



MINUTES
VAAL DAM RESERVOIR FORUM
 23 February 2017
 DWS Offices, Deneysville
 10:00 – 13:00

No	Item	Action
1.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mogale Matseba (MM) welcomed everyone to the forum meeting apologized on behalf of the meeting chairperson who was not present and requested everyone to introduce themselves. 	Chairperson
2.	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the attendees introduced themselves. 	All
3.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harriet Groenewalt-DWS • Irene Main –Save the Vaal • Eunice Nmututi -DWS 	All
4.	Matters arising from the previous meeting (24 November 2016). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Florah Mamabolo (MF) liaised with CSIR laboratory regarding the results of Standerton WWTWs as Ammonia is high while E-coil is low, the Lab said it was late for them to sample Ammonia or maybe the officials made a mistake by swapping the samples. • Page 3: No representative from Metsimaholo Local Municipality was present at the previous meeting to present the relevant water quality results. MM requested that the action be included into the next meeting minutes. • MM said the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) should do a spot check at laboratory and should re-implement this practice to ensure that the laboratory is abiding by all relevant standards. • According to the previous minutes DWS Mpumalanga (Ms Samantha Saayman) representative was supposed to present during the forum meeting, however she was not present at the meeting and therefore could not present. MM stated that it was problematic that the DWS Mpumalanga and Free State offices were not sending representatives to the forum. 	All

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was also stated that there was no representative from Dipaleseng Local Municipality. MF added that she had contacted Dipaleseng Local Municipality and requested that they send a representative to the forum meetings. However the Municipality responded and said that they currently did not have a water and sanitation representative and thus there was currently no one could take responsibility for that mandate and attend the forum meetings. • Mr Phillimon Shibambo raised a concern that Vaal dam is the only forum with less attendance. • The chairperson said that a letter should be written to Municipal Managers requesting representative from each municipality to attend forums. 	
5.	<p>Additions to the Agenda</p> <p>5.1 Sanitation policy to be presented in the next forum meeting 5.2 Climate change presentation be added to the agenda</p>	
6.	<p>Items for discussions</p> <p>Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment</p> <p>6.1 Water Quality Report – Rand Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicolene presented the Rand Water quality monitoring results from January 2016 to December 2016. She highlighted that nitrate and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) were elevated. The water quality results were poor, with more non-compliance than compliance. • MM said there is a lot of non-compliance as most columns are highlighted in red, what are Municipalities doing and what their plans are. • Mr. Phillimon Shibambo (PS) suggested that when municipalities reports they should present their action plan, the measures and what are they doing to minimize • MF said that she thought the funding from DG will assist but since the DG left she’s struggling to get hold of anyone to assist with the status of project that was developed by the DG to assist the struggling non complying Municipalities. • MM said that Municipalities should do action plans and he thought that municipalities would use the funds from DWS. <p>6.2 DWS -Gauteng</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Betty Nakene (BN) presented the DWS water quality 	

monitoring results from October 2016 to December 2016, which indicated similar results to the Rand Water monitoring results. The WWTWs samples all indicated elevated ammonia and *E.coli* levels. Unfortunately DWS officials were unable to access Vrede Sewage Works and thus unable to obtain a sample for that monitoring point.

- Mr. Phillimon Shibambo (PS) asked what was meant when BN said that the DWS officials were unable to access the Vrede Sewage Works. BN responded to say that the gates were locked and there was no person present to open the gates.
- PS requested that local municipalities present action plans to the forum, which should detail how they plan to rectify non-compliances.
- MF responded to say that the former Director General (DG) Ms Margrate Diederiks had authorised a grant of R 350 million to assist municipalities with upgrading and repairing their WWTWs however since the DG left office, there has been no follow up on this project.
- MM clarified that the project MF has mentioned was only to repair WWTW where required not to upgrade WWTW. MM added that municipalities were responsible for management of their WWTWs and that it was not the responsibility of DWS to manage or pay for the WWTW. It is the municipalities mandate to budget for WWTW maintenance and management, and only if they can prove that they can't afford the WWTW management and maintenance can DWS then step in and assist.
- Mr Nceba Ketelo (NK) said that the problem was that municipalities were 'not coming to the party'. They had already been informed of the WWTW issues raised during the previous forums and been requested to provide action plans to the forum but have still not responded.
- Mr Luvuyo Nqelennga (LN) added that the DWS Minister has recently been meeting with municipalities MECs and that the forum and DWS should use that platform to escalate the concerns rose regarding mismanagement of WWTW and the requirement of action plans to address this.
- Mr Simon Mporetji (SM) asked where monitoring point number 2 (Vaal Dam on Vaal River) was located?
- BN explained that monitoring point two was located at the Vaal Dam wall.

- SM asked how the *E.coli* and faecal coliform levels could be so high and said he thought these might be recorded erroneously.
- MM responded and said it was likely that these results reflected an influence from Deneysville WWTW. MM asked when the sampling was undertaken.
- BN responded and said that the sampling was undertaken in November 2016.
- MM explained that there was little/no rainfall during November 2016, which means that the Vaal Dam levels would have been quite low and thus undiluted by rainfall. MM recommended that DWS officials who conduct sampling carry notebooks so that the conditions at the time of sampling can be noted.
- Mr Reveck Hariram(RH) asked if the sampled WWTW could have such a severe influence on the Vaal Dam itself, especially when contaminants from WWTW would be diluted within the dam.
- MM said that DWS would audit the CSIR laboratory to ensure that samples and results were being processed and captured accurately.

6.3 DWS - Free State

No representative

6.4 DWS - Mpumalanga

No representative

6.5 DWS - Solid Waste Management

Mr Thya Pather (TP) has not been present at the previous forum meetings, as another DWS colleague was attending this forum. TP explained that he had scheduled a meeting with the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) regarding small landfill sites located in the local municipalities. TP added that these small landfill sites did not have sufficient capacity and lacked suitable equipment. However, they are not yet impacting on the quality of the water resource. TP suggested that a DWS representative attend the local council meetings, where landfills, WWTPs and related funding are discussed. TP added that he would like to conduct a site inspection of Grootvlei landfill site in order to ensure it has been capped properly. TP will provide feedback regarding this at the next forum.

	<p>6.6 CME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LN explained that the catchment water restrictions were still in place, despite the recent rainfall and increase in the dam level. LN added that there were still problems with local agricultural activities and (DWS : Directorate Complaine Monitoring and Enforcement) CME were working with head office in order to try and identify which farms were not complying and therefore impose water restrictions. • LN said that CME would write letters/notices to local Municipality Managers regarding forum attendance. • Ms Anza Mabayi (AM) explained that the Sterkfontein project had been implemented to assist with increasing the water level of the Vaal Dam. • AM added that CME were planning to issue a directive to local Municipal Managers regarding poor forum attendance. If the municipalities don't respond to the directive, there is little else CME can do, however they are doing their best to enforce compliance and cooperation. AM added that these issues had to be raised with Municipal Managers. • MM said that if municipalities didn't comply with the directives issued, DWS would then need to open a prosecution cases against them with the legal department. • Ms Sarah Modipane said that the water tribunal was not functioning properly so the cases that are opened are not going anywhere. • MM said it was disappointing to hear that the water tribunal was not functioning properly, however DWS were not able to point fingers or cast blame. The best option for DWS was for them to do all they can within their mandate and within the law to enforce compliance. MM said that DWS officials must do the best job they can within the National Water Act so that when these cases are taken to court or the media asks questions, DWS can say that they did all they could. 	
7	<p>Catchment Activities (Feedback from Stakeholders)</p> <p>7.1 Phumelela Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No representative <p>7.2 Lekwa Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms MoshiaLegodi (ML) said that TM Molefe contractors were currently on site to repair WWTW leaking pipes. She further said that a new sludge pump needed to be installed; however the contractor was not addressing this. This problem will be addressed in the new financial year. LM said that DWS had granted the 	

	<p>municipality a R30 million grant, which would be transferred in the new financial year in order to help the municipality address sewage leakage problems.</p> <p>7.3 Metsimaholo Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No representative <p>7.4 Mafube Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No representative <p>7.5 Goldi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Herman Kriel (HK) said that the COD levels at the site, which were over 1000 mg/l, have now been reduced to just over 105 mg/l. They still need to reduce this further but they have made good progress and are hoping to have their COD levels below the Water Use Licence (WUL) limit of 75 mg/l by the next forum meeting. • MM said it was a good improvement and was encouraging to hear. MM asked how far along the plant construction was, as at the last meeting they stated that the plant construction was at 80%. • HK said that the plant should be completed by the next forum meeting. <p>7.6 Eskom Grootvlei Power Station</p> <p>No representative present.</p> <p>7.7 Dipaleseng Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No representative. <p>7.8 Midvaal LM</p> <p>No representative</p> <p>7.9 Fezile Dabi DM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Sam Kotsoane (SK) said that they were having similar problems with local municipalities, under their jurisdiction, in terms of communication and compliance. Fezile Dabi DM has struggled to get in touch with the water quality manager at Mafube Municipality regarding non-compliance of the WWTW. • MM asked if Fezile Dabi DM was managing the local municipalities. MM said that if the local municipalities were not compliant then 	<p>Sam Kotsoane</p> <p>Sam Kotsoane</p>
--	--	---

	<p>Fezile Dabi DM must take action and work with them to try and make them compliant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SK said that district municipalities were limited by legislation. • MM said that Fezile Dabi DM must do all they are legally allowed to do, make sure that they tick all legal action boxes and then escalate the problem. • SK said this had been done, and are meeting with the local municipal managers often. • MM requested the SK provide the minutes of these meetings (between Local and District Municipalities), and any other relevant documentation, to the DWS compliance department (CME) in order to DWS to escalate it. <p>7.10 Gert Sibande DM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM said that the forum required the municipality to provide a presentation regarding their water quality data and relevant facilities (WWTW, landfills etc.) • Ms Gugu Madida (GM) said that this was the first time the municipality were attending the forum meeting and they were not sure of what was expected of them. • MM thanked them for attending the forum meeting and requested that FM and BN provide them with the details of what they will need to present to the forum at the next meeting. <p>7.11 SAVE the Vaal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No representative 											
8	<p>Water Use License Status</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="260 1413 1182 1648"> <thead> <tr> <th>No</th> <th>Applicant</th> <th>Water uses</th> <th>Application date</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Eskom Holdings SOC Limited: Grootvlei Power Station – PV Solar Facility- (Amendment)</td> <td>21(c) and (i)</td> <td>08 September 2015</td> <td>Under assessment</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No	Applicant	Water uses	Application date	Status	3	Eskom Holdings SOC Limited: Grootvlei Power Station – PV Solar Facility- (Amendment)	21(c) and (i)	08 September 2015	Under assessment	
No	Applicant	Water uses	Application date	Status								
3	Eskom Holdings SOC Limited: Grootvlei Power Station – PV Solar Facility- (Amendment)	21(c) and (i)	08 September 2015	Under assessment								
9	<p>Pollution Incidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No pollution incidents were raised, other than those already mentioned. • MM added that if stakeholders or observers of pollution incidents didn't report them, they were equally guilty. MM said that all pollution incidents needed to be reported to the municipality and then to DWS. 											
10	<p>CMA Process</p>	<p>Mr.EM Matseba</p>										

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM explained that the Vaal CMA had been gazetted. However, following that issues regarding labour relations (employee transfer terms) were raised and thus a task team was designated to further investigate those issues and report back to the minister. That report had not yet been presented and that the CMA would continue to function as a Proto CMA until report feedback was available. • MM explained that the sanitation policy had been approved by cabinet. MM asked FM to arrange for a DWS head office representative to attend the next forum meeting in order to explain the sanitation policy to the forum. 	
11	<p>Discussion of Additions to the agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Salagae Modukanele presented the findings of a DWS climate change study detailing the impacts of agriculture, mining and industry along with climate change on the Vaal catchment. • SM asked whether conventional farming practices negatively impacted the sensitivity and vulnerability of water availability and quality. • Mr Modukanele said that they were working with farmers and the Department of Agriculture in order to try and improve farming practices in the catchment. He added that they also looked at non-climatic factors and not only bio-physical impacts. He further said that they couldn't take action themselves but they could identify the impact of conventional farming on water vulnerability and then notify the Department of Agriculture and other relevant departments and forums. 	
12.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>MM said that the next meeting would be on the 25th May 2017.</p>	All
14	<p>Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM said that the actions raised at the meeting needed to be addressed. MM requested that FM and BN draft an action list with the meeting minutes and distribute it to the forum mailing list so that stakeholders could be reminded to address any actions applicable to them. • An attendee stated that he and a few fellow students would be attending the forum meetings for an assignment. Their assignment was to select a catchment and assess the pollution incidents noted within the catchment. The student explained that they would need to collect data for this assignment and thus the students would be contacting forum attendees to request data for their assignment. • MM said that they first needed to formally contact FM and DWS in order to request assistance and explain what the data would be used for and the purpose of their project. 	Chairperson

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MM requested that at the next forum meeting Lekwa Municipality present and discusses an associated action plan, including short, medium and long term goals, so that DWS are able to assist with the implementation and progress of the project.• ML said that currently the Lekwa Municipality is not uploading water quality data onto the (DWS Green Drop System) DGS and so it appears that their water quality never improves. ML requested assistance with the online system and said they are not sure how to upload data.• MM said that FM and BN will happily assist with this and MM said they should share contact details after the meeting.• ML said that she is working alone on the water quality issues, as Lekwa Municipality have staff shortages, and thus she does not have capacity to undertake all the required tasks.• MM requested that she send the water quality data to DWS Mpumalanga to be uploaded and request assistance from DWS when she needs it.• MM thanked everyone for participating and the meeting was adjourned at 13H00. | |
|--|--|