



VAAL DAM FORUM MEETING

23 NOVEMBER 2005

Vaal Dam Office, Deneysville

VDR FORUM ATTENDANCE LIST

		<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent With Apologies</i>	<i>Absent Without Apologies</i>
1. Didi Masoabi – Rand Water	DM	X		
2. Karen Chetty – Rand Water	KC	X		
3. Freek Schoemaan – Earlybird Standerton	FS	X		
4. Korf Stoltz – Earlybird Standerton	KS	X		
5. Louis Makhubele – DWAF	LM	X		
6. Thabo Moloi – DWAF	TM	X		
7. Gideon Vosloo – Enviro Agriculture	GV	X		
8. Thys Koen– Toga Linings	TK		X	
9. Seppi Claassen – Lekwa Municipality	SC		X	
10. Punky Mohale –Lekwa Municipality	PM		X	
11. JG van Wyk – Lekwa Municipality	JvW	X		
12. MD Makhatha – Lekwa Municipality Fire Brigade	MM			X
13. Letona Mohlahli – Dept Health Free State	LMo			X
14. Tefelo J Mofokeng – Dept Health Free State	TJM	X		
15. Zola Kutsu – DACE Mpumalanga	ZK	X		
16. Madoda Besani – Phumelela Local Municipality	MB			X
17. Vusi Hlatshwayo – Lekwa Municipality	VH		X	
18. Calvin Tjale – Environmental Health	CT			X
19. Ashendri Reddy – Lekwa Department Health	AR		X	
20. Thembinkosi Mavuso – Dace Mpumalanga	TMa	X		
21. Seef Rademeyer – DWAF	SR		X	
22. Juanita van der Berg – DWAF	JvdB	X		
23. MB Makhaba – Dept Health Free State	MK	X		
24. Z G Magadla – Dept Health free State	ZM	X		
25. CN Oliphant – Dept Health free state	CO	X		
26. SN Mosikili – Dept Health Free State	NSM	X		
27. Johan Jacobs - Mafube Municipality	JJ	X		

No	Item	Action
1.	WELCOME	
	The chairman GV welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.	
2.	APOLOGIES	
	The following apologies were noted	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thys Koen • Seppie Claassen • Seef Rademeyer • Johan van Wyk 	
3.	APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. 	
4.	ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA	
	The following additions were made to the agenda:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Forum News letter 4.2 Verification process 4.3 Presentations for 2006 	
5.	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES	
5.1	Earlybird farm	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS reported that the list of chicken farms contracted to Earlybird Farm was not available yet. • Earlybird Farm informed the meeting that they are looking into buying a new farm for their expansion. • Investigations are in the way and the necessary applications are being completed for acquiring the new land. 	KS
5.2	Vaal Dam Forum Charter	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LM informed the meeting that he has requested at their offices, translations of the Forum charter into other languages. 	
5.3	Lizard Point Golf Estate	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LM informed the meeting that an ROD for this project has been issued by DEAT, subject to conditions that were raised by the other authorities and I&AP. • The concerns of sewerage and landfill management raised by DWAF have been noted as conditions in the ROD issued by DEAT. • KC also stated that Rand Water had a problem with the density of houses in the new development. 	

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- It was also reported that this development was in an area zoned for recreation and rezoning application was in process.

6. WATER QUALITY IN THE CATCHMENT

6.1 DWAF

- LM presented water quality of effluent from sewage works in the catchment.
- He showed that high discharges of COD, Nitrates, Phosphates and Coliforms are still a problem
- LM also showed that there was a big improvement in the quality of effluent from the Standerton sewerage treatment plant.
- LM also added that DWAF is pleased that the new Vrede sewerage treatment plant is operational, this would hopefully eliminate sewerage pollution problems from the old pond system.
- LM also reported that due to the problems in drinking water quality in Delmas, DWAF water quality has started sampling drinking water in the other towns in the Vaal Water management area.
- LM reported that water quality of drinking water in Vrede and Memel have also been tested and results were acceptable.
- KS reported that Salmonella is a problem for their chickens. He added that water upstream of Standerton is sampled by Earlybird to ensure that it is free of Salmonella.

6.2 Rand Water

- KC made a presentation on Rand Water's water quality monitoring in the catchment.
- KC reported that this set of results concluded the Rand Water's annual water quality report.
- High COD, NO₃ and Alkalinity at BD4 at the Vaal river up stream of the Vaal marina.
- High COD at Vaal river at Villiers.
- High Alkalinity and Conductivity at Klip river.
- KC added that Alkalinity is generally very high at Vaal river.
- High conductivity at VGB, at confluence of Vaal river and Waterval.
- The map and water quality results would be made available on the website.

6.3 Department of Health

- TJM reported that there are improvements in Vrede as far as Environmental health is concerned.
- The Department of Health is concerned with the areas that have not been rehabilitated at the sewerage pump-station at Vrede. DWAF was asked to follow up.
- TJM also reported that Drinking water quality has improved at Memel.
- He added that a consultant has been appointed by Phumelela Municipality to manage Memel and Vrede water related issues.
- TJM further reported that Project Consolidate has come in to assist the Municipality.

6.3 Mafube Municipality

- Mr Johan Jacobs (JJ) reported that the Municipality is currently having problems with the Villiers Abattoir waste water, which their sewerage treatment plant can not handle.
- The municipality wanted to close down the abattoir however they were unable to, due to political interventions.
- JJ reported that the abattoir has been asked to take their waste to Frankfort, where there is a

<p>farm that disposes of abattoir waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KC reported that Rand Water and DWAF visited this farm and were not happy with the way waste is being disposed. • JJ added that this problem has been forwarded to their Environmental Health section. • JJ also reported that they've had a problem with overflow of sewerage ponds. He said that this was due to electricity shortages this is also due to the abattoir that uses more power than they had initially required, this causes malfunctioning in pumping of sewerage from the ponds to the sewerage works. • JJ also reported that they were also having problems of water shortages in Villiers due to farmers that were building dam walls upstream of Villiers, DWAF came in to assist the municipality and most of the dam walls were demolished. • JJ added that Villiers was building a dam to ensure that they would always have water for the town, especially during the dry season. • TM reported that DWAF is implementing a project that will address the problems of illegal damming of water in the Vaal river, in early 2006. The Vaal river would be monitored from the Grootdraai dam up to Villiers. 	
<p>7. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA</p>	
<p>7.1 Earlybird Farm Verification of farms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earlybird farm is concerned with the number of illegal water users and that the verification of water use authorisations by DWAF is very slow. • KS reported that Earlybird Farm is busy with an EIA study for a new farm near the Grootdraai Dam, DWAF and Rand Water would be involved in this process. • Earlybird Farm would also meet with DWAF to verify their water use applications for the new farm. • KS also reported that Earlybird Farm, Standerton factory, has commissioned screens for the removal of fat and grease from their waste water. More information will be provided in future forum meeting, with regards to recycle of water. 	<p>KS, LM, TM</p>
<p>7.2 Forum Newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was reported that a Newsletter for the whole Uppervaal is being looked at, this newsletter will cover all the catchments and events from the forums. • Further details would be provided in future forums. 	<p>KC, LM</p>
<p>7.3 Presentations for 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LM should be contacted for forum presentations in 2006. • Forum members are encouraged to make presentations to the forum. Anything that would be of interest to the forum is welcome. 	<p>ALL</p>
<p>7.4 Water Week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water week will be discussed in the first meeting in 2006, all suggestions should be forwarded to LM. 	<p>ALL</p>
<p>8. POLLUTION INCIDENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No incidents were reported to DWAF or Rand Water. • It was however reported that there is a problem of an unpleasant taste in drinking water around 	

the Standerton area, this could be due to algae problems. Geosmin secreted by algae causes smell and taste in water.

- KC also reported that there is high Algae blooms in Vaal dam.

9. REPORT BACK FROM THE FORUM TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

- There was no report back given from the Technical Committee.

10. GENERAL

10.1 Forum Structure

- ZK reported that he has a concern with the structure of the forum, there is a number of other stakeholders, e.g. DME, DEAT and other waste management institutions who should be part of this forum.
- ZK added that for the forum to be balanced we need input from other parties involved in issues discussed in the forum.

ALL

11. CLOSURE

- The meeting was closed at 12h05 and date for the next meeting is the 15 February 2006.
- Dates for 2006 were agreed as follows:
 - 15 Feb 2006
 - 17 May 2006
 - 16 August 2006
 - 15 November 2006