



VAAL DAM FORUM MEETING

24 AUGUST 2005

EARLYBIRD FARM, STANDERTON

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

No	Item	Action
1.	WELCOME	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (TK) Punky Mohale (PM) Ashendri Reddy (AR) Seppi Claassen (SC) Vusi Hlatshwayo (VH) 	
3.	APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES	
	The following errors were noted from the minutes.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page 5, second bullet – DACE Mpumalanga’s Environment section is abbreviated as DALA Page 5, SIG stands for Selected Industrial Group 	
4.	ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following additions were made to the agenda: 	
	4.1 Lizard Point Golf Estate	
5.	MATTERS ARISING	
5.1	Earlybird Farm	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KS reported that Earlybird Farm has not expanded in terms of hatcheries in the Vaal area. However there are a number of new privately owned farms in the area. The private chicken farms contracted to Earlybird are responsible for their own authorisations. KC requested that Earlybird farm should provide a list of the contractors that are running hatcheries in the Vaal area. to DWAF and Rand Water. It was also reported that Earlybird is also looking for land to expand, the DWAF water control office was consulted. A private company has been contracted to look at registrations of the water uses with DWAF. KS added that the delay on DWAF issuing licences and registrations is still a concern. Earlybird also reported that they are looking at projects on re-use of water at their Standerton factory. Earlybird Farm also informed the meeting that water use data is being sent to DWAF regularly. DWAF and Earlybird will meet to address issues regarding data submission and verification of water use authorisations. KS also reported that DWAF informed Earlybird Farm that they can not issue any more licences for abstraction from the Vaal, due to poorly managed water uses in the area. SR responded that the DWAF can decide not to issue any more licences when the catchments are considered stressed. SR continued saying that over abstraction is a problem in the Upper Vaal. There is up to 3 times more registrations than permits issued in the area, which means that there are a lot of 	KS

people using water illegally. It is true that some of the tributaries to the Vaal river are stressed.

5.2 National Water Resource Strategy

- Copies of the National Water Resources Strategies were provided.

5.3 Vaal Dam Catchment Forum Charter

- It was suggested that the Charter for the catchment should be translated to Afrikaans and other languages.
- LM was tasked to look at this.

LM

5.4 Lizard Point Golf Estate

- Scoping Report submitted to DWAF and is being reviewed.

6. WATER QUALITY IN THE CATCHMENT

6.1 DWAF

- LM presented water quality over distance trend graphs for the Vaal River.
- He showed that COD, Nitrates, Phosphates and Coliforms increase as one goes down the Vaal river this could be due to high discharges from sewerage works along the river as well as agricultural diffuse pollution.
- LM also showed that there is increase in conductivity at the Vaal river after confluence with the Waterval river, which is also plagued with sewerage pollution problems and Sasol discharges.

6.2 Rand Water

- KC made a presentation on Rand Water's water quality monitoring in the catchment.
- KC explained that the latest set of data included in the quarterly report was averages of last three months.
- KC indicated that most points showed water quality in the ideal range.
- KC added that high COD was noted in the Vaal river at Villiers.
- High Alkalinity at VGB, downstream of the Waterval confluence with Vaal river.
- Faecal Coliform counts at the Villiers point have also improved.
- At KSV , EC and Alkalinity have increased.
- KC also added that sampling points map and data are available on the reservoir website.

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1 DWAF –National Water Resource Planning

- SR gave a presentation on Internal Strategic Perspectives(ISPs) and management studies (Copies of the presentation were distributed).
- The presentation looked at the history of water management in South Africa, showing changes of management focus as the country changed to become more industrial and as demand for water grew.
- SR described in detail the different studies that are being carried out, namely Development of Large Bulk Water Supply Reconciliation Strategies, Water Conservation and Demand Management Studies and Integrated Water Quality Management Plan.
- SR concluded that the ISP reports can be accessed on the DWAF website, <http://www.dwaf.gov.za/documents>.

8. REPORT BACK FROM THE VAAL DAM FORUM TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

- LM reported from the Vaal dam Forum Technical Committee, that letters have been sent to the different stakeholders in the catchment namely, municipalities, Earlybird to request for submission of water quality data.
- Project consolidate, a Local government intervention for water and sanitation problems in the Phumelela Municipality specifically at Vrede and Warden, has been launched. Bahlodi consulting was appointed to give technical assistance to the Phumelela municipality on water and sanitation issues.
- LM will try to get Bahlodi Consultants to give a presentation at the next forum, on the progress in Phumelela.
- DWAF and DEAT handover of permitting function for waste disposal sites in the Free State has been finalised.

LM

9. POLLUTION INCIDENT

9.1 Standerton Omnia Spillage

- Karen Chetty made a presentation on a spillage that occurred at an Omnia Factory in Standerton.
- She reported that about 20 000l of paraffin was spilled and ended up in a stream that flows into the Vaal river.
- Sasol who were the owners of the product responded and carried out a successful clean up.
- KC reported that water quality analysis downstream of the affected area showed very little of the contaminant in the water.
- KC added that there was however a trace of petrochemical contamination picked up in the water, this could be due to a filling station in Standerton town, this must be investigated.

KC, LM

9.2 Villiers Abattoir

- LM reported that an abattoir in Villiers was illegally discharging blood water on land in close proximity to a Vaal river tributary. LM also showed pictures of this activity.
- LM also reported that the DWAF is attending to this problem and feedback will be given in next meeting.

LM

9.3 Villiers chemical spill

- ZK reported that there was a spillage at Villiers.
- ZK would provide more details in next meeting. DWAF was also asked to follow up

ZK, LM

10. GENERAL

10.1 Venue for next meeting

- It was suggested that the next forum meeting should be held at the Vaal Dam. LM was asked to make arrangements.

LM

11. CLOSURE

- The meeting was closed at 12h05 and date for the next meeting is the 23 November 2005.

