

MINUTES
VAAL DAM RESERVOIR FORUM
1 March 2018
DWS Offices, Deneysville
10:00 – 13:00



No	Item	Responsible Person	Due Date
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs Florah Mamabolo welcomed everyone to the forum meeting. Mrs Florah Mamabolo was concerned by the lack of attendance of the municipal officials at the Forum meeting. 	Chairperson	
2.	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the attendees introduced themselves. 	All	
3.	<p>Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P Mabele - Eskom S Letlhake - Midvaal S Mporeti - Rand Water Emmah Malatjie - DWS/HO B Bungane - Eskom 		
4.	<p>Corrections of the previous minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amendment to the Grootvlei license conditions has been recommended. 		
5.	<p>Matters arising from the previous meeting (24 November 2016).</p> <p>DWS would engage with the CME division to see if the audit was completed on the Refenggotso WWTW Plant</p> <p>Mfanakhona Hlatswayo and Chris du Preez are to be invited to the next Forum meeting so that the Forum can be given an update as to the statuses of the WWTW plants, in terms of the work done, and still to be done, from the R330m set aside for the emergency interventions by DWS.</p> <p>Mr. Reveck Harirum requested that an invitation be sent to the Vaalmarina Landfill Site representative to attend the Forum so that issues could be discussed and resolved. This</p>	<p>Luvuyo Nqelenga</p> <p>Florah Mamabolo</p> <p>Florah Mamabolo</p>	<p>30/ 05/ 18</p> <p>30/ 05/ 18</p> <p>30/ 05/ 18</p>

	matter has been carried forward due to the non-attendance of the respective representative at the Forum.		
6.	<p>Additions to the Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Water Resource Planning: Vaal River System • National Water and Sanitation Master Plan • DWS - New Minister 		
7.	<p>Items for discussions</p> <p>Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment</p> <p>7.1 Water Quality Report – Rand Water RH</p> <p>The last quarter test results reflect as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the alkalinity, Nitrates and COD levels reflected are mainly due to agricultural activities and WWTW plant discharges. • At VSS, the alkalinity, COD levels and conductivity are unacceptable. • At point KP the nitrates and COD are high which can be attributed to the Memel oxidation ponds. • At KW the alkalinity and COD levels are high. • At KSV, which is below the Vrede WWTW plant, the alkalinity, Nitrates and COD are unacceptable. • At VDS, the Nitrates the nitrates and COD levels are unacceptable. • At VGB, the ammonia, nitrate and COD levels are unacceptable. • At VV, the ammonia, nitrate, COD and Ecoli levels are unacceptable. • At VD41, VDP, Vd1 and VD2, the nitrate levels are unacceptable. • At WF, which is downstream of the Frankfort oxidation ponds, the Ecoli, COD and nitrate levels are unacceptable. <p>WWTW Plant reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standerton: The ammonia and Ecoli levels have been unacceptable for the whole year. This plant is not functioning at all and is being bypassed. • Deneyville: No sample was taken. The ammonia levels have been unacceptable for the year. • Oranjeville: The ammonia and Ecoli levels are unacceptable. • Vaalmarina: The nitrate levels are unacceptable. • Villiers: The ammonia, COD and Ecoli levels are unacceptable. 	N van der Walt	

	<p>7.2 DWS -Gauteng</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No sample is taken if there is no inflow into the relevant WWTW Plant. • The nitrate and COD levels are not complying with water quality guidelines except for the Vaalmarina WWTW plant. • The WWTW Plant at Cornelia is in a very bad state of repair. There is nothing happening there and no official was operating the plant. • The Deneysville and Oranjeville WWTW plants sample results had improved compared to previous test results. <p>7.3 DWS - Free State</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornelia: The Forum wanted to know what action DWS were going to take to resolve the non-functioning of the Cornelia WWTW Plant. • Vrede: There was no inflow into this WWTW plant and raw sewage was flowing into the water course. This plant was being upgraded since July last year. By August the plant should have been fully operational. The forum will only be able to see the impact at the next forum meeting. • Mfanakhana Hlatswayo will be able to inform the Forum of progress made in terms of the emergency interventions that have been made by DWS. <p>7.4 DWS - Mpumalanga</p> <p>No representative</p> <p>7.5 DWS - Solid Waste Management</p> <p>No Representative.</p> <p>7.6 CME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A directive had been issued to the Standerton Municipality in terms of their non-functioning WWTW plant. • I Main stated that she would approach the media Carte Blanche and Al Jazeera so that the pollution can be highlighted. • J van Wyk stated that DWS would need to relook at the resource quality objectives in terms of the new requirements sometime in the future. 	K Rapelang	
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8	<p>Catchment Activities (Feedback from Stakeholders)</p> <p>8.1 Phumelela Municipality</p> <p>No representative.</p> <p>8.2 Lekwa Municipality</p> <p>No representative</p> <p>8.3 Metsimaholo Municipality</p> <p>No representative</p> <p>8.4 Mafube Municipality</p> <p>No representative</p> <p>8.5 VQA</p> <p>No representative</p> <p>8.6 Goldi</p> <p>The plant was fully operational. 40% of the water was being directed to the abattoir and 60% to irrigation.</p> <p>8.7 Eskom Grootvlei Power Station</p> <p>Nothing had changed since the last Forum meeting. In terms of the micro analysis report received for the drinking water quality of the water provided by the Balfour Municipality, the Faecal coliform levels were unacceptable making the drinking water not suitable for human consumption. Eskom requested assistance from the Forum in regard to the lack of cooperation received from Balfour Municipality.</p> <p>8.8 Dipaleseng Municipality</p> <p>No representative.</p> <p>8.9 Midvaal LM</p> <p>No representative. Apology received.</p> <p>8.10 Fezile Dabi DM</p> <p>No representative.</p>		
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	<p>8.11 Gert Sibande DM</p> <p>No representative</p> <p>8.12 SAVE the Vaal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I Main was concerned about the lack of attendance by the municipality officials. Florah Mamabolo suggested that COGTA officials be invited to the Forum and that COGTA should send the Forum invitations to the Municipal Managers. F Mamabolo advised that Mogale Matseba be tasked to send the invitations out to the Municipa Managers. • Phillip would invite COGTA officials. 	F Mamabolo and Phillip.	
9	<p>Water Use License Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Grootvlei license approval is 95% complete. Only the signature of approval is outstanding. • PSP were struggling to obtain plans for the Villiers WWTW plant which is required to accompany the application for a water use license. 		
10	<p>Pollution Incidents</p> <p>Vrede: Sewage flowed into the river for a period of two weeks. The delay to repair the fault was the fact that a service provider had to be appointed. DWS had sent a message to the Municipal Manager but no feedback had been received.</p> <p>Standerton: CME Gauteng had referred the pollution matter to the CMA. CME were waiting for the required action plan.</p> <p>Vaalmarina: The pump stations' capacity in Marina Letata needs to be upgraded urgently. There have been several pollution issues here which flows into the Vaal Dam.</p> <p>Frankfort: The landfill site in Frankfort is out of control. Dumping is taking place on the side of the road which results in this flowing into the river during wet weather conditions. James Mofokeng to follow up with Environmental Affairs. An official from Environmental Affairs should be invited to this Forum.</p> <p>CMA process: Seboe advised that some time ago there was a letter re treasury's allocation of funding to the CMA. The Department took a decision for a task team to be appointed, to review what would be the best solution moving forward, for the CMA's. Originally 9 CMA's were going to be established</p>	J Mofokeng	30/ 05/ 18

	<p>but it has been decided to only form 1 CMA. Both have similar ways in terms of management of the resources. This would mean that only 1 Board would be appointed, with 1 CEO which would manage the 9 CMA's. This would be cost effective.</p> <p>The concerns raised were that only one CMA would be less effective, that they would only focus on their area, and that they would be too busy to actually cope with the water management areas. An extension for comments has been granted.</p> <p>The Department will transfer staff internally until the CMA has been properly gazetted. The NWA has already been consulted and amended. The new Resource Strategy is with the clusters. Section 78.1 a,b will determine the charges.</p> <p>This will affect the time frame to begin which was expected in March, but will in all probability only start in May/ June. The functions and duties will run parallel until the CMA is in place.</p>		
11	<p>Discussion of Additions to the agenda</p> <p>Agenda Item 11.1: Integrated Water Resource Planning: Vaal River System</p> <p>Mr Van Wyk informed forum members that the next contract for the Continuation of the Integrated Vaal River System Reconciliation Strategy Study was commissioned towards the end of 2017. Mr Van Wyk explained that the Reconciliation Strategy has as its aim the reconciliation of water demand with water supply in the Vaal River System with a longer-term forward planning horizon of up to 2050 and beyond. He reminded forum members that the Reconciliation Strategy for the Vaal River System currently includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The re-use of desalinated acid mine drainage (AMD) return-flows by either the domestic and or the industrial water user sectors; • The eradication of unlawful water use, especially by irrigation farmers in the Upper Vaal Catchment; • With the assistance of Rand Water, the implementation of water conservation and water demand management (WC & WDM) by the Gauteng metropolitan municipalities to save 15% of their non-revenue water; • Augmentation through the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP#2) from Polihali Dam by 2025; • The continued management of the uncertainties associated with the potential changing water demands on the Vaal River System from the Olifants and Crocodile West River Systems; 	J van Wyk	

- The establishment of a yield replacement/ re-regulating dam in the Lower Orange River at Vioolsdrift- Noordeoer jointly with Namibia to increase the system yield of the Orange River, *i.e.* to transfer the full allocated volume over from the Upper Orange River to the Vaal River;
- Potential re-use of sewage return-flow water, with desalination as an option; and
- Augmentation through the Tugela-Vaal Water Project (TVWP#2) from ±2050 onwards.

Mr Van Wyk mentioned that the 2009 Integrated Vaal River Water Quality Management Strategy highlighted 4 water quality management focus areas; these being salinization, nutrient-loading, microbial pollution and institutional strengthening. He, further, explained that the 2009 strategy requires updating to address shortcomings, including catering for the potential effects of emerging pollutants in the Vaal River System, such as endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), persistent organic pollutants (POPs), nano-particles and micro-plastics, and antibiotics, as well as to address mega-trends, such as climate change. He also said that the 2009 strategy does not have a good handle on pollution loads that report to receiving reservoirs and what the relative load contributions of impacting sectors are. Mr Van Wyk informed forum members that it was recommended that two linked integrated water quality management strategies must be developed for both the Orange and the Vaal River Systems, since the two river systems are more and more being management as an integrated system (*i.e.* the transferring of water over from the Orange headwaters to the Vaal River System, while losing water from the Lower Vaal River to the Lower Orange River). Mr Van Wyk concluded by stating that the Integrated Vaal River Water Quality Management Strategy should be complemented with the development and implementation of the necessary supporting water quality management plans, to, for instance, address the potential future effects of mining in the Upper Vaal area or to address eutrophication problems in the Middle Vaal.

Agenda Item 11.2: National Water and Sanitation Master Plan

Mr Van Wyk informed forum members that the Department is busy with the drafting of a National Water and Sanitation Master Plan (NW&S MP) as implementation vehicle for the NWRS2 (and the strategies to follow). He said the Department is on track to produce a final draft Master Plan by mid-March for submission to Cabinet for approval. Mr Van Wyk said that it is foreseen that, following the Cabinet processes, the draft

	<p>Master Plan will be published for further public comment. Mr Van Wyk, in conclusion, mentioned that the NW&S MP, amongst others, contains clear targets, time frames and budget requirements to facilitate effective implementation of water sector priorities.</p> <p>New DWS Minister</p> <p>Mr. Gugile Nkwinti has been appointed as the new minister</p>		
12.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Date of next meeting 31 May 2018</p>		
13	<p>Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson thanked everyone for participating. • Meeting was adjourned at 11H37. 		