

MINUTES OF THE GROOTDRAAI DAM FORUM MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2004

ATTENDANCE LIST

S.Gidimi	K.D. Mbatha
T. Nthol	Didi Masoabi
Estehr Mahlalelo	Chris Thabethe
V. Govender	Sidwell Mathuvhine
Stephen Raal	Gawie Rademeyer
Jean le Roux	Christinah Ntatleng
Tshepo Shakwane	Tania Henning
Clarence Russell	Lizelle Koeglenberg
R. Munnik	M. Matthee
D. Hanekom	

	DISCUSSIONS	ACTION
1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION D. Hanekom welcomed everybody to the Forum meeting and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. Apologies were received from Mike van der Walt, Sias Burger, Marie Smit, and Barney van der Merwe.	
2.	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING The following corrections were made to the minutes of the previous minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 1, section 3: Dr Russel will attend the FMC on behalf of <i>Anker Coal</i>; • Page 3, section 5.3: Q4: Johan was asked who owns <i>Golang Mine</i> • Page 5, section 5.11: Sindiswa Gidimi of <i>Xstrata</i>... 	
3.	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES A short report back on the CMA process was given. Frank Gottschalk, Clarence Russel, Gawie Rademeyer and Francois Koelenberg were congratulated on their election on to the Vaal Dam Catchment Executive Committee (VDCEC). The various task teams of the Reference Group were discussed.	
4.	PRESENTATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS The order of the agenda was changed in order to address the time constraints of the various speakers	

4.1	<p>Ecologically Sensitive Areas in Mpumalanga</p> <p>Mpumalanga Parks board focussed on nature reserves. They now look at other areas such as private and municipal nature reserves, the National Department of Environment affairs, Provincial sites, biosphere reserves and a world heritage site programme.</p> <p>Various land uses in the province was shown. Before 2000 the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry wanted to know what was going on in terms of bio -diversity. This resulted in the Biobase and bio -diversity studies. These studies were conducted on species level and gave the intrinsic bio -diversity level on community level.</p> <p>The Provincial Reserves are located I areas of low intrinsic bio-diversity value. The Ekangala grassland biosphere is a new project.</p> <p>Other constitutional initiatives are the Natural Heritage site. This can be used to conserve the middle of Mpumalanga Province. If one considers a ll the data there are 17 conservancies, 6 existing conservancies, 11 proposed conservancies and 5 unknown conservancies.</p> <p>Certain veld types in the province are not conserved, namely the Turf Highveld near Ermelo and Bethal, Transitional veld, the sandy soil type near Wakkerstroom and Dulltroom and the type near Jerigo Dam and Panbult.</p> <p>The private landowners have a role to play. Conservancies are only rural conservancies. Industrial conservancies, such as those done by Sasol and Eskom, are possible. Urban Conservancies, such as Graskop and Sabie, are possible. Township conservancies, such as Wakkerstroom, Chrissiesmeer and Graskop exist. Exchange of data can take place. Before development takes place one can assess the bio -diversity of an area.</p> <p>For co-operative initiatives people are invited to contact Maryna Matthee.</p> <p>In response to a question from Lizelle Koeglenberg, Maryna indicated that they get nothing from government, but receives recognition. In the future they might get a tax break. Voluntary natural heritage sites are also a possibility. People are welcome to contact Maryna Matthee at (013) 759 5300.</p>	Maryna Matthee, Mpumalanga Parks Board.
4.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION</p> <p>Tanya Henning gave a presentation on behalf of Ms Mlotshwa from Mpumalanga D epartment of Agriculture and Environment. They have 15 centers from which the Department conducts Environmental education.</p> <p>Their work on environmental education involves goals, which relates to problem solving, critical thinking, systems thinking, and a lifelong learning process.</p> <p>They try to change lives, learn about the environment, in the environment and trough the environment.</p> <p>The vision is the sustainable utilization of natural resources for the benefit of people of Mpumalanga.</p> <p>The mission is to meet the needs of the people of Mpumalanga through the conservation of natural resources, improving living conditions and promoting sustainable agriculture.</p> <p>The core activities and core outputs are to raise awareness through <i>Enviro Clubs</i> at every school. Each <i>Enviro Club</i> must have its own environmental policy. Their programme of junior landcare awareness encourage waste management through recycling, encourage water saving through wetland awareness and clean up campaigns. They observe commemorative days, like arbor week. They also</p>	Tanya Hennig, Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment

	<p>make sure that people look after their trees and develop educational policies.</p> <p>The contact details are: Directorate Environmental Education DACE Ms Mlotshwa Private Bag X 11219 Nelspruit 1200 Tel: (013) 766 6119 Fax: (013) 766 8443</p>	
4.3	<p>LAND USE CHANGE Francois Koeglenberg gave a presentation on the change in land use in Mpumalanga. He described the area, the dams, the transfer schemes, the main river and the towns in the province. He showed the land use cover for 1995. The main land use in the catchment is dry land farming and grazing. It is reported that 70% of the catchment is still in the natural state. The land cover information for the year 2000 is in a high-resolution format, and is available on request.</p>	<p>Francois Koeglenberg, Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment</p>
4.4.	<p>OTHER MINING RELATED ISSUES Dr. Clarence Russel reported that he is a member of SACMA, that he represents "Merci", his own company.</p> <p>He commented on the "polluted water" at Golfview Mine. He mentioned that the mines are scared to raise an issue and then get the "big stick", because of the incident. He reported that the mine water reports costs a lot of money.</p>	<p>Dr. Clarence Russel</p>
7.	<p>DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING The next forum will be held on the 26 May 2004 at 10:00 at the Nooitgedacht Agricultural Research Center.</p>	
8.	<p>CLOSURE D. Hanekom thanked everyone for attending and presenting in the meeting and then closed the meeting</p>	