



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

| No | Item | Action |
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| 1. | Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Surprise Letlhake (SL) welcomed everyone to the forum meeting. | Chairperson |
| 2. | Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the attendees introduced themselves. | All |
| 3. | Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zanele Ngobeni – Eskom • Herman Kriel – Goldi • Cobus Eksteen – Goldi • Jurgo van Wyk – Water Quality Planning, DWS • Jackie Jay – Water Quality Planning, DWS • Thya Pather – DWS • Mogale Matseba - DWS | All |
| 4. | Corrections of the previous minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mothusi Tholo is the Assistant Director and not the Superintendent dealing with drinking water quality in Midvaal Municipality. • Mr. Zuzuzimuzi Tshabalala (ZT) said that the Vrede plant is still under refurbishment and nothing goes to the plant | All |
| 5. | Matters arising from the previous meeting (24 November 2016). DWS were still waiting for the audit report for the Refengkgotso WWTW plant. | All |
| 6. | Additions to the Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Chairperson to be elected • Pollution incidents – Deneysville – Dealt with under section 9 • DWS - New Cell Numbers | |

7.

Items for discussions

Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment

7.1 Water Quality Report – Rand Water RH

- Rand Water presented the quarterly report for July – September 2017. Two parameters were problematic namely nitrates and COD.
- COD levels at VSS very high.
- At KD after discharge of Sandspruit – COD levels very high.
- The high COD levels continue from KSV all the way to Vaal Marina.
- Non-compliant nitrates levels continue all the way to VD11 – near the Vaal Dam wall.
- All the WWTW plants were not compliant to the instream water guidelines.

7.2 DWS -Gauteng

- Kelekegile presented the water Quality for DWS from July – Sept 2017.
- There were no samples taken from the Vrede and Eskom WWTW plants for this quarter.
- Ammonia and COD levels were very high except for Vaal Marina.
- All the Municipalities were struggling to meet the general standards set for their WWTW plants.
- Standerton’s WWTW plant has several issues. No changes have been noted – everything has remained the same.
- Ecoli and Faecal Coliform counts are way too high in most of the WWTW Plants with exception to Vaal Marina.

7.3 DWS - Free State

No representative

7.4 DWS - Mpumalanga

No representative

7.5 DWS - Solid Waste Management

No Representative. Thya Pather will be retiring. He advised that there were no landfill sites that were problematic to water quality. This section now falls under the DEA, but inspection and monitoring of the impacts that these sites have on the water resource will still be done by DWS.

Mr. Reveck Hariram requested that an invitation be sent to the Vaalmarina Landfill Site representative to attend the Forum so that

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| | <p>issues could be discussed and resolved.</p> <p>7.6 CME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint inspection was done at the Standerton WWTW Plant on the 13th and 14th. A report was subsequently drafted with recommendations. A directive has been sent to the DG for signature which will be issued to the Standerton Municipality as disinfecting of the raw sewage was not taking place. • Simon Mporeti and DWS officials are to do a joint inspection at site number 3 pump station and WWTW plant. Simon Mporeti advised that there was a possible manhole that was leaking which could be the source of the high levels of Ecoli and Faecal Coliforms found in the area. • KPW Abattoir have been discharging raw blood into the River. Court papers were filed in Bloemfontein and a court order was issued. Subsequently two dams were being utilised by the Abattoir and the Abattoir were treating their effluent. The Municipality have now allowed the abattoir to reconnect to the WWTW plant. | |
| 8 | <p>Catchment Activities (Feedback from Stakeholders)</p> <p>8.1 Phumelela Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two pump stations have been refurbished. At pump station A: When the pump station was tested, a leak was found. After investigating, it was discovered that the incorrect size pipe had been used (160mm) and an elbow joint had been installed in the pipeline. A new 200mm diameter pipe would be installed. Pump station B: the upgrading had been completed. • The WWTW plant was now fully operational. The volume has now increased from 4l/s to 35l/s. • The only item left to be done was for the elbow joint to be anchored down which was outside the plant. • It is to be noted that no sewage was being pumped through this plant for 7 years. • Mr. Mporeti wanted to know how far the abattoir was in the construction of their pretreatment plant. • Mr. Mporeti also wanted confirmation that the sewer line from a set of specific houses had been directed to the WWTW Plant. • Mr. Mporeti also mentioned that a pipe was broken below the bridge and needed repair as a large volume of sewage was flowing into the stream. Confirmation was given that this pipe had in fact been repaired. | |

8.2 Lekwa Municipality

No representative

Mr. Mporeti and Mr. Hariram went to the Standerton WWTW Plant in Oct. The plant was in very bad condition.

- The sewage was being redirected past the maturation ponds.
- Raw sewage was going into the Vaal River.
- R6m had been spent on the plant on the inlet works and fencing in the last 6 months and it was noted that the fence had already fallen down.
- The Municipality was apparently not consulted by DWS' contractors with the emergency intervention that was done.
- The reactors required attention urgently.

DWS Responded –

- A task team had been appointed by the former DG.
- Standerton was one of the plants that was included in the emergency intervention plans and a project manager had been appointed.
- The Project manager went on site without consulting the Municipality and the concerns from the Municipality were not highlighted or addressed.
- The Monitoring of the R330m collapsed after the DG resigned.
- The forum stated that an audit should be able to be conducted in terms of the scope of work that had to be done.

I Main from SAVE queried the amount of funding that had been allocated to the Standerton WWTW Plant over the last few years and could not understand why the WWTW Plant was not working at all after so much funding had been given to this Municipality. As this municipality fell under the Mpumalanga Province DWS requested I Main to redirect her query to their offices – email address matshianeB@dws.gov.za.

8.3 Metsimaholo Municipality

- **Refenggotso:**
Nthabiseng Mofokeng (NF) advised that the pump stations had been repaired and were running.
- There was currently not sufficient effluent going to the WWTW Plant.
- The upgrade of the WWTW Plant was at 20%.
- **Oranjeville:**
A business plan had been submitted to DWS to upgrade the WWTW Plant.

I Main (IM) from SAVE was concerned about the sewage pollution in Ratepayers Bay. IM queried whether the Municipality monitored the emptying of the septic tanks from the resorts in the area. NF advised that the resorts used private companies. IM asked whether the Municipality could implement a program whereby they monitor which resorts are emptying/ not emptying their tanks and take the necessary corrective action against those resorts not having their septic tanks emptied.

8.4 Mafube Municipality

No representative

8.5 VQA

No representative

8.6 Goldi

No representative. Apologies given.

8.7 Eskom Grootvlei Power Station

- PM stated that a pump had been brought in to be installed, but before it could be installed it had been stolen by one of the Municipality's officials. The pump had been recovered subsequently. A decision had then been taken to halt the installation until such time as an agreement had been made between the Municipality and Eskom. Unfortunately, there was no one available in the Sanitation Directorate of DWS to assist as the post was vacant at present.
- The compressor had also been stolen. This was used to open and close the pipes.
- Spillages were still continuing.
- SL stated that the pump must be installed as soon as possible to stop the spillages and that the parties in question should come to an understanding in this regard as soon as possible and train the operators etc.
- Operators needed to be looked at.

SL stated that this matter needs to be resolved and asked how we as a forum could assist in resolving this issue. It was stated that Eskom officials need to meet with the Municipal Manager as soon as possible. Dipaliseng don't comply and are not interested in complying. SL suggested that a proposal be taken to Dipaliseng to at least have the pump installed.

Municipalities are able to assist other Municipalities and they will thereby obtain points from DWS in terms of working together with the

other Municipalities. SL advised that Midvaal could assist in the lending of a pump for 4 hours if necessary.

88 Dipaleseng Municipality

- No representative.

8.9 Midvaal LM

- WSSA had been subcontracted to assist Midvaal at Vaalmarina.
- Current inflow was 0.2ml/p
- The plant was not able to comply because of the type of effluent received and the antiquated technology being utilized.
- It was 50% compliant at present due to the following:
 - High nitrate volumes
 - Balancing dam not available
 - Staff have to manually dose when it should be automated and therefore not consistent.
 - Dosing pumps are problematic as the staff have to guess how much chlorine is required. The dosing tank is not connected.
 - The drying beds are not lined, they can't de-sludge and this is leaching into the environment.
 - The reed bed is collapsing at present and requires urgent attention. The reed bed needs to be replaced.
 - The reactor is manually operated and needs to be automated.
 - Balancing dam needs to be completed. The contractor that was appointed by DWS as part of the emergency intervention never completed the scope of work required. I Main would write to DWS requesting progress in this matter.

I Main stated that the pump stations in Vaal Marina required upgrading. There were spillages at Banana Bay, Cormorant Bay, Misty bay and at Marina Letata. Marina Letata was the most important pump station that needed urgent intervention as this was the main pump station that all the sewage was diverted for for Idor Ormos, Cormorant Bay, Island View, Villa Del Lago, Port o Call, Harbour Town and Marina Letata itself. Developments were approved in this area but the pump had never been upgraded. In holiday season this pump station always has issues which result in raw sewage flowing into the bay in the Vaaldam. There was also no standby pump available for this

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| | <p>pump station.</p> <p>8.10 Fezile Dabi DM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam advised Groenpunt were not complying. • The operators don't know how to operate the plant properly. • Final effluent not compliant. • No chlorination was taking place at present and the chlorine was being limited. • Process controllers were students and were operating without supervision. <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 high algae growth in the Vaal Dam. • It was stated that this was due to the high nitrate and phosphate levels which was a result of pollution from the Upper Vaal Catchment area. It could also be compacted by the wind direction which cause compaction of the algae in certain sections, the extreme heat conditions and conductivity of the water which was currently very low. | |
| 9 | <p>Water Use License Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amended license for Grootvlei has been recommended. • A proposal has been recommended to approve the licenses for Vrede, Memel, and Villiers WWTW plants. | |
| 10 | <p>Pollution Incidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metsimaholo spillage: A joint inspection was going to be conducted after the meeting with Ntabiseng, Rand Water and Jabu from DWS. • Vaalmarina spillage: The spillage in Vaalmarina had been resolved. A section of the sewer pipe had to be replaced. | |
| 11 | <p>CMA Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister has formed a committee to investigate the CMA progress. Only one had been formed so far - A decision was awaited. • The forum made the following remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why was this process not just dropped? | FM |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They had failed to form a CMA. • Just amend the Act. After 20 years this was a big red elephant. This had not yet been resolved. | |
| 12 | <p>Discussion of Additions to the agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of new Chairperson: Surprise Letlhake was re-elected as the Chairperson. • DWS Cell Numbers • Gauteng Provincial cell numbers had changed. The new numbers would be emailed to the Forum members. | |
| 13. | <p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Date of next meeting 1 March 2018</p> | All |
| 14 | <p>Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson thanked everyone for participating. • Meeting was adjourned at 13H00. | Chairperson |