Rand Water
Heidi Oosthuizen(HO)	Rand Water
Gawie Rademeyer(GR)	Dept. Health
Jean Le Roux (JLR)	Dept. Health SS

Apologies were received from:

Dirk Hanekom	ESKOM
Avril Van Zyl	Golfview Colliery
Cebo Mhlongo	Rand Water

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

No corrections were made to the minutes.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- ◆ None

5. REPORT BACK ON CEC AND REFERENCE GROUP MEETINGS

- ◆ RM gave background on the CEC and Reference group.
- ◆ The proposal has been with the Regional Director (RD) since November last year.
- ◆ A meeting between the RD and Rand Water still has to take place.
- ◆ No progress has been made with the CMA establishment.
- ◆ The proto CMA has not been approved by the DWAF.
- ◆ RM said that the forum meetings should continue in the catchment.
- ◆ Money is available to take the process further.

6. REPORT OF WATER QUALITY IN THE CATCHMENT

- ◆ KC distributed water quality information.
- ◆ Water quality information also available on the Rand Water Website.
- ◆ The sewerage works of municipalities in the catchment has been giving problems.
- ◆ ML-S gave a report back on the sewerage works in the Catchment with most problems currently experienced at Ermelo Municipality.
- ◆ Problems with pollution are also experienced at Delta mine and Tselentis Colliery.
- ◆ Meetings were held with Seme, Msukaligwa and Govan Mbeki Municipalities.
- ◆ The lack of co-ordination of the politicians are a huge problem in the local authorities where the MEC`s do not speak to the executive mayors to solve problems.
- ◆ It was suggested that a letter should be written to the MEC for Local Government to address the problem. **ACTION: DWAF**
- ◆ RM stressed that problems with the sewerage works were not unique to the catchment and that problems were experienced throughout the Upper Vaal Water Management area.
- ◆ The Gauteng Regional Office is currently busy compiling a report about the status of the sewerage works in the region, to submit to DWAF management.
- ◆ A status report should be compiled for the Mpumalanga province to inform stakeholders. **ACTION: DWAF**

7. POLLUTION INCIDENTS AND ISSUES OF CONCERN IN THE CATCHMENT

- ◆ Pollution of the Blesbok Spruit in Bethal was mentioned for DWAF to investigate. **ACTION :DWAF.**
- ◆ It was mentioned that the lack of laboratory facilities in the small towns are a huge problem and is part of the reason why water sampling cannot be done regularly by municipalities.
- ◆ The problems with the Bethal sewerage works were discussed.
- ◆ Questions were also raised about the Amersfoort sewerage works.

- ◆ ML-S mentioned that a meeting was held with Mr. Muansa from Seme Municipality regarding Amersfoort sewerage works.
- ◆ JLR mentioned that a Mr. Van Deventer was doing the analysis for Seme municipality and that he was from an accredited laboratory, Mpumalanga Analytical Services, and that weekly water samples were taken.
- ◆ It was mentioned that the salt dosage system was changed and that Amersfoort should not be experiencing problems anymore.
- ◆ It was suggested that control collection points should be taken upstream of the sewerage works e.g. Wakkerstroom.
- ◆ It was suggested that Rand Water should change the name of the Kaffer Spruit to the Brummer Spruit, since the name has been changed in November 2001 already.
- ◆ The Klein Kaffer Spruit has also been changed to the Tweefontein Spruit.
- ◆ The water quality results indicated that the Fluoride concentration was at an unacceptable level, which is of some concern to Rand Water.
- ◆ RM mentioned that there is a huge concern about the cumulative impacts of the coal mines in the area that is currently not addressed. The constituents of concern are Electrical Conductivity and sulphate.
- ◆ JLR mentioned that in the small towns, the boreholes at the landfill sites are not monitored regularly and controlled properly.
- ◆ Amersfoort has a registered landfill site where the results of the boreholes are not sent to the DWAF.
- ◆ JLR suggested that DWAF should provide the capacity to small towns on how to do ground water monitoring.
- ◆ RM stressed that even though the municipalities do not have the capacity to monitor the boreholes, it is still their responsibility to manage the sites.
- ◆ It was mentioned that the function of landfill site permitting will go to DEAT next year and not DWAF anymore.
- ◆ RM mentioned that co-operative governance has to be enforced with local authorities as far as water pollution is concerned and the DWAF cannot take the local authorities to court.
- ◆ It was mentioned that the environmental health officers were available to assist the Department with pollution incidents.
- ◆ It was mentioned that problems were experienced with the Chrissiesmeer abattoir- RM said that complaints should be directed towards the DWAF Dundee Regional Office.
- ◆ FK mentioned that there was a problem with the pump station at the Army Base near Camden Power Station. ML-S mentioned that it will be investigated. It was mentioned that the environmental health officer in the military, Colonel Perold, should be approached in this regard.

ACTION: DWAF

- ◆ The dumping of tyres at Golfview Colliery was discussed. CR mentioned that Golfview Colliery and Msukaligwa Municipality are currently looking at ways to address the problem. He said that the mine is not responsible for the dumping of the tyres in the mining void. He mentioned that that public has access to the mine and that the source of the tyre problem should be addressed.

8. GENERAL

- ◆ It was mentioned that it is very difficult to get hold of the correct DWAF official to deal with different issues in the different catchments.
- ◆ RM mentioned that a CMA is in the process of being established in the Komati catchment.
- ◆ ML-S mentioned that she will present the findings of the study of the Heyshope dam at the next forum meeting. Copies were requested of the document. **ACTION: DWAF**
- ◆ It was mentioned that the Heyshope Dam is used for recreational activities and if there are serious health problems, notices should be posted at the dam.
- ◆ ML-S mentioned that a similar study will be done for the Zaaihoek dam.
- ◆ It was requested that clarity should be given regarding the transfer scheme in the Upper-Vaal Region. **ACTION :DWAF**
- ◆ SB said that trees were planted for Arbor Week.
- ◆ He also said that waste management education was taking place.
- ◆ It was mentioned that Tutuka Power Station is currently busy with the EIA process for the long-term transportation of Coal from Tutuka to Majuba Power Station.
- ◆ Golfview Colliery is in the process of applying for mining activities to take place at Leliefontein on site, that will extend the life of the mine for approximately 15 years.
- ◆ The EIA process is under way for opencast mining to take place at Usutu Mine.
- ◆ Prospecting at Tselentis Mine is also taking place beyond Mooiplaats.
- ◆ Golfview Colliery is trying to manage the Douglas Shaft and the John Skead Mine, but illegal informal mining is taking place there. A R100 000 is available for rehabilitation at the Douglas shaft.
- ◆ CR mentioned that the remaining discard dump at Golfview is being reduced and that the coal is re-mined for the export market.
- ◆ The rehabilitation that was done on a slope on Spitzkop Colliery, visible from the Hendrina – Ermelo road, should be attended to. It was suggested that grass should be planted and that the slope be shaped properly.
- ◆ The next Grootdraai Forum Meeting will take place on 25 November 2004.
- ◆ Nooitgedacht Agricultural Center was already booked and another venue should be found.
- ◆ Town councilors and NGO`s from the municipalities e.g. Msukaligwa should be invited to the forum meetings.
- ◆ A status report on the sewerage works in the catchment should be presented at the next meeting. **ACTION:DWAF**
- ◆ DEAT will be invited to give a presentation on the Air Quality Bill and to talk about air pollution in general. **ACTION:DWAF**
- ◆ ESKOM will be asked to make a presentation on the progress with the start-up of Camden Power Station at the next meeting. **ACTION: ESKOM**
- ◆ Rand Water will make a presentation to explain water quality concepts in laymen's terms. **ACTION: RAND WATER**

- ◆ A poster should be made available of the water quality objectives for the Grootdraai dam. **ACTION: DWAF**

9. CLOSURE

RM closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their presence.